At the moment we aren't able to meet as a Church community, but we are able to meet as Church family in our own homes. We've created some ideas for you to be able to celebrate Holy Week in your own homes. These are great for families with children from Reception and upwards, although they can be adapted to suit any age. Why not use the Easter timeline below to create your own activities. We've given you a few ideas on how you can tell the story each day in your own home.

Palm Sunday	This is the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
	Matthew 21:1-11
Monday	Jesus visits the temple and is so angry to see people not using it to worship God
	Matthew 21:12-17
Tuesday	Jesus & the disciples visit the Mount of Olives & He teaches about the importance of faith
	Matthew 21:18-22
Wednesday	The Bible doesn't say what Jesus did today. We think maybe He rested
	Genesis 2:2-3
Thursday	This is called Maundy Thursday where we remember the Passover and the Last Supper
	Matthew 26:17-30, John 13:1-20, Matthew 26:36-46 (Garden of Gethsemane)
Friday	The trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus
	Matthew 26:47-56-75, Matthew 27:1-56
Saturday	Jesus' body lays in the tomb
	Matthew 27:57-65
Easter Sunday	Resurrection of Jesus
	Matthew 28

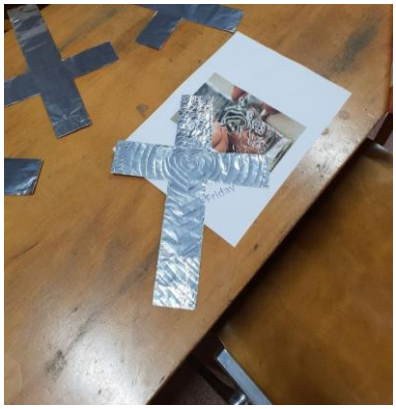
There are some great Bible apps out there. We like:

www.biblegateway.com

www.youversion.com

FOIL CROSSES

Cut out some large crosses from some thin cardboard (you could use cereal boxes). Cover the cross with tin foil. You don't need to use glue, but you may want to use pieces of sellotape to secure it at the back. Use a blunt pencil or a straw to create a beautiful design on the cross.



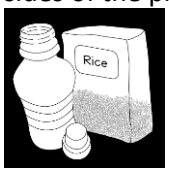
PUPPET THEATRE

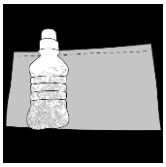
Twinkl is a great site. For this season, they are offering parents FREE access to their website. Go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and pop in the offer code UKTWINKLHELPS. There are lots and lots of Easter activities on there. One of our favourite is making Easter puppets. We printed our figures out on normal paper, glued them on to cardboard, cut them out and then attached a lollipop stick. You could use these to tell the Easter story with your family. You could even film it and show it to your extended family using Zoom, What's App video or any other platform that you are using.

You could even try to make some bottle puppets. You'll need:

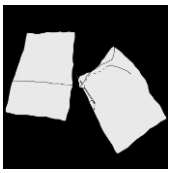
A small plastic bottle; rice or dry sand; wadding; needle and thread; piece of tights; rectangles of material (approx. 32x16cms); 2 elastic bands; piece of string (optional)

1. Use a small empty plastic bottle to make the body. Weight the bottle by filling the bottom third of the bottle with either rice or dry sand and then replace the lid securely.
2. Use one of the rectangles of material to create the robe. Sew along one of the long sides of the piece of material using a simple running stitch

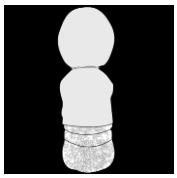
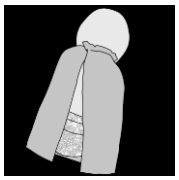
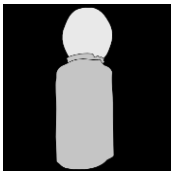




3. To create the head, cut a 15cm piece length from a pair of tights.
4. Close one end by stitching around the top and then gather it and tie it off securely. Fill this with wadding to create the head shape.

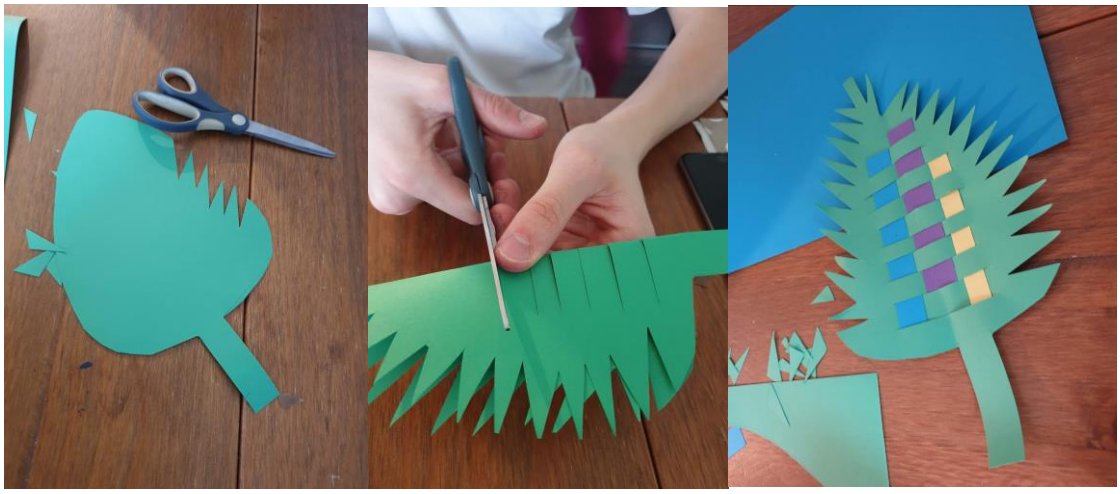


5. When the piece of tights has been filled to create the head, place it over the top of the bottle and secure it at the neck of the bottle with an elastic band.
6. Place the bottle onto the rectangle of material and gather up the running stitches at the top by pulling both ends of the thread. Tie these at the neck of the bottle to create the robe.
7. Tuck in the ends of the thread and straighten the material around the bottle. Trim the bottom of the robe with scissors if necessary to make it the same length as the bottle.
8. To create the cloak and the head covering, use the other two rectangular pieces of material. Tie one around the shoulders of the bottle and use the other to form the headdress. Secure the headdress with an elastic band or a piece of string.

LEAF WEAVING

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, people lined the streets with their coats and waved big palm leaves and shouted HOSANNA. They were so excited to see him. For this craft you will need a piece of green paper (if you don't have any green paper you can always use a piece of white paper and colour it green). Then cut out the shape of a palm leaf. Fold it in half lengthways and cut small slits in it from the centre to the outside of the leaf. Open it out again and weave small pieces of coloured paper in the leaf. How many can you make? How about pinning them to your window for people to see when they walk past your house.



PALM LEAF MAKING

This is a really good way to make a big palm leaf. You will need lots of green paper (if you don't have any green paper you can always use a piece of white paper and colour it green) and a lollipop stick. Draw around your hand and then cut it out. Make lots of these. You could use different members of your family so that you had different sized palm prints. When they are all cut out, stick them on to a lollipop stick. We have used three lollipop sticks for ours and seven hand prints. When it is all made, wave them around and shout praises to Jesus.

RAINBOW CROSS

We have seen lots of people making rainbows at the moment. This is another way to make a rainbow. All you need is either a paper plate or a piece of paper. Cut out three crosses from a piece of black or dark paper. If you don't have black paper you can either use white paper and colour it black, or draw three crosses on the paper/plate using a black felt-tip. Colour a rainbow in the background. We have done one using crayons and one using torn up pieces of tissue paper. You could pin these in your window so that passing people could see.

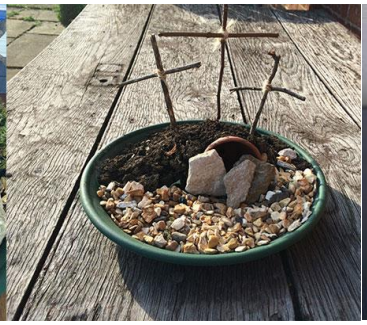
EASTER GARDEN

Have you ever tried to make an Easter garden? We have done two different types of gardens; one is using things that you might have in your garden and one is using things that you might have in your kitchen if you don't have a garden at home.

For both you will need a tray or a bowl. Then you will need:

OUTSIDE	INSIDE
Small and large stones	Green mat (pieces of cut up paper would do)
Mug/Cup	Muffin, biscuit and mug/cup
Soil	Raisins
Three crosses made from twigs	Crosses made from chocolate fingers or After Eight Mints or straws

Gather the items that you need and be as creative as you'd like.



Easter gardens have the tomb and crosses in and sometimes flowers.

SHADOW DRAWING

If you have some Easter animals you could try to do some shadow drawing (ok we know that the lion was not in the Easter story but he wandered in our picture). Lay out pieces of paper with the objects towards one edge. Try to draw the outline of the object on the paper. If it's a sunny day you could do this outside. If it's cloudy and cold you can do this inside the house and shine a torch from behind to cast shadows over the paper. Have fun with different Easter objects.

NEW LIFE

Christians around the world celebrate Easter as a time when Jesus brought us new life. Below we have two 'new life' crafts for you to try; a butterfly and a chick.

For the butterfly painting you'll need a sponge and a pipe cleaner (or an elastic band). Put the pipe cleaner around the middle of the sponge to create a butterfly shape. Pop it into a tray of paint – you could use different colours if you like. Print that onto a piece of paper. Who in your family can fill up their picture with lots of different coloured butterflies?

For the chick you will need to cut out an egg shape from a piece of white paper or card. Then using a piece of yellow paper, draw around your hands – these will be the chick's wings. If you have a piece of orange paper, cut out two long strips for the legs and fold them in a concertina. Cut out a diamond shape for its beak and fold it in half. If you have a feather you could stick it on its head. Draw some eyes on it and you have your new born Easter chick.

EGG ROLL PAINTING

Start by hard boiling an egg per person. Pop the egg into a bowl and cover it in paint. Now comes the messy part. Roll the egg around in the paint to make sure it's fully covered. Then using your hands, roll it on to a piece of paper and make your very own art.

EGG HUNT with a difference

Gather eight plastic eggs. If you don't have plastic eggs you could always draw eight eggs on thick paper and hide those instead. Write a number from 1-8 on each egg. Gather eight plates/bowls and put the following inside them.

1. Bread
   The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-19)
2. Small stone
   After the meal, Jesus went to a garden to pray for strength and that God would help him in the coming days. Hold the stone and think of things that are hard in our lives. (Mark 14:32-50)
3. Nails
   Jesus was nailed to the cross (John 19:18, 37 and John 20:25-29)
4. Salt and vinegar crisps
   Taste them. The sourness helps us remember what Jesus went through.
5. Saltwater
   The taste reminds us of the tears that people cried.
6. Bandages
   Jesus' friends wrapped up his body. (Matthew 27:57-61)
7. Easter egg (or one of the plastic eggs)
   Close it up like the tomb is closing. (Mark 15:46-47)
8. Scented candle
   The women brought scents to prepare Jesus' body. (Luke 23:55-56 & Mark 16:1-4)

   BUT
   Break the egg open to reveal the empty egg. JESUS WASN'T THERE! He had risen and was ready to meet his friends again.

Hide the eggs. The hunt begins. When all eight eggs have found bring them together. Reveal each bowl one by one and use the objects and Bible verses to tell the story of Holy Week.

There is a different Easter egg hunt that we have written found in our Light at Home resource for families with older children.

SCIENCE

1. RAINBOW MAKING

Equipment: Pan without deep sides like a frying pan; water, vegetable oil

Method: Fill the frying pan with water almost to the top.
Put the pan in a sunny spot in a room.
Move your heads slowly around the pan until you reach an angle where the sun is beaming in on your face.
Stop right there and look at the water.
Get somebody to drop a tiny bit of vegetable oil in the water.
What colours can you see?
What happens when you blow the water?

Conclusion: Oil and water don't mix. But they work well together. Water will absorb the sun's rays, but it won't separate them for us is we just stare at the water. When you blow the oil, the light rays bend and that creates more colour with more movement.

Talk about: We have been using the symbol of a rainbow as a sign of hope for many years. Can you remember when God first used a rainbow? (Genesis 9:13). Have you made any rainbows recently? Have you seen any rainbows in the last few days?

2. CENTRE OF GRAVITY

Equipment: Raw potato; pencil; chair

Method: Stand on a chair.
Hold the pencil in one hand and the potato in the other.
Ask your family which one will drop to the floor first – the potato or the pencil.
Let them go and record your findings.
You could all have a go, being careful of how you stand on the chair of course.

Conclusion: The answer should be that both reached the floor at the same time! This is all about gravity and not the weight of an object. Galileo called it The Equivalence Principle. You could look that up if you aren't sure what it is. Weight is not an issue in freefalling objects. The speed of any freefalling object on planet earth is about 32 feet per second.

Talk about: The Equivalence Principle is also demonstrated on the cross. God loves us all the same and is willing to have a relationship with each and every one of us, no matter our size or shape. We are all one in Christ (Galations 3:28).

3. DEFYING GRAVITY

Equipment: Empty toilet roll; small plastic egg (the kind that splits open); sellotape, play dough or a piece of blu tac; marker pen

Method: Break apart the plastic egg. Keep the round bottom and put the taller top off at the side.

Stick the rounded bottom of the egg onto the bottom of an empty toilet roll tube using sellotape. Think of the tube as a little man and the egg are its feet.

Draw a face on the toilet roll so that it looks like a person.

Stand the tube up straight so that the man is balancing on the egg bottom.

Let it go.

What happens?

Now add a piece of playdough or blu tac into the bottom of the egg.

Stand the tube up again. What happens this time?

Conclusion: The first time you let go of the tube it is empty. The force of gravity pulled it down. The second time, you have dropped a weight in the bottom. The result was that it would not fall down and when pushed over, it would pop back up. This is all to do with the centre of gravity. When it was empty the centre of gravity was towards its belly and it toppled over. When it had weight inside, we changed the centre of gravity to the bottom. As the top was lighter it was able to stand up.

Talk about: We all know that sometimes life can be scary. God doesn't let us fall. He holds us through scary times and lets us know that things are all going to be OK. God is like the heavy ball of playdough. He gets us back up on our feet with His strength.