



Registered Charity No 251394

# From Daffodils To Easter Eggs



March 2024

There are signs of spring all around now. Snowdrops have been putting on a good show, now being followed by daffodils, bringing a splash of sunshine colour. March really tells us that we are on the way to summer.

And March takes us through the last half of the period of LENT, all the way to Easter Day.

The church prepares us for Easter with Lent – a time to think about what happened to Jesus, which many people use to give up luxuries such as chocolate, cake, or going out to dinner or the cinema.

But in the middle of this time of going without we have a special day when we remember and give thanks for mothers and all those who love and care for children. This year Mothering Sunday, as it is called, falls on 10<sup>th</sup> March.



Presents and cards are often given to Mums or carers by children on this day, to show how much they appreciate what is done for them. The tradition goes back to when everyone went to church, and in the middle of the Lent period, the priests would call on everyone to worship in their 'Mother Church', the one in the place where they grew up. Many people worked away from home and were only allowed this one day off to go home. Children, some as young as eight or nine who worked in a big house, would try to



take a gift for their mother, but as they had no money, they would pick wild flowers from the fields and hedges. They would also take some to decorate their church. You can see some Victorian children in the picture taking their flowers to the church.

You can buy cards for 'Mother's Day', as it seems to be called now, but a homemade one specially for your own Mum, or someone who cares for you, is much nicer, and here are two ideas you might like. The top one is made from cup cake cases. Choose three of any colour. Trim the two inside ones down a little if you wish. Firmly stick them inside each other and then onto a piece of card. Add some buttons in the centre.



Draw on a stem and a leaf in green, and write your message – 'Happy Mother's Day' or perhaps, 'Mum I love you because....' (add your own words). Or you could copy the shape of the drinking mug, draw and cut out a heart shape, glue round the sides not the top. Then stick it on the mug with 'to Mum' written on it, and tuck a teabag into the top of the heart. Then add the following words on the other side of the card:-

'A cup of tea to say thank you  
For all the things you have done.  
Enjoy, relax and have a day  
Of happiness and fun.'

After two more weeks of Lent, we have **PALM SUNDAY**, when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people welcoming him by waving palm branches like flags.

At the Palm Sunday service in church people often receive a cross made out of actual dried palm leaves. **You can make one out of paper.**

Cut a strip of paper approx. 3cm wide by 21 cm long, and make a crease in the centre of its length by folding it over.

Unfold it, then take one end and fold it towards the centre and stick it down.

Do the same with the other end, overlapping them slightly. Now take a second strip of paper, same size, and again find the centre by folding it. Unfold it, bend one end towards the centre and stick it down.

Now stick the piece with the two folded ends over the top of this one over the join.

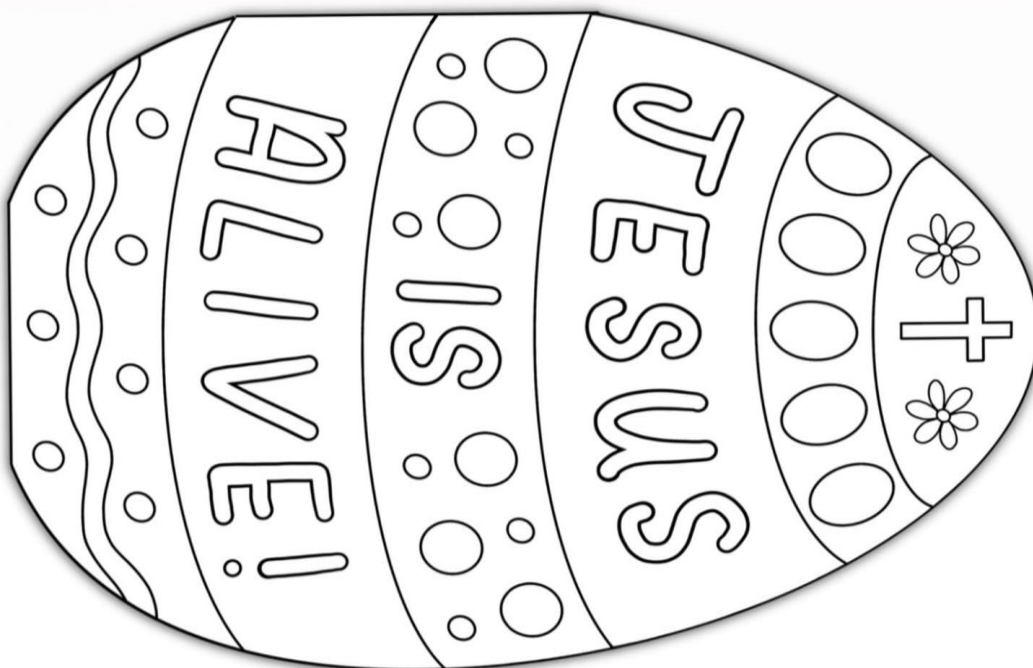


On the Thursday of this week Jesus shared a meal with his friends, and predicted his death. On that night Jesus was arrested and taken as a prisoner before Pilate, the Roman ruler. Pilate tried to make the Jewish King Herod condemn Jesus to death as someone who was trying to make himself king. Herod said that only Pilate could do this, so sent him back to Pilate, and the next day, Jesus was crucified. Pilate was afraid his followers might try to raise an army to fight the Romans. By the end of that day, which we call Good Friday, Jesus was dead, and some friends asked to be able to take his body and bury it. Which they did. A stone was rolled over the entrance of the tomb and the friends retreated to the room in the city where they had met the day before. Here they waited in fear. What would happen now?

Imagine their joy when, on the Sunday morning they make the discovery that Jesus has risen from the dead, the tomb was empty. Over the next few days they meet with him and talked to him.



We celebrate Easter Day by giving each other eggs, usually chocolate ones. 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.



Colour in this Easter Egg picture, cut it out and keep as a reminder of what happened on that first Easter Day.

