

WEEKLY@ EASTER



WEEKLY@ EASTER TAKES YOU THROUGH KEY DATES IN EASTER, STARTING AT PALM SUNDAY.

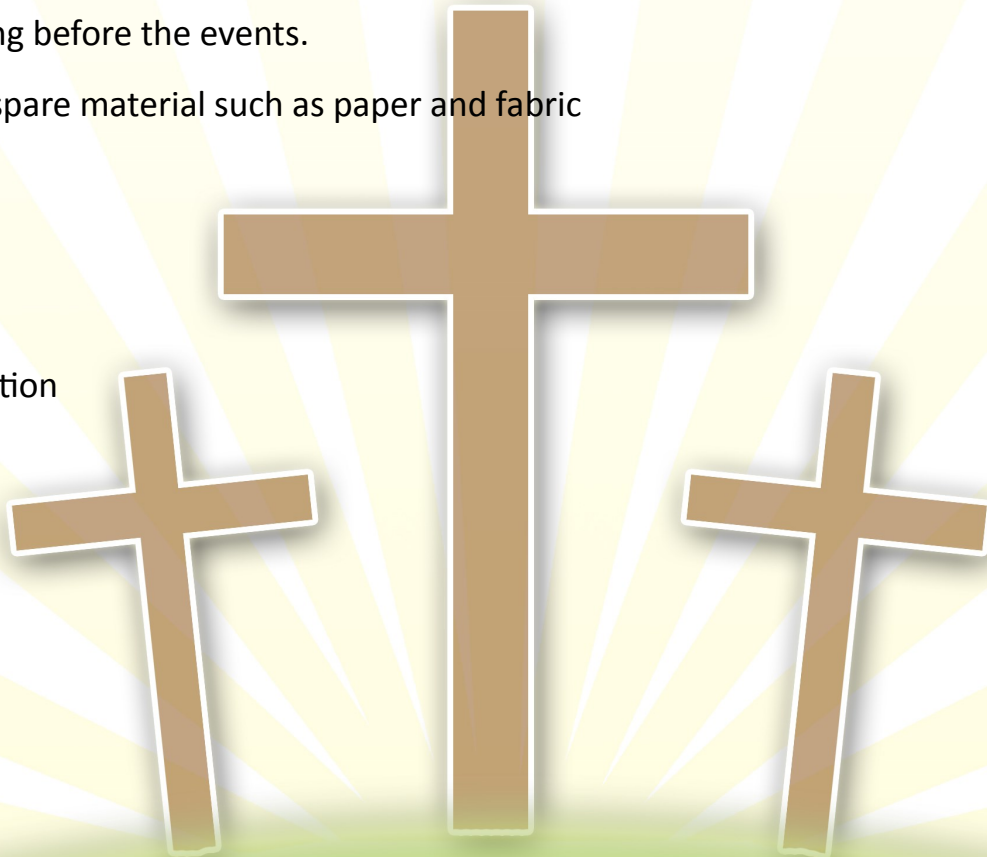
OFFERING INSPIRATION AND SESSION STRUCTURES.

Before we Begin

Thank you, for downloading Weekly@Easter. In the following pages you will find sessions, activities and inspiration to take you through Holy Week. By the end of the week you will have created several pieces of amazing art work which will show the journey of the week, the emotions felt, and what it means for us today. The sessions, although united, work in isolation, meaning it's fine if someone turns up to all of them or one. Some of these sessions are aimed at 5-11 year olds, others are community or family events, meaning everyone can be included within the week.

What you will need

- Four large pieces of plain material to create four large banners. These will need preparing before the events.
- Lots of spare material such as paper and fabric
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Imagination



Palm Sunday

Sunday School Activity

Welcome and Talk

Welcome

As everyone comes in give them a big high five. Encourage them to sit down, and keep high fiving them yelling 'Happy Palm Sunday' in a cheesy way. Keep doing this until someone questions you about it, or until enough time has passed. Either way you should ask them (playing dumb) 'Isn't this what you do on Palm Sunday?' Encourage them to tell you what Palm Sunday is about.

Talk

Ah now you mention it, that is sounding familiar. In fact, I was given this bag to help me remember what Palm Sunday is all about. Let's take a look inside. We've got a donkey (Pull out a donkey) Ah yes, this is because Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and sent two of his disciples to fetch him a donkey to ride on. Why is it important that he rode on a donkey? It was important because in Zechariah 9:9, which is a book in the Old Testament, it prophesied that this is what will happen to the saviour. WOW! What else have I got in here? (Look in the bag and pull out a palm branch) Ah yes, the *palm* branch, not 'palm' (show you hand) When Jesus entered Jerusalem the

crowd cheered, shouting 'HOSANNA' and waving palm branches and covering his path with them. I wonder why they did that? Well according to my BIG BOOK OF BIBLE THINGS (Make a giant book as a prop, maybe out of old cereal boxes) it says that 'Hosanna' means 'Save us Now'. That's fantastic, because Jesus did save us. It also says, in this amazing book, that palm branches were used to celebrate a person of high honour and meant 'victory' People would lay them down to show how much they loved them.

That is so interesting, and what a fantastic welcome Jesus had into a town. It makes me wonder what we do to show Jesus how much we love and honour him. I know I could definitely do it more.

Song

Hosanna Rock by Yancy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YEyEkRiec>

Main Activity and Discussion

Create a large banner which represents Palm Sunday, you can assign different elements to individual or groups of children which they can make in a collage style. These items can be stuck onto the main banner once finished. As this activity is going on, display the following questions on a board/screen one at a time, changing every five minutes to encourage discussion and an opportunity to explore Palm Sunday deeper. You may want to have a sound alarm, just as a horn or animal noise, so people are aware when the question has changed.

The Questions:

- 1) How would we celebrate a person of high honour coming to our town today?
- 2) How does it feel knowing someone 100s of years before Jesus was born, prophesied that he would ride a donkey into Jerusalem at this time?
- 3) How do you show Jesus that you love and honour him?
- 4) What can we learn from Palm Sunday?

When the banner is finished take it into the main service so everyone can see what has been made and what you discussed today. Let them know you will be making more of these as the week goes on in order to reflect and celebrate Easter.

Maundy Thursday

Community Event

Bring Your Own Last Supper

Explanation

This evening event is for the whole community in order to come together on this special day. As well as food there will be fun activities throughout the night including a large group banner making. Those who want to come to this event express their interest by signing up to bring some food (Hence 'Bring Your Own Last Supper'). You could have a sheet with the food items you would like people to sign their name against, or you could let them suggest food they would like to bring. The former obviously allows you to control quantities of each item. We've run this event ourselves and it is a brilliant evening, bringing a wide range of age groups together, and allows for those who attend to finish the evening at your Maundy Thursday Eucharist (if your Church runs one). If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us children@blackburn.anglican.org

Structure of the Event Suggestion

Start:

People bring food/drinks and place on designated table

People take their place at the tables which have various table top activities in order to keep them entertained whilst waiting for everyone to arrive.

Welcome:

Vicar/Youthworker/Organiser welcomes people, encourages them to look at their table top activities and invites them to get some food.

Inbetween mains and dessert:

Easter Quiz:

Run the attached Easter Quiz

Desserts

Invite people to get some desserts and then introduce the banner activity which they can start when they have finished eating.

Banner Activity:

Each table can produce something to be attached to the banner for this event, which they feel represents the Last Supper of Jesus; maybe how He would have felt, how the disciples would have felt and general images that come to mind when they think about it.

Closing:

A very short (less than 5 min) closing talk of why we are here today and what it means. You can then all lead into Church for your Maundy Thursday Eucharist.

Table Top Activities:

- Easter inspired Rapidough or Pictionary
- Decorate a plastic egg to look like a Bible character

Quiz:

Place the letters 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' on each table. After you have asked the question each table group must decide what the answer is and have a person hold the appropriate card up.

You can assign 10 points for each correct answer, keep a tally going somewhere. The table with the most points at the end of the quiz is the winner.

Other Ideas:

You could ask different groups to assist in areas such as decorating. This would work well for encouraging Uniformed Groups to get involved, or groups which don't often get a chance to mix with Church events. They could create art work for the walls, looking at what Easter means to them, this could be posters, bunting, pom pom displays, etc.

You could encourage your local school to get involved by asking them to do a dance or drama piece related to Maundy Thursday.

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| In the Easter story one of Jesus' friends betrayed him. What did he get for doing this? | 30 pieces of silver | 30 pieces of gold | A villa on Lake Galilee |
| One of Jesus' friends said that he didn't even know him. Who was it? | Thomas | Judas | Peter |
| Who did Pilate release instead of Jesus? | Barabbas | Lazarus | Joseph |
| Before Jesus was put on the cross, what happened to him? | He had some time with his family to say goodbye | He was tortured and made fun of by the guards | He had to sign a confession of guilt |
| What did Jesus ask his father to do about those who were crucified with him? | Take revenge | Rescue them | Forgive them |
| When Jesus was on the cross, the sky turned black. When did this take place? | 10am | About midday | 6pm |
| On what day of the week was Jesus crucified? | Monday | Thursday | Friday |
| What did the soldier in charge of Jesus' execution say just after he died? | "He died quickly." | "I've got a bad feeling about this." | "He was the Son of God." |
| Who put Jesus' body in the tomb? | Joseph | Pilate | Peter |
| When Jesus died it was..? | Because his enemies | To take on himself the | To set us a example of |

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| | were too powerful for him | punishment we deserved for our sins | how we should endure punishment |
| The purpose of Jesus death was..? | To show us that we can gain life after death if we are good enough | It was a mistake | To save us from our sins, now and forever |
| Who was the first person to see Jesus alive on Easter Sunday morning? | Peter and John | Mary Magdalene | The Gardener |
| How many people saw Jesus after he had risen from the dead? | Mary, Peter and Thomas | The 12 disciples | Over 500 |

CROWD-BREAKER QUESTIONS

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 'Boa Pascoa' is Happy Easter in which language? | Greek | Portuguese | Italian |
| Where were the first chocolate Easter eggs produced? | Australia | Germany | Turkey |
| How much was the world's most expensive edible Easter egg? | \$10,000 | \$100,000 'The Diamond Stella Egg' | \$150,000 |

Good Friday

Family Event

Activities

Encourage families to complete the following craft activities.

See the instruction sheets for more details. Each activity will have discussion questions for families to talk through together, or for the leader to initiate conversation about it. This allows for an informal chat exploring Good Friday and what it means. The instruction sheets can be cut in half, the top half providing instructions for the crafts and the bottom half is the discussion question.

- 1) Tissue Paper Prayer Cross
- 2) Crucify Him Cross Sheet (this will need laminating)

- 3) Cross Brass Rubbing
- 4) Crown of Thorns
- 5) Tomb Scene
- 6) The Good Friday banner. Continuing with our banner creations for the week you can have a table set up where people can make elements to place on the banner. They keep the elements with them as they won't be placed on the banner until the end of the event.

Talk and Song

Talk:

You will need a picture of a giant roller coaster

Recap the summary of John 18,19 up to where Jesus was taken away (19:16). Invite everyone to imagine they are going on a giant roller coaster. (show Pictures) How might you feel if you were about to go on this? Refer to a local or well-known roller coaster. You may be excited and scared stiff all at the same time. Once it starts, there is no return. The feeling in your stomach can't get worse as you swoop down, but suddenly it starts over again as you ascend to the heights only to plummet again. (Let the children really enthuse about this!) That may have been how the disciples felt. Ask what happened on Palm Sunday. How might they have felt? But what happened next? Jesus talks of his death, is arrested, put on trial! What was going to happen next? They couldn't get off, just as you can't get out of the roller coaster once you're strapped in! They would have to go through with it. Ask how people would have felt if they had been the disciples - desperate? Disappointed? Scared? Humiliated? Confused? Count how many words people can suggest.

Things had got worse. Briefly pick out three things that happened at the actual crucifixion as Jesus hung on the cross. So why did this have to happen? How could it have all gone so wrong? Read Isaiah 53:10a, this was no mistake. The prophet

Isaiah had prophesied this hundreds of years before. WOW! The best was yet to come. Jesus did die and the disciples thought this was the end. But it wasn't. And on Easter Day we celebrate the fact that he came alive again. But on Good Friday we leave the disciples confused, sad and wondering where God is in all this. They were learning what it means to trust that God knows best! And that is a hard, hard lesson for anyone to learn. Look at Psalm 22:5, this is what the disciples needed to discover about God at this time of despair.

Response:

Invite people to bring their banner creations to the front to place on the material. As they do this play reflect music and ask them to think of things they need to trust God about. Once they have placed their creation on the banner they can collect a little rock with the word 'Trust' on it to take home and remember Good Friday and the trust we have in God.

Song:

Once Again : Matt Redman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIqmh_Dlu5k



Tissue Paper Prayer Cross

You will need:

Ballpoint Pen

Cardboard Cross

Tissue Paper Squares

PVA Glue

- 1) Write your prayers on a piece of tissue paper with the ballpoint pen, think about things we would like to say sorry about.
- 2) Roughly fold the tissue paper from the middle so it's scrunched and glue it onto the cardboard cross.
- 3) Think about the grace of God and why His Son died upon the cross.

Discussion Question

What does 'Grace' mean and how does it make you feel?



Crucify Him Cross Sheet

You will need:

Laminated Crucify him sheets

Play dough

- 1) Using play dough follow the instructions on the piece of paper. For older children you may want to write words in play dough on the cross of how the cross makes you feel.

This is taken from

flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk

Discussion Question

Why have we given the people sad faces?

Crucify him



Fill the cross
Shape with
play dough

Use play dough
to give the people
Sad faces.





Cross Brass Rubbing

You will need:

Coins

A4 Paper with a cross outline on it

Crayons

- 1) Take a coin and put it underneath the paper inside the cross.
- 2) Use a crayon to create a rubbing of the coin.
- 3) Repeat until you're happy with it
- 4) Write the words 'Paid in Full' around the cross to remember what Christ has done for us.

Discussion Question

What does 'Paid in Full' mean?



Crown of Thorns

You will need:

Paper strips

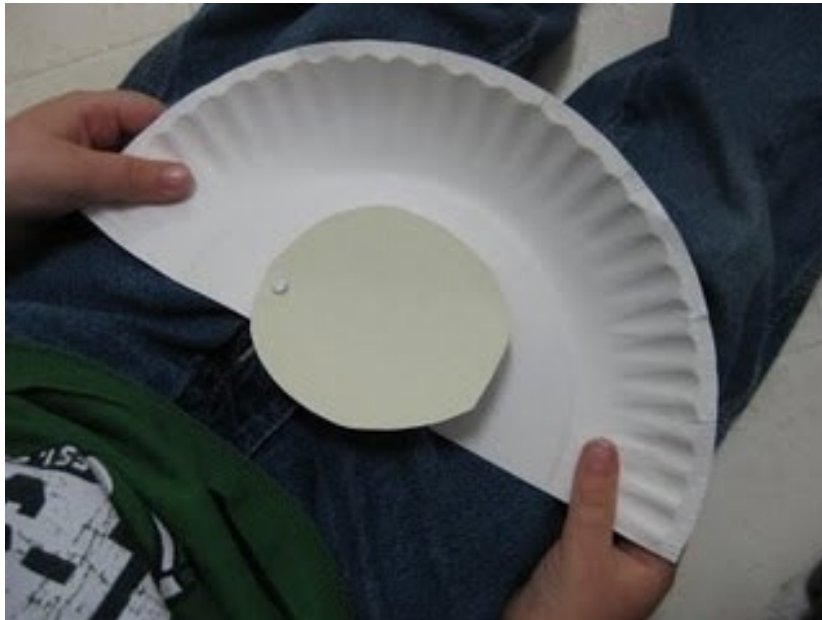
Tape

Pens

- 1) Design a crown of thorns using the paper strips
- 2) Decorate it and write the words 'It is finished'
- 3) Stick it together so it fits around your head.

Discussion Question

How does Jesus dying on a cross affect our lives?



Tomb Scene

You will need:

Paper plate cut in half

Split Pins

Circle

Pens/Paints

- 1) Decorate the plate to look like Jesus' tomb, in the middle write 'He is Risen'
- 2) Make the circle look like a rock and secure in place with a split pin to cover the words.
- 3) Keep it like this until Easter day when they, at home, can move the stone away to reveal the great message.

Discussion Question

How would you have felt when
Jesus was buried?

Easter Sunday

All Age Worship

Main Section and Talk

Beginning the Service

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, conquered death for us:

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, rose triumphant from the grave.

Hallelujah! Raise the Lord!

Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is seated in heaven at the Father's side.

Hallelujah! Raise the Lord!

Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God will return in power and majesty

Hallelujah! Raise the Lord!

Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord!

Talk

Good morning. How many of you plan to have an Easter egg hunt today? As you can see, I have my Easter basket ready. Now, the eggs in my Easter basket are very special because each of them will show us what Easter really means.

Inside my first egg is a cross. The cross reminds me that Jesus willingly carried his cross to Calvary to die for my sins. God loved me so much that he sent His only begotten Son so that I

could have everlasting life.

Inside the second egg are three nails. They remind us that Jesus was nailed to the cross. The nails that they used to nail Jesus to the cross weren't little nails like these. They were great big nails. Can you imagine the pain he must have felt? He suffered the pain to pay the price for our sins.

Inside the third egg is a stone. The Bible tells us that after Jesus died, they placed his body in a tomb and put a huge stone over the entrance. On Sunday morning the stone has been rolled away.

The fourth egg is empty. The Bible tells us that when the two women went inside the tomb, it was empty. Jesus was not there. The empty egg reminds us that Jesus' tomb is empty. He is risen, just as he said he would.

The Jesus we serve willingly took up his cross, but he could not be held there by the nails and he could not be kept in the tomb by a stone. He is risen!

Song

Saviour of the World - Ben Cantelon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9zEjO-7Gf8>

Bible Passage: John 20:1-18

Prayer Activity and End of the Service

Place your Easter Day banner material at the front of the church, have an empty tomb in the middle of the material and surround it with material cut into the shape of eggs. In baskets have material spring flowers and material candles. When you enter a time of prayer encourage people to walk up and pick one of the items from the baskets that they wish to pray for (see below) and exchange it for an egg on the banner. They can take the egg home to remind them of the new life of Jesus.

Spring flowers: Take a spring flower and think of a sad place where you would like God to bring hope. Speak to God about this.

Candle: Pick a candle and ask God to shine his light into dark situations and take away fear.

Once finished encourage everyone to look at the banners from the rest of the week and take a moment to reflect on Jesus' journey and what that means for our lives.

Conclude:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, conquered death for us:

Hallelujah! Raise the Lord!