

Easter Activity Pack

Workshops - Craft, Poetry, Drama - and Activities for children to explore the Easter story



Contents

Page No

3	Introduction
4-5	Julia's Stained Glass Easter Story Activity
6-10	Julia's Stained Glass Easter Story Activity Templates
11-12	John's Poetry Workshop - Good Friday
13-14	Julie's Drama Workshop
15-16	Yvonne's Reflective RE Lesson
17	Yvonne's Reflective RE Lesson Template
18	Additional Ideas/Resources

Introduction

Normally, we'd spend the run up to Easter working with schools and churches, running events to help children explore and connect with the Easter story.

The pandemic continues to make that tricky - so we've produced this resource pack that can be used in schools, churches or families to find new ways to learn about and dig in to the Easter story.

Our Team have each contributed different activities and workshops you can use, adapted from activities we have been running for years. Every idea has been tried and tested in real school settings and adapted for use by teachers, churches, volunteers and parents.

Some of the ideas link to online resources - where this is the case, the link should be clear. Others may require additional resources (e.g. craft) - full lists of resources are included and should be easy to source.

If you need any further information, please get in touch - office@zephaniah.org.uk.

We'd also love to see photos, poems, stories - anything you create as a result of these activities. Email them to the address above.

Enjoy - and Happy Easter!

*John, Julie, Julia &
Yvonne*



Julia's Stained Glass Easter Story Activity

YOU WILL NEED:

Black card, scissors, templates (which follow the activity), glue, coloured cellophane or tissue paper

Stained glass windows were first used in churches to teach people about important Bible stories. They were useful because lots of people couldn't read, but they could look at beautiful pictures!

Children can choose part of the Easter story that they find particularly meaningful, or strikes them as important, to make into their own stained glass window. They can choose out of these 4 parts of the Easter story, and there is a template that goes with each.

1) Palm Sunday (Template: Palm leaf)

Huge crowds came to welcome Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey, waving palm branches and anything they could find to join the celebration.

2) The Last Supper (Template: Goblet)

Jesus sat and ate with his friends, and gave them a way to always remember him, using bread and wine.

3) The Cross (Template: Cross)

Jesus showed just how much he cared for humankind, by laying down his life for other people on the cross.

4) Easter Sunday (Template: Rising Sun/Heart shape)

Jesus rose back to life, and showed that love always wins.



Julia's Stained Glass Easter Story Activity

Instructions

1. Draw round the shape in the middle of some black card. Then cut it out.



2. Fill the shape outline with colour: put glue on the card round the edge of the shape, a little section at a time. Then take strips of coloured cellophane (or alternatively tissue paper) and stick them across the shape window.

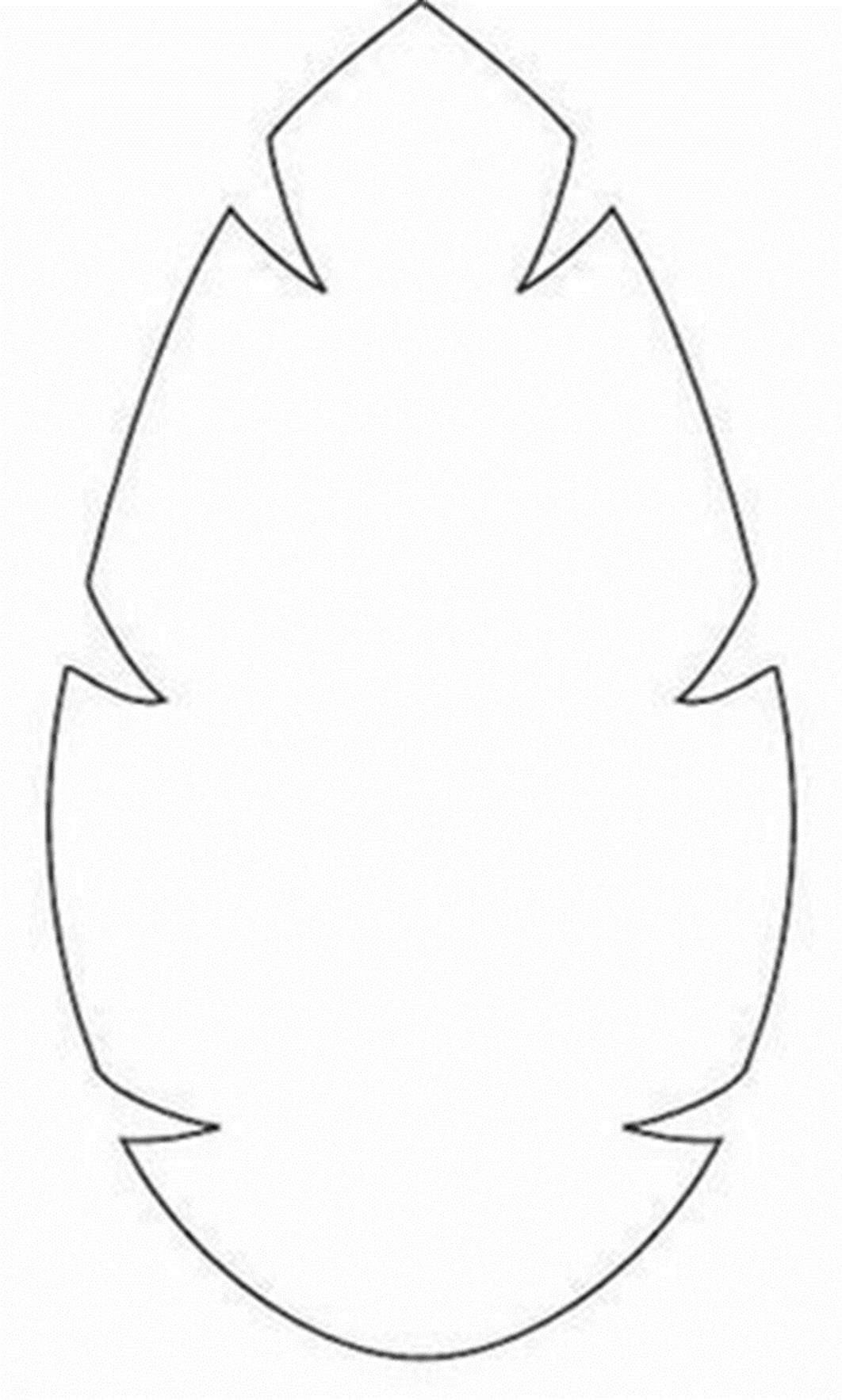


3. Keep going till you have filled the whole shape.



4. Put it in the window to fully enjoy your masterpiece!

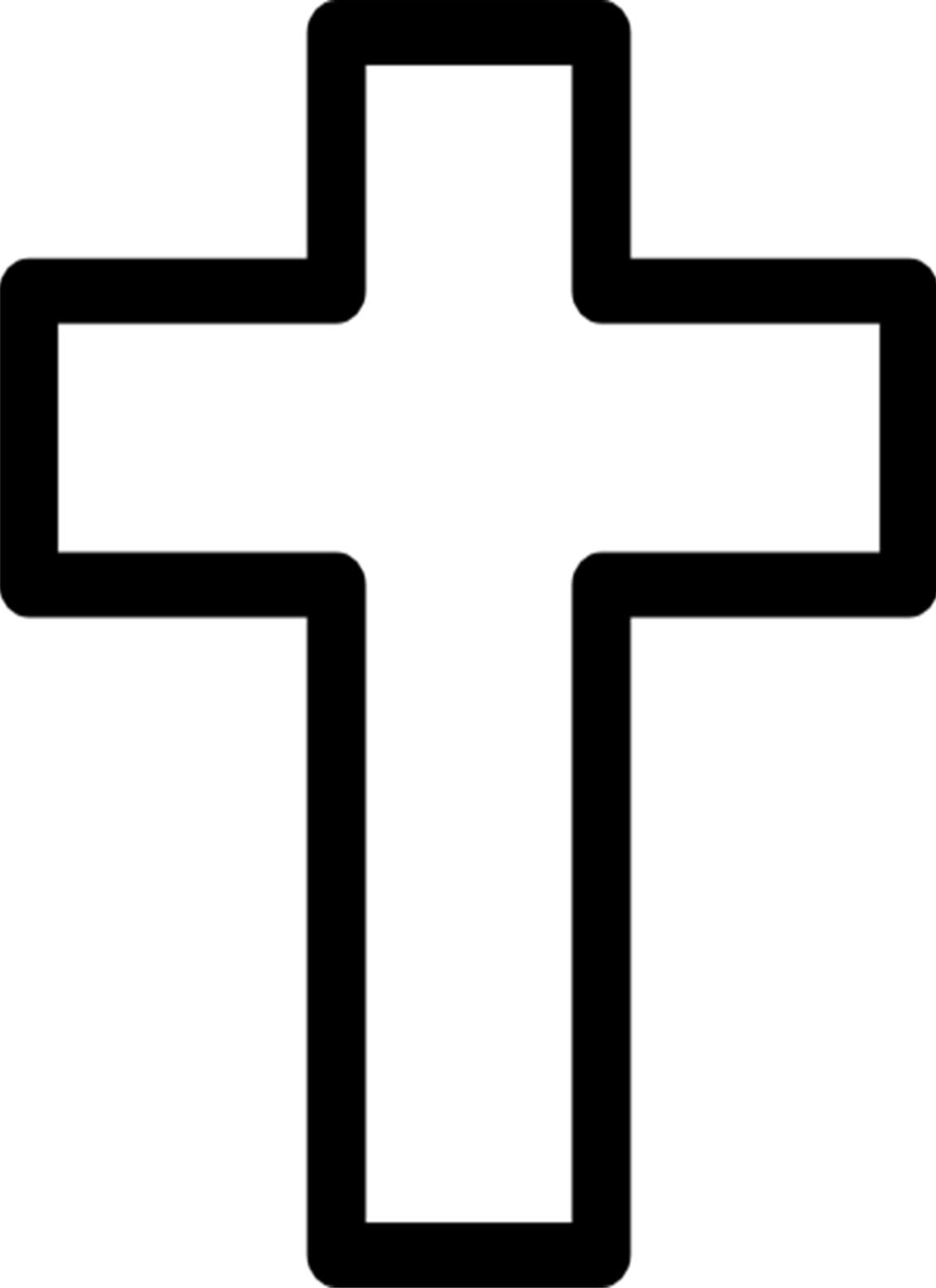
**Template One:
Palm Leaf**



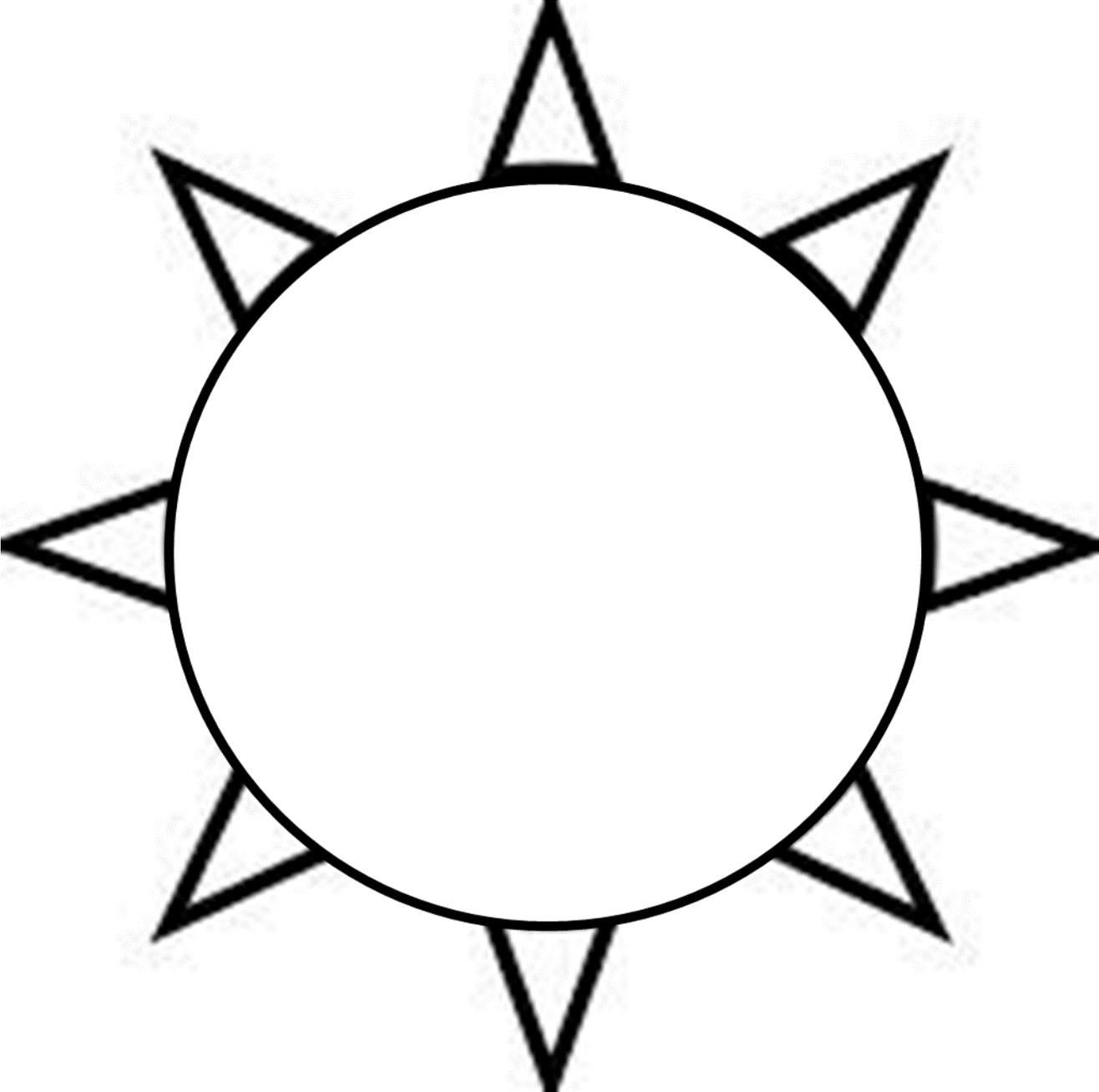
**Template Two:
Goblet**



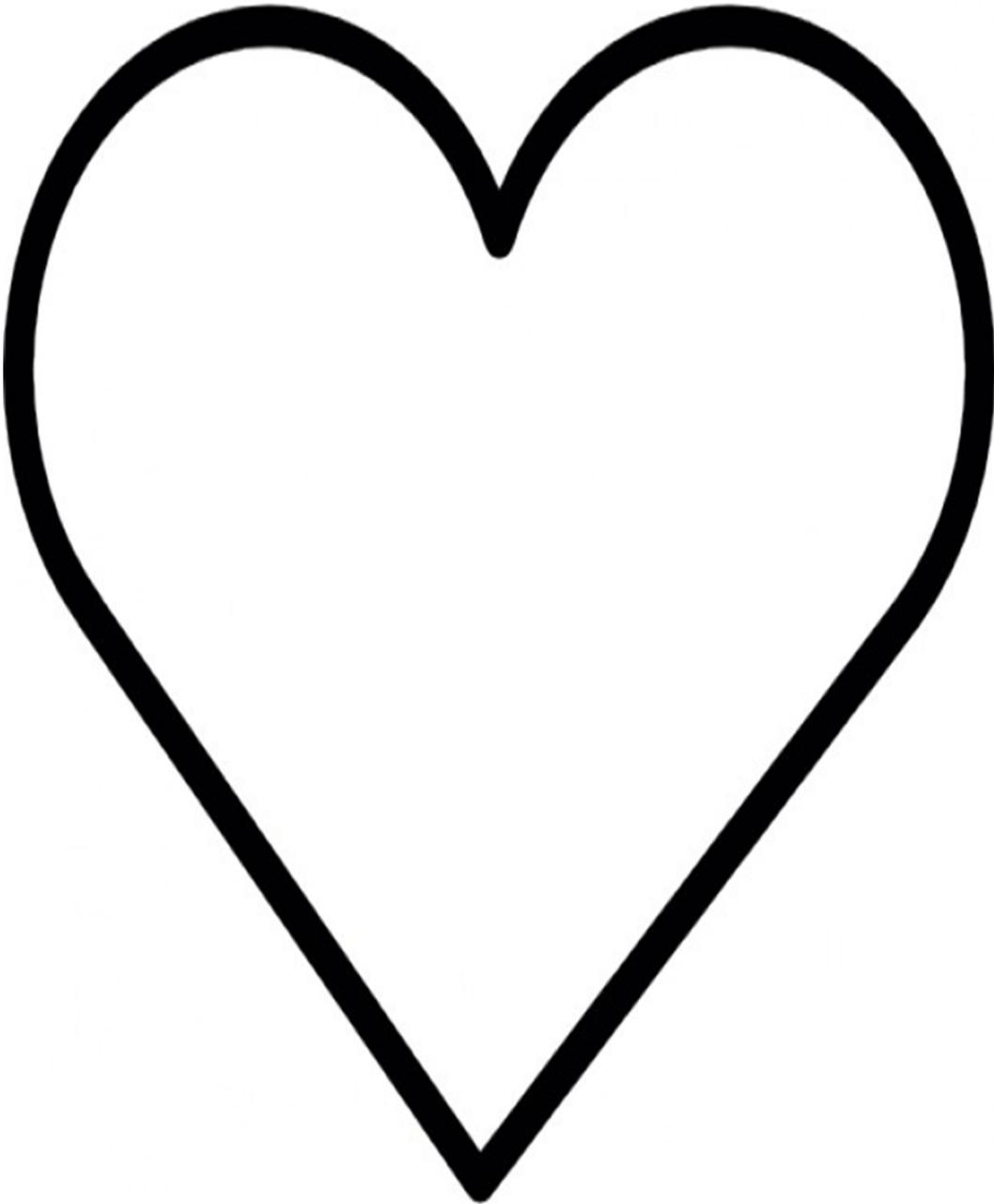
**Template Three:
Cross**



**Template Four A:
Rising Sun**



**Template Four B:
Heart**





John's Poetry Workshop - Good Friday

My aim is to help you write a poem about Good Friday. This will require some thought. Some might say meditation but that's perhaps a Sunday word. Thinking will do!

1. Now, the hardest part: fold your paper into three!
Well done if you have three columns!
2. Down the left hand side, list people that would have been there. No one kept a register, but some we know about (in the Bible); some we could guess at. The order doesn't matter at this stage. As many people as you like, but I wouldn't choose more than ten...
3. The middle column is for the adjective to describe each person so keep it fairly straight across (use a ruler if that helps).
Adjective = describing word. So a physical description where appropriate, perhaps mental/emotional state, whatever.
4. In the far right column, write a verb. The action. What are they doing? "Stand" is a verb. "Worry" is a verb.
What would you be doing if you were the person in the first column?
5. Read it through out loud. Go somewhere no one can hear you.
Are there words that could be better/stronger/carry more meaning?
Maybe use a THESAURUS if you have one handy, or ask a friend or a friendly adult. They always have words...
Put your new word in and read it again.



John's Poetry Workshop - Good Friday

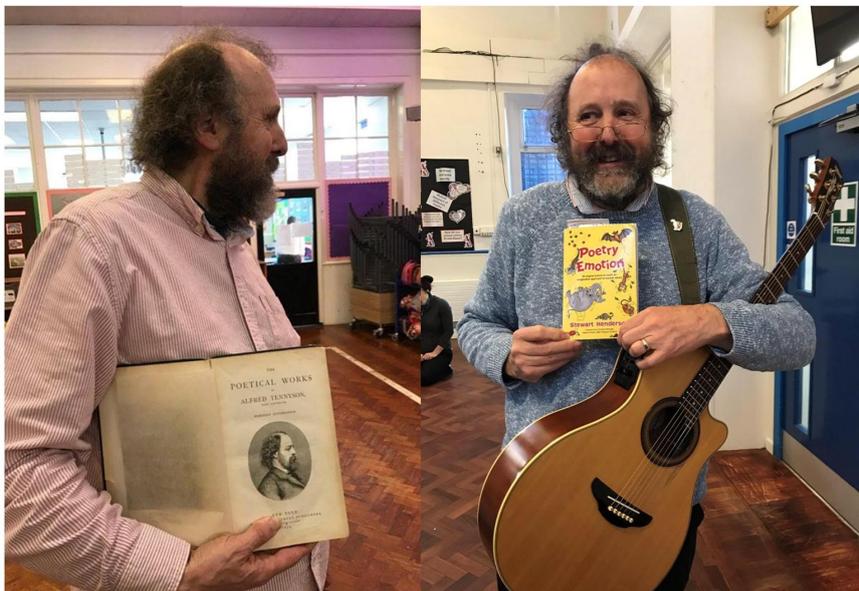
6. The order **does** matter at this stage! Would your list sound better or make stronger sense in a different order? Perhaps finish with Jesus?
7. Sign your work and date it. Be proud of it.
8. Are you brave enough to show it/read it to someone else?
Send to johnfroud@zeph.org.uk if you like...

Optional extension work: Do it again with non-people, objects.

Anthropomorphize!

Personify!

Same process - noun, adjective, verb





Julie's Drama Workshop

Here are some drama games/activities you can use to explore the Easter story. Choose the activities you think will work best - or have a go at all of them! You'll need a clear space with enough room for everyone to stand up.

1. Choose a part of the Easter story - either Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday or Easter Sunday - and read it aloud, from a Bible, a Children's Bible or a good quality retelling.
2. Have a quick discussion about the story: Who did you notice in this story? Who did you like best? Was there anyone you didn't like? What was your favourite part? End with the question - what feelings/emotions would the people in this story have felt?
3. **Play Turn around as...**
Ask everyone to find a space, then stand with their backs to you.
Explain the following: "I'm going to ask you to turn around as ... and then give you an emotion to show me. You have to turn around and freeze, showing me what that emotion looks like in your face and body."
Start off with some easy emotions - "Turn around as ... Happy! Sad! Angry! Excited!"
After a few turns, introduce some of the feelings/events from the story you've chosen - "Turn around as ... if you're riding on a donkey and everyone is cheering!"
"Turn around as ... if your best friend has just told you you'll let them down." "Turn around as ... if you've gone to visit your friend's grave - and you find it empty!"
4. **In the Hot Seat**
Split the group into pairs and get them to number themselves 1 and 2. Give each pair two characters from the story you've chosen - e.g. Jesus & Peter, Judas and Jesus, The Angel at the Tomb and one of the women, The Donkey Owner and the Disciple who took his donkey.
Each pair sits or stands opposite one another. Their job is to act out a conversation between their characters, taking place after the story has ended. The first person begins by asking a question, starting with the words, "Why did you..."



Julie's Drama Workshop

The second person replies - and whatever they reply, they have to end with another question. They continue to take it in turns, always ending with a question.

Before you start, encourage them to think about what the story would have been like from their character's perspective, what would they have seen, heard, felt, smelled, tasted?

Invite pairs to perform their conversations for the group.

5. Freeze Frame

Everyone sits facing an empty space - this is 'the stage'. Ask for a volunteer to go and create a freeze-frame pose in the space. Then ask for someone else to join the picture, adding people in until you have an interesting scene. Pause in between adding people to verbally reflect on it. At the end, ask for ideas of what might be going on. Often one person's addition can change the whole scene!

End by building a freeze frame scene from the story you chose - you might whisper roles to each person as they join to keep it on track. You can include objects as well as characters - e.g. the table at the Last Supper. Afterwards, have a discussion about how it felt to be in the scene.

These activities are a great way to bring the stories to life - an experiential way to engage with them. The aim is for participants to feel some of the emotions they would have felt if they were there as events unfolded. You could ask them to write their thoughts/feelings on this as a record.



Yvonne's Reflective RE Lesson

These are some prayer/reflection activities based on the events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day, that could be done as a whole class activity. Each child will need a copy of the Reflection Sheet (*included after the activity*) something to write with and some colouring pencils or felt tips. The teacher reads through each activity, leaving time at the end of each one for the children to complete the activity.

ACTIVITY 1

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. A huge crowd of people had gathered and everyone was really pleased and excited to see Jesus. They stood on both sides of the street, as if it was a victory parade, waved palm branches in celebration and shouted, "Hosanna! Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"

On the palm leaf on your sheet, either write or draw something that makes you really happy.

Perhaps, as you're doing that, you might like to say thank you to God for that thing that makes you so happy?

ACTIVITY 2

On the Thursday following Palm Sunday, Jesus and his friends gathered together and shared their last meal together. It was a very special meal and we still remember that meal today. It is known as The Last Supper. A few really important things happened at that meal; one of those things is that Jesus shared some bread and wine with his friends and asked them, every time they shared bread and wine together in the future, to remember him.

Another thing that happened during the meal is that Jesus stood up, poured water into a bowl and began to wash his friends' feet. You probably think that's pretty disgusting. It probably was pretty disgusting! But there was a special reason why Jesus did this. He did it as an example, to show them that none of them should think they are better than anyone else; to show them that they should always be prepared to serve others, to put the needs of others before their own.



Yvonne's Reflective RE Lesson

On the foot on your sheet, either write or draw something that you can do to help someone you know.

ACTIVITY 3

The day after Jesus and his friends shared that meal, Jesus was killed. Christians believe that Jesus died to pay the price, to take the punishment for all the wrong things we have done, so that we could be friends with God without all of our wrong things getting in the way.

Is there something you need to say sorry for? Who do you need to say sorry to?

On the cross on your sheet, either write or draw whatever it is that you need to say sorry for (it might only be a really small thing – something you did or said that you shouldn't have, maybe something you just thought but that wasn't very nice or kind, or maybe there's something that you should have done but didn't). As you do this, make a commitment that you are going to say sorry. Maybe you want to ask God to forgive you too?

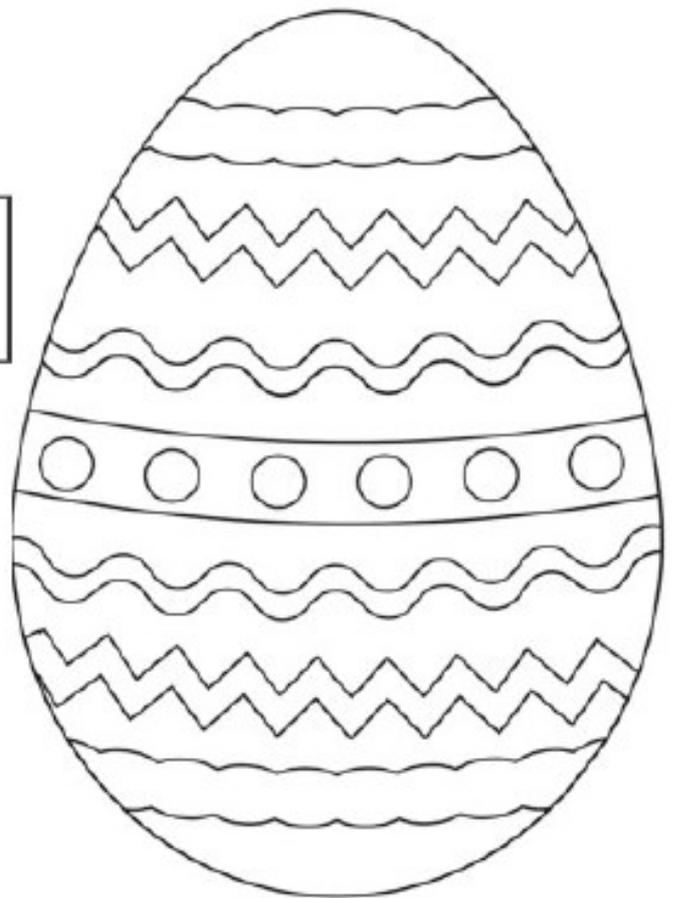
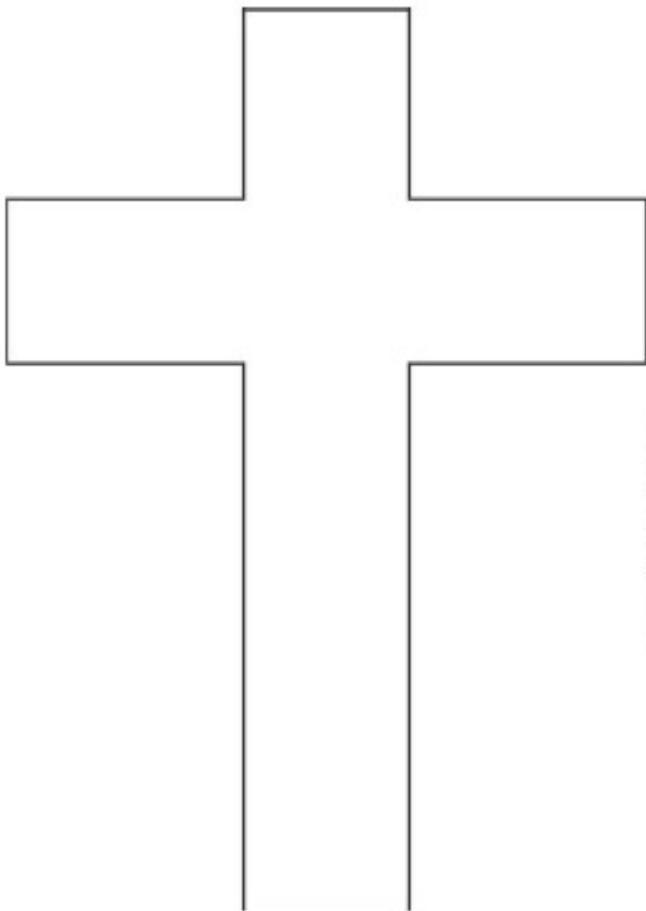
ACTIVITY 4

In the Bible, the story of Jesus goes on. It tells how 3 days after he was killed, he rose again. For Christians, this is the most important part of the story as they believe it is this that gives them the chance of a new life, a new start with God. This is how God shows them that they have been forgiven and will always be forgiven for the wrong things they have done and will do in the future.

Eggs are a sign of new life. Easter eggs are (as well as being delicious!) a symbol and a reminder for Christians of the new life they believe they have with God because of Jesus' death and resurrection. This is why Easter is so important to Christians.

Colour in the egg on your sheet and, as you do so, have a think about which part of your life you maybe need to turn around. Perhaps you might like to thank God for Easter, an event that shows how much He loves you?

Tomorrow is a new day, a new start. A new you?



Additional Ideas/Resources



We have lots of other Easter ideas/resources on our YouTube channel - here's a quick guide:

Thea's Salvadoran Cross Craft:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyAG_Qew4TY

Zeph Volunteer Thea leads a simple demonstration of how to make a colourful Salvadoran Cross, using just paper, scissors and felt tips - a great way to reflect on the story of Easter Sunday.

Music - He is Risen!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WUlwctQJgU>

Lyrics video featuring John Froud and band, with children from Baildon Schools, performing the original track He is Risen!

Easter Storytelling

Easter stories aimed at primary school children and up, from Julie, John and Zeph Associate Natalie:

Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAZC9CLs3N4&t=242s>

The Last Supper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1sIXsic79c&t=44s>

Good Friday & Easter Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxmXldj0hbM>

Holy Week/Easter Stories

Original retellings from the events of Holy Week, written and told by Julie, designed to be listened to one per day from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday:

Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3HJPvh1fb8>

The Widow's Mite - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmmek4_zXPU&t=19s

The Turning of the Tables - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljY4oi5YECQ&t=5s>

The Jar of Perfume - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmShK0X9f5c&t=4s>

The Last Supper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGTY-8zJaDU&t=24s>

Good Friday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9mtnVDnGdo&t=378s>

Easter Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXfjd-Wwwdg>

Crafts

Craft activities for each major part of the Easter Story with Julia and Natalie:

Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v4zCXeAzEo>

The Last Supper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bj-JSPHn9NU&t=25s>

Good Friday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgR-DTcakdg>

Easter Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY-5wpm8wMs&t=8s>

Songs

And a playlist of John Froud songs here -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf81XyTusz0&list=PL3Q3CAKaP6HMHZbprfPBEz_p5e6hluEil

Easter Activity Pack



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