

## Aschiana Activity day 26<sup>th</sup> October

Gillian Harman

The children started the day learning a new song.

*Aschiana, Aschiana  
For us it's best  
For us it's best  
Say it in English  
Say again in English  
Birdies nest  
Birdies nest*

I think all of us who read the magazine know about Aschiana and its work with street children in Kabul, Afghanistan, through Fiona and John Earle. This day was to explain to the children about the lives of these children in Kabul. During this year Junior Church has been raising money for this charity so any profits from this day will be added to it.

As usual we divided juniors and infants and each had a session in the church and the hall.



In the church the children saw a DVD about the Aschiana centres. They cleaned shoes,

which is what some of the Kabul children do to make money.

They learnt how dangerous landmines are by playing a game which showed how careful you had to be because they cannot always be seen. They played some games the children in Kabul might play with stones like noughts and crosses.



They also rehearsed a play which John Earle had written about the start of Aschiana and the thoughts of the street children. This included the song above and the dancing which they all learnt in the afternoon.



It was also very busy in the hall with activities. In the cooking corner they made Boulanee which are pasties filled with leeks. A bit like naan bread with the leeks folded inside. They

## All Saints Alive

are fried and we all had a taste. I enjoyed mine. Some of the street children sell these.



At the other end they made model kites. Many children play with kites in Kabul. They have races and make the strings sharp and try and cut the other kites strings until the winner is the one left at the end. Paper hats were made to look like the brightly coloured caps a lot of the little boys wear. Several types of paper flower were made as the Afghans are very fond of flowers.

Mosaic tiles were made with many different colour patterns as in Afghanistan, where they decorate mosques and other special buildings with them. There was also hair braiding and colouring a sheet about Aschiana.

The big picture was prepared which is now on display in church. In the centre it shows some of the children at school, the teacher and the cook and at the sides views of Kabul with the mountains and the Mosque. The children had fun painting their faces and flowers to decorate the picture. Some of the older children painted the figures.

In the afternoon Fabrizio, a friend of Fiona and John's who originally came from India, had a wonderful dancing session with the children. It was lovely to watch as the children tried so hard to follow the movements.



To end the day the children's parents joined us in church; the new songs were sung, the play was performed and the children showed the things they had made. Everybody had an enjoyable time and I am sure learnt something from the day.



There were about 40 children and an almost equal number of adults and teenage helpers. It was a very successful day. A big thank you to all the helpers and especial thanks to Alison Walker who did a great amount of preparation to make this day a success