

Message from Rev. Davis for the children:

With my "Reverend Davis" hat on: this coming Sunday is "Palm Sunday", when Christians around the world remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey and the city went wild with excitement, laying their cloaks on the ground as a carpet before him and cutting palm branches from the trees to wave in celebration.

To remember this crosses of Palm leaf are given out on Sunday and processions held to recreate something of the atmosphere of Jesus triumphal ride into the city - not as a great military figure, but as one who embodied the hope of the people for a new age of blessing and freedom.

Why not make some palm crosses out of a strip of paper? There are lots of instructions on the internet, videos on YouTube and instructions on Pintrest and elsewhere - have a go! It is a good way to keep in touch with the wider world and historic traditions still alive today.

Other activities - look up the meaning of all the ingredients and the markings of Hot Cross Buns.

Or you might consider might be making an Easter Garden, using a tray or low box that tells the story of the crosses of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter morning - you could even add some Playmobile or Lego figures, if you have them.

There are some great and not so great retelling of the Easter Bible Story on YouTube. Two I would trust are:

For younger children, KS1 the "VeggieTales" series, animated US production, all the characters are animated vegetables! Believe me it does work - very amusing and always a good point for discussion on the decisions we make.

For older children KS2 another animation, with puppets, "The Miracle Maker" (2000) S4C/Ikon films is magnificent. (Ralph Fiennes voices Jesus. Adults you might need a hanky - gets me every time!)

I hope you are all coping with being constrained at home and that you and those you care for are safe and well.

The Revd Simon C Davis, BSc, MA, MIET

Rector: St Nicholas, Abbots Bromley,
St Leonard, Blithfield,
St Mary the Virgin, Colton,
St Michael and All Angels, Colwich,
St Stephen, Great Haywood.
Rural Dean for Rugeley Deanery.