

St James News: Thought for the day – Saturday 31st October 2020

Light Party by Maggie Marshall

Jesus Light of the World

It's that time of the year, the evenings are drawing in and where we for the past few years at St James have had our Annual Messy Church Light Party – activities and games in church, creating a banner, making lights and then out into the car park for our service singing and praising God around the fire pit with our music group and listening to John giving the talk- Light sticks and candles shining before cooking on skewers over the fire pit – fruit, marshmallows and more, bobbing for apples, and eating as a family inside.

We experienced Jesus as the Light of the World. He is our light - guiding us along the way, guiding our thoughts and through His Light we grow in our faith.

The teacher in me often looks for practical ways of doing things as we learn through those ways. So what about a simple Messy Church light Party at home as the nights are getting darker and it would give us an activity to do together.

At the beginning of lockdown we were encouraged to light a candle / light at 8pm and say the Lord's Prayer. How many of us are still doing this? We stopped when the evenings became so much lighter. So could we go back to this but what about decorating the container /holder your light is in? At the weekend Ruby decorated a candle jar for us and it looks great with the candle in it. Photos to Kit for the church website please.

Usually we do a banner for church on the theme for Messy Church so – advance warning – Kit will be making the suggestion that this Christmas we send one Christmas Card on the theme Jesus Light of the World. Could we create our own cards instead of bought ones? So many of us are very creative – though we might not think so – a gift given to us by God. So use you talents and encourage your family. More information to come, so watch this space!

We normally have an item on prayer as one of the activities. So personally how about making your own daily / weekly prayer diary. Its easy to do. Take 3 pieces of

paper – all the same size or 2 pieces of paper and 1 of card – fold in half (card on top) – make 2 holes in the seam and thread through string/wool/ribbon and tie in a bow – this way you can add more sheets. Decorate your cover – maybe with the words – Jesus the Light of the World – and on the inside cover perhaps write a couple of your favourite bible verses. Label the top of each page with the day of the week and on the last page write down the list of people you are praying for. The back inside cover is your choice. Feel free to write under each day what you would like to pray for – people, church, country, government, schools etc. and notes and dates. I have found over the years it's fascinating to look back through and maybe see Gods answers. It's also a great document to pass on to your children in the years to come.

Finally – any ideas for the food activity? Maybe a family meal with a candle burning representing Jesus Light of the World?

Reading: John 8:12

¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'