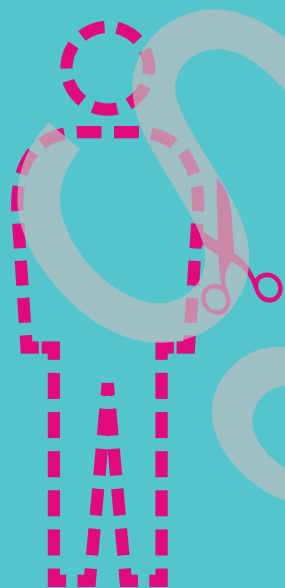


**Twelve exciting and easily explained crafts for all ages. Some messy, some sticky, some done quickly, some done slowly – all with a connection to the Easter story. Within each activity, you will also find suggestions for how it could be used within the context of an all-age service.**

# CRAFTS





# CRAFTS 06

## PALM SUNDAY TABLE DECORATION

**Description:** donkey and palm leaf glass jar decoration  
**Difficulty level:** \*\*  
**Bible link:** Matthew 21; Luke 19

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 x clean jam jar
- 3 x A4 sheets of craft foam in different shades of green
- brown craft foam
- donkey template
- natural garden twine
- scissors



### INSTRUCTIONS

- Explain that Jesus had made lots of preparations for this event. He'd sent the disciples ahead of him to untie the donkey he had arranged to ride. Tell the story of the triumphal entry, using pre-cut leaves and donkey to illustrate story.
- Use the template to cut a donkey from brown craft foam.
- Stand the donkey upright in the glass jar.
- Cut 5 to 7 palm-shaped leaves of varying sizes from the green craft foam.
- Snip the leaves diagonally downwards on both sides, ensuring you don't snip through the middle.
- Arrange the leaves in the jar.
- Tie the neck of the jar with twine as a reminder that as Jesus prepared for his journey, we should prepare for Jesus. What could we do

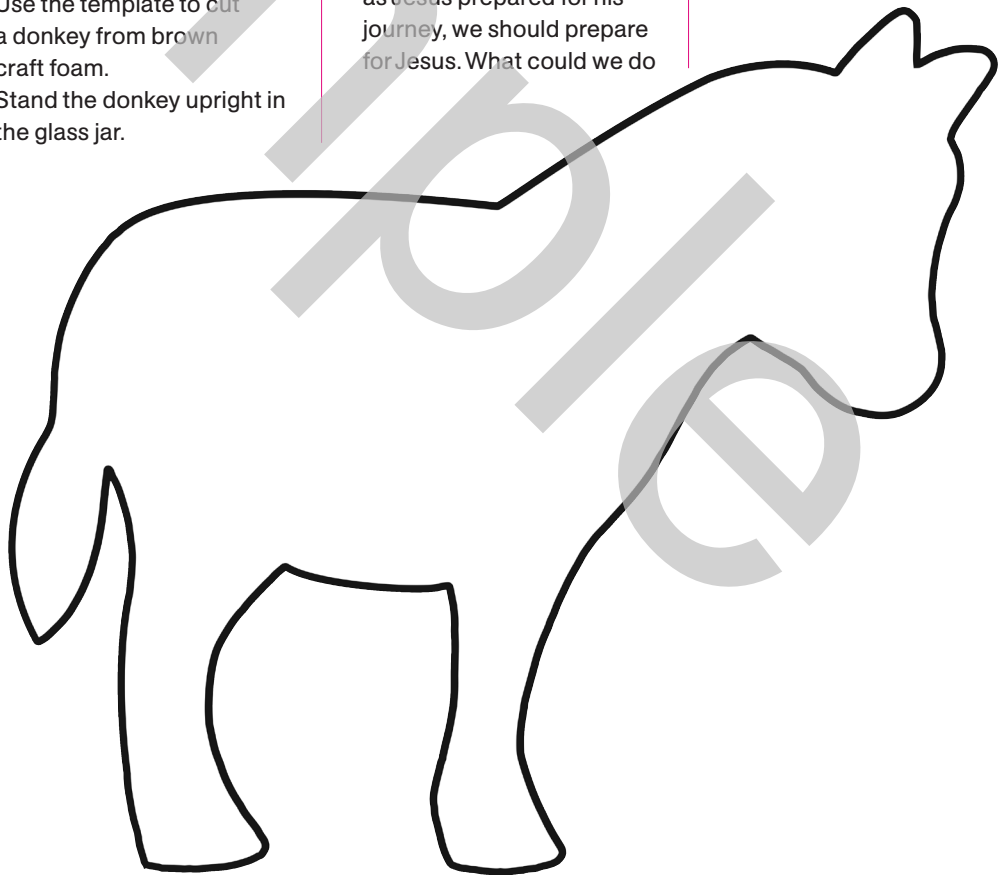
to prepare? Pray, read the Bible, be honest, kind...

### Variations:

Use fresh leaves for palms.

### Easier options:

Use green card for the leaves. Decorate the jar with stickers.



### ALL AGE EXTRAS:

You could use these for table decorations for a celebratory Palm Sunday meal or coffee time together.



**Still or active, quiet or noisy, these prayer activities are designed to help people of all ages to reflect on and pray about every aspect of the Easter story. From the entry into Jerusalem to breakfast on the beach with the risen Christ – these ideas help to bring the whole story to life.**

# PRAYERS





# MAKING HOLDING CROSSES

## YOU WILL NEED:

air dry clay, wipeable work surfaces (possibly a waterproof table cloth!) and some examples of holding crosses

Show the group a holding cross or some pictures of holding crosses. Explain to them:

Holding crosses are small crosses that people can use to hold and meditate over. They are normally made of wood and have very smooth edges. These crosses might be given to people who are in particular need of comfort, or may just be a really useful prayer tool to help us concentrate and pray.

The cross is an important symbol for Christians, especially at Easter. The cross reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us. Therefore it is a symbol of repentance, hope of new life, and God's great love for us.

Give each group member a chunk of clay and ask them to fashion their own holding cross. They could keep it simple or they could use tools (such as sharpened pencils) to add specific words or designs.

Depending on the group, you could either encourage this to be a meditative time, or a

time where you just talk. You could discuss how people will use their crosses or where they'll keep them. You could encourage the group to meditatively mould their crosses, while you play some gentle instrumental music, or some worship music that talks about the cross (eg 'Light of the World', 'When I Survey', 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High', 'Thank You for the Cross').

When the group have finished making their crosses (you may need to give them a time limit), prepare somewhere that they can leave them to dry (this will take about 24 hours). You could either give them squares of cardboard to take home, or store them and dry them for the next time you meet.

Once the group have placed their crosses down, pray a prayer of thanks for the cross and ask that these holding crosses would be a blessing in our relationship with Jesus and help us come closer to him.



Four fresh and contemporary all-age talks for use as part of an all-age service, a community event celebrating Easter, reflections throughout Holy Week, and more.

# ALL-AGE TALKS



ALL-AGE  
TALKS

02

# EASTER SUNDAY

Before the service, you will need to get hold of an egg box containing six plastic eggs that open in half (available from supermarkets or craft suppliers at Easter time). Each egg should be numbered with a felt-tip pen or sticker and contain the appropriate symbol, in picture form or as a miniature item:

- 1 Donkey**  
(use a toy farm animal)
- 2 Praying hands**  
(you could print a copyright free picture from the Internet and reduce it in size)
- 3 Crown of thorns**  
(make a miniature one by plaiting modelling clay strips and using the pointed end of cocktails sticks as thorns)
- 4 Cross**  
(make a miniature one with two sticks tied together with string or elastic band)
- 5 A small, round stone**
- 6 Empty!**

You will also need the following Bible references, either placed in six Bibles at the appropriate pages, or printed out on separate slips of paper. Give these to confident readers in the congregation who, when they are asked to, during the talk, will stand up and read out the verse they have been given:

- 1 John 12:14,15**
- 2 Mark 14:35,36**
- 3 Mark 15:16–18**
- 4 Luke 23:32–43**
- 5 Mark 16:1–6**
- 6 Romans 6:9–11**