

# Oxton St Peter and St Paul

## The house of God

**Aim:** To hear and respond to the story of Jacob's dream

**Objective:** The children will make angels to remind them of the story of Jacob's ladder and the idea of church as God's house.

**Curriculum links:**

KS1 Story: how and why some stories are sacred and important in religion

KS2 Worship, pilgrimage and sacred places: where, how and why people worship, including at particular sites

**Activity:** The children will look at the text on the back of the choir stall and hear the story of Jacob's dream. They will make angels to remind them of the story and to reflect on the glory of God in the angels.

**Resources:**

Story of Jacobs ladder – see below, or from a Bible

Resources for making angels

### Information for Leader

This session is based on the writing on the southern choir stalls that says, 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I know it not and he was afraid and said how dreadful is this place. This is none other but the house'

This is taken from Genesis 28, the story of Jacob's ladder.

### Introduction (15 mins)

- Allow the children to take off coats etc., and put their things down. Welcome them into the church and introduce yourself.
- Explain that this is a church, and that some people call a church, a house of God. Why might this be? Because God lives there, he is present here.
- Give the children five minutes to look round the church and find three things that tell them that this is a house of God.
- Call the children back together and listen to some ideas of why this is a house of God. If no-one suggests the text in the choir stalls suggest it yourself. Take the children to look at it. See if anyone can read it. Read it aloud so the children are all sure of what it says. It seems to finish in the middle of a sentence.

### Activity (30 mins)

- Sit the children down – the choir stalls would be good so they are near the text.
- This text comes from a story in the Bible. It's near the beginning of the Bible, so is a long time before Jesus was born. Read the story (either use the version below, or older children might prefer to hear the Good News version or another modern re-telling). Ask the children to listen as you read the story and see if they can hear the end of the sentence carved in the choir stall, and remember who said it.
- Discuss the story, the end of the sentence, who said it and why it might have been included in this church.
- Divide the children into groups and each child makes an angel. They could all make the same style, or each group could make a different style of angel. There are ideas of how to do this on the internet (search for



heritage learning welcome



'Angel crafts for kids'). Choose one or more styles that are suitable for the age of children you are working with.

## Plenary (5 mins)

- Bring the children back together with their angels. In the story the angels were all moving up and down a ladder between heaven and earth. Ask the children to move their angels up and down as if they were climbing a ladder and to watch as everyone does this. Using some of these following questions ask the children to think about the angels in the story:
  - What does it look like when all the angels are moving?
  - How does it feel seeing all that glitter and light going up and down?
  - What might it have been like for Jacob in his dream to see the angels going up and down?
  - How might that have made him think of God's glory?
  - Why might he have been afraid?
  - Why would he then have said this was God's house?
- Remind the children of the carving in church that they started with.

## Jacob's dream

Jacob was in trouble, big trouble. He had really upset his brother Esau, so much that Jacob was in danger of being killed if he stayed anywhere near his brother. So Jacob ran away.

One night, after the sun had set Jacob was tired after all his walking ,and so he found a stone to use as a pillow, lay down and was soon fast asleep.

As he slept he had a dream. He dreamt that there was a ladder that reached right up to heaven. On the ladder were angels going up and down, up to heaven and down to earth. Then he saw that God was standing next to him. God said, 'I am the God of your Father Abraham. I am giving you the land where you are sleeping. It will belong to your family for generations to come. Your family is going to grow and grow and spread all over this land. And, I will be with you and your family and I will keep you all safe.'

Jacob woke up, remembered his dream and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I know it not,' and he was afraid and said, 'how dreadful is this place. This is none other but the house of God and the gate of heaven.'

He took the stone he had used as a pillow and stood it on end to mark the special place where God had been. He called the place Bethel, which means 'house of God'.

We know that things worked out for Jacob and God did stay with him and give him a large family because he later had a son called Joseph, who also had dreams, but that is another story.