Home Learning Pack

Exploring Easter
Why do Christians celebrate Easter?

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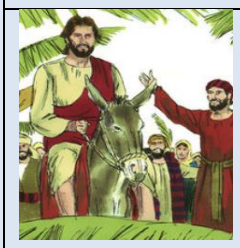
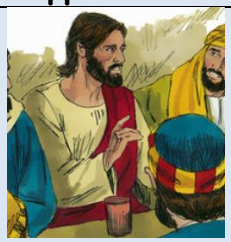
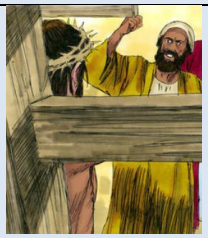
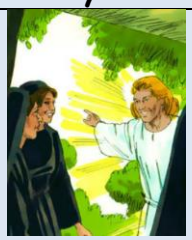


LDBE
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Easter Fact Sheet

Easter is the most important festival for many Christians. It is a time when the death and resurrection of Jesus are remembered, alongside the events leading up to them (Holy Week). Christians believe that Jesus died on a cross just outside the city of Jerusalem at the hands of the Romans. He was buried immediately, but then three days later a group of women discovered that his tomb was empty and after that many people claimed to have seen him, alive. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection were part of God's plan, to bring peace between God and the people of earth.

Holy Week and Easter - Key Events Time Line

Palm Sunday	Jesus is Anointed	The Last Supper	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
				

Palm Sunday
Holy Week begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem like a king – on a donkey, surrounded by people shouting his name excitedly and waving palm branches.

The Last Supper (Maundy Thursday)
It was the time of the Jewish Passover – the festival which remembers Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. After a week visiting friends around Jerusalem, Jesus wanted to share a special meal with his disciples. Christians remember this 'last supper' at communion or mass in church.

Good Friday - Jesus' arrest and crucified
After the meal, Jesus went to pray in a quiet place – a garden called Gethsemane. It was in the garden that he was arrested and by Friday morning, he had been sentenced to death. Good Friday is the day when Christians remember Jesus dying on the cross.

Easter Sunday
On Easter Sunday, the women visited Jesus' tomb but found the stone covering the cave had been moved and Jesus' body was gone. Christians believe that Jesus had died but that he rose to life again – a sign that Jesus was truly God and more powerful than death.

Exploring Easter with EYFS

Bible Story

Watch the story of Holy Week and Easter

https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/

Bible Story

Play along with some Easter games

https://request.org.uk/restart/2016/02/03/the-easter-story-pairs-game/

https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/03/easter-story-drag-and-drop-game/

Design an Easter Garden

https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/



A Walk through Easter

Explore the Easter story in a creative way. Set up an Easter trail and tell the Easter story as you go around.

http://www.spiritualchild.co.uk/schooleastertrail.html

Design an Easter egg



Easter eggs are symbols of new life.

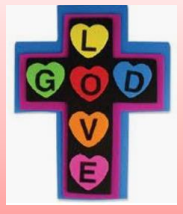
Christians believe that through Easter we are all offered the gift of new life as friends with God.

Design an Easter egg that helps to tell the Easter story

Easter Worship

Listen to the fun song 'King of Me'
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks6zl2hL2Uk -This song is about how Christians believe God is the king of all things.
Can you remember all the things the song mentions?

Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross and came back to life again to show how much God loves us. Create a cross as a sign of this.





Palm Sunday

Windows (Text) – *explore the text in different ways*

Watch: The Palm Sunday film clip
https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/

Read: The Bible Passage Mark 11:1-11
11 Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. They came to
the towns of Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives. There Jesus
sent two of his followers. 2 He said to them, "Go to the town you see there.
When you enter it, you will find a colt tied which no one has ever ridden.
Untie it and bring it here to me. 3 If anyone asks you why you are doing this,
tell him, 'The Master needs the colt. He will send it back soon.'"

4 The followers went into the town. They found a colt tied in the street near
the door of a house, and they untied it. 5 Some people were standing there
and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?" 6 The
followers answered the way Jesus told them to answer. And the people let
them take the colt.

7 The followers brought the colt to Jesus. They put their coats on the colt,
and Jesus sat on it. 8 Many people spread their coats on the road. Others cut
branches in the fields and spread the branches on the road. 9 Some of the
people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were following him. All of them
were shouting,

"Hosanna! Praise God!
God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
10 God bless the kingdom of our father David!
That kingdom is coming!
Praise to God in heaven!"

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple. When he had looked
at everything, and since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the
12 apostles.

Think about the story

Have you ever been to a celebration? Maybe you have been to a birthday, wedding or a street party. Was it noisy? Did people sing or cheer? Was there music? How did you feel to be part of it all?

Imagine that you are in the middle of the crowd when Jesus rides past. What do you think it would be like? What would you hear and see? How would you feel? What would you do?

Write or draw your ideas in the box below:



Challenge - Exploring Deeper

There is a lot of hidden meaning and clues in this story to help us to understand who Christians believe Jesus is and what he was like. Either complete the table by drawing a symbol that would help to explain the hidden meanings. Or use a separate piece of paper and create a poster with the symbols on.

Clue	Meaning	Symbol
Jesus riding on a colt	This was a sign of peace. When a king rode into a city on a colt or a donkey it showed that he was coming in peace.	
Waving the palm branches	The palm branch represented goodness and victory.	
King David	Jesus was born in Bethlehem – the city of King David because Mary and Joseph were descendants of David.	
(Hosanna) Praise God	The word 'Hosanna' means 'save now.' The people saw Jesus as a king who would save them from all their troubles	



Palm Sunday

Mirrors (Impact) – *reflect on what this means for the believers*

Palm Sunday is an important day for Christians – it is a time when they remember Jesus entering Jerusalem as a king. It is also the day that celebrates the beginning of Holy Week – the week leading up to Easter. Choose a couple of these activities to complete and reflect on what Christians believe about Palm Sunday.

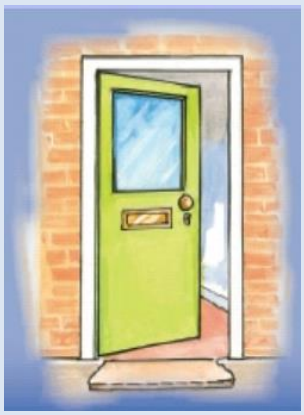
Create a Palm Leaf – using green paper, draw around your hand and cut it out. Write a prayer on the leaf that could be used in a church service on Palm Sunday.

Create a Crown – decorate so that it is fit for a king. Write words on it that Christians would use to describe Jesus.

Make a no-bake rocky road - https://www.spendwithpennies.com/easy-rocky-road/ Decorate it with sprinkles to represent the words the people shouted. Can you remember what they were?

Listen to 'King of Me' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks6zl2hL2Uk – On Palm Sunday the people treated Jesus as King. This song is about how Christians believe God is the king of all things.

Challenge – write another verse for the song.



Palm Sunday

Door (Connection) - how could this impact how we think and act?

Imagine – if you were given the power to be king or queen for the next year what would you do? Think about the type of king that the Bible teaches Jesus was – someone who cared for people, who helped people, who made sure everyone had enough food and who helped his friends when they were scared.

Would you be like that?

Think about what kind of king or queen you think the world needs now.

What decisions would you make?
What rules would you make?
How would you treat people?
How would you behave?

Write (or record) a speech that tells the people all about what you will be like as a queen/king and what you want to see happen in the world.

Challenge
Write (and send if possible) a letter or email to someone you know who is a good leader. Perhaps you could say thank you for all that they do and suggests things that you would do in the future if you were them.



Jesus is Anointed

Windows (Text) – *explore the text in different ways*

Watch: The Anointing film clip
https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/

Read: The Bible Passage Mark 14:3-9
3 Jesus was in Bethany. He was at dinner in the house of Simon, who had a harmful skin disease. While Jesus was there, a woman came to him. She had an alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. The woman opened the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head.

4 Some of those who were there saw this and became angry. They complained to each other, saying, "Why waste that perfume? 5 It was worth a full year's work. It could be sold, and the money could be given to the poor." They spoke to the woman sharply.

6 Jesus said, "Don't bother the woman. Why are you troubling her? She did a beautiful thing for me. 7 You will always have the poor with you. You can help them anytime you want. But you will not always have me. 8 This woman did the only thing she could do for me. She poured perfume on my body. She did this before I die to prepare me for burial. 9 I tell you the truth. The Good News will be told to people in all the world. And in every place it is preached, what this woman has done will be told. And people will remember her."

Think about the story
Jesus spent a lot of time with lots of different people, going into their homes, eating with them and teaching them about God. It was tradition in Jesus' time that the men and women would eat separately, that the women served the men before eating themselves. However meals with Jesus were very different. Jesus treated both men and women with respect. Jesus ate with both men and women and let the women listen to his teaching as well as the men.

How do you think this would make the women feel?
How might some of the men feel?

In Jesus' time it was also common for a guest to have their feet washed when they visited a house. This was a sign of respect. In this story the woman goes even further and pours perfume over Jesus' head – we often call this anointing.

Why do you think she would do that?

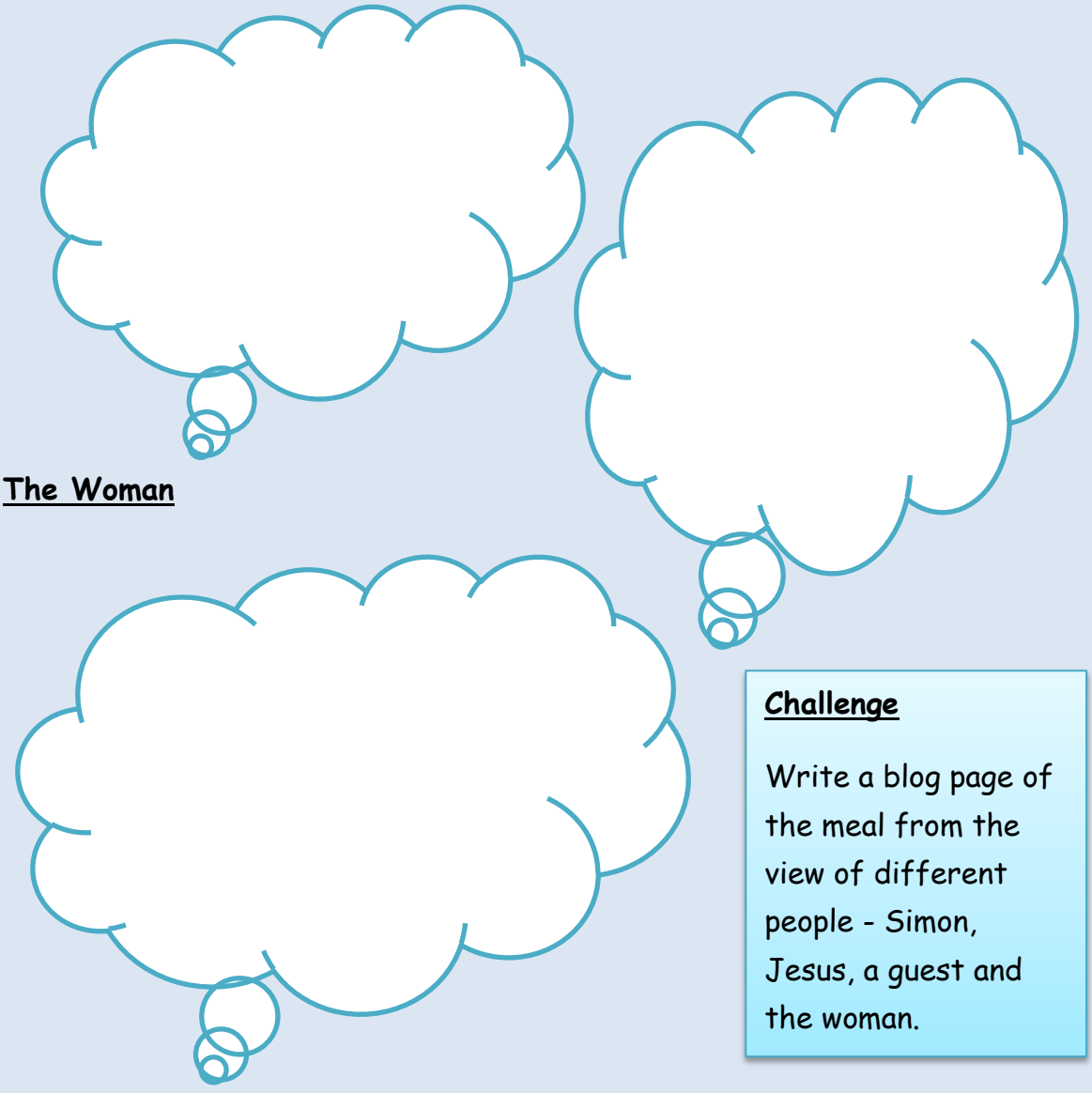
In the Bible anointing is a sign of respect but it is also a sign that someone has been chosen to do a very special job. In this Bible passage Jesus points to the fact that his special job was to die – something that is remembered at Easter.

What do you think the people at the meal were thinking?
Write your ideas in the bubbles…

Jesus

The Guests

The Woman



Challenge

Write a blog page of the meal from the view of different people - Simon, Jesus, a guest and the woman.



Jesus is Anointed

Mirrors (Impact) – *reflect on what this means for the believers*

The 'Anointing of Jesus' is an important story for Christians and is often remembered as part of the Holy Week celebrations. It is a story that teaches about how God sees all people as important but it also shows how everything in Jesus' life was pointing to the cross.
As you complete the following activities reflect on how Christians believe we should treat each other, following Jesus' examples.

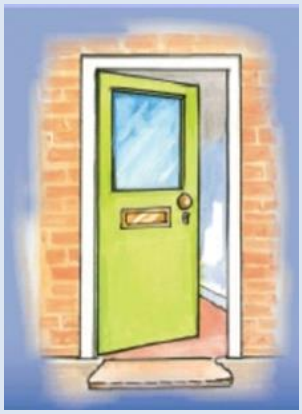
One way that Christians believe that they can show respect to God is by respecting and caring for his creation and that includes people. Look at the 40 Acts of Kindness website:
https://40acts.org.uk/resources/

Download the family wall chart, try and complete one act of kindness each day between now and Easter.

Draw a picture of a perfume jar. Write a prayer or reflection on it, taking time to think about all the people who are lonely, forgotten or ignored in the world. Decorate the jar to show how precious they are to God.

Research the work of the Christian charity, the Salvation Army. The charity believes that in showing love and respect to others they are showing love and respect to God.

Design a poster to show the history of the organisation and also some of the work that they do in the name of Jesus.



Jesus is Anointed

Door (Connection) - how could this impact how we think and act?

Imagine that Jesus or some other very important person is coming to have a meal at your house.

What special things are you going to organise?

How will you treat him when he arrives?

What food would you prepare?

Design an invitation for the meal, which other people will you invite?

Design a menu to show what food you would serve. If possible you may want to prepare the meal to share with your family or on paper plates draw the food you will eat at the meal.

Write a list of questions you would like to ask her.

Challenge: write a letter from Jesus to yourself thanking you for the meal and everything that you have done.



The Last Supper

Windows (Text) – *explore the text in different ways*

Watch: The Last Supper and Arrest
https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/

Read: Mark 14:12-2612

It was now the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was a time when the Jews always sacrificed the Passover lambs. Jesus' followers came to him. They said, "We will go and prepare everything for the Passover Feast. Where do you want to eat the feast?"
13 Jesus sent two of his followers and said to them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14 He will go into a house. Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks that you show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover Feast.' 15 The owner will show you a large room upstairs. This room is ready. Prepare the food for us there."
16 So the followers left and went into the city. Everything happened as Jesus had said. So they prepared the Passover Feast.
17 In the evening, Jesus went to that house with the twelve. 18 While they were all eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. One of you will give me to my enemies—one of you eating with me now."
19 The followers were very sad to hear this. Each one said to Jesus, "I am not the one, am I?"
20 Jesus answered, "The man who is against me is one of the twelve. He is the one who dips his bread into the bowl with me. 21 The Son of Man must go and die. The Scriptures say this will happen. How terrible it will be for the person who gives the Son of Man to be killed. It would be better for that person if he had never been born."

22 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it and broke it. Then he gave it to his followers and said, "Take it. This bread is my body."
23 Then Jesus took a cup. He thanked God for it and gave it to the followers. All the followers drank from the cup. 24 Then Jesus said, "This is my blood which begins the new[a] agreement that God makes with his people. This blood is poured out for many. 25 I tell you the truth. I will not drink of this fruit of the vine[b] again until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 They sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Think about the story:

Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of the Passover. This is a time of the year when the Jewish people remember the story of Moses and how God set the people free from slavery in Egypt. It was an exciting time for the Jews and as part of the celebration they would have a big meal. It was at this meal when Jesus' last supper with his disciples takes place.

Find out more about the Passover meal and the way that the Jews still celebrate it today:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z3n34wx

As part of the Passover celebrations the Jews use a Seder plate – this helps to tell the story of the fist Passover and the escape from Egypt.

A Seder plate holds symbols of the Pesach story. Karpas — a green vegetable, often parsley — is dipped in salt water to remind us of the tears of the enslaved Israelites. A sweet fruit paste called charoset (from the Hebrew word cheres, "clay") is like the mortar that the Israelites used to construct buildings for the Egyptian empire. Maror, a bitter herb (usually horseradish), recalls the bitterness of slavery. It is sometimes joined by hazeret, a second bitter herb. A roasted lamb shank bone, zeroah, is a reminder of the offering the Jews made before leaving Egypt. (Vegetarian families will sometimes use a beet instead). Lastly, the beitzah — a roasted or hard-boiled egg — stands for the offering made on every holiday in the days when the Temple stood. That's one powerful centrepiece!

Get creative – make your own Seder Plate. They are often very decorative.





The Last Supper

Mirrors (Impact) – *reflect on what this means for the believers*

The 'Last Supper' is an important story for Christians and is often remembered as part of the Holy Week celebrations. It is because of what happened at the Last Supper that Christians celebrate the Eucharist (sometimes called communion or the Lord's Supper) today.
https://request.org.uk/restart/2015/09/18/communion-a-special-meal-2/

As you complete the following activities reflect on how you think the disciples would have felt as they ate the meal with Jesus. It was meant to be a time to celebrate what had happened at the time of Moses but it became a signpost pointing to what was going to happen to Jesus.

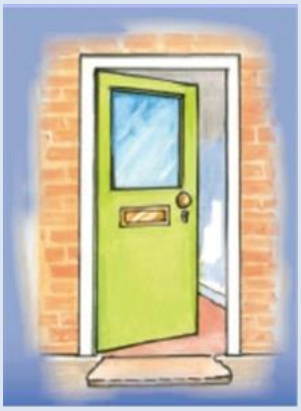
Write a message from one of the disciples back home explaining what has just happened at the Passover Meal.

Challenge – can you describe how people are feeling at the beginning of the meal, once Jesus starts to talk and at the end of the meal?
Why does the mood change?

Find out more about how Christians from different churches still celebrate the Eucharist today.

https://request.org.uk/life/spirituality/communion/

Write a prayer that a Christian could use as part of a Eucharist service in church. You may want to split it into sections:
1) Thank You – think about the things you want to say thank you for
2) Sorry – think about the things that are not right in the world
3) Please - think about the things you and other people really need at this time



The Last Supper

Door (Connection) - how could this impact how we think and act?

The Passover and the Eucharist Meal are all about remembering and also saying thank you for those things you are remembering.

Create a memory box of things you want to say thank you for.
A memory box is something where we can put things that help us to remember special things and people. You can put anything your like into the box – photographs, drawings, letters, tickets, poems, stones – you can put anything that helps you to remember why these things are special to you. You may also want to write a thank you note or prayer for the person or thing you are remembering. The memory box is a special thing so try to **decorate it in a special way**.

Get baking – with an adult try to make the type of bread Jesus and his disciples would have eaten at the last supper.

Ingredients
200g/7oz plain or wholemeal flour
¼ tsp salt
100ml/3½fl oz warm water
2 tbsp oil (olive, sunflower or vegetable), plus extra for cooking

1. Mix the flour, salt and water together and add the oil
2. Knead the dough for 5 minutes and then divide it into 6 small balls
3. On a clean surface put some flour down and then roll the dough balls out into flat bread
4. With an adult heat a small amount of oil in a frying pan. Put the flatbread into the pan; cook it for two minutes on each side.
   https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/quick_flatbreads_43123



Jesus dies on the Cross

Windows (Text) – *explore the text in different ways*

Watch: The film clip, 'Series Two - The Arrest to Easter Sunday'
https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/06/05/bible-quest-holy-week/

Read the story:
Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, I am."

This upset the chief priests because they were jealous of him and the Jewish friends He had made.

Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway). He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

After they heard that, all the people shouted, "We want Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (It sounds strange but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and would want to kill Him).

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate tried again, yelling, "What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!" But the people just shouted louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate wanted to please the crowd so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

When they reached the top of the hill, they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses: Jesus was in the middle, there was a criminal on His right, and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of Him; they even divided up His clothes to be even meaner. Some people walked by and shouted, "You saved others, why can't you save yourself?" Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose not to. He wanted to save us instead.

Later, Jesus cried out, "It is finished." That is when Jesus bowed His head and died.

Suddenly, a huge curtain that hung at the temple was torn in half, from top to bottom. And a man that had wanted Jesus to die saw all of this and he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" He knew that he had been wrong about Jesus.

Think about the story

This was probably the saddest day ever for Jesus' family and friends. Everything they had hoped for seemed to have gone wrong. Things just didn't seem to turn out how they should have done. Some people call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday.' It may seem a strange name for such a sad day.

Can you think of why this name may be used?

It is thought that originally the name Good Friday was used because at one time 'good' had the same meaning as the word 'holy' and was linked with God. Something that is 'holy' is special and set aside for God.



Christians use crosses as necklaces, in churches and in their homes to remember what happened on 'Good Friday.'

Look at the cross – what can you see?

Can you see the disciples at a table?

Can you see the cup and the bread from the last supper?

Can you see Jesus' mother, Mary, standing at the foot of the cross?

Challenge – design a cross that includes all the stories that you have looked at from Holy Week



Jesus Dies on the Cross

Mirrors (Impact) – *reflect on what this means for the believers*

The story of 'Good Friday' is one of the most important stories for Christians and is often remembered every year as part of the Easter celebrations. It is because of what happened on Good Friday and Easter Sunday that Christians believe that people and God can be friends again.

Reflect on the importance of Easter for Christians as you complete the following activity.

Christians will often make Easter Gardens to remember what happened at the first Easter. Watch the film to find out more:

https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/

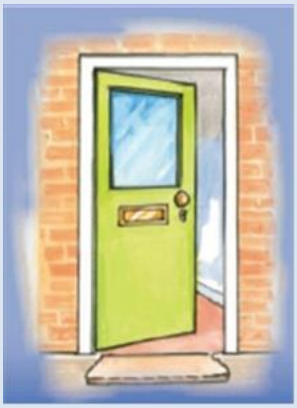
Choose one of the following gardens to copy and make or design your own:











Jesus Dies on the Cross

Door (Connection) - how could this impact how we think and act?

Simon, a Cyrenian, helped Jesus to carry his cross towards Golgotha. There are lots of people in our lives that we can provide a 'helping hand' to in the same way that Simon helped Jesus. Who could you help, with an action, a letter, or kind words maybe? It might be something really small, but it might make a big difference. If you want to, you can write or draw a picture of the person on a hand shape.



I am sorry …

Christians believe that because Jesus died on the cross, they can freely ask God for forgiveness - they can say sorry and know they are forgiven. We all do and say things wrong, things that we regret and wish we hadn't. What have you done or said wrong?

If you want to, using a pencil, write a sorry prayer in the speech bubble - then rub it out as a symbol of God's forgiveness.

Is there anyone who you need to say sorry to?



The Resurrection

Windows (Text) – *explore the text in different ways*

Watch: The Resurrection clip
https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

28 The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. 3 He was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were white as snow. 4 The soldiers guarding the tomb were very frightened of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. 6 But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. 7 And go quickly and tell his followers. Say to them: 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."

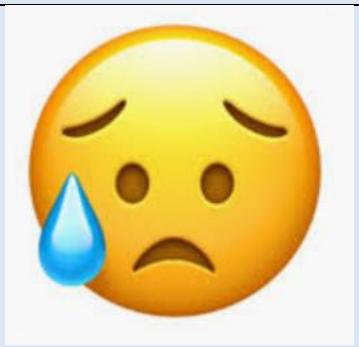
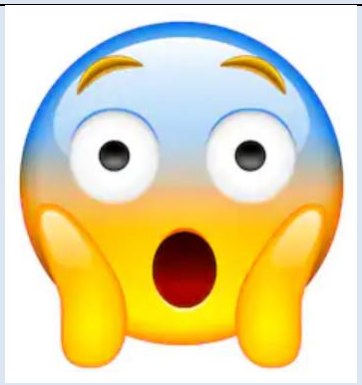
8 The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what had happened. 9 Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings." The women came up to Jesus, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go on to Galilee. They will see me there."

Think about the story
When they watched Jesus die on the cross his friends and family had lost all hope but on the first Easter day things are very different.

Listen to: Who is this man?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pQ1Wn0yP5g
This is a worship song that explains who Christians believe who Jesus is.

Challenge – Create a picture to illustrate one part of the song.

After reading to the story of Easter Sunday – think carefully about how the women were feeling at different times in the story and then fill in the table.

	When do you think the women felt… (Draw or write your answers)
	
	
	
	



The Resurrection

Mirrors (Impact) – *reflect on what this means for the believers*

The Resurrection is **the most** important event in the entire Bible for Christians and is sung about in worship songs all year round. It is because of what happened on Easter Sunday that Christians believe God has promised a way to heaven

Reflect on the importance of Easter Sunday for Christians as you complete the following activity.

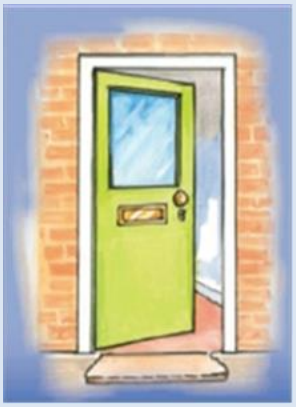


Design a card that explains what Christians believe about Easter. Make it bright and happy.

Hold an Easter egg hunt. If you do not have enough chocolate eggs then cut out eggs from paper and decorate them.
Ask an adult to hide them for you.
As you look for the eggs think of the women going to the tomb to look for Jesus' body.
Easter is a time to celebrate amazing surprises.

Design a poster to advertise an Easter service for a church near to you.

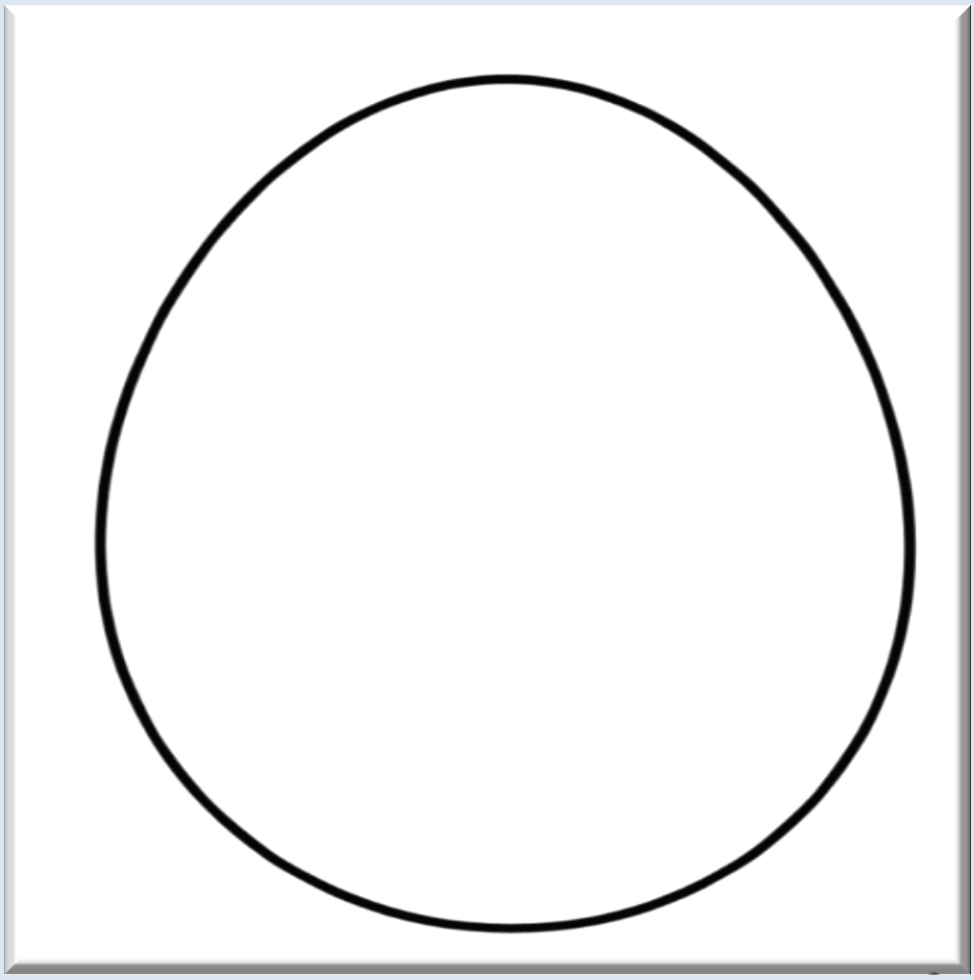
Think about the wording and what might happen at the church. With an adult's help look for ideas on the internet



The Resurrection

Door (Connection) - how could this impact how we think and act?

Easter is all about hope and new life. On the Easter egg write or draw your hopes for yourself, your



To finish and to see how much you remember play along with some Easter games

https://request.org.uk/restart/2016/02/03/the-easter-story-pairs-game/

https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/03/easter-story-drag-and-drop-game/