



At Home

Easter

2021

In this pack, you will find activities that you can do at home to help you celebrate Easter as well as all the details of our Easter garden competition. If you wish, you can pick up a physical copy from the church from Sunday 28th March.



At Home

In the northern hemisphere, Easter happening in springtime seems like just the right time of year, with signs of new life springing up all around us. This time of year can help direct us to a message of hope that we can find in Jesus within the Easter story.

The first four activities in this pack were created for Messy Church by Tracey Fitzsimmons.

If you can't get exactly these materials, just see what you can find around the house instead!

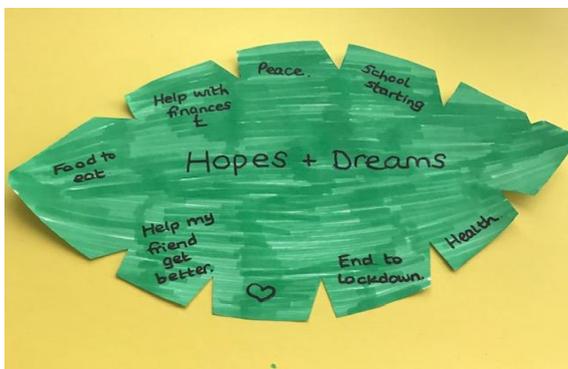
Palm Sunday

You will need these items: paper, scissors, colouring pens

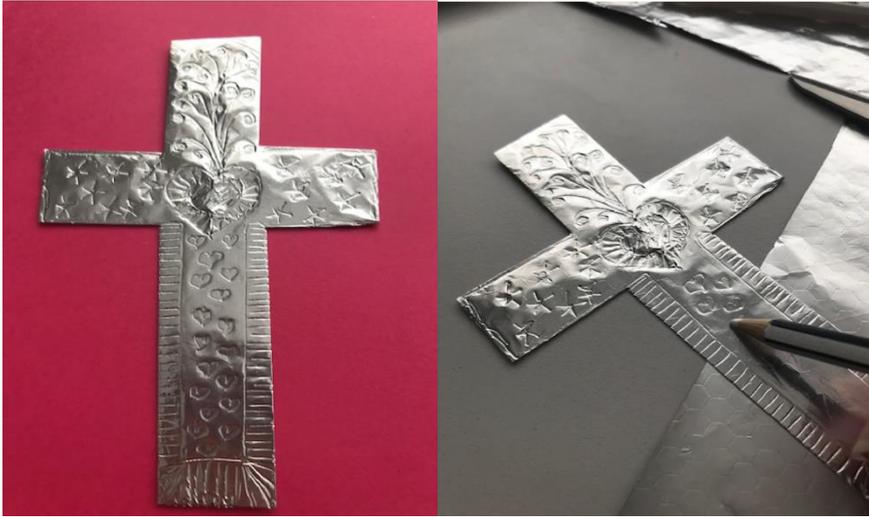
Read the Palm Sunday story (Luke 19:28–38). It's about a special journey Jesus took into Jerusalem. People saw him and lined the streets to sing and shout 'Hosanna' in praise. They saw a great message of hope in Jesus.

Draw a simple leaf shape and colour it in. Write on your palm leaf the things that you hope for. If you want to, you could say a prayer asking God to hold your palm leaf hopes in the palm of his hand.

Talk about what you hope for. How do you think Jesus can help with your hopes and dreams? Do you share your hopes and dreams with Jesus?



Good Friday



You will need these items: card (such as from an old cereal box), scissors, foil, a blunt pencil

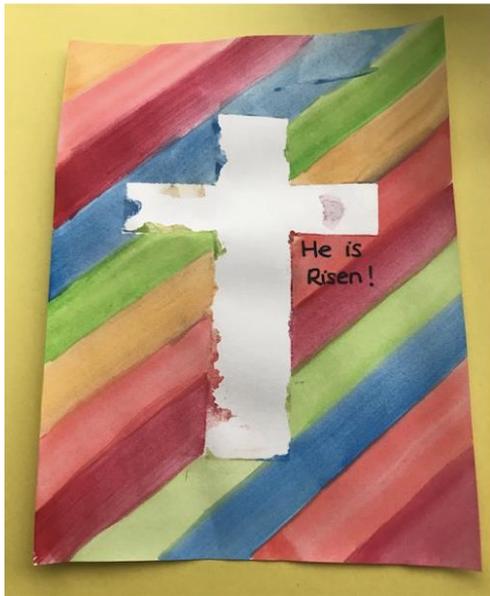
Read the Good Friday story (Luke 23:44–56). On Good Friday, we remember when Jesus died on the cross.

Cut out a piece of card into a cross shape, and then wrap it in foil. Use a blunt pencil to make marks and patterns. Make the cross look beautiful. The best thing about Easter is that we can be friends with God because the cross means our sin is forgiven!

Talk about how we all get things wrong and life is messy, but we can say sorry to God when we do and he forgives us.

Easter Sunday

You will need these items: paper, masking tape, paint and brushes, felt-tip pens



Read the Easter Sunday story (Luke 24:1–12). Today we celebrate the good news that Jesus is risen!

Use masking tape to create a cross shape in the middle of your page. Paint a beautiful bright pattern on your page, painting over the masking tape. When it is dry, carefully peel off the masking tape. Write on the words: 'Jesus is Risen!' Maybe you could put your picture in your window for people to see and enjoy.

If you look at our Easter cross picture, we didn't have masking tape so adapted it by holding a paper cross on the top – the paint spread underneath a bit, but we thought it looked beautiful and reminded us that Jesus joins us in our mess.

Talk about the good news in the Easter story. We know how the Easter Story ends, but the disciples would not have known that Jesus would rise from the dead. How do you think they would have felt when they found out Jesus was alive? We can celebrate as Jesus is alive! I wonder how the disciples celebrated. How can you celebrate this good news today?

Easter Scavenger Hunt

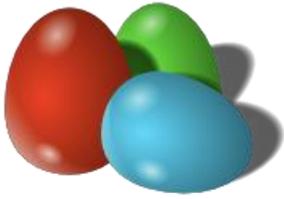
You will need copies of the scavenger hunt on the next page.

Have fun with this Easter scavenger hunt that gives an overview of the Easter story. **Talk about** what you've found. How does each item remind you of Jesus and the Easter story?

You will need: an Easter egg – one each or one for the whole family

1. As you unwrap your Easter egg, thank God for all the good things in your life.
2. As you open your egg, look at the empty, hollow shell. Be thankful that Jesus rose from the grave and that the tomb was found empty on Easter Sunday.
3. As you break up your chocolate shell, pray for people and situations that may feel broken and ask God to be with those people and in those situations.
4. As you eat your chocolate, thank God for the people you love and those who bring sweetness to your life.





THE EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT

All the items in our scavenger hunt are linked to the Easter story. How many can you find?

1. People waved palm leaves as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
Find a large leaf.
2. Jesus took some bread and said, 'This is to remind you of my body broken for you.'
Find something to eat.
3. Jesus took some wine and said, 'This is to remind you of my blood shed for you.'
Find something to drink.
4. Jesus went into the garden to pray to God.
Find something from the garden or another outside space.
5. Pilate washed his hands and gave Jesus to be crucified.
Find something that cleans you.
6. Jesus was put on a wooden cross.
Find something wooden.
7. Jesus died and his body was placed in a tomb with a stone rolled over the entrance.
Find a stone.
8. Women came to put spices on Jesus' body.
Find something that smells nice.
9. Jesus is alive! He is risen!
Find something that makes you happy.

Hot cross Buns

Equipment: scales, mixing bowl, measuring jug, tablespoon, baking tray, oven, tea towel

Ingredients

250 ml milk Teaspoon of mixed spice (spices to your taste)
55 g butter or margarine
(melted) 55g caster sugar
1 and a half teaspoons of
dried yeast 1 large egg
455g strong bread flour 2 tablespoons plain flour
Teaspoon cinnamon 75 g of dried mixed fruit
A little nutmeg

Method

The first step of this recipe is to heat up the milk, so it is lukewarm. Careful! Too hot and the yeast will die, too cold and it won't activate.

Measure out the flour into a bowl and mix in the spices and the sugar.

One by one add the melted butter, the egg and the yeasty milk mixture, then give it a good stir until it comes together.

Next comes the fun part! Make sure your hands are clean. Tip the dough onto a floured surface and knead, stretch, bash and fold for about 8 minutes. Put it back in the bowl, cover with a damp tea towel and leave for about an hour.

It should GROW.

Turn it out onto the board again, punch to get the air out and sprinkle with the dried fruit. Knead this into the dough.

Now, to shape the buns, divide the dough into 12 and roll each piece into a ball. If you find this very sticky, try putting some cooking oil on your hands.

Take a large baking tray and cover with greaseproof paper. Put your 12 buns onto the tray (not too close together) and leave again for 30 minutes.

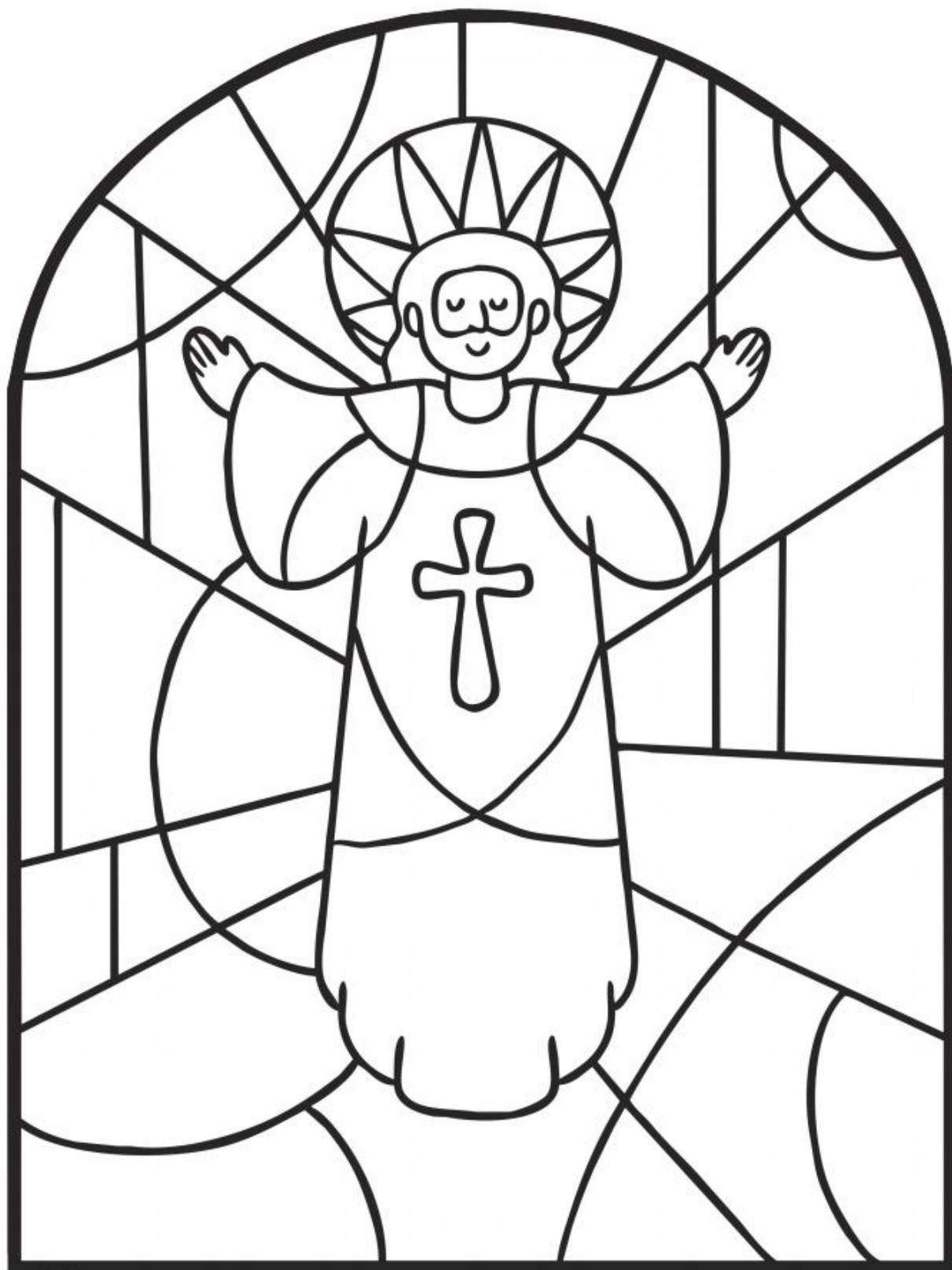
Put the oven on 190 degrees.

While waiting, mix your 2 tablespoons of flour with 2 tablespoons of water into a paste and, when the 30 minutes are up, use the paste to gently mark a cross on the top of each bun. You can use a spoon or a clean finger.

Put the buns in the oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

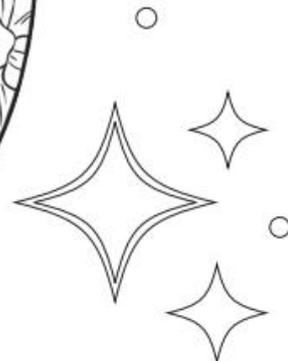
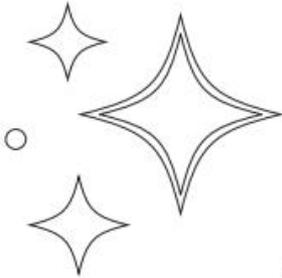
ENJOY!

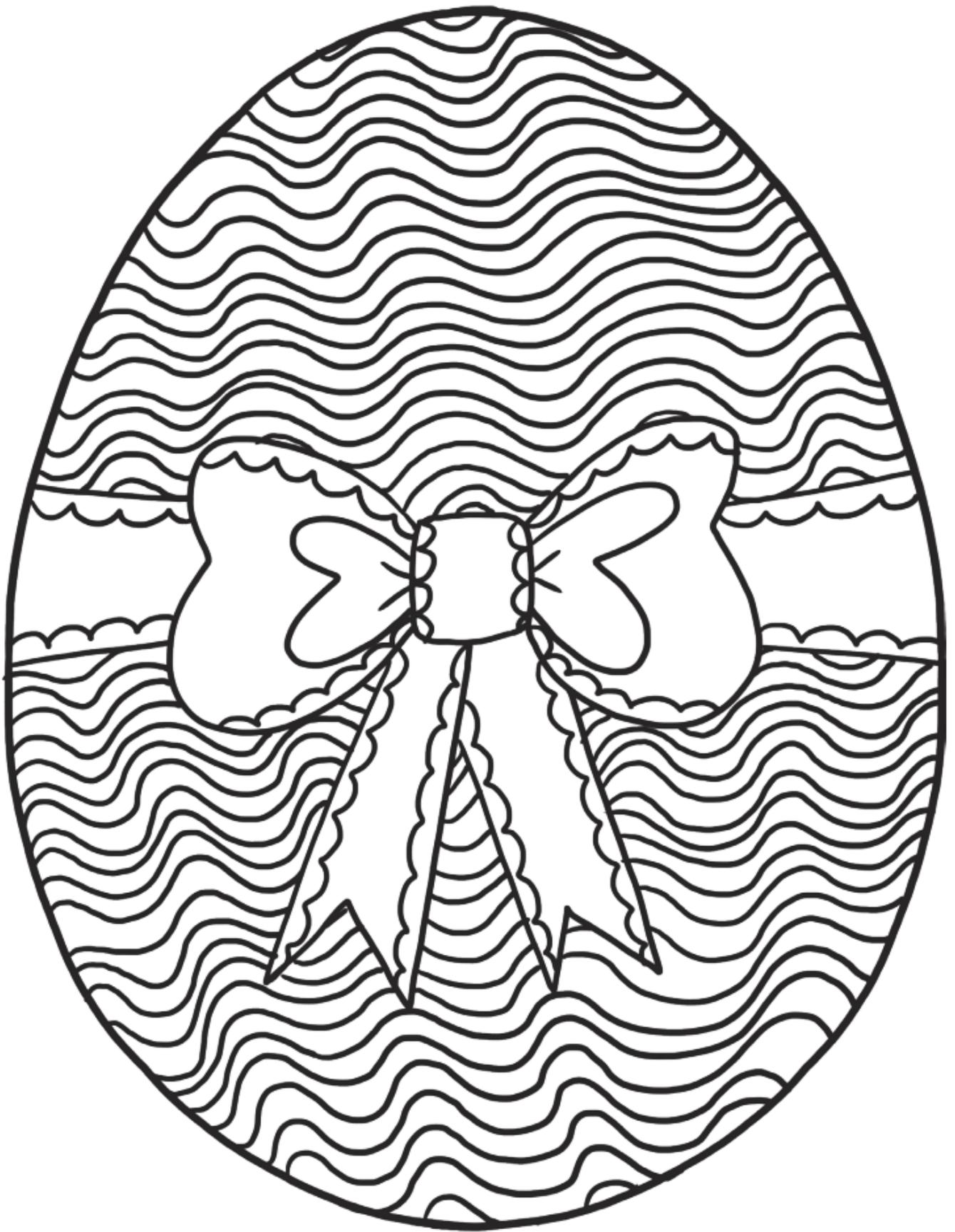
The Easter Journal



'I am the
resurrection
and the life.'

John 11:25





Easter Garden COMPETITION



Design and make your own Easter Garden

Take a photo and post to the
St John's Church, Boxmoor, Facebook page.

The winner will be chosen on Easter Day
and will receive a Prize.

Gardens can be any size, in the garden or in the home.

Be as creative as you like.

You could display it in your front window.



St JohnsChurchBoxmoor

Good luck