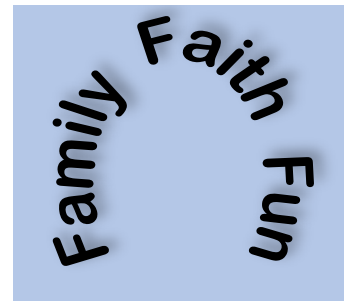


Registered charity no 251394

April 2024



Have you recently had a chocolate Easter Egg – or perhaps more than one? We celebrate Easter Day by giving each other eggs, usually chocolate ones these days. This is because eggs are a symbol of new life (i.e. baby birds are born from eggs) and we are celebrating the new life of Jesus in heaven with his father, but also with each one of us. A hollow egg can also represent the empty tomb.

So for Christians, Easter Day is a celebration that though Jesus died on the cross on the Friday, three days later, on the Sunday, he had risen to life again. But it wasn't to be a life like the old one. On that evening, when the disciples were gathered in the room in Jerusalem, Jesus was suddenly with them, eating and drinking – not a ghost.

The next day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the nearby town of Emmaus. As they walked, they talked about the amazing thing they heard about Jesus being alive again. But they hadn't seen him. They were joined by Jesus but didn't recognise him. When they reached their house all three went in and sat down to share a meal. Then Jesus picked up the loaf of bread and blessed it. In that instant the other two realised who he was, but Jesus disappeared from their sight. You can read about it in Luke 24v13-35.

Find the words below in the grid.
WALKED JESUS SUFFER CRUCIFIED
THANKS BREAD BELIEVE VISITOR
VILLAGE CLEOPAS FOOLISH PROPHET
EYES EMMAUS OPENED VILLAGE



Did you know that once Jesus made a picnic for his special friends? After He appeared to them in the upper room where they were hiding, he had then gone away again. The friends were feeling lost without him and not sure what to do so they decided to take a boat out onto Lake Gallilee and go fishing. It was very early in the morning as they came back to shore and they could see that on the beach a fire had been lit and there was someone nearby.

As they landed on the beach Peter shouted, "It's Jesus!" They all rushed up to him and saw that Jesus already had some fish cooking over the fire. As they shared this breakfast Jesus talked to the friends about his mission for them to take his teachings out to all the world.



Jesus gave the task of carrying His message of LOVE & MERCY to everyone to his disciples, and they did that, teaching about Jesus wherever they could. And for all the centuries following, others have carried on that work. Some became well known and were declared “saints” of the church. One of these is remembered on April 23rd. He is St George. He may have been a knight and legend says that he fought a dragon. This dragon was terrorising the whole country and its breath could poison you. It demanded a daily diet of two sheep, and when the sheep ran out human victims were offered to it. One day the lot fell on the King’s daughter. As she went to meet the dragon, St George appeared and wounded it with his sword. He then made a lead from the princess’s girdle and led the dragon through the town. He said he would kill the dragon if all the people were baptised. Fifteen thousand people were baptised and the dragon was slain. The story has become a symbol of GOOD – St George, defeating EVIL-the dragon. St George was adopted as the patron saint of England.

St George Crafts

You could make a DRAGON MASK by copying the picture onto card big enough to cover your face – and green if you can. Cut out the eyes so you can see through them. Cut out the pointed ears and wing shapes to stick on. Draw on the nostrils, then if you have some orange or red paper cut out some flames to stick onto the nostrils. Punch holes in the side of the head shape to thread elastic through to hold the mask on you face.

Or you could make a FIRE BREATHING dragon from a cardboard tube. Paint or colour the tube green. Cut out two circles for the eyes as shown, and two more for the nostrils. Stick them onto the tube. Use some red and orange tissue or crepe paper cut into strips and stick them just inside the end of the tube. When it is dry you can blow down the tube to make the flames look as if they are alive.



Help St George find his way through the maze to fight the dragon. I wonder what sort of “dragons” might be making us worried today – pollution, poverty, homelessness?

