

Lent and Easter Resources

The Government restrictions during Lent & Easter is currently unknown at this stage, please do consider what is safe to do and adjust these ideas to suit your local situation & restrictions

Please note that many of these are shared freely on the basis they are not to be used for profit.

Blackburn Diocese has put together Easter Explorers:



Connecting with God through His creation.

A journey from Palm Sunday to Easter and beyond!

Crafts, games, storytelling and so much more.

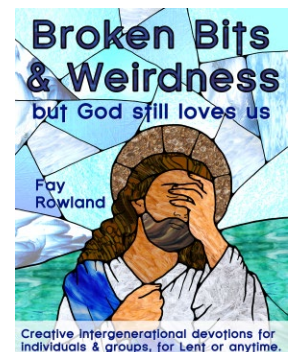
Weekly@ Easter Explorers encourages you to use your outdoor space, whatever that looks like and whatever the weather, as you experience the Easter story in creative ways. Each session contains seven elements which offer creative and inspirational suggestions to help the children connect with the Bible passage. The material is adaptable depending on your group, the setting, and the amount of time you have available.

https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/product/easter-explorers/?fbclid=IwAR3svdhGaJK59xrHm1_C48KYfiLNNNEWTQHYqknbjCnLeMSw01hdg3VI7A

'Broken Bits & Weirdness (but God still loves us)', this is a selection of intergenerational pick-and-mix resources that can be used during Lent and Holy Week or at any time. Perfect for churches, families, youth groups, Bible studies and personal devotions.

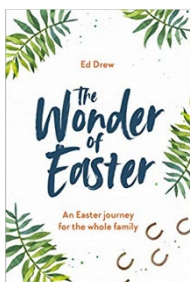
Each chapter focusses on one of the flawed characters from the Bible (there are plenty to choose from!) and explores how, despite all our Broken Bits & Weirdness, God can work through us and, astoundingly, loves us anyway.

<https://reflectionary.org/2021/01/11/lent-devotions-new-book-preview/?fbclid=IwAR229hBpgLmKZNGEwVHJ6xkJ8LUyeOXDSps9fBgmbjccRhJ2njGc3QEPIes>



Consider an **All-Age Lent Course** from St Albans Diocese. Each week, there is storytelling, and then a choice of response activity. Each response activity will be in a different breakout room. Some of the response activities require having various simple resources available. There is also a version that does not require resources being with the family in advance.

<https://stalbanscme.com/2021/01/21/all-age-zoom-lent-course/?fbclid=IwAR06GAp1dQg4vw5WPdeKqX-YL5eh9ne9yIQEIX7fyAG7PWxMCW-CBN1TwWo>



The **Wonder of Easter** is a book to help families explore the Easter story at home. Faith in Kids.org has produced some lessons to go alongside the book which could be adaptable to your current children's ministry.

Get Outside is available again from Hilary Bond. An activity a day for families to enjoy as they walk.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12aJTpGnrhAe3seKxQVGtpdtGdJ_OR49_/view?usp=sharing

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-klg0gzQ_u0J65ZCdbfl-p7oDjMahOM8/view?usp=sharing



Easter Trail

After the popularity of their Christmas Nativity Trail Together @ Home have created this Easter Story Trail. There are once again versions with or without a QR code. The code takes you to where families can download a copy of the Easter Story.

Alternatively, you might choose to add your own QR codes or church information to the posters. You could also attach the sections of the Easter Story to your trail points for people to read as they take part.



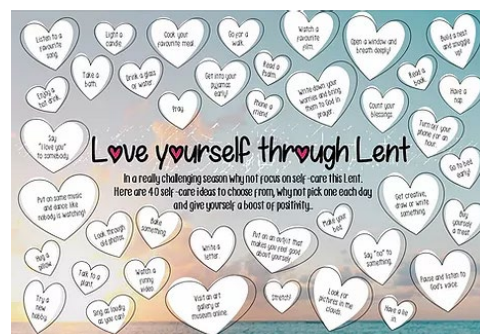
Together @ Home have also produced a resource to share with families for **Pancake Day and Ash Wednesday**.



Together @ Home have created this with 40 activities for families to do together during Lent.

They have also created this 'self-care' sheet with 40 ideas so you can pick 1 idea a day to help you feel better.

https://www.tath.co.uk/easter-resources?fbclid=IwAR0V4FCI9YXXAc74CS-IA-N_PkxoljE8qObDXCsZ9EROZ9yh_hLNSR_lgig



Easter Story Egg Hunt. Hide different coloured eggs – printable - around the house or garden then tell the story using the coloured eggs. An example can be found here:

https://af51dd98-adab-4c43-ba03-c87e019551a5.filesusr.com/ugd/ebdd71_ec3832879363418f9d08646034ee4e79.pdf

Ash Stones. Using ash from something burned safely, mark a stone using a finger with the cooled ash. Cover in clear glue or varnish or mix to form a paint. An additional pre-printed or emailed card with a prayer or verse for the cross can be added to the ash stones.





Muddy Church are encouraging people to 'Heart Bomb' their area – sort of rainbows but with love! Look on line for heart knitting patterns which can then be delivered or left for people to find. Try and encourage your local churches to join in to make a bigger love explosion in your community.

Experience Easter with Families. This exciting resource for families contains an activity board to take you on a journey through Lent to Easter and beyond. The resources are designed to help the whole family think together about the story of events leading up to Jesus death. It could be a family who share a home or a family in a classroom.

Experience Easter with Young People. Journey with Jesus is a series of prayer stations, from compiled and adapted material, based around the Passion narrative given in Mark's Gospel.

These are free to download from Gloucester Diocese.

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2017/experience-easter-resources/?fbclid=IwAR1VQANnehnHcy426VnKzwp567zqJAzT6jaDsRgLzjWavtV03iLCZ8nyl0>

They have also created a resource aimed at **schools** but which could be adapted to our current circumstances. There is a charge for these resources but a great way to bless your school with the Easter story.

Jumpingfish@glosdioc.org.uk

Wild Lent is a book to change how we think about Lent. Instead of a nice cosy room, coffee, biscuits and lots of discussion about the meaning of Lent, you will be wrapping up warm and heading off into the wilds! It is time to get up close and personal with creation and make a shadow clock, have a sunrise breakfast...

<https://www.kevinmayhew.com/pages/search-results-page?q=wild+lent>

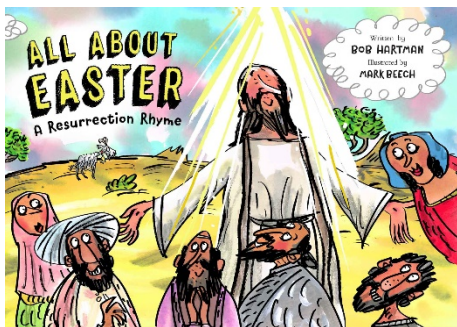


Lent and/or Easter in a Bag, box or envelope – Put together a bag of items and resources that a family or young person could use to help them consider Lent or Easter or both. Consider the current restrictions in your area to decide what is most appropriate.

<https://www.facebook.com/holyweekbox/?fref=ts>

God Venture.co.uk have a free downloadable set of printable's and instructions for Easter in a Box as well as other Easter resources. <https://godventure.co.uk/product-category/lent-and-easter/>

Think of including a red felt cross and explain that they can hold it as they pray, fiddle with it when they're worried, scrunch it when they're angry etc: however they're feeling, the cross - like God - can take it.



Bible Society – have produced a new book for children with family activity pages in the middle at £1.60 each but bulk discounts are available.

They have also put some Easter activities together to suggest to families. As well as an Easter trail and videos available to share with your church and families.



<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/easter/>

Faith in Kids.org has a suite of resources that can be adapted for use this easter including assembly, toddler story, Sunday Club lessons, children's slot and RE lesson.

Messy Church Have produced some ideas for Palm Sunday <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-palm-sunday>

And Good Friday for families to use at home. <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-good-friday-home>

BRF have others around Easter & Lent <https://ideas.brf.org.uk/topics/lent-and-easter> including a book of Easter ideas.

Craft Idea's are abound on Pinterest. The MC page has some great examples as well as some Easter videos.

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/MessyChurchBRF/lent-easter/>

Children's Society have produced resources to help us think of Lent. The content is adult aimed however the content and activities could be adapted for a youth session.

<https://sway.office.com/NABeyU6OCLB80UmJ?ref=Link>



Scripture Union have produced a Bible comic with Guardians of Ancora characters. There is also an All Resource Easter book available as well as their Light material for all-age as well as children's ministry

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/all-resource-easter>

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resources?f%5B0%5D=seasonal%3A98>



Lego Challenge

This is a 3 week interactive challenge (keeping Sundays a rest day) engaging with the events of Holy Week. Each day simply post the image on your Facebook page with the caption in the right order, and invite people to share pictures of their creations under each challenge! You should reach Day 18 on April 3rd, the Saturday before Easter Sunday. The second link focusses on the 6 days following the resurrection.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.560565424900757&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.342094683462569&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/LEGO-Lent-Challenge-117586773527075/> and this link is to the Lego Challenge page itself which you can refer families to.



Lent Prayer Calendar



Using the link below download and print a simple calendar outline. Each day, choose a word to ponder or a person to pray for. Write the word or name in the space with a pen and draw or doodle around it. Add color. Let the word or name speak to you. If words come to you as you draw, pray them. If not, just continue to draw, stay quiet, and let the word or name burrow into your mind and heart. Returning to the calendar each day establishes a special time to be present to God and to listen to Him. Can send the calendars to families you are in touch with.

https://prayingincolor.com/making-the-lenten-journey-calendar-templates?fbclid=IwAR0DZmCBPsk8zzVWUUSXknPgNI-VYImptuN4RKk-UspX0_-0UMuFHrrczw

Schools Ministry:

As we are unable to physically be in schools maybe your church could offer to provide virtual assemblies either home produced or brought in.

Out of the Ark are offering 2 Easter assemblies for KS1 & 2 free.

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/resources/easter-assemblies/>

CRIBS are creating a high quality video of the Easter Story to share with primary schools. They ask only for a donation to share it with your local school or as part of a church service. www.cribsonline.org

Spinnaker also has resources that can be offered to schools.

<https://spinnaker.org.uk/resources/easter-resources>

Tales from the Miracle Book.co.uk are producing videos and lessons for schools to use with a suite of lessons covering the Easter story. Adapted for home and class situation. There will also be a website specifically for churches in the near future and a plan to make them accessible to families too.

Easter in a Box

Bristol Schools Connection have produced a great resource for primary school children in Years 4 - 6 and designed with current social distancing measures in mind. It could be taken into school by a church volunteer/team if measures allow or delivered to school by the church – church could then ‘join in’ via video link perhaps to answer questions at the end.

It provides a fun Religious Education and spiritual development opportunity.

Children are invited to imagine they are on a movie set watching the filming of ‘Easter – The Movie’. The movie is based on the biblical account of the last days of the life of Jesus. For each scene they: look at a cast list and handle the props, hear and imagine the scene being filmed, discuss the emotions they felt and wonder and reflect on what they have learnt and can apply to their own lives, whatever their worldview.

They are offering training sessions online. The session will introduce you to the resource and give opportunity to talk it through and ask questions. You can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/3j6QHwu>

Food:

If you have families that enjoy cooking you could adapt and use Mina Munns Baking through Lent with scripture, reflections and recipes.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QWaPAx2O-tMuyyuWThvbcI0kH1QP25L8/view?usp=sharing>

Or Rachel Summers and Michael Beccato-Fischer
bake your way through Holy Week.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g6eel0Bdv4-Ez83fjBCkrqb9KORKa5Wx/view?usp=sharing>





Resurrection Rolls. Encourage your families to make these for Easter. You could make a video of making and baking some to share with them. Or there is a video on YouTube which would be good to share. They need puff pastry, marshmallows, butter and cinnamon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv7lV7YbA54>

Encourage your families to make **Pretzels** for lent. Simple ingredients and has excellent links to Lent and the gospel story of leaven.

https://buildfaith.org/making-pretzels-a-traditional-activity-for-lent/?fbclid=IwAR27QC9RkfVINA3YpGXd58PNHe_WLrlosyCKSYk0w_z9Qo0-07LB3tNN97Q



Easter Bible Chat Mat is available from the Bath and Wells Diocese. A cartoon with lots of details to spot and chat about around a table. Consider offering it widely as simply a sheet of paper – carefully designed to share the Easter story.

Websites with Additional Easter/Lent ideas:

Church, Covid, Holy Week and Easter group on Facebook has been the source of many ideas.

The Reflectionary <https://reflectionary.org/category/lent/> there are also Easter ideas there.

Rotation.org has some ideas for Lent & Easter at home for families. Be sure to credit them when using.

Easter Assembly Ideas are available at <https://www.assemblies.org.uk/>

The **Church of England** has plenty of resources on the website
http://www.going4growth.com/growth_through_the_year/

[The Resource – Support, Training and Resources for Youth and Children's Ministry](#)