

Activity Day: 27th October

Pippa Jenkins

The theme of this autumn's activity day was "Down by the Sea", and the Bible story which inspired this was from the Gospel according to Matthew in which Jesus tells the disciples that he will make them fishers of men.

About eighty children ranging from age 5 to 10 came to join in, most of them from Wheatcroft and Abel Smith Schools, and at least twenty adults from the Church came to help, together with some of the teenagers also from the Church.



The morning started as usual with singing led by Alison Walker, and then a prayer from Janet Bird. The younger children went to activities in the Church and the older ones stayed to start work in the Hall.

The Big Picture was there as usual, this time it was of the coast, with cliffs, a beach and the sea, ready to be adorned with pictures of birds, fish, shellfish, seaside plants etc painted by the children. The older children spent time researching the correct colours for their chosen addition in the nature books, but by the time the younger ones were at the table I was too busy to notice how much research they were doing! It was particularly successful and is now on display in church.

Other activities included colouring, pebble painting, hair braiding (not just for girls), a fishing game, origami, sand pictures, seagull mobile making and rock pool pictures. Most of the children took considerable trouble over what they were doing, and were really looking forward to taking their handiwork home with them. I didn't come across anyone who had run out of things to

do, in fact I would be surprised if anyone got to do everything.

The starfish biscuit making produced lovely cooking smells throughout the morning as batches were constantly in the oven. The designs of biscuit were not limited to starfish and included an eel stuffed with chocolate drops and various completely new species!

Over in the church a dramatisation of Matthew's story was being rehearsed ready for a performance later. In the Church room a representative from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was showing slides and giving a talk about the vital work of the RNLI. Anyone who would like to know more should look at the web site www.rnli.org.uk.



Everyone sat down for a picnic lunch then all the children went outside to play football and run around for a while.

At the end of the day - 3 o'clock or thereabouts - the children performed their play and showed their work to the parents and friends who came to fetch them in the Church.

Peter Stubbs kept the children going with squash and biscuits, and the adults with coffee, and Derek Westwood took photos which will soon be on display in church. The other helpers are really too numerous to mention individually, almost all were regulars at activity days and seemed to enjoy themselves too.

A few of us may have wondered how an Activity Day would work without Jean Kemm, but it did work, very well, thanks to a lot of effort and organisation by many people, and in particular, Alison Walker.