

Palm Sunday

Jesus travelled to Jerusalem knowing that the journey would end with His death on the cross.

Before He entered the city, He sent two of His friends to bring Him a young donkey and they placed their cloaks on its back. Jesus chose a donkey to show that although He was the King God had promised to send, He came to bring peace. He was not a warrior on horseback like some were expecting.

As Jesus rode on the donkey He entered into the city of Jerusalem. Crowds of people came to see Jesus because they had heard about the many amazing miracles He had performed. The crowds were delighted to see Him, shouting 'Hosanna' and singing praises to Him as they waved their palm branches.

Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus is a different kind of King, bringing peace to our lives and praise to our hearts.

You can read this in the Bible in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44 & John 12:12-19



Hunt for the largest leaf or fallen branch that you can, then wave it and shout “Hosanna”, which means “He saves”.

How do you think the people in Jerusalem felt as they welcomed Jesus?

How do you feel about welcoming Jesus into your life?

Look around the churchyard and see how many signs of spring you can find.

These signs of spring are a promise of the warmer weather to come.

The crowds were excited to see Jesus because they knew that the miracles He had performed were signs that revealed who He was... God’s son sent to be our promised King.

The Last Supper

Jesus had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival with His friends. They were going to share a meal together. It was normal for a servant to wash the guests' feet, but Jesus knelt down to wash His friends' feet. They were shocked. But Jesus did this to show them that they should serve one another through acts of love.

They shared bread and wine together. Jesus took the bread and broke it into pieces, telling them that the bread represented His body which was to be broken on the cross. Jesus took the cup of wine and told them that it represented His blood. His friends didn't understand what this meant. They didn't want Jesus to die.

Jesus knew that one of His friends, Judas, would betray Him. Later that night Jesus was arrested and taken away.

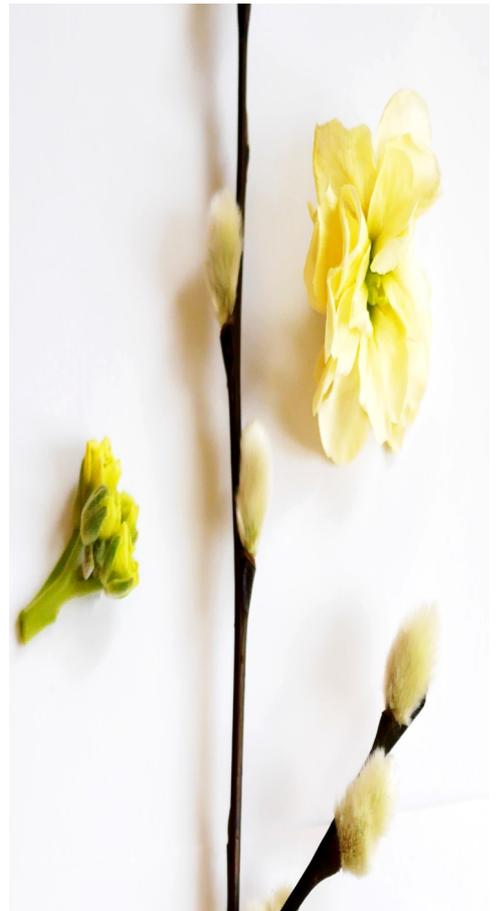
You can read this in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20 and John 13:1-35

Can you match these churchyard animals to the things that they eat?



The Bible tells us that God always provides food for the birds so they don't have to worry about anything.

When we come together in church to share the bread and the wine, we not only remember what Jesus did, but we are strengthened by God, in our faith. This helps our worries to seem less daunting.



Can you think of all the people who serve you? It might be someone in your family, your teachers, doctors or the bin men. Take some time to say thank you to God for these people.

When you get home, why not let one of them know how much their service means to you.

Peter's Denial

After Judas had betrayed Jesus and He was arrested, His friends were scared. Would they be arrested too? They had thought that Jesus was coming to change the world. Now He was a prisoner and seemed helpless.

One of Jesus' friends, Peter, had promised Jesus that He would never lose faith in Jesus. But now Jesus had been arrested, he was scared. He wanted to see what was happening, so he secretly followed Jesus. As he waited outside, three people asked Peter if he knew Jesus. Two thought they had seen Peter with Jesus. Another said that Peter's accent was similar to Jesus' so he must have known Him. But Peter denied it. He lied and said that he didn't know Jesus at all.

Peter realised that He had let Jesus down. He was guilty of betraying Him. But later, Peter was forgiven by Jesus. Jesus chose to love Peter even though he had hurt Him.

You can read this in Matthew 26:31-35 & 69-75, Mark 14:27-31 & 66-72, Luke 22:31-34 & 54-62 and John 13:36-38 & 18:15-18 & 25-27

If you are with your family, play a game of hide and seek in the churchyard.

By pretending he didn't know Jesus, Peter was trying to hide from God. But the Bible tells us God will never lose sight of us.



Can you see a bird box in our churchyard? (There are four to find). Can you see any birds coming in or out, or are they hiding safely in their nest?

God cares for everything in nature and that includes us too.

"God will protect you like a bird spreading its wings over its young." Psalm 91:4

Good Friday

Many people had come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. But some of the religious leaders felt threatened because of His growing number of followers. After He was arrested, the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman Governor. They wanted Pilate to sentence Jesus to death. Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, but large crowds shouted for Jesus to be crucified. The Roman soldiers beat Jesus and made fun of Him. They placed a crown of thorns on His head and nailed Him to a cross to die.

When Jesus died on the cross, the sky turned dark, and the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom; not from bottom to top as would happen if torn from earth. The world shook and rocks split; the divide between us and God had gone.

You can read this in the Bible in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 and John 18:28-40 & 19

Find a thin twig and “thread” some leaves onto it.
As you pierce each leaf with the end of the twig, talk about how
Jesus’ death on the cross makes you feel.
Confused? Sad? Angry?

Collect some sticks, stones, leaves and other things that you can find to build a small bridge.

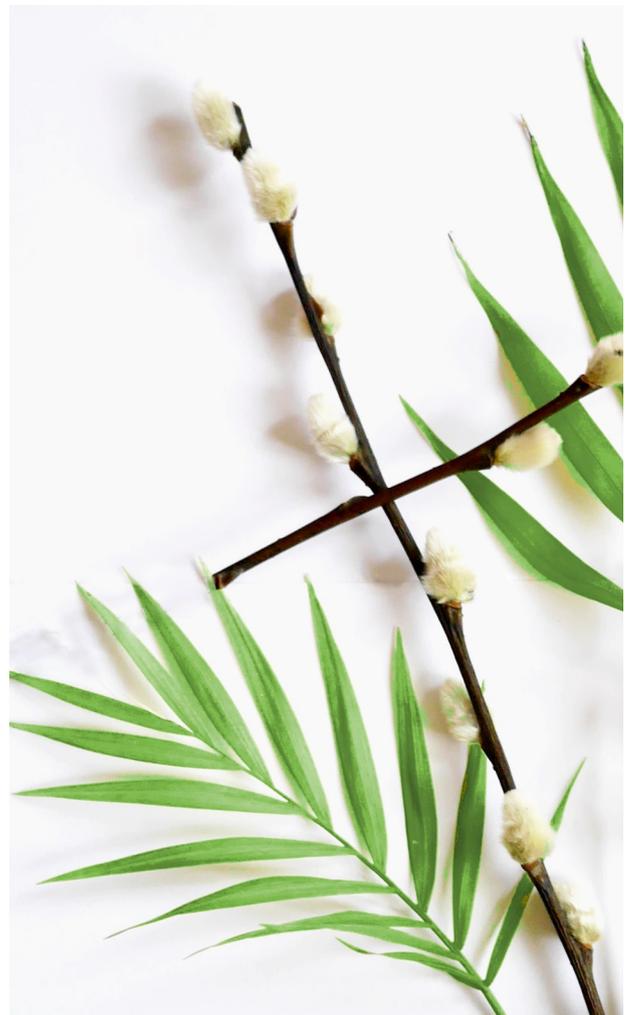
Jesus’ death on the cross created a bridge between us and God that is still there today.

Your bridge might not be very strong, but God’s love for us is so strong that He chose to send Jesus to die for us so that we can be reunited with Him.

Take a moment to think about God’s love for you.

“There is only one God. And there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 2:5



Easter Sunday

After Jesus had died, one of His friends took Jesus' body and placed it in his own tomb. A large stone covered the entrance and it was guarded by Roman soldiers. Early on the third day, some women, including Jesus' friend Mary Magdalene, went to the tomb to put special burial spices on Jesus' body. Mary was very upset when she saw the stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body was gone.

When Peter and one of Jesus' other friends reached the tomb, Peter went inside first and saw the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying there, along with the cloth that would have covered his face neatly folded.

Mary was outside the tomb weeping. When she moved to look inside, she saw angels where Jesus' body had been. At that moment Jesus appeared behind her, although she only recognised Him once He called her by name. He told Mary to go and tell His friends what she had seen.

Jesus had come back to life!

You can read this in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:1-18



Look around our churchyard and see how many different types of flowers you can see growing here.

When we grow flowers, we first of all have to plant the seeds by burying them into the soil. It takes some time for the plant to show any signs of life. Then, once we can see the first green shoots, we know that the flower really is alive.

When Jesus died and was buried, it looked like all hope had gone. But Jesus' friends had to wait just a few days to see that Jesus really was their special rescuer. He had defeated death. If we choose to trust in Him, we can share in eternal life with Him too.

See if you can find some rocks, stones or logs in the churchyard. Carefully lift them up and look to see if you can find any bugs living under them. Life isn't always obvious.

Everyone thought when Jesus died that He would be gone forever. But when the rock was rolled away from the tomb, they discovered that He had come back to life.



The Risen Jesus

After Jesus had died and come back to life, He appeared to many different people. These were real life encounters with Jesus eating, speaking and allowing Himself to be touched.

On one occasion, two of Jesus' friends were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles away from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened. They didn't know yet that Jesus had come back to life and were sad that it seemed Jesus' promises wouldn't be kept. As they walked, Jesus appeared to them, although they didn't recognise Him. Jesus helped them to understand how His death had been predicted in the Old Testament and how He had had to die so that everyone had an opportunity to be friends with God again.

When they finally realised it was Jesus, they were overjoyed. At once, they returned to Jerusalem, delighted to share the good news with everyone else.

Without the resurrection, Jesus would have probably been known as simply a great teacher and a good man, but after He rose from the dead, Jesus' followers knew for certain that He was who He had claimed to be, the Saviour of the world.

You can read this in Luke 24:13-35

Have fun taking giant steps, or tiptoeing along the path. As you walk, imagine that Jesus is walking with you. What questions would you want to ask Him?

Jesus' two friends hurried to share the good news with others. They walked seven miles back to their friends. Think about who you could walk to visit so that you could chat about Jesus.

Stop and stand still and listen. What noises can you hear? Which of them are man-made noises and which are sounds of nature?

The Bible says that who God is, and what Jesus did by coming back to life, is so amazing that everything in nature praises God.

What sounds can you hear that seem like they are praising God? How could you praise God?

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6



Following Jesus

The good news of Jesus' death and resurrection quickly spread. We can read in the Bible about how the first churches started and how Christianity started to spread throughout the world.

Jesus was the first person to know the truth of who He was. He spent time teaching His 12 friends, the Disciples, and then they spent time teaching others. Very quickly, thousands of people believed in Jesus. Today there are more than 2.4 billion people in the world who are Christians. That's a third of the world's population!

But there is only one of you. And what you think about Jesus really matters.

Jesus once told a story. He said that whoever hears His words and believes them is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. When the storms of life hit him, the house didn't fall down because it had a solid foundation. But Jesus said that whoever hears His words and ignores them is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down and the soft sand gave way. His house collapsed.

Will you build your life on the solid rock of Jesus?

You can read this parable in Matthew 7:24-29 and Luke 6:46-49. You can read about the start of the early church in the book of Acts.

Look around and see if you can find a small stone or pebble. Take some time to feel how hard it is. Look at how strong the stones are that our church is built of. Jesus is the foundation of our church. If you find a nice pebble, you might like to paint it with something that you have remembered from your visit to our church today.



If you are with someone else, close your eyes and ask them to guide you along the next section of the path. If you have a scarf or facemask with you, you might be able to use it as a blindfold.

How will it feel to have to trust the person's directions?

Hopefully, you know you will be safe because you know the person you are with and what they are like.

As we get to know more about Jesus, we can learn to trust Him more and more as we make our way through each day.