

# St. Peter's Church

## Elworth



### Schools Project Day – 'David the Giant Slayer'

My name is Cathryn Houghton and I serve the Lord as Children and Families Worker at St. Peter's Church, Elworth. One aspect of my role is to engage local primary schools in an annual bible based project which brings together the children, staff and members of our own church community. The project this year was, 'David the Giant Slayer' and the aim was to celebrate this vibrant and exciting bible story through a variety of media.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 130 Year 3 children (7 and 8 year olds), arrived at the church hall together with teaching staff. The three schools are local to St. Peter's, one being a church school, the other two community schools with no direct church link. Through a range of creative experiences in workshops, the children learned how David, a young shepherd boy was able to defeat the mighty Goliath, a giant of a man in excess of 9 feet in height. They learned how Goliath was big but God's power working through David was much bigger! So powerful was God that Goliath and the Philistines were easily defeated and the Israelite Army was blessed through the courage and faith of a young shepherd boy.



Working with a local artist, Sue Guildford from 'Junk Art Creations', the children produced a collaborative piece of art work. Together they used recyclable materials to create Goliath's armour. The finished art work is currently on display in the entrance to Elworth CofE school and the plan is for it to

tour the other partner primary schools in the Autumn term.

Through an interactive story telling session presented by Elizabeth Morris from 'A Tale to Tell', the children learned about the character of David and his faith in God to deliver him and the Israelites from the hand of Goliath and the Philistines.

It was important for the children to have something to take home with them as a souvenir of the day and to provide a talking point at home with family members. They produced two take home crafts which reflected the story well: a tried and tested catch the ball in the cup game with a template of Goliath on the outside to replicate the pebble hitting him on the head, and also a small harp to remind the children that David was a peace loving shepherd boy who would play his harp while up on the hillside



with his sheep.

The children also enjoyed a range of outdoor games to help them work as a team and make new friends with the children from other schools.

After a picnic lunch, it was time for the children to bring everything together for our afternoon 'Celebration' where members of the local community including the pre-school children from our local nursery came along to learn about the project and to share in the outcomes of the day. Each school had been asked to prepare either some art work, a drama or a song to share with us during the celebration and this proved fantastic with some really wonderful performances from the children.

As always, it was wonderful to welcome so many local children to the church hall and to share with them this important and captivating bible story. I pray that the seeds sown during the sessions will remain with those children all their lives and that God may win hearts for Himself.

Cathryn Houghton

Children and Families Worker

