

Cartoon Man

I like it. It's not as good as the minister drew this morning. But it is a bit like it. I couldn't go out this afternoon, so I thought I'd have a go at cartoons. I was going swimming with Louise, but she's got a cold, and then just as Mum said we'd go for a walk it started raining. I don't mind really because I wanted to have a go at this cartoon. The minister had a big picture of a man with a plank sticking out of his eye, while he tried to poke a speck of dust out of another man's eye. It was from a story Jesus told. The minister said if Jesus had lived today he'd probably have been a cartoonist.

I'd never thought of Jesus being funny before. The minister said Jesus and his disciples had a lot of fun and probably told each other jokes when they were walking around the country. I think that's great. I always thought the people who believed in Jesus had to look sad. I like what the minister said. I must have listened this morning...well that's until I started thinking about drawing cartoons. He said we should be happy when unhappy things happen. We may not have happy looking faces, but we can be happy inside. I didn't think I understood that then, but I did later, in the service, when I saw Mr. Andrews.

It was a long service this morning. We had a baby baptised. That's an odd word. I prefer it when they say Christening. I think that means making the baby one of the Christ people - one of the 'smiley-inside' people. Then at the end of the service we had the communion. Talking about names. I like it better when they call that 'Lord's Supper.' It's good to think we're having supper with Jesus. Not that I do though. I just get blessed along with Jamie and the babies. Mum says I'll soon be old enough to get confirmed and then I can have supper with the rest. It still doesn't seem fair though. At home Shaun and me may have to have supper earlier than Mum and Dad, but we still get it. Perhaps the church people think we young ones will eat too much !

Some of them look at us as though we shouldn't be there anyway. Though that's only one or two, and perhaps they don't really think that. I may have got it wrong like I did about Mr. Andrews. I often wondered why he didn't go up to the front for the communion. He can't see very well and doesn't like to make a fuss.

I'll have to have another go at my picture. I think all the people in church should draw cartoons ...just to make them smile a bit. I hope they're all smiling inside, because not many of them do it with their faces. I said that to Jamie after the service and he said they've got 'tummy smiles' except that he didn't say 'tummy'. I hope Jamie doesn't do any more cartoons in the hymnbooks. I came across one once. Every time I get a book now I look for it but I haven't seen it for ages. It was a big heart with an arrow through it and 'Jamie loves Emma' written under it. I expect Mr. Griffiths tore it out when he collected the books. Not that it matters, Jamie went off Emma a long time ago. I'll have to have another go at this cartoon. It's not right. I may not be able to make people laugh at my cartoons but I'm going to have a good try at making people smile in church. Like I did with Mr. Andrews.

We had a long time of silence in the service this morning. I think it might have gone on longer if so many people hadn't started coughing. It's funny they never cough during the hymns, but then you can't cough and sing at the same time can you. Then we had the 'peace'. I like that now. We've haven't been doing it for long. I thought at first it meant we had to give each other a piece of something...like the bread at communion. I turned round this morning and saw Mr. Andrews with his hands stretched out but no-one near him. When I went across, he looked really sad, so I took his hands. He said, 'thank you' and then told me he couldn't see very well. I said, 'Is that why you don't go up to communion?' He said, 'Yes. I don't like to ask anyone to go with me to help me.' So I said, 'I'll do it.' And I did. Mum looked so surprised...and pleased ... when we went past her in the choir. I sat with Mr. Andrews when we got back. Then when the service was over he said to me. 'Thank you. You've made me very happy today.' He bent down and put his face very close to mine and smiled. It was beautiful. A great big toothy, hairy smile. It seem to come from right deep down inside him. It was his 'bell...', I mean 'tummy smile' got up into his face.

I haven't been going to church every week just lately, but I'm going to sit with Mr. Andrews again next week. His smile made me smile and feel really good inside. I suppose I'd got a tummy to face smile too. Or should it be a face to tummy smile. I'm going to work at getting more people to put their inside smile on the outside. I don't think I'll do it with cartoons though. I'm going to scrap this one and start again.