

As part of our resources to support learning and growing together as a Christian family, we would like to offer you this activity booklet which includes: reading the Bible, prayer ideas and more creative activities. We hope you can spend some time together, observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter. All the details of Easter services can be found on the Parish website: [waltonparish.org.uk](http://waltonparish.org.uk). We hope you have fun celebrating Easter together as a family.



Start a table or tray of items to help you think about the events of Holy Week. On each day / story there is an idea for something to add from the activity suggested, but feel free to add as much or as little as you like.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week: Mark 11: 1-11

## Palm Sunday—Sunday 14th April

Palm Sunday is the day when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem. If you collected a palm cross at church on Palm Sunday, place it on your table / tray.



**Activity:**  
Celebrate and discuss Palm Sunday with this simple craft of handmade palm leaves. All it takes is green paper (or white paper coloured in!), tape, a stick and a little hand tracing fun. The palm branches were a symbol of victory and celebration. Wave your creation in the air or maybe act out the story together before adding it to your table / tray.

Some questions to help your discussion:  
Would you have joined in with the crowd?  
How would you have felt if you had been there with Jesus? How do we recognise Jesus in the world today? Why was Jesus riding a donkey?

Dear Jesus, help us to journey with you and draw closer to you this Holy Week and Easter. Amen.

**Game:**  
Pin the tail on the donkey  
Take turns, wearing a blindfold, to pin the tail on the donkey. You could print a picture of a donkey or draw your own. You could use string, wool or a tie with sticky tape attached as the tail.



Watch this video: All the links are on the Parish Website [waltonparish.org.uk](http://waltonparish.org.uk)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O56CiH0dwLw>

## The cleansing of the temple

When Jesus came to the temple during the yearly Passover celebration, he was outraged that temple leaders were allowing merchants to do their business in the parts of the temple that were supposed to be used for special worship of God. They were more worried about making money from selling animals to sacrifice than about worshipping God. Jesus loved his Father and he knew that what was being done was wrong. He turned over the tables and scattered the coins. Jesus stood up for what was right.

### **Activity:**

How many different coins can you find to rub? Add your rubbings or the coins to your table / tray.

Watch this video of the whole story: All the links are on the Parish Website [waltonparish.org.uk](http://waltonparish.org.uk)

It is called: Animated The Easter Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3UKd6LQKng&t=9s>

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:  
Mark 11: 15-19



## Jesus feet anointed

The woman in this story showed her great love for Jesus. Her gift of perfume was extravagant and caused some to get angry over what they thought was a waste.

### **Activity:**

Draw some heart shapes, cut them out and add them to your table / tray to show God's love for us and our love for him.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:  
Mark 14: 1-11

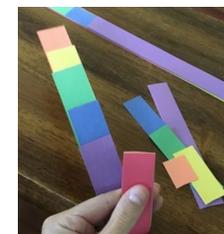
Dear Jesus, thank you for your great love for us. Help us to show our love for you each day. Amen.

Some questions to help your discussion:

The money changers were distracting people from worshipping God. As a family, talk about what distracts you from going to church, reading your Bible or praying. What could you do to help each other not to be distracted?



Dear Jesus, thank you for the opportunities we have to worship you. We are sorry for when we have been distracted. Please help us to put you first in our lives. Amen.



### **Activity:**

Full instructions here  
<https://twitchetts.com/2017/05/spinning-rainbow-heart-mobile.html/>  
You will need strips of coloured paper in different lengths. A stapler and some ribbon or string to hang. Lay the strips on top of each other, largest to smallest, staple at the base. Fold over and tape. Repeat for the other side. Add string and glue both halves together.

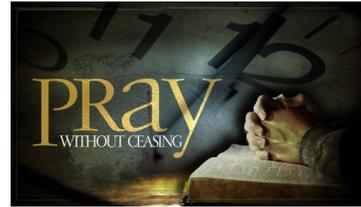


Some questions to help your discussion:

After you have read the story, talk together about the ways we can show our love to Jesus. How can we show Jesus' love to other people? Do we know how much Jesus loves us?

## In the Garden of Gethsemane

That night, Jesus took His disciples to a quiet garden called Gethsemane. Here Jesus prayed and the disciples fell asleep. Jesus spent some time talking with His Father. Maybe you could go out into the garden to read the story.



Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Mark 14: 12-50

Dear Jesus, help us to pray each day for the world, those in need and for people to know you more and more. Amen.

### Activity:

Jesus went into the garden to pray. Why not go together into the garden during today to pray for each other and for the world? Pick some flowers, leaves, grass or stones to add to your table / tray to represent the garden. Maybe you could make a small garden in a bowl?



Some questions to help your discussion:  
Jesus went to pray. Do you know what prayer is? Do you ever pray? We might pray about our world, friends, family and things that worry us. We might say thank you to God for what He has given us or say sorry when we do things wrong.



### Activity:

Make a prayer journal. Draw around your hand and cut out several times. Staple the thumbs together. Write different topics or people on each page to pray for.



Jesus washed his friends feet. He was serving them. How could you serve someone today?



## Maundy Thursday—Thursday 18th April

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. On this day, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. 'Maundy' comes from a Latin word which means *a command*, and it refers to Jesus' *command* that he gave at the Last Supper, that we must love one another as he loves us. Include some *bread and red juice (or grapes)* as part of your main meal on Maundy Thursday.

### Activity:

Maybe you could take turns to wash each other's feet? How many other ways can you think to serve each other in your family? How might you be able to serve people in your community or at church?

Add a towel and some bread / grapes to your table / tray.

Some questions to help your discussion:

Talk about the Last Supper, the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Why is it such a special meal? How can we include Jesus in our special occasions?

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week: Mark 14: 53-72



Dear Jesus, as we eat bread and drink juice we remember you. Thank you for meeting with us. Help us to serve each other. Amen.

## Good Friday—Friday 19th April

Come to St John's Church at 10.30 am for the all-age service and enjoy hot cross buns afterwards. Together we will remember the time when Jesus suffered on the cross. It is a time to pray, and to remember that Jesus loved us so much he was willing to die for us.

### Activity:

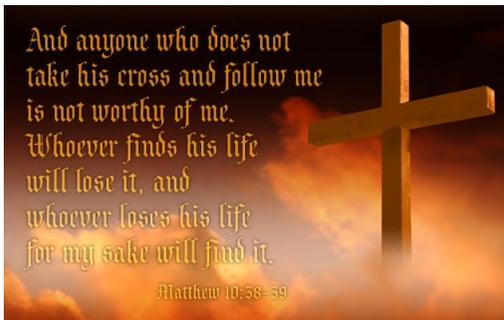
Make a cross (from twigs, nails or paper) and add it with a candle to your table / tray.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:  
Mark 15: 1-39

### Fizzy forgiveness prayers

You will need a jug / bowl of water and some effervescent vitamin tablets (break these into bits). Encourage the children to think of something they have done that they need forgiveness for. Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven and have a friendship with God. Hold the bit of tablet and think of whatever you did that was wrong. As you drop it into the water say sorry to God and ask for forgiveness. As the tablet fizzes, know that Jesus takes away the wrong things and makes everything clean and new once more as if nothing was ever wrong. As you look at the liquid, ask God to help you to live as Jesus shows us.

Some questions to help your discussion:  
How did Jesus feel about the people who didn't like him?  
Why did Jesus die?  
Could Jesus have avoided the cross?  
What difference would that have made?  
Why was it 'Good'?



## Holy Saturday—Saturday 20th April

New beginnings are a beautiful part of Spring and a wonderful reminder of God's grace. As we wait between Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Day, here is an activity to explain Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in a simple way.

### Activity:

You will need a packet of jelly beans! Pick out the colours and read the poem. Enjoy eating the jelly beans! Maybe you could add a bowl of jelly beans to your table / tray?



Watch this video of the song The Wonderful Cross

All the links are on the Parish Website. [waltonparish.org.uk](http://waltonparish.org.uk)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdIKrcZYYjo>

Some questions to help your discussion:

Talk together about how the disciples would have been feeling. They did not know about what was to happen on Easter Day. How do we feel when we are waiting? Jesus was about to change the disciples' life completely. How would you like Jesus to change your life?

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:  
Mark 15: 40-47

### The Jelly Bean Poem

**Red**  
is for the blood He gave  
**Green**  
is for the grass He made  
**Yellow**  
is for the sun so bright  
**Orange**  
is for the edge of night  
**Black**  
is for the many sins made  
**White**  
is for the grace He gave  
**Purple**  
is for the hour of sorrow  
**Pink**  
is for the new tomorrow

A bag full of jelly beans,  
colorful and sweet,  
is a prayer, a promise,  
is an Easter treat

*rachelwojz.com*

## Easter Sunday—Sunday 21st April

Come to church to celebrate the risen Jesus. After the 9.15 am service at St Mary's and the 10.30 am at St John's, there will be an Easter egg hunt! Why not pop into St Mary's Church this week to see the Easter garden? You can see the one in St John's on a Sunday morning.

### **Activity:**

#### **Make an edible tomb.**

You will need:

rich tea biscuits	butter cream
jam and cream biscuits	green colouring
icing sprinkles or similar	mini eggs

Mix some green colouring into the butter cream. Then cover a rich tea biscuit in green butter cream (for grass). Next, place a jam and cream biscuit (with one side cut off) at the back of the grass for the tomb and a mini egg in front of the tomb for the stone. Finally, decorate the grass with sprinkles (for flowers).

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Mark 16:1-20



Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of new life this Easter. Amen.

### **Activity:**

Make a paper cross, and add decorations such as paper flowers and leaves until it is completely covered and filled with life. Add this to your table / tray.

How many different types of chick can you make? Take a photo and send it to Mandy or onto the Parish Facebook page.

Go through the whole story with Dave the Donkey

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=D89VI9R17eY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=D89VI9R17eY)



### **Game:**

#### **Easter egg toss game**

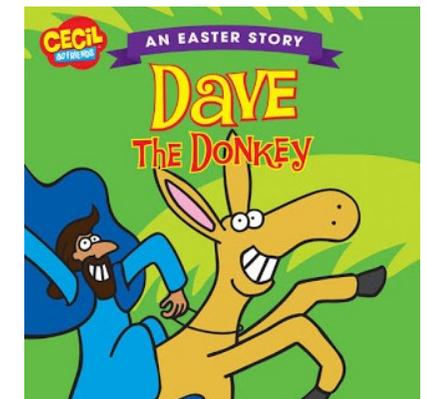
To play this game you will need some plastic cups and something small e.g. balls. Can you throw into the cups that mark the cross? and miss the ones around them. For older children: how about putting letters in the cups and trying to spell out different words? Who can get their ball into the cups in the right order the quickest? This could be a competition between parent and child.



### **Some questions to help your discussion:**

How many things can you find in your garden that are alive? What about in the park? Or down by the river? Collect some flowers to put on your table.

Why do we have Easter Eggs? Did Jesus really come back to life? What difference does it make that Jesus is alive?



**Activity:**

Could you make a stained glass cross to put in your window?

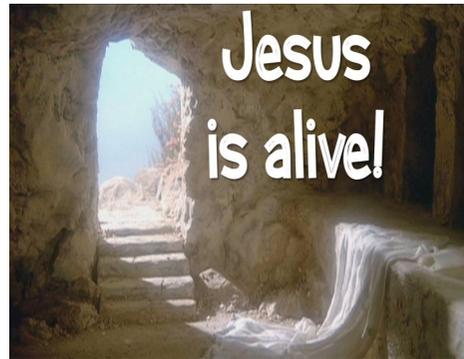
You will need some card and to cut out around the cross and then cut out the middle. Glue strips of tissue paper across the middle in lots of bright colours. The cross on which Jesus died has been transformed into the cross which brings us life



Make the empty tomb

<https://www.catholicicing.com/religious-easter-craft-for-kids-make/>

All the instructions are at this link.



**Activity:**

Make Easter nests

- Ingredients: 225g/8oz plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 50g/2oz butter
- 75g/3oz cornflakes
- 36 mini chocolate eggs

**Method:**

Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.  
 Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a pan of gently simmering water, (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth.  
 Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.  
 Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.

**Game:**

**Egg and spoon race**

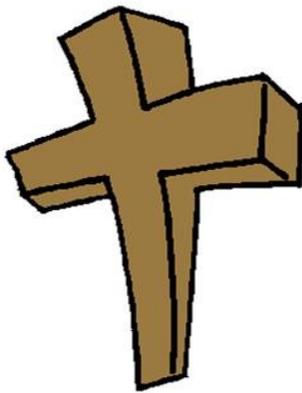
What about meeting up with some friends and having an egg and spoon race? You need some wooden spoons, plastic eggs or hard boiled eggs? Will it be a straight race or an obstacle race?



# Easter Word Search

B M A L M H B B K I N G R N R  
 N O I T C E R R U S E R E O O  
 A P O S T L E S E Y S C D I O  
 S E C I F I R C A S H J E T S  
 N S N A M O R O O R R E M A T  
 R C D S G T T R I I K S P V E  
 O Y R A M B C S S V Z U T L R  
 H L O V E L T E M M A S I A Y  
 T C R O W N N Y L O H S O S Z  
 X C R U C I F I X I O N N K Q

APOSTLES  
 CHRIST  
 CROSS  
 CROWN  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 HOLY  
 JESUS  
 KING  
 LAMB  
 LOVE



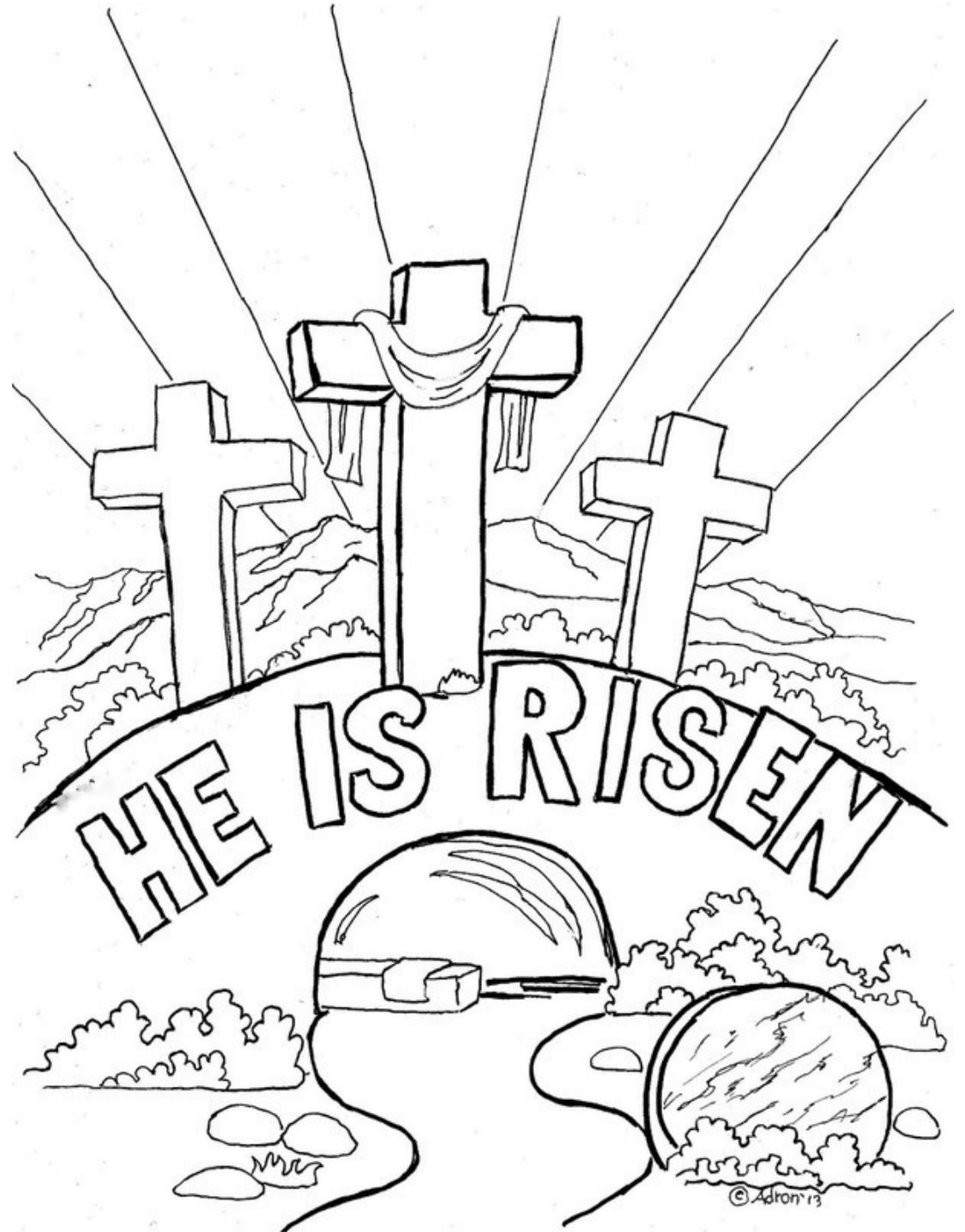
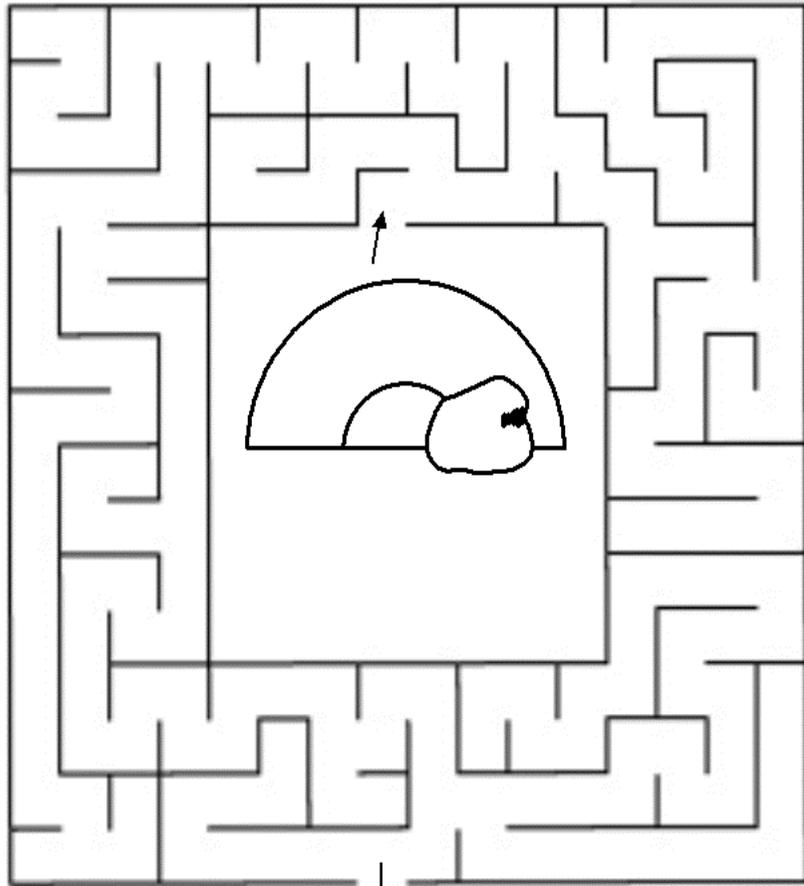
MARY  
 REDEMPTION  
 RESURRECTION  
 RISEN  
 ROMANS  
 ROOSTER  
 SACRIFICE  
 SALVATION  
 SAVIOR  
 THORNS

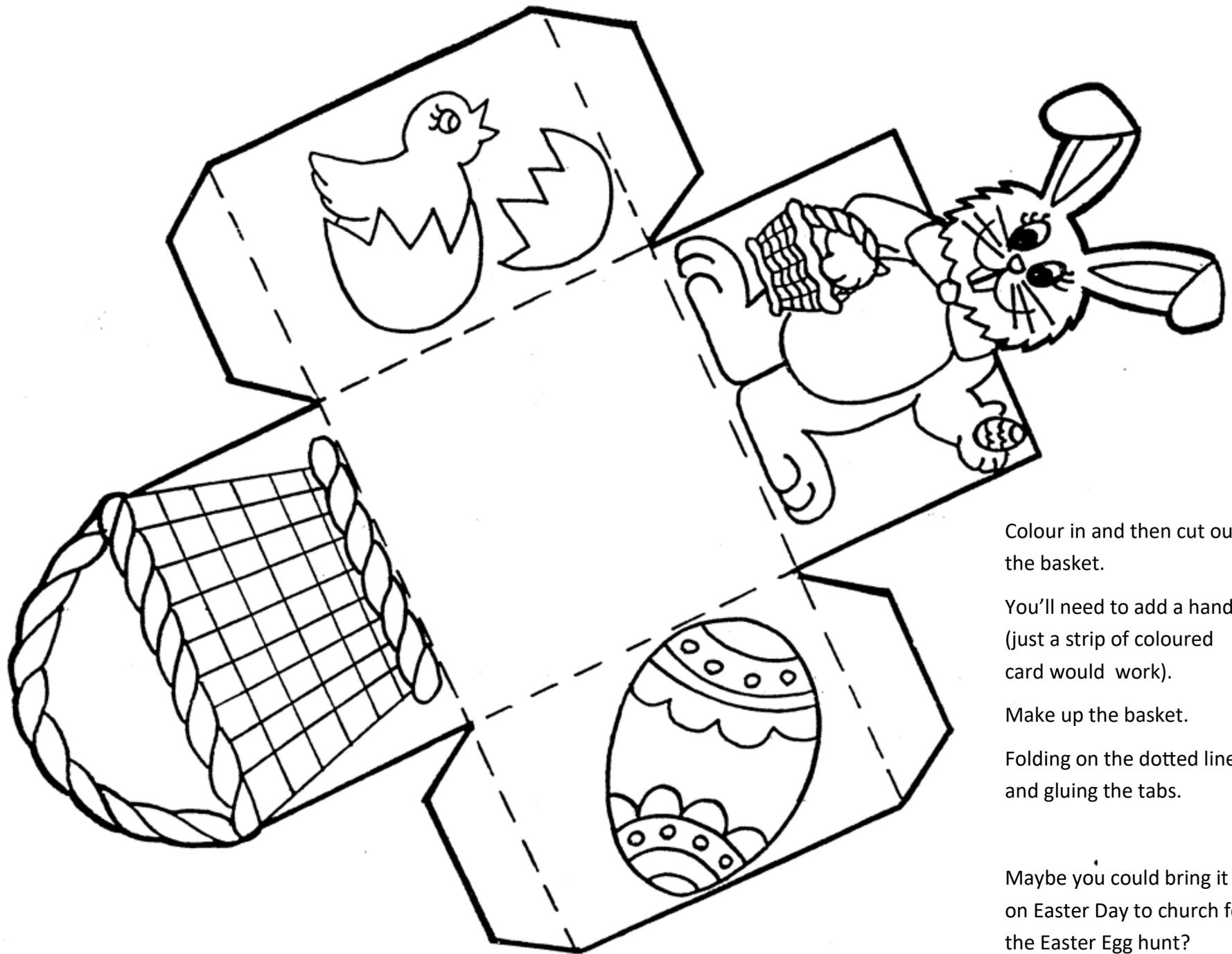
Game:  
 You will need to find some counters and a dice.  
 Who will be the first to get from Palm Sunday to Easter Day?

The game board is titled "Easter Story Game" and features 25 numbered squares arranged in a path. The path starts at square 1 (Jesus Comes to Jerusalem Move on 2), goes to square 2 (The Last Supper Move on 2), then to square 3 (Lose Supper), square 4 (Jesus dies Miss a turn), square 5 (Crucifixion), square 6 (Jesus is laid in the tomb Miss a turn), square 7 (Resurrection), square 8 (Jesus rises to new life! Move on 3), square 9 (Not the end!), square 10 (Burial), square 11 (The Last Supper), square 12 (Lose Supper), square 13 (Jesus dies Miss a turn), square 14 (Crucifixion), square 15 (Jesus is laid in the tomb Miss a turn), square 16 (Resurrection), square 17 (Jesus rises to new life! Move on 3), square 18 (Not the end!), square 19 (Burial), square 20 (The Last Supper), square 21 (Lose Supper), square 22 (Jesus dies Miss a turn), square 23 (Crucifixion), square 24 (Jesus is laid in the tomb Miss a turn), and square 25 (Resurrection). The board also includes illustrations of a cross, a tomb, a rooster, a crown, and a lamb, along with the text "Easter Story Game" and "Resurrection".

# Easter Maze

Help Jesus find his way out of the tomb so he can tell the disciples He's Alive!





Colour in and then cut out the basket.

You'll need to add a handle (just a strip of coloured card would work).

Make up the basket.

Folding on the dotted lines and gluing the tabs.

Maybe you could bring it on Easter Day to church for the Easter Egg hunt?