

# Mud Mess & Mystery Easter to Pentecost

## KEEP CHECKING THE GUIDELINES FOR GATHERED WORSHIP

### Aim to take children on an Easter journey

Don't shield children from the story have confidence in the power of gospel – children understand that bad and sad things happen, they know people behave badly and treat each other unfairly.

The whole story gives children an opportunity to share their own sad and difficult times for example Holy Saturday – a day of feeling really lost and sad is a place many children identify with.

**But** don't leave them at the cross either emphasise the good news and hope of Easter day

**Telling the Story** – Holy week is full of movement, a whole range of feelings, emotions and behaviours.

Look at the scene the colours, sounds, tastes - and the scents.

What was it like to wave a palm leaf – wash smelly feet, feel thorns on your skin etc?

### Activity Ideas

**Palm Sunday** – Liturgy of the palms begins with Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem and people shouting 'Hosanna' then there is a change of mood with the reading of the passion and the crowd shouting 'crucify him'



Foot Printing  
Leaves  
Pathways  
Stones  
Donkey hunt  
– go and find a colt as the

disciples were asked to do – hoof prints

## Turning the tables

Money, anger, prayer –  
special places  
What do we spoil?  
Litter picking  
Weeding  
Pruning



Create signs about your special outdoor place to help people understand it

### In Bethany Perfume

#### How much is too much?

Sky, Leaves, Grass,  
Water, Love?



#### What is the right way to use something?

Look at this green space – we could use it to make a carpark so people don't have to walk so far

We could use it to grow food for the hungry

Scents in nature – pleasant and unpleasant. It could be helpful to plant up a 'picking patch' a bucket with herbs in for their scent and or taste.

## Maundy Thursday

The drama of Maundy Thursday which we often miss.

Stay with me watch with me – in the garden hold a vigil read the psalms – prayer stations



People could wash feet within their bubbles

Paddle puddles or a safe stream  
Create Footprints

Thorn spotting

What are thorns for?

Is it just the plant which uses them?

What makes us prickly as people?



## Good Friday

Crosses from found materials



**Stations of the Cross /walk of witness – see the additional document**

## Wormery in a jar.

We think of death as the end, we feel rubbish. A wormery is something which brings new life into things we thought were dead or rubbish creates a place for new things to grow.

Worm facts.

Worms do not have ears, a nose or eyes, but do have cells that can detect light

Worms have a mouth, but do not breathe through it – it is just for eating

The worm has 5 simple hearts, a stomach, and a gizzard

An earthworm can have over 100 segments between its two ends

Each segment has tiny little bristles that help the worm move and hold on to things

All worms have a complete set of both male and female organs on the inside so there are no gender specific worms

## Holy Saturday Preparing

Natural died eggs

Gather materials for the Easter fire

Create the Easter garden – go wild and go large!



## Easter Day

Dawn walk

New fire

Lighting the Easter Candle

Let the mystery of Easter be just that – a Holy Mystery

## Easter Themes

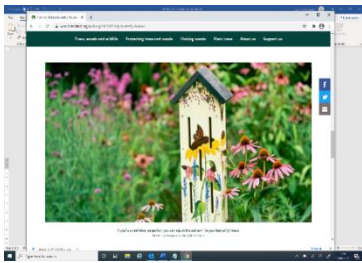
**Butterflies** – the Lifecycle is especially helpful for young children in thinking about death and resurrection

**Plant** A butterfly garden - quick growing – sunflowers, nasturtiums, sweet peas  
[www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/butterfly-garden](http://www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/butterfly-garden)

## Spotter sheets



[http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf\\_butterfly\\_spotter\\_sheet.pdf](http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_butterfly_spotter_sheet.pdf)  
bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/assets/charts/butterfly-id-sheet-england.pdf



**Make**

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/07/diy-butterfly-house/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/07/diy-butterfly-house/)



Find it under the worship and teaching dropdown on the Environment page – under Outdoor Worship

## Jesus post resurrection appearances

A science based discussion ...?

**Emmaus walk** – walk with a scripture hunt.

Look for God in creation as you walk find out form each other ‘what warms your heart?’

**Thomas** – doubting trusting – blindfold walk - putting your hands where you might not want to.

The wounds on trees- smelling herbs they have to be bruised to give off the scent/oil. Dry stone walls have lots of cracks and places where life grows

Shadow painting - trees

## Picnic on the Beach.

Plenty – grains of sand, drops of water,  
Sleep out?! Or Invitation to an Early morning breakfast with Jesus

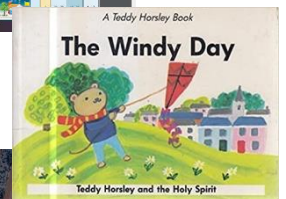
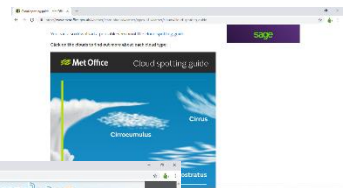
## Pentecost.

Hills – to hike up and run down

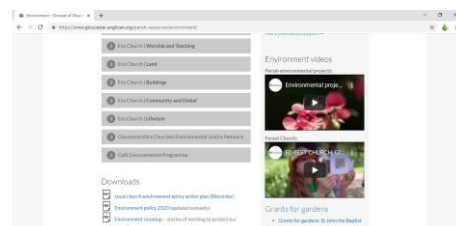
Wind- Bubbles, Kites, Stick Wind chimes, Wind sock/spinner

Languages - Latin names of plants.  
Common names. Folklore type names.

Images of the Holy Spirit – wind, flame, dove, water, wild goose



Spirit Tree – prayer tree / hope tree  
community to add ribbons or strips of cloth



Forest Church page on diocesan website based in May