

Suggested Activities for Messy Church; Jesus enters Jerusalem

1. Cooking
 - a. Ginger and date cakes
 - b. Flapjacks
2. Making playdough
3. Making a donkey
4. Making a palm tree
5. Story of Palm Sunday
6. Puzzles and games
<http://www.dltk-bible.com/games.htm>
7. Colouring page
<https://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?t=https://www.coloring.ws/bible/jesus/palmsunday.gif>
8. Holy Week in a box instructions
Further instructions in separate PDF

Ginger and date cakes

We are suggesting a recipe with dates, which grow on date palms, to remind you that Sunday is Palm Sunday. You can usually buy a block of dried dates from the supermarket shelf with cooking ingredients. Otherwise use sultanas or currants or chopped candied peel.

Ingredients:

180g self-raising flour

90g chopped dates or sultanas

A pinch of salt
powder

45g crystallised ginger or a teaspoon of ginger

90g margarine

1 beaten egg

90g sugar

Milk to mix

Method:

1. Sift the flour and salt into a bowl or food processor and rub in the margarine.
2. Stir in the sugar, dates and ginger, then mix in the egg and sufficient milk to form a stiff dropping consistency.
3. Spoon into cake cases in a bun tin or place in rocky heap on a greased baking sheet.
4. Bake in a fairly hot oven (Gas Mark 5 or 190C)



Flapjacks

If you have no flour in the house you can always make flapjack.

Ingredients:

75g margarine

2 tablespoons of golden syrup or black treacle

75g soft brown sugar

150g porridge oats

Method:

1. Lightly grease a shallow 18cm/7 inch square tin.
2. Put margarine and syrup or treacle in a saucepan. Heat gently until the margarine has melted. Remove from heat.
3. Stir in sugar and rolled oats. Mix well.
4. Spread mixture evenly into tin.
5. Bake in the centre of a moderate oven (Gas Mark 4 or 180C) for 30 minutes
6. Remove from oven. Leave to cool in tin for 5 mins.
7. Cut into 4 strips down tin and 3 across to make 12 bars. Leave in tin until cold. Break into bars

If you can resist the temptation to eat it straightaway, it will go nice and gooey after a few days kept in a tin.

Easy playdough

You will need:

1 cup of water

1 tablespoon of cooking oil

2 teaspoons of cream of tartar

Half a cup of salt

Food colouring (optional)

Place all the ingredients in a saucepan at a low heat.

Stir continuously until the mixture thickens to a firm dough texture.

Kept in a plastic bag in the fridge this playdough will keep for weeks.

Making a donkey

You will need: corrugated cardboard

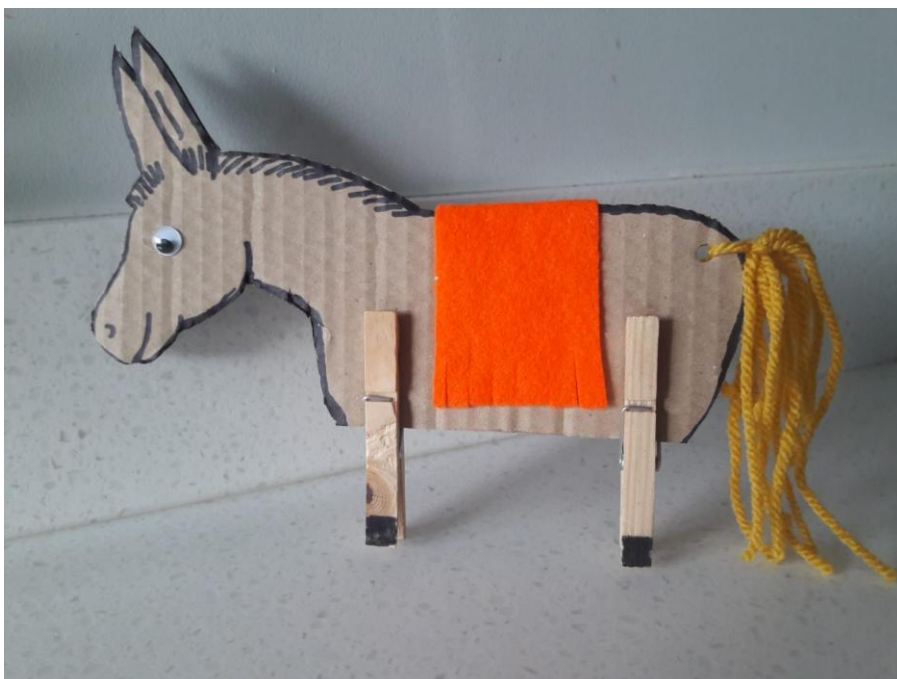
2 wooden pegs (for the legs)

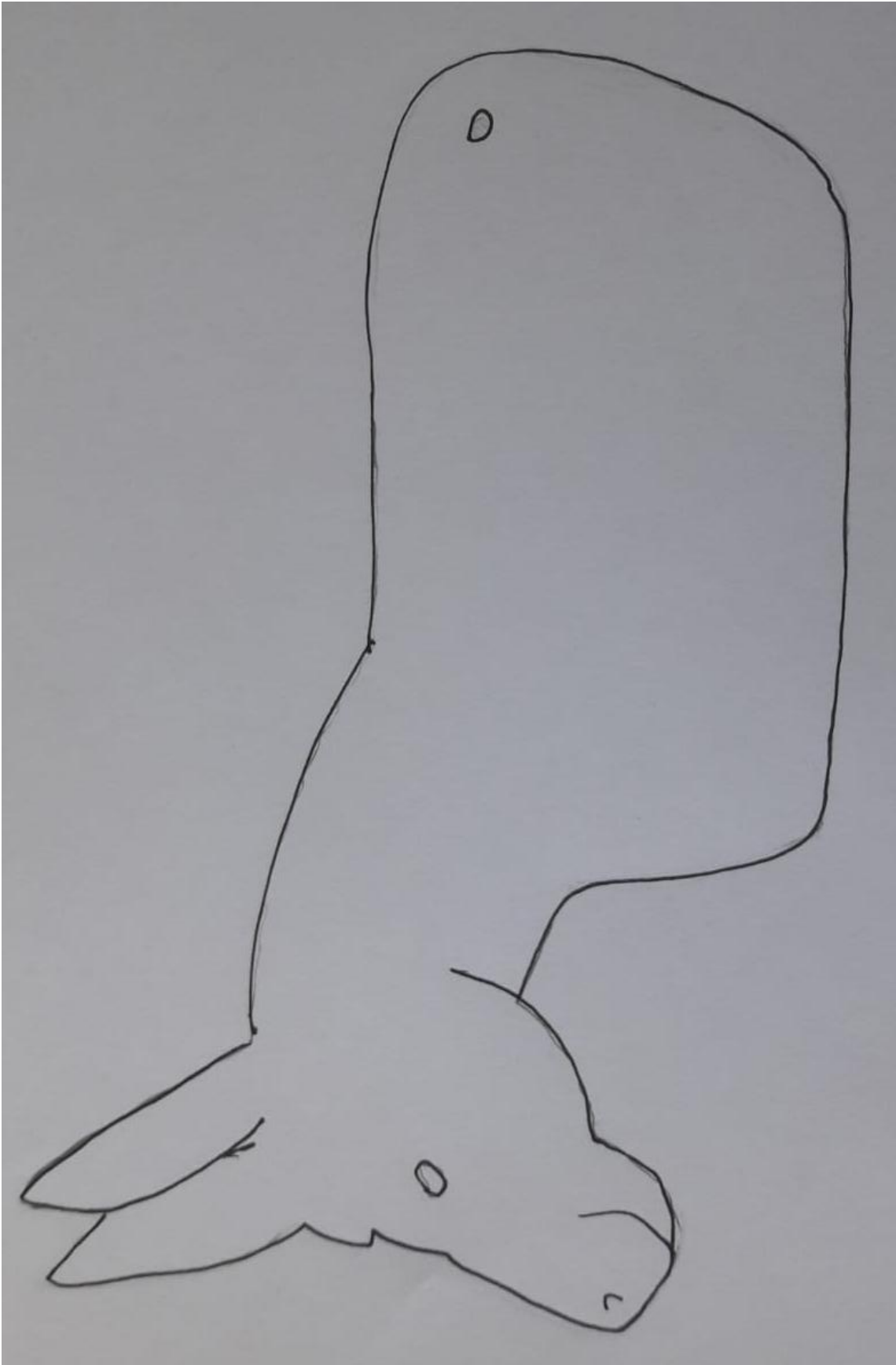
A small piece of material

Some wool (for the tail)

Black felt tip pen

Donkey template (on next page)





Easy Palm Tree

Take 3 sheets of green A4 paper and roll the long side into a cylinder about 2cm in diameter.

Secure with sticky tape to about 2/3 of the length.

Cut about 5 slits vertically down to about one third of the length (the bit without the sticky tape)

Trim the leaves by rounding off the corners (optional)

Pull the little strips and fold to make it look like a palm tree.

Have it ready for waving during the story.



Story of Palm Sunday

As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem, he asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a donkey tied up. Untie it, and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the donkey, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it and He will bring it back as soon as He's finished with it.'"

So, the disciples did as Jesus asked. They found the donkey tied at a doorway just as Jesus had said. As they were untying it, some people were standing nearby visiting. They didn't recognize the men and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying the donkey?"

They replied just as Jesus had told them to. Explaining that the Lord needed it, the people let them go.

When they brought the donkey to Jesus, some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. They did this out of respect for Jesus. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem.

As He was travelling, some people saw Jesus coming and came running towards Him. They had heard He might be coming and they wanted to see him because he had just helped a dead man come back to life.

One by one, they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people that weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down.

These people knew that Jesus was special. It was like when a King or Queen would come to town, and people would roll out a red carpet for him or her to step on. This is what these people did for Jesus when they laid down their coats and branches.

As they got even closer to the town, more and more people noticed Jesus. A crowd surrounded Him and started to shout praises to Him for all the miracles He had done: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!"

The word Hosanna means *save us*. They said this because Jesus was helping them and doing amazing things. They wanted to praise Him, and they wanted Him to keep helping them.

Some religious leaders heard the crowd praising God. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?"

The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention from the people. They wanted to be the most important, but everyone was listening to Jesus instead.

Jesus replied, "If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!" Even the rocks knew that He was God; after all, Jesus did make them.

Now Jesus could see Jerusalem and it made Him very sad. He came to help the people, but no one realized that He was God, and they didn't accept Him.

Holy Week In A Box Instructions



A Journey Through Holy Week

Holy Week in a Box uses simple objects tucked into a small box, along with scripture, to tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Materials

- Small box
- Wooden figure or Duplo/playmobil figure
- Paper palms or green paper/card to cut some out
- 3 coins
- Felt tip pen
- Pipe cleaner
- Piece of white cloth

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.