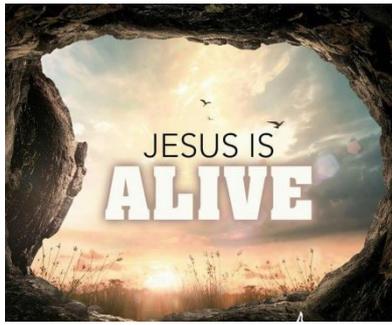


Jesus is Alive – Young Church 19th April 2020



1) Introduction:

Hi everyone at St Mary's young church, we hope you are all well and happy. We miss seeing your lovely faces, but be assured you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Easter! It is a time of hope for all of us. The end of winter and the beginning of spring. Blossom on the trees, flowers in the garden, lambs in the field. Easter has largely been taken over as a festival of spring, of new life and of new hope.

For Christians, Easter is about **Jesus' resurrection (Jesus' reappearance)**. He died a horrible death on a cross, taking the punishment for sin as he did so, and then **rose from the dead**. This act proved that He had conquered death and Satan's (devils) power.

Easter is a time of rejoicing! Jesus' death should make a difference to us: as Christians, we should be God's ambassadors (representatives).

Today's 'social distance' Young Church is all about...

2) Digging in: Jesus resurrection.

We hope you are able to partake in some if not all this session and find it purposeful.

Equipment needed:

Piece of paper, pencils/pens; circles of paper/card or stones; and pieces of material or toilet tissue!
There are also video clips to watch if you prefer (see below)

As you read/share the story of Jesus' resurrection (see below; based on Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20), you could 'sketch a story' alongside using the equipment referenced above. Alternatively, enjoy reading for pleasure and purpose with a member of your family.

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, some women who had been Jesus' close friends went to the tomb where he had been buried. The tomb was cut in stone in a garden near to where Jesus was crucified on the cross.

(Draw a garden with a hill at the back, with a hole cut into the stone in the hill. The cross could be drawn nearby)

On the way to the tomb, the women were worried about how they were going to move the stone in front of the tomb. It was big and heavy, and it had been sealed shut by the government in case someone tried to steal Jesus' body.

(Cut a circle of paper/card or stone and put this over the hole you've drawn)

However, when they got to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and they could see into the tomb.

(Roll the stone away from the hole)

Nevertheless, Jesus was not there. They could not see him at all. Instead, an angel appeared and spoke to them, saying, *“Jesus isn't here. He has come alive again, like He told you He would. Don't be afraid, but go and tell His disciples.”*

(Draw an angel next to the tomb)

The women ran to the place where the disciples were staying. They told them that Jesus' body was gone and that the angel had told them that Jesus was alive. The disciples did not know what to think. Peter and John rushed to the tomb. John got there first and waited outside, but Peter ran straight in when he arrived, and John followed. Jesus was gone. The cloth that He had been wrapped in was there, though. It was folded up neatly on the stone bench that Jesus' body had been left lying on.

(Take a piece of material/tissue, fold it, and put it in the tomb)

Peter and John went home, confused. But Mary, who had followed them back to the tomb, stayed behind. She was terribly upset. She did not really understand what the angel had told her, and she loved Jesus. All she wanted was to know where His body was. While she was crying, someone came to her and asked why she was crying. She thought he was a gardener, so she said, *“They have taken away the body of my Lord and I don't know what they've done with it! Please, tell me where it is.”*

The man said one word, *“Mary,”* and she instantly recognised his voice and realised that Jesus was talking to her. She looked up and saw Jesus, alive and well, but still with the hole in his hands where the nails had been.

“Teacher!” she exclaimed.

(Draw Jesus and Mary in the garden)

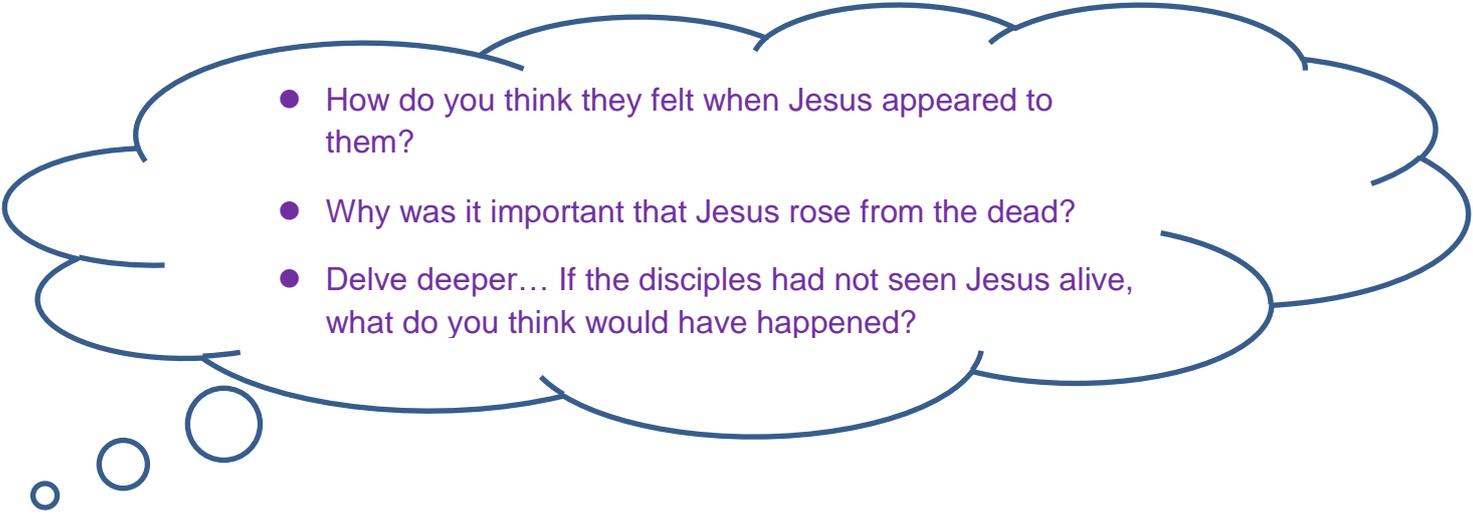
Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples that He was alive.

Mary ran back to the room where the disciples were and told them that she had seen Jesus. They were happy, but still a bit confused. Mary might be telling the truth – but she might have imagined it. Then they remembered that Jesus had said that He would come alive again after 3 days, only they had not understood what He meant at the time.

Suddenly, they looked up and Jesus had come into the room even though the doors were locked. He told them not to worry and ate with them. The disciples were glad.

Jesus is alive!

Ask yourselves these questions...



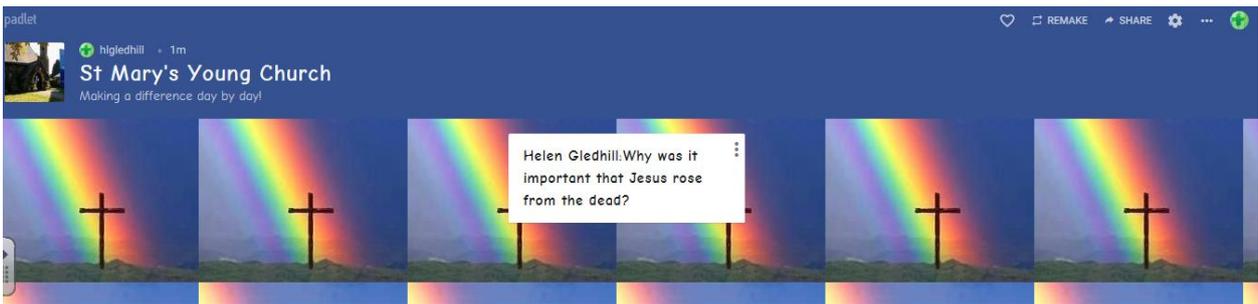
If you want to, why not respond to these on our very own Padlet.

1) All you have to do is access this page (copy and paste the URL). The page below should come up.

2) Then, double left click on the page and a text box for you to write in should appear. Where it states: Title. Type your first name, so we know who you are! Then answer the question, or just leave us a message. It is one way we can all stay in touch whilst keeping social distancing.

<https://padlet.com/hlgledhill/o6tv3i8qndzdpdcbu>

1)



2)



3)



So, why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?

If Jesus did not defeat death, how can we? Jesus was who He said He was. The resurrection shows that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was accepted and our sins are forgiven.

Delve deeper...If the disciples hadn't seen Jesus alive, what do you think would have happened?

They were to go and make disciples of all nations based on the fact that Jesus is risen; if they had not seen him, would they have been able to preach the gospel with certainty? Would Christianity exist today?

The **resurrection** meant that Jesus had taken the punishment for sin and had conquered death. And now, because Jesus has been raised from the dead, He promises that those who believe in Him will equally one day enjoy life after death with Him for all eternity.

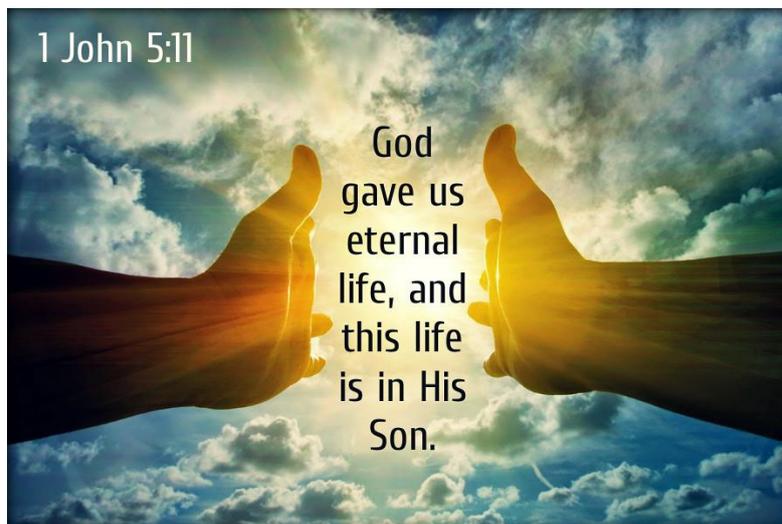
3) Response: Memory Verse...

Equipment needed:

- A bag or box with sweets/chocolates in it.
- As many family members as you have!

“God has given us eternal life, and that life is in His son.”

1 John 5:11



Sit in a circle or row with some family members.

Pass around/along a box of sweets/chocolates as you say the verse together. At the end of the verse, the person holding the box takes out a sweet. Repeat several times until you have got the hang of the verse (and a sweet/chocolate too).

4) Take away:

Equipment needed:

- Empty tomb A4 colouring PDF (if you have access to a printer and colouring pens)
- Empty cross A4 colouring PDF (if you have access to a printer and pencils)

Here are a few activities you may wish to have a go at to further your understanding and share with others through the week.

- 1) Colour in the open/empty tomb (PDF). Spread the word that the tomb was empty because Jesus is risen!
- 2) Empty cross (PDF). Over the coming week, why not write anything that is on your mind on the cross, such as any worries or hopes. Remember: Jesus died to set us free; therefore, all of our worries can be nailed to the cross.
- 3) Jesus sacrificed everything for us, even His life. In this time of lock down, you are being challenged to sacrifice things too. What can you sacrifice of Jesus? Maybe reading the Bible for 10 minutes a day rather than watching TV? List five things you are missing, and alongside note five things, you are grateful for. You are blessed in lots of ways, even in this time of crisis.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflections:

- 1) What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
(Links to section 2) 'Digging in': Jesus resurrection.)
- 2) What do we need to do (this week)? (Links to section 4) 'Take away')



Dear Lord Jesus.

Thank you so much for all the precious children in this world. We know they mean so much to You.

We pray You would help us do all we can to protect and give the children the guidance they deserve.

Lord we bring to You our children of St Mary's and that You would bless every pair of hands that works for You.

Easter is a time of rejoicing in You. Your death should make a difference to us all: help our children grow in discipleship and become the glowing ambassadors of Your word.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Until next week St Mary's young church, may you be blessed in every way and keep the faith alive because 'Jesus is Risen'.

Hymn links:

Range of contemporary children's Easter 'resurrection' songs visit:

<https://ministry-to-children.com/easter-worship-songs/>

Video links:

A selection of video clips linked to the 'resurrection'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8JX3QgK_iw

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