



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a resource that has been created to help and encourage church families enjoy a time of worship, explore the Bible, pray and grow in their faith in the comfort of their own homes.

Every Sunday **Church@Home** provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session using a Bible reading selected from the Church of England Lectionary. Each session lasts approximately twenty minutes and provides age-related material for toddlers to teenagers to accommodate everyone in the family. Thought-provoking questions, fun activities and crafts bring the Bible story to life as well as creative prayer ideas to help families focus, learn and grow in their faith together. Additional teaching and craft suggestions has also been provided for families with very young children.

Church@Home can also be used as a fun way to help families connect with other families on Sunday mornings too. Why not invite everyone to begin **Church@Home** at the same time and perhaps set up a WhatsApp group where families can share what they have done, or discuss the topic further together.

If your family or families in your church are using **Church@Home** please let us know. We would like to keep in contact, find out how you are doing as well as hear how **Church@Home** is helping families grow in their faith, so that we can share and inspire others during this time of distancing.

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Thank you ❤️



Sunday 12 April 2020
1st Sunday of Easter - Easter Sunday

He's alive!

Matthew 28v1-10

Time to focus...

Find a place where the family can sit comfortably. If possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Quietly stare at the flame watching the flames flicker and glow as you prepare for a time of worship as a family.

Introduce the story...

A big rock was rolled in front of the door to the tomb. Guards were placed outside the tomb to make sure no one would steal the body. Listen carefully as you watch the story of Easter from God's Word, the Bible...

Click on this lovely illustrated video called... **'The story of Easter'**

Questions:

1. Who were the first disciples to visit the tomb?
(Mary Magdalene and the other Mary)
2. What did the women see when they got to the tomb?
(The rock was rolled away from the entrance and an angel was sitting on top of it.)
3. What did the women do when they heard this Good News?
(They were filled with joy and hurried to tell their friends.)

Explore the story...

Do you believe that Jesus is alive? Mary didn't believe. She was sad. She thought Jesus was missing. The friends went back to their homes, but Mary stayed at the tomb, and she cried. Why do you think that Mary cried? (She thought that Jesus was dead, and now his body was missing too!)

A man came to Mary. He said, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Mary said; "If you took him away, please tell me where he is. I'll go and get him." He said her name, "Mary." It was Jesus! He had been dead. But now he was alive! Now Mary believed! She wanted to touch him and hug him! Jesus said, "Not yet. I'm going to the Father. And he is your Father too!" Then, Mary ran away.

Why do you think Mary ran this time? She was going to tell her friends, "I have seen Jesus! He was dead! But now He is alive! He is risen!"

End with a prayer...

Pray to God, thanking Him for loving us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. Take time each day this week to remember how much God loves us. Pray for each member of your family and your friends, that God will shine in their lives not just today on Easter Day but every day. Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

Worship: use this fun song called... **"My best friend"**

Craft 1: Children love helping to make salt dough and they will have even more fun decorating these **salt dough Easter eggs**.

Craft 2: This link takes you to a website that has lots of great Easter-themed **colouring-in sheets**.

0-5s...



Easter Garden: Why not make an Easter garden to remind your children what Easter is really about - and a great opportunity to forage in your garden or out on your daily walk. Search Pinterest for inspiration and email Dan Jones your creations - **'Easter Garden crafts'** -

Bible Chat Mat: Click **here** for this funky colouring-in sheet from 'Bath & Wells Diocese'. This fab activity will encourage all of your family to discuss and explore the meaning of Easter together.

5-11s...



- 1) List different things that the world places hope in.
- 2) How would you have felt if you were at the empty tomb and then met the living Jesus?
- 3) What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?



Pray the resurrection of Jesus impacts your daily life, not just at Easter.



Take photos of things that remind you of new life and resurrection.

11-18s...

"But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!" Romans 5:8

It's Easter Day!

Do you know why we have chocolate eggs at Easter? It's because they don't have anything inside. This is to remind us of Jesus' tomb. Although Jesus died, which was very sad, he came back to life and out of his tomb.

When Jesus died, it seemed as if everything had gone wrong but God had plans. Even if we've done wrong things, God has plans for us. If we go to him and say sorry, because he loves us so much, we can have a new start too.

