



## Messy Easter at home

Though we won't be able to meet together as a Messy Church this Easter, how about trying Messy Church at home over the Easter weekend?

### The story of Easter

[Dave the Donkey](#) – you might like to watch this short YouTube video, which tells the Easter story from the point of view of the donkey that carried Jesus on Palm Sunday.

### Activities

Here are some activities to try, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

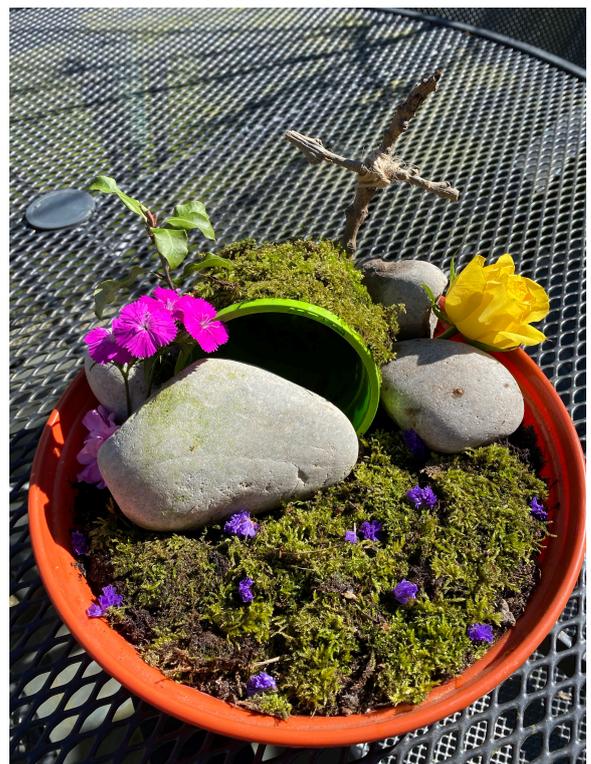
### Create your own Easter garden

You will need:

- Either an old plate, paper plate, seed tray or foil tray
- Soil, sticks, greenery and flowers
- Stones
- String
- Flowerpot or yoghurt pot

Make a mini Easter garden using the sticks tied together to make Jesus' cross. Use the stones and/or flower/yoghurt pot to create Jesus' tomb. Don't forget the large stone across the tomb entrance that was rolled away when Jesus rose again on Easter Day.

While you build your garden, think about the Easter story and what happened on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



## Plant some seeds

You will need:

- Flowerpot, yoghurt pot, or the cut off bottom of a plastic drinks bottle
- Soil
- Seeds – if you don't have any to hand, try using some apple, satsuma or orange pips



Plant your seeds, place them on a sunny window sill and remember to water them regularly.

While you plant your seeds, think about what they look like when you bury them in the soil. Then think about what they will look like when they grow into plants. They change from being a seed to a plant – the same, but totally different. Think about how Jesus died and came back to life – the same person but totally different.

## Easter butterflies

You will need:

- Paper
- A few different coloured paints
- Paintbrush

Fold a sheet of paper in half and open it up again. Paint some colourful blobs on one half of the paper in the shape of a butterfly wing. Press the two halves together and then unfold them again. You should have a beautiful butterfly.

While you paint your butterflies, think about where they come from. A butterfly starts life as a caterpillar, then becomes a chrysalis and finally a beautiful butterfly emerges. Think about how this relates to the Easter story. Jesus was wrapped up in a tomb, a bit like a chrysalis, but rose to life from the tomb on Easter Sunday in a wonderful new way.



## Easter egg surprise

You will need:

- 2 paper plates, or circles of card/paper
- Paper fasteners if you can find some, otherwise you can use string (see tip below)
- Coloured pencils/pens

- Scissors and glue
- Different coloured card/paper if you have some

On one plate/circle of card, draw an Easter egg shape (or cut out and stick on a coloured piece of card in the shape of an Easter egg). Decorate the Easter egg shape.

On the other plate/circle of card, draw a cross shape with a heart on (or cut out those shapes from coloured paper/card and stick them on). Be creative and decorate around the cross how you like.

Cut the plate with the Easter egg on in half lengthways down the egg. Make a small hole in the bottom corner of each half.

Position the two halves together to make a full circle on top of the plate with the cross on. Make a small mark in pencil through each hole on to the plate underneath. Then make two small holes in the bottom plate where you just marked them.

Now place the two Easter egg halves together on top of the plate with the cross and line up the holes. Use your paper fasteners or string to hold all the pieces together.

**Tip:** if using string, you'll need two short lengths. Thread one length through the hole in one half of the top plate and then through the corresponding hole in the bottom plate, then make a knot tight up against the plate on the underneath of the bottom plate and on the top of the top plate. Then do the same with the other length of string on the other half. You can then cut the string down to neaten it up. This should work in a similar way to a paper fastener as shown in the picture below.

You should now have an Easter egg that opens to reveal the cross.



While you're creating your Easter egg surprise, think about how the egg and the cross are symbols of new life. Jesus dying on the cross and rising to new life means that all the things we do wrong can be forgiven and that we can also have new life.

Say a prayer to thank God for the gift of life.

### **Learn a new song**

Don't forget to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful.

And how about learning a new song for Easter? Sing along with [1,2,3 Jesus is alive](#) on YouTube.

### **More activities...**

There are lots more ideas for Easter activities on the [Messy Church Easter Pinterest board](#).

You can also follow a live Messy Easter at home session at 5pm on Easter Sunday (12 April) on the [Messy Church Facebook page](#). You can find the accompanying resources for the session on the [Messy Church website here](#).

**Happy Easter Messy Churchers!**  
**Look after yourselves and stay well and safe.**