

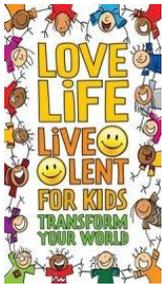
CHILDREN'S WORK ADVISERS' NEWSLETTER LENT & EASTER 2010

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Ideas you could suggest to families, use in Sunday school or after school clubs or do as a whole church.

Redemptorist products www.rpbooks.co.uk

Very reasonably priced Lent prayer/sticker trails and activity books, Lent calendars and Lent Extra magazine.



Love Life Live Lent booklets contain 40 simple actions to do throughout Lent. With Family, Adult & Youth and Kids' versions, everyone can take part. www.livelent.net The website divides into 3 sections:

- Church inc. sermon
- School inc. Collective worship
- Families
- Love Life Live Lent book and booklets contain over 40 simple things to do during Lent: one action for each day. These actions help us to transform our world - locally, nationally and globally.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/lent-intergenerational-parish-event.htm>

- Almsgiving Box, Bible Bookmark, Family Cross, Fasting Cup, Hot Cross Buns, Prayer Banner, Prayer Chain
- Lent Bulletin Article, Preparation Timeline for Lent Event, Presentation, Prayer Service and Take-Home Kit

JELLY BEAN PRAYER (or you could use smarties but they don't come in white-maybe white chocolate drops)

On Ash Wednesday set out a glass jar for each child with a small copy of the jellybean prayer taped to it.

*Red is for the blood Christ gave
Green is for the palm's cool shade
Yellow is for God's light so bright
Orange is for our prayers at twilight
Black is for sweet rest at night
White is for the grace of Christ
Purple is for his days of sorrow
Pink is for each new tomorrow*

Choose an action to go with each jellybean color (corresponding with the prayer). Each day the children could earn a jellybean of any colour through an action. They can't eat the jellybeans until

Easter. The children can't earn white jellybeans, these represent the Grace of Christ, which is a gift not earned ourselves so white jellybeans (Christ's grace) could be added each day. These are possible actions from an American website for each colour. Why not decide on your own ideas based on ages and needs of your children.

- Red - each morning chose something to sacrifice that day to earn the red jellybean. It has to be something they would have had the opportunity to have or do on that day.
- Green - for good deeds. It was a good deed to provide shade for Jesus with the palm.
- Yellow - for sharing God's light through kindness to others.
- Orange for attentive behavior during bedtime prayer time and night time bible story.
- Black - for going to bed or you could use blue, if your children are not fans of black jellybeans.
- White - for the Grace of Christ, these we can't be earned as mentioned above.
- Purple -for apologizing to anyone we hurt with our words or deeds that day.
- Pink - for when we forgive those who apologise to us for hurtful behaviour.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Year in Colour by Rachel Nicholls www.kevinmayhew.com An excellent resource book with year round assemblies making links between church and school.

www.assemblies.org.uk www.culham.ac.uk/assemblies Giving up for Lent, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Easter etc

CHURCH

The Feast is Ready to Begin by Rachel Nicholls www.kevinmayhew.com

Bible Storybags by Margaret Cooling www.barnabasinchurches.org

Godly Play Lent and Easter Stories are in Volume 4

Across the World by Martin Payne www.barnabasinchurches.org

Or Crosses published by CMS

These books explore the symbolism of different crosses around the world and make excellent resources for Sunday school, after school clubs, Lent or Easter workshops.

Resurrection Eggs

Materials Needed: plastic eggs, a basket, story objects that can fit in the eggs - see list below.

Object Ideas: a small cross, nails, a small sponge dipped I vinegar, coins, (Judas or the thief on the cross), black cloth (the temple curtain or dark day), a small grapevine wreath (crown of thorns), flowers (Easter), a small numeral 3 (three days), a small piece of evergreen (palm branch), a cracker (Last Supper), a stone, and any other objects you wish to use to tell the Easter story. There are other lists on the internet.

Directions: Put the story object in the eggs. Be sure to leave one egg empty (the empty tomb). Using the permanent marker you could number the eggs in the order of the Easter story. (The number of the eggs you use will depend on the number of objects you choose from the list and also on the attention span of the children in your group.) Place the eggs in the basket. See explanations of meanings on the internet - search resurrection eggs. Depending on age and ability the children can retell the story or explain the pictures, put the eggs and pictures in the correct sequence, suggest other pictures/symbols. You could put real objects in the eggs. A similar idea (thank you to Linda for this one) involves children collecting a real object and putting them in a bag at each of a number of tables covering the events of Holy week and Easter hearing part of the story at each table.

CHURCH & SCHOOL TOGETHER

Invite schools to share in one of the following; email me for more details or examples of where this has been successful in the Diocese.

Easter Experience

www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/ifish £11

Classes from the local primary school will be invited by the clergy to visit the church where in small groups they will be guided by a leader from the school around each station. Using a similar format to Pause for Reflection, with which schools are already familiar, the pack gives detailed instructions to church members to enable them to create the stations. Also included are careful instructions to help the school group leaders introduce and reflect on each part of the story. Resulting from a request from a parish I have rewritten the last station (resurrection) to make 2 stations – a Visit to the Tomb and Christians Celebrating Easter Today. If you would like a copy please email me.

The Easter Journey by Moira Curry and Gill Morgan £7.99 www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk

The Easter Journey provides an exciting opportunity for church-based children's teams to perform a delightful, easy-to-do presentation to their local primary schools. Aimed at Year 5 children, the material gives pupils and teacher alike a memorable learning experience by unfolding the Easter story.

Resurrection Walk - Use eyes and ears to spot signs of new life while you follow the Easter story

Decorate a Cross on Easter morning with real or paper flowers, children's hand shapes/prints or ribbons to express joy (an alternative to making an Easter garden). Process it to the altar.

**Easter Story Biscuits to be made the evening or day before Easter.
Make them at a workshop or give out the recipe in church (or magazine).**

Ingredients:

1 cup. whole pecans	1 tsp. vinegar	3 egg whites	Pinch salt
1 cup sugar	Zipper baggy	Wooden spoon	Tape

Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F Place pecans in zip lock bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested the Roman soldiers beat him. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1-tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1-c. sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. ISA.1: 18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop teaspoons of mixture onto a baking parchment covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matt. 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matt. 28:1-9. HE HAS RISEN