

## **Xplorers Report for the 6<sup>th</sup>. April 2014.**

Georgina writes: April brought us some welcome fine weather and families talking of days out and picnics at the weekend: with this and some children still infected with chicken pox we were thinking that there might be fewer children than usual but we were delighted to welcome 19 children through the door.

This was the first airing of the children's songs and hymns C.Ds. that were kindly donated to the Xplorers. The background music and voices made a more welcoming atmosphere in the church. Early arrivals had word searches and sheets to colour in which were linked to the afternoon's theme of the centurion present at the crucifixion of Jesus.

This was Walter and Heather Ritchie's last session with us as we will welcome Ken home on 13<sup>th</sup>. April. Heather has a gift for captivating the young audience with her story telling, involving the children in questions and responses. Walter's enthusiasm was always very infectious and we have really appreciated their support, encouragement and sharing of faith over the winter months.

Rachel writes: The centurion theme worked well for the youngest group, who were really interested in all things to do with soldiers. Maggie made up templates of armour, shields, helmets and swords and these were decorated with 'jewels', stampers of animal faces and red glitter 'blood'. All four stood proudly to attention at the end of the session, guarding the door to the church!



Jenny writes: the middle group made large shields and discussed the armour of the Christian. We also talked about the number of centurions who are mentioned for their good deeds.



Georgina writes: The balcony group first played a centurion version of “snakes and Ladders” with the soldier figures having to obey the instructions on the board. This led to good discussion about the effect of Jesus’ death on the cross had on the men who witnessed it. We then had an amusing time making sandals which were taken home. The youngest group were waiting with their armour and weapons for us at the bottom of the stairs. We enjoyed a birthday cake and sang Happy Birthday to Caidan before the Prayz.



The children’s responses during the Prayz time were good and lively singing of “What a friend we have in Jesus”. Finally we said the grace together before going home.

