

With thanks to Jane Wheeler and Tina Venton of Carmarth South Deanery for sharing their hard work and ideas.

Easter Explorers

A project allowing schools to work in partnership with their local churches in learning about the Easter Story and what Christians believe about Jesus the King.



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Cruxifiction Picture

Craft
Activity

You will need:

- One piece of white A4 paper
- One piece of black paper
- 3 strips of coloured tissue paper

Instructions

1. Choose 3 strips of tissue paper to cover the white A4 paper.
2. Put glue on the white paper, then stick the horizontal strips on to make a sunset.
3. Draw a hill on the black paper and draw 3 crosses. You can also make the crosses out of strips of black paper if you prefer.
4. Cut out the hill and glue it to the bottom of your picture.
5. Cut out the crosses and glue them on the hill.

Discussion Questions

Why are we making a hill?

Why are we making 3 crosses?

I wonder if you had been watching, what would you have thought or felt?

Why is it called “Good Friday”?

What do Christians believe

Jesus did to save people?

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Mindfulness Colouring

Discussion
Activity

You will need:

- Felt tips or coloured pencils
- A colouring sheet such as the one below

Instructions

1. This is a simple activity allowing for quiet reflection
2. Ask the group to look at the picture they have, what can they see, what colours might they choose?
3. Ask the children to colour for one minute while thinking about the question above
4. Ask for some feedback on the question. Intersperse questions, discussion and quiet thinking time as you see fit, it will be different for every group

Discussion Questions

What do you think about when you see a cross in church, how does it make you feel?

What about seeing the cross symbol elsewhere?

Christians will say that Easter is the most important festival of the year, even more special than Christmas, do you agree?

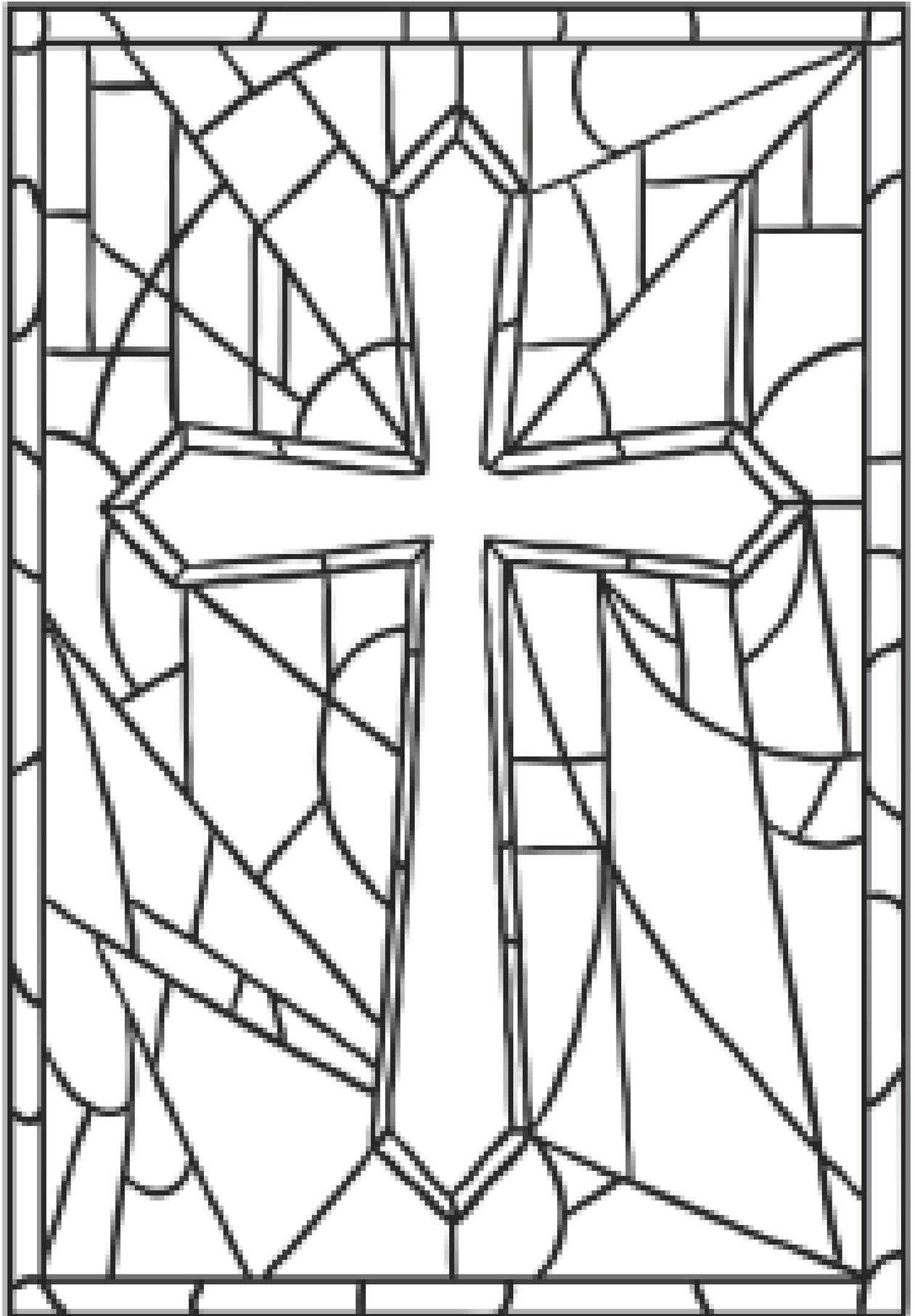
Why might that be true for Christians?

Why did the Romans put a sign on Jesus' cross saying that he was a king?

Do you think he was a king?



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Stained Glass Cross

Craft Activity

You will need:

- Black Paper
- Tissue paper in various colours
- Scissors
- Glue



Cut out a shape from the centre of the black paper (this is easier if you fold the paper in half and cut out half a cross shape).

Stick strips of tissue across the back of the cross.

Hang from a window so that the light shines through.



Discussion Questions:

What do you think about when you see a cross in church, how does it make you feel?

What about seeing the cross symbol elsewhere?

Christians will say that Easter is the most important festival of the year, even more special than Christmas, do you agree?

Why might that be true for Christians?

Why did the Romans put a sign on Jesus' cross saying that he was a king?

Do you think he was a king?

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Christian Symbols

Investigation Activity

Print out the sheet for each child. Look at the symbols and ask the children to think about what they might mean to Christians, you might want to talk about how they are important to you, personally. Get the children to fill in the meanings behind the symbols and then hunt the church to find as many as they can.

The children might like the story behind the fish symbol: A long time ago—about 2,000 years—Christians had to be very careful. It wasn't always safe to say you followed Jesus. So they used secret symbols to show each other they were friends who believed the same things. One of the most important symbols they used was... a fish!

The word "fish" had a secret meaning. In Greek (the language many people spoke then), the word for fish is ΙΧΘΥΣ (pronounced "ick-thoos").

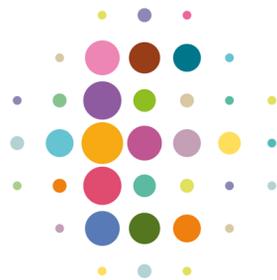
Each letter stood for something Christians believed about Jesus:

- I – *Iēsous* – Jesus
- Ch – *Christos* – Christ
- Th – *Theou* – God's
- Y – *Huios* – Son
- S – *Sōtēr* – Saviour

So the word "fish" was really like a secret message:

"Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Saviour."

Christian Symbols



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Symbol	Meaning	Spotted in Church
 The dove		
 A candle		
 The Bible		
 Bread and wine		
 The cross		
Ichthus		

Resurrection Eggs

Discussion
Activity

A set of Resurrection Eggs can be borrowed from the Old Cathedral School – contact Clare Green if you wish to borrow them- clare.green@trurodiocese.org.uk .
Alternatively, use these [free to download ones](#) (with or without the plastic eggs)

These can be hidden around the church for children to find and then the contents discussed, or for a calmer activity, sit the children in a circle and open the eggs one at a time, discussing the contents of each and where it fits in the story.



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Make an Easter Garden

Planting
Activity

Best done as a group or in smaller groups, with children co-operating to find the necessary articles in the churchyard

You will need:

- Plastic plant tray
- Soil
- Moss
- Small stones, pebbles or gravel
- 1 large stone
- Small flowerpot
- Some small flowering plants, such as mini daffodils
- 6 sticks
- Gardening trowel
- String or twine



Instructions

1. Put your flowerpot on its side in the tray. This is going to symbolise Jesus' tomb.
2. Fill the tray with soil. Make sure the soil also covers the sides and top of the flowerpot (so it looks like a hill).
3. Add your small pebbles or gravel wherever you would like.
4. Dig some small holes in the soil and plant your flowers. Make sure they have enough space for their roots to grow!
5. Use the moss to cover some of the soil (the 'ground') and the hill. This will look like grass.
6. Overlap two of your sticks to form a cross. Use your string or twine to tie them together. Repeat this to make three crosses in total.
7. Push your crosses into the soil so they stand upright.
8. Place the big stone in front of the open end of the flowerpot.
9. Put your Easter garden on display, somewhere where the plants can get plenty of sunlight.



Colours of Easter (Godly Play)

Discussion
Activity

[Godly Play](#) is a wonderful way to help the children get inside the Easter story.

Here is a free resource to help tell or recap the story in a different way, and promote discussion

Download the script and pictures.

[Colours-of-Easter-1.pdf](#)

I wonder which of these pictures you like the best?

I wonder which of these pictures is the most important?

I wonder which of these pictures is especially for you?

I wonder if we can leave out any of the story and still have all the story we need?

I wonder if you would like to change any of these pictures?



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