

TALK ABOUT and TAKE HOME IDEAS

Mealtime card

- What's your usual reaction to being somewhere you don't want to be?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you have felt trapped, like in a prison?
- Which part of the armour in today's story do you think is most useful?
- Look around; can you see any objects that might also tell you something about having faith in God?

Take-home idea

Why not pick upon the prayer for this story, suggested in the celebration, which offers a lively way to put on God's armour each day? Pray this together as a family at home.

The next **Messy Church** is

on **Sunday 17th November 2019 3:30** as usual in the hall.

Please put the date in your diary and invite another family to come with you.

Other Messy Churches this year are....

17th Nov and 15th Dec (Christmas party time)

At **All Saints Messy Church**, we are aiming to offer something for families who want an opportunity to be together in a relaxed, supportive and creative environment. We try to make our programme an imaginative mixture of family, fun, friendship, food and faith.

In the coming weeks, please think about Messy Church and if you could be a helper. We usually run 6 activities each month but we are struggling to get enough helpers, could you be one of our helpers? Talk to Peter or one of the other leaders for more information.

Next Sunday, 27th, join us for our

Morning Celebration service for families and everyone!

Morning Celebration is in the main church building we will have our Morning Celebration Service which will start with breakfast at 10:00 am, It includes puppets telling part of the story, songs, an activity and lots more. It will finish about 11:30

For more information email or visit our website

messychurch@allsaintscoton.org www.allsaintscoton.org

ASCC Messy Church No 67



All Saints, Chilvers Coton

Sunday 20th October 2019 in the Parish Hall

Welcome to Messy Church
God's armour of light

Just as Roman soldiers had armour to protect them, St Paul describes Spiritual gifts as armour to protect us from evil
Read more inside....

From 3:30pm **Welcome, Drinks and Craft Activities**
Please register then help yourself to a drink and take part in the activities. Please take time to read the bible story and the reflection before you start the activities and take time to do the **"talk about.."** for each of the activities.

4:30 pm **Celebration Time....**

4:50 pm **Meal Time**

You can find more information about the theme & activities inside

Please take this home with you

Today's theme: *God's armour of light*

Bit from the Bible (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

The uniform of a Roman army soldier seems exotic to us today, but the early Christians would have seen it every day. The Roman army was feared and respected as the most powerful fighting force in the world, which secured Rome as a great empire for over a thousand years. Each part of the soldier's uniform or kit was designed to be effective in a particular way, either in defence or attack. The writer uses each part to symbolise a spiritual value or godly strength that enables the Christian to stand firm against enemy attacks. Our weapons are truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God and prayer. Each of these (except prayer) matches the different parts of the soldier's kit. Each part defends a weakness or provides a means of attack. Who is our enemy, then? Not individuals, but spiritual forces; little white lies; being selfish, deceitful, unethical or immoral; behaviour which undermines right relationships. We need to take a stand on what we know to be true and right.. The assurance of salvation, that by the grace of God we are saved through Jesus Christ, protects us in times of doubt. The sword of the Spirit is our knowledge of God's word, without which we would be unable to spread the gospel and to defend it against opponents. Finally, the writer reminds us to keep alert and always be praying for others. By putting on the armour of God, we too can feel confident when under attack and fearlessly proclaim the gospel of Christ to the world. Let's get ready!



Messy reflection by Jocelyn Czerwonka



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

See the table activity sheets for more details about doing the craft activity

1 Still standing

It is remarkable how often in this passage Paul urges his readers to 'stand firm', Now challenge each other - each trying to knock as many clothes pegs down as possible in one minute. Who can knock down most in the time?

Talk about how Christians do get knocked down, but the armour of light helps them to stand up again and keep going.

2 Tasty Armour

Use the; biscuits and sweets; to make a picture of a soldier with their armour. Paul picks out six pieces of armour and gives them a new meaning for Christians. This activity turns each piece into something to eat!

Talk about which part of the Christian's armour you think is the most important.

3 Sword of the Spirit

Put some glue on the cardboard sword and cover it with foil. You may need more than one piece of foil. Wind string round the hilt to make a handle. Use the glue spot to glue the bead to the hilt (see picture).

Talk about how jailers and soldiers used swords to defend themselves, and how followers of Jesus today can use the Bible as their 'sword' to protect them from their enemies.

4 Thaumatrope – an optical illusion!

Draw around a mug on a piece of card to create a circle. Cut this out and on one side draw prison bars while on the other side draw a prisoner.

On opposite edges of the card make two small holes. Tie a piece of string through each one. Then, holding an end in each hand, spin the disc until the string is well twisted. Next, pull the ends tight. As the disc spins the prisoner will appear to be behind bars; as it slows the prisoner will be 'set free'.

Talk about how Paul's attitude to prison can encourage us.



5. Cross helmets and shields

You will need: red paper or card; newspapers; sticky tape for the helmet and Red card, a strip of card, foil tape and **permanent markers (CARE NEEDED)** for the shield

Paul compares the helmet worn by soldiers in battle to the protection that the cross brings for all who follow Jesus. The soldier's shield which they trusted he called a shield of faith. .

Talk about why you think Paul likens a helmet to salvation and the shield to faith.

6 Belt of Truth

You will need a piece of foam, some ribbon, a hole punch, decorations and **permanent markers (CARE NEEDED)**.

In chalk write on the word **Truth** or get a grown-up to do it for you. You can then go over the word with permanent marker. Decorate the rest of the belt. Punch a hole at each end of the belt and tie ribbon through the holes so you can tie it around your waist.

Talk about how important it is to be truthful about what Jesus does for us.