



Church of Ireland ✝
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

ST
PATRICK'S
DAY



EASTER



MOTHER'S
DAY



WORLD
BOOK DAY



SPRING



With Easter being early this year it's somewhat caught me by surprise, but I'm sure you're all much more organised than me! That said, Spring is hands down my favourite season, there's always so much to look forward to, and this year everything seems to be squished into March! So amid all the busyness of the month, do take time for yourself to stop and breathe deeply the fresh Spring air.

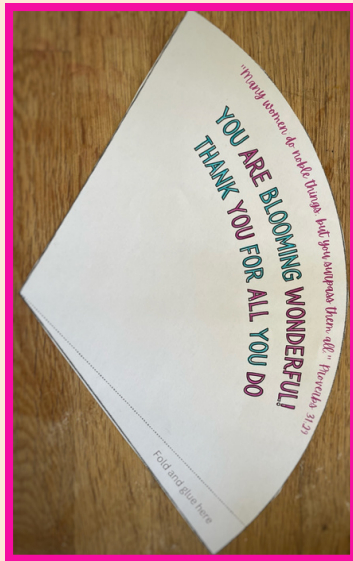
Our Spring newsletter is packed with ideas and inspiration which we hope you will find useful as you prepare to journey with your children and explore faith together in creative ways.

We will continue to pray for you and would love to hear what you are up to. Feel free to contact us with any news, questions or events by emailing: cfmeireland.anglican.org. Many Blessings.
Rachael.



Welcome

Mother's Day



SWEET GIFTS FOR SPECIAL LADIES!

These two simple ideas are perfect as Mother's Day gifts and can be used for any ladies who take on nurturing roles.

To the left we have our Blooming Wonderful bouquet which you can download from our website [here](#). Children can colour the flowers and write their answers as to why the recipient is special to them. The cone can then be filled with chocolates or a wrapped packet of pretty bath salts.



To the right is a beautiful craft idea from Lynn Storey, using up those egg cartons, turning them into bright, yummy Daffodils - leaving the real ones in the garden for the bees!

Children can enjoy getting messy painting the flowers and stems, then simply stick in the Ferrero Rocher or Lindt ball to turn it into a yummy treat to take home.



If you are leading the service on Mother's day and looking for a sensitive video to play, this short clip created by Igniter Media takes a brief overview of mothers in the Bible, from Eve, to Leah, to Jochabed and Mary. It shows in just 4 minutes the world changing impact that women have had throughout Biblical history and celebrates the full spectrum of the ways that women take on Mothering roles today, including mentors, foster parents or birth. You can find it by clicking [here](#)



St Patrick's Day

Crystal Rainbows

This is a longer term craft which would work well at home, school, or over a weekend at church as the crystals need 24 hrs to develop. However it is beautifully simple! You just need multicoloured pipe cleaners, Borax and a jar. All the instructions can be found [here](#).



Celebrating St Patrick's Radiant Faith

AN ALL AGE
FAMILY SERVICE



Radiant Faith All Age Service

St Patrick's day falls on a Sunday this year, so if you're looking for inspiration then look no further! This is a lovely all-age service that was put together by the Council for Mission. It helps us to consider the radiant faith that Patrick had and how transformative his witness was. The pack includes scripts, prayers and service outline. Click [here](#) to access the full pack.

Pretzel Shamrocks

These mini pretzel shamrocks could be a nice way to end your service with something to feed the tummies as well as the minds. All you need is mini-pretzels, a blob of melted chocolate and a Smartie or M&M, what could be simpler?! (Remember to check for allergies)



New CMS Children's Resource



Help children to consider the experiences of global refugees, to learn from them and foster open handed hospitality. Fully adaptable lesson plans with videos, activities and craft ideas. Download your copy [here](#).

hands out

hands out

Be part of God's big family with open handed hospitality getting and giving in God's global church

hands out



Colour Coded Lesson Plans

4 Age-based levels
Adapt as you need



hands out

Key teaching point + What does it mean to be...?
*experiences of refugees

Session 1
Purple

The HANDS Out material can be used in whatever order or format works for you. However, the following suggested outline may prove helpful

Group Time (PPT slide 2)
Introduce the HANDS Out Resource. Briefly explain learning in the coming weeks: the experience of refugees and displaced people; how God is a refuge for all people; how we can be more open handed in our hospitality through receiving from and giving to other people; and how to engage in the global church.

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 1:4 (PPT slide 3)
[God] helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.* This verse has been chosen as a scaffold to structure learning across the 4 sessions. Each week we will be learning the same memory verse but exploring a different element. This week the focus is on 'troubles'. To help the children begin to learn the memory verse get them up on their feet, walking around the room. Change direction when there is a comma. Build on this by adding actions: point up when saying God, in when saying our/ we/us and out when referencing others.

Discussion (PPT slide 4)
What kinds of troubles/difficulties might people experience around the world? Key teaching point for this session is to begin to understand something of the experience of refugees and displaced people. Turn the discussion towards the sort of troubles/challenges facing someone who is displaced or a refugee. Explain what it means to be displaced/refugee; **what are the causes, consequences and challenges?** Explore the word 'refugee' - someone seeking refuge/safety/protection/shelter/sanctuary

Film 1 (5 minutes)
After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Recap key points (the causes of refugees; where they go)

Quiz Time (PPT slides 5-24)
Quick fact file on Refugees (select questions OR use the workbooks' fact file' sheet 1)

Story 1
Begin by reflecting on how difficult it was to decide what to bring and how upsetting it was to lose what little they had during the journey. Reinforce again the difference between migrants and refugees. Explain that the bible is filled with people having to flee. People have been migrating from one place to another since the beginning of time. It was and still is an essential part of sharing in God's big story. However, for people forced to flee, their situation brings many challenges and troubles.

Paraphrase the story of Hagar - a slave woman who was treated badly by her mistress is sent away with her son, in the desert they struggle but God hears Hagar's cries. After God speaks to her, Hagar declares that God is the God who sees her. Read: **Genesis 16:13 Hagar 21:16 'The God who sees me'** either in NIV, from the bible extract sheet appendix 1 or PPT slide 26.

Discussion
What does this tell us about God? Unpack that God loves all people and that no one is unnoticed by God. **How might this change the way we see and respond to people in trouble?** Encourage the children to self-consciously see and remember people who have had to leave their homes.

Prayer craft activity 'Lament at the Shoreline' (PPT slide 27) Adapted from SFAR 'The God Who Sees Me'
Materials - in advance of the lesson create a shoreline using materials like hessian, netting, voile to represent the sand and the sea. Scatter with stones, sand and shoreline objects. Scissors, card cut into stone shapes or workbook sheet 4 stone template, pens.

Instructions
1. Discuss wide range of troubles facing refugees.
2. Discuss the term lament - a biblically encouraged powerful kind of prayer which expresses our pain to God. The Bible tells us that people found comfort in bringing their pain to God and being completely honest about how they feel. When we cry out, just like Hagar, God always listens.

EASTER INSPIRATION 1

FAITH IN KIDS

Faith in Kids have a great set of Free Easter resources called Easter Explored, that includes All Age talks, Family activities and Sunday Club plans. The material is easy to follow, lively and well presented. To access the packs simply click [HERE](#)



All Age Talks

can be used alongside the Sunday school sessions or can stand-alone for your Good Friday and Easter Sunday services

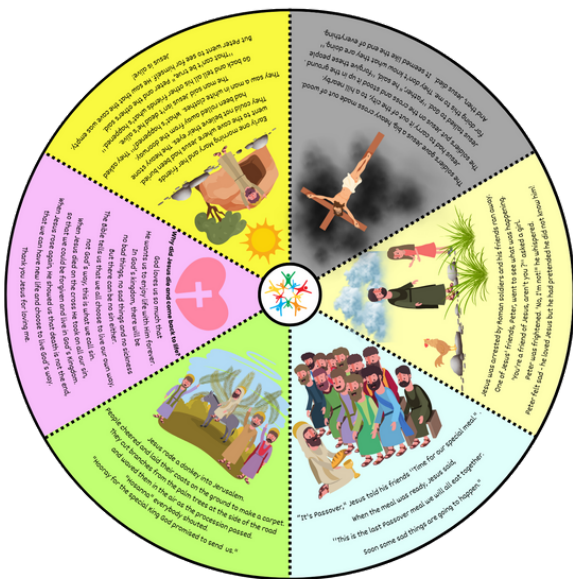
[more →](#)



Family Easter Activity Session

This event is an opportunity to welcome all to join in the chaos and fun of a family activity session and hear the wonder, and message of hope, that Jesus has done for them through willingly heading to the cross in their place

[more →](#)



EASTER STORY WHEEL

Our Easter wheel resource tells the story of Easter one segment at a time, with a final segment explaining, in simple terms, why Jesus died. The wheels can be used in a multitude of ways. You can print and pre-assemble them as gifts for families, or you can choose the black and white versions which children can colour in and assemble themselves. Click [HERE](#) to access

EDIBLE EASTER GARDEN

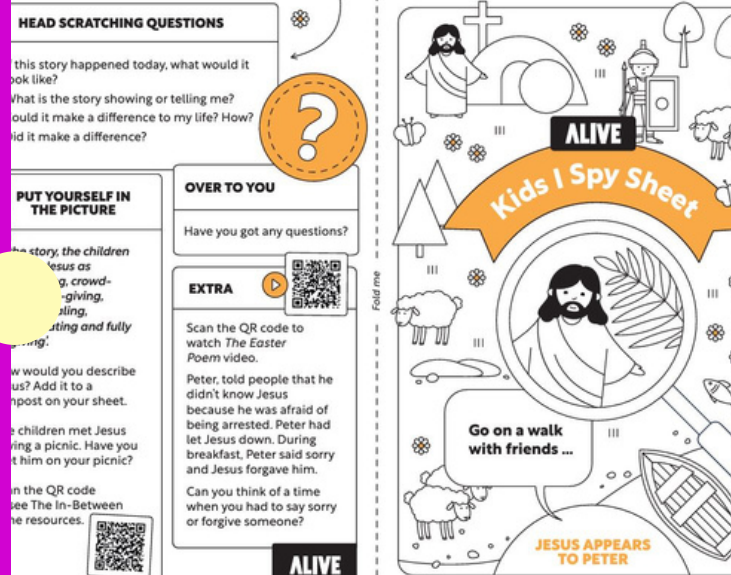
Another yummy interactive activity for Easter from Lynn, and an easy one for little hands to create, is the Edible Easter Garden. Use digestive biscuits as the base, green icing, jazzies/edible flowers to decorate, half a mini-donut and an Oreo biscuit for the stone. Remember to check for allergies



EASTER + INSPIRATION 2

BIBLE SOCIETY

These fun, interactive and thought-provoking sheets will generate conversation around the resurrection of Jesus. The 'I Spy' and 'snack sheets' explore six post-resurrection appearances. The sheets are free and accompany the Awesome Easter Surprise story which can be purchased in English, Ukrainian & Farsi. Click [HERE](#) to access.



PASKA BREAD

Why not try a Ukrainian tradition and bake some Paska Easter bread?

Paska, is a tall, cylindrical egg bread that's speckled with raisins, topped with icing and sprinkles...what's not to love! This recipe can be found on Momsdish.com but a simple Google search will uncover plenty of recipes to choose from. Click [HERE](#) to access the recipe featured.

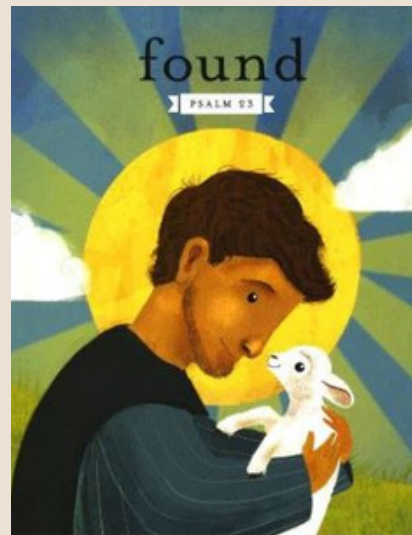
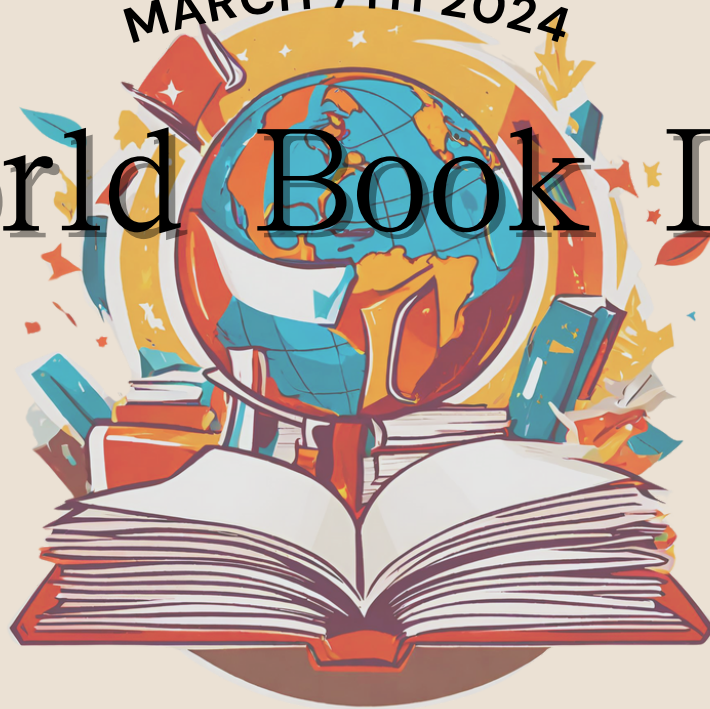
SCRIPTURE UNION

Easter Matters is a free resource that includes: 62 pages of ideas, activities and inspiration. There are links to audio Bible stories written by Bob Hartman, songs and so much more. There is a wealth of material for you to use either in Family services, Easter holiday camps or just at home with you family. Click [HERE](#) to access everything.

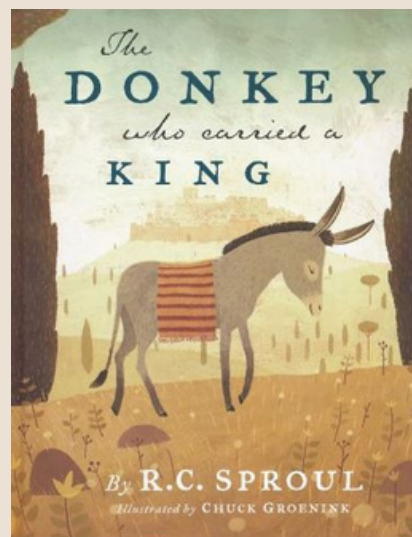


MARCH 7TH 2024

World Book Day



We love World Book Day in our house. Since November, our daughter has chosen her character for the day and is eagerly awaiting March 7th! As it falls in Spring, it's a perfect opportunity to share with you some book suggestions for the children in your life, whether at church or home. While there are countless fantastic books to recommend, this time we've narrowed it down to just three! Even better, there's an amazing 10% discount on any book for any age, courtesy of the very kind John at [Teach Solas](#). Simply use the code **irelandreads24** at checkout to enjoy the offer!



First up, is a beautifully illustrated book from Sally Lloyd Jones who was behind the creation of the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Found is a gentle book that rewords Psalm 23 and takes children on a journey through faith, hearing the reassuring words of comfort from this Psalm.

Found is part of a series of books that explore different Psalms including: **Near** (Psalm 139), **Known** (Psalm 139) and **Happy** (Psalm 92)

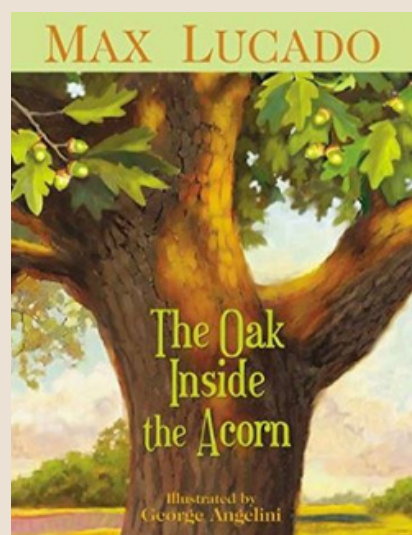
The second book may be familiar to some of you, but is always worth highlighting again, especially around Easter.

The Donkey who carried a King by RC Sproul. The story is told of Davey, a young Donkey who is chosen to carry Jesus through Jerusalem.

The story brings readers along as Davey follows in the footsteps of Jesus all the way to the cross, and helps us to consider God's amazing unconditional love.

The final book is a firm favourite in our home, not least of all because our son's name means Mighty Oak.

The Oak Inside The Acorn, by the wonderful Max Lucado, tells the story of an acorn who wonders what his purpose is - he can't grow oranges, or flowers, and nothing seems to come from his branches at all. As we read, we begin to see the Oak tree develop and fulfil his true purpose.





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CONNECT WITH US

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT

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