

Deeper Learning in **CHRISTIANITY**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

Presenter: Helen Matter, Diocesan Schools' Adviser

The journey of life and death



- Where would you peg the word 'death'?
- Death comes to everyone. What happens next is a matter for faith. What different words might people put up?
- Albert was a gardener. He also rang the bells
- How did people pass on the news of Albert's death? Which words suggest death is not the end?

Life after death?

- **“Don’t kid yourself that you’re going to live again after you’re dead; you’re not. Make the most of the one life you’ve got. Live it to the full.”
(Richard Dawkins)**
- **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”
(Jesus - Bible: John 11 v.25)**

**Not
exit
but
surrexit**



It's passed on! This parrot is no more! It has ceased to be! It's expired and gone to meet its maker! This is a late parrot! It's a stiff! Bereft of life, it rests in peace!

If you hadn't nailed him to the perch, he would be pushing up the daisies! Its metabological processes are of interest only to historians!

It's hopped the twig! It's shuffled off this mortal coil! It's run down the curtain and joined the choir invisible!

This.... is an *ex-parrot!*



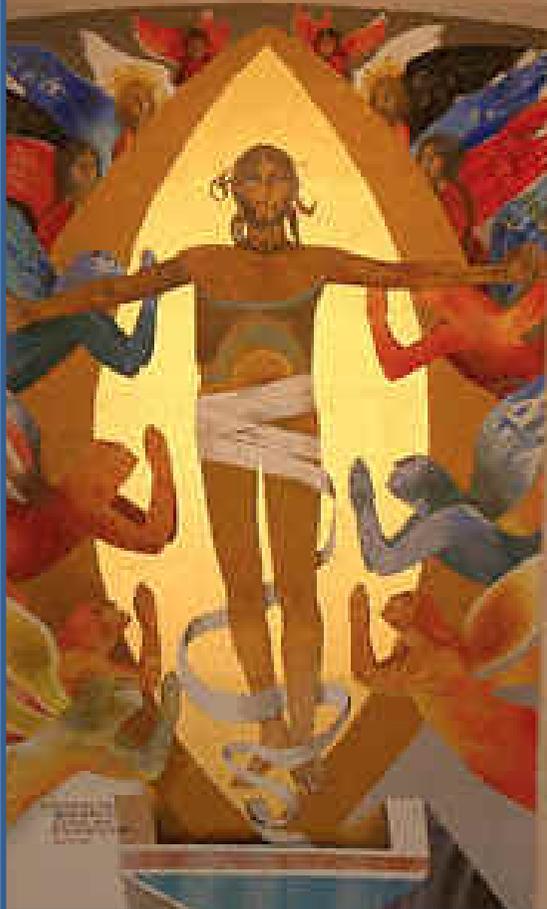
I worked in a parish in the East Midlands. ministering to those who were suffering, dying and bereaved.

Ordinary people, often in the final stages of their lives, explained to me how their faith in the resurrection transformed their lives and brought new hope to their sufferings and losses...

It helped them cope with the sorrows, the ambiguity and pain of life... Christ's resurrection was the firm foundation for their hope that all who trusted in him would finally rise with him and be with him ... so they faced suffering with dignity and serenity, knowing that those who suffer with Christ will be glorified with him.

To put it simply: ordinary Christian believers helped me realise that the resurrection changed the way we lived, not just the way we think.

Alister McGrath in 'The Christian Life and Hope' / Christian Belief for Everyone series (SPCK) – Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University – author of 'The Dawkins Delusion' and 'Why God wont' go away'



Date: 1998

**Artist: Arcabas
(Jean-Marie Pirot)**

**Resurrection,
St Paul de Meythet
Church**



Teaching about: Resurrection

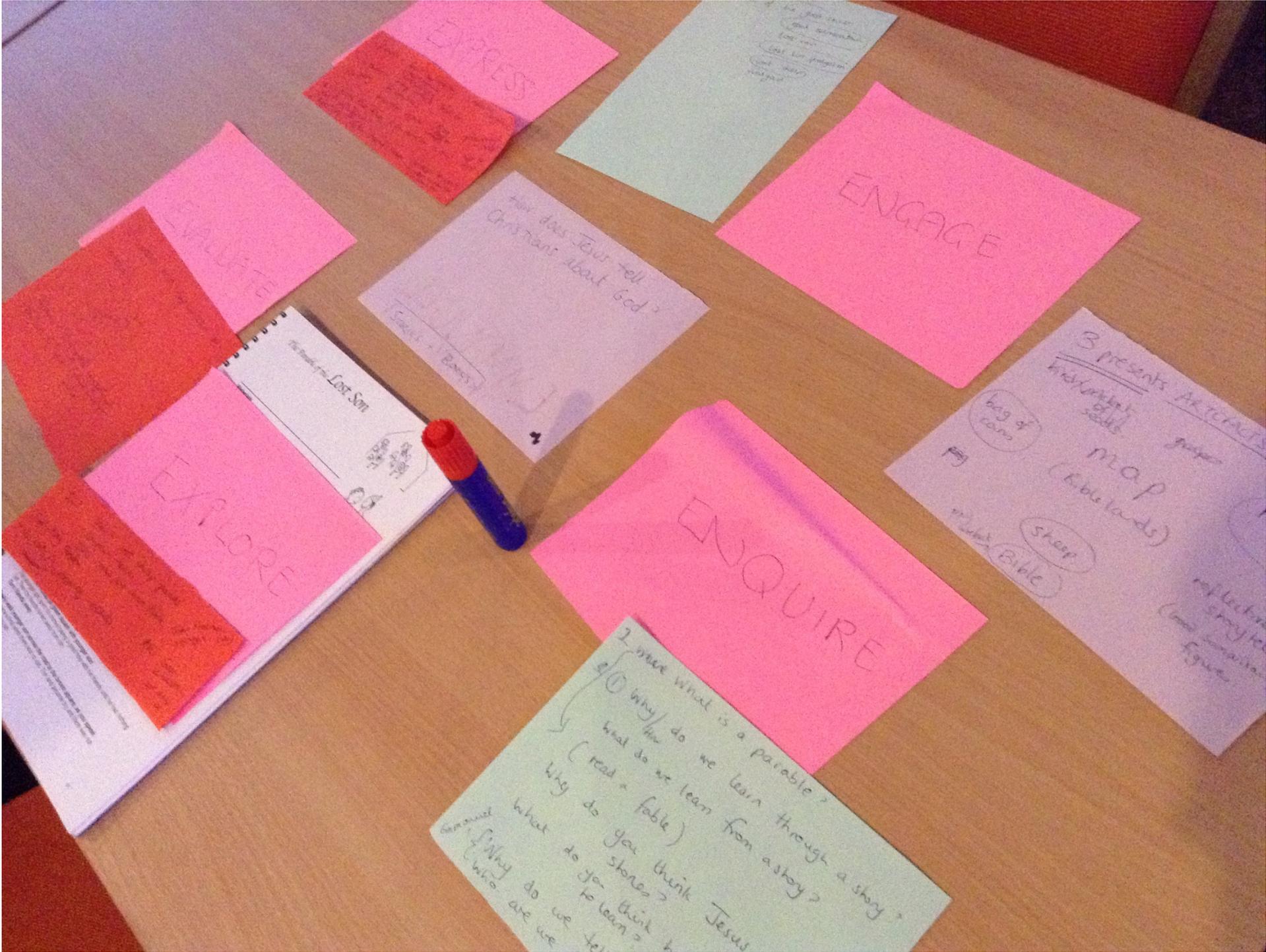
- What is the difference between surfing and diving?
- In discussing how to approach 'resurrection' or any religious concept ... what would surfing imply? What about diving?



Going deeper

- Take a key belief or concept and unpack it.
- Make links with the children's experience.... *It's a bit like*
- Introduce a mystery / picture / story etc to generate questions
- Track the concept in Biblical or other Christian text, practice and daily life
- Check your understanding and share your learning





EXPRESS

do you think
you should
let us
let us
let us

ENGAGE

How does Jesus tell
Christians about God?

3 presents: ACTS
kinds of seeds
map (Bible lands)
sheep
Bible
reflections
story for
love
figure

EVALUATE

EXPLORE

ENQUIRE

2. What is a parable?
Why do we learn through a story?
What do we learn from a story?
What do you think Jesus
do you think
to learn?
Why do we
are we

Lost Son
0.5

Unpacking Christianity in EYFS

Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?



The **EMMANUEL** Project: Teaching Christianity effectively in Reception



Helen Matter, Diocesan Schools' Adviser, helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org / 01473 298570

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KS1 Christianity: Symbols and Artefacts



What are the best symbols of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter?

Key Stage 1 RE

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KS2 Christianity: Symbols and Religious Expression

Is the cross a symbol of love, sacrifice or commitment for Christians?



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KS2 Christianity: Journey of Life and Death



Should believing in the resurrection change how Christians view life and death?

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What is a bridge and how can it help?

- We think about the bridge in 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'.
- We build our own bridges.
- We use special words: help, rescue and save.
- We may hear a Buddhist story about a bridge.

ENGAGE



Why is a cross a special symbol for Christians?

- We make shapes with our bodies!
- We try making a cross shape.
- Tom and Tessa show us some crosses
- We learn about making the sign of the cross



ENQUIRE



We spoke about the cross being an important symbol to Christians and went on our own cross hunt. We then made our own crosses for a display.

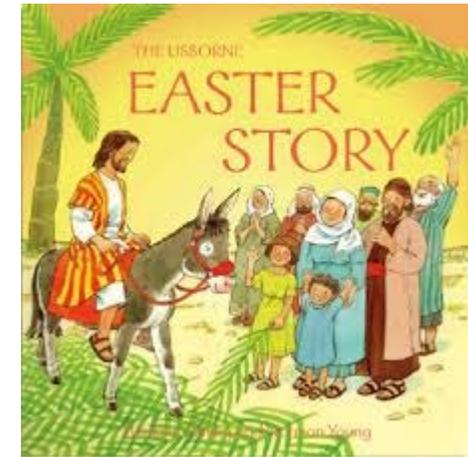


What Bible Stories do Tom and Tessa hear?

- Tom and Tessa are given a palm cross at church.
- We dress up and re-enact the story of Palm Sunday from the Bible.
- We try out a 'hosanna' song.
- We learn of Jesus' death and connect it to the cross symbol.



EXPLORE: BIBLICAL NARRATIVE



We learnt about 'The Easter Story' and acted it out...

What happens in Tom and Tessa's church?

- Good Friday and eating Hot Cross buns
- Easter Saturday and making Easter Gardens
- Easter Sunday, the Easter shout and an egg hunt
- Organising an Easter photo-shoot



EXPLORE: CHURCH



We made our own
Easter Gardens and
ate hot cross buns...





When Puddles' friend Arthur goes missing in the week before Easter, Puddles is worried and sad. We enjoyed finding out what she had to celebrate on Easter Sunday...



How are Tom and Tessa taught to live their lives?

- The Easter Garden is broken
- Whose fault is it?
- Mum acts as a bridge, like Jesus.
- The cross is a symbol of forgiveness and fresh starts
- Re-making the Easter Garden



EXPLORE: CHRISTIAN LIVING

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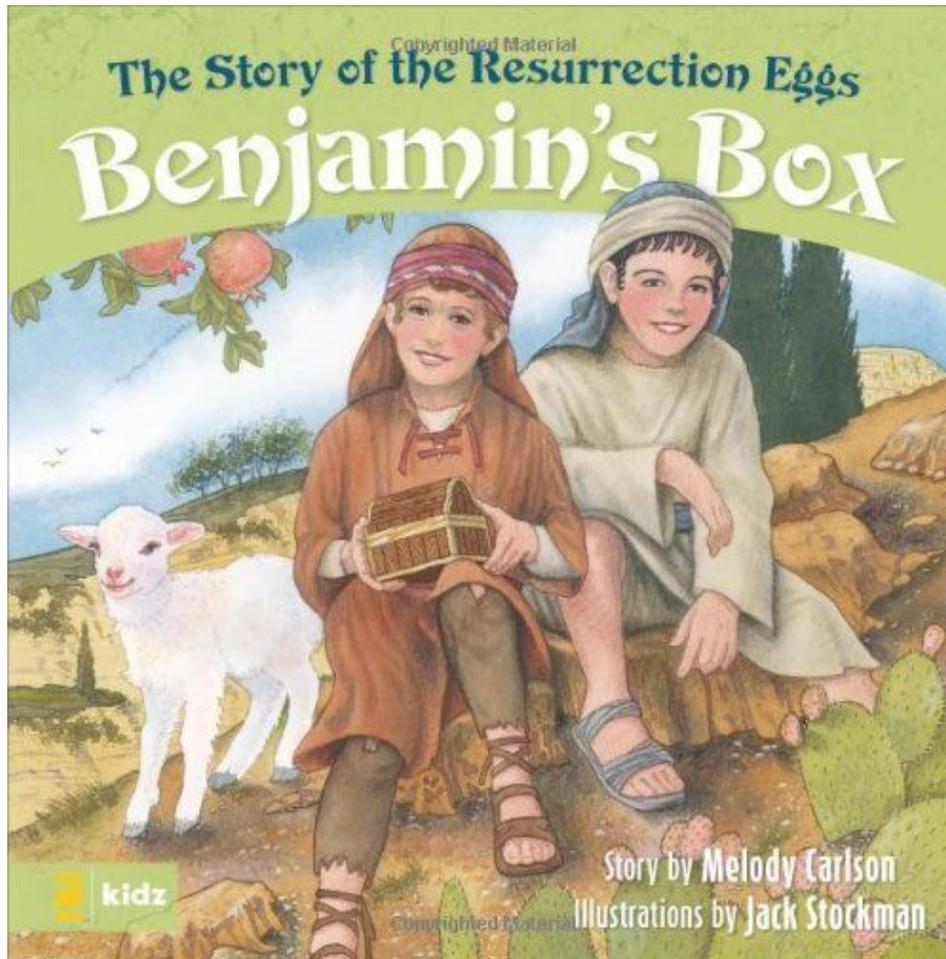
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2nd April '14



We found
egg shapes
Each egg
had a
part of the story.





What are the treasures in Benjamin's Box? Come along with Benjamin and see.

Like all boys and girls, Benjamin is very, very curious. When Jesus comes to Jerusalem, Benjamin decides to follow him and find out who he really is.

At first, Benjamin thinks Jesus is a teacher, then a king. At last, he learns the good news



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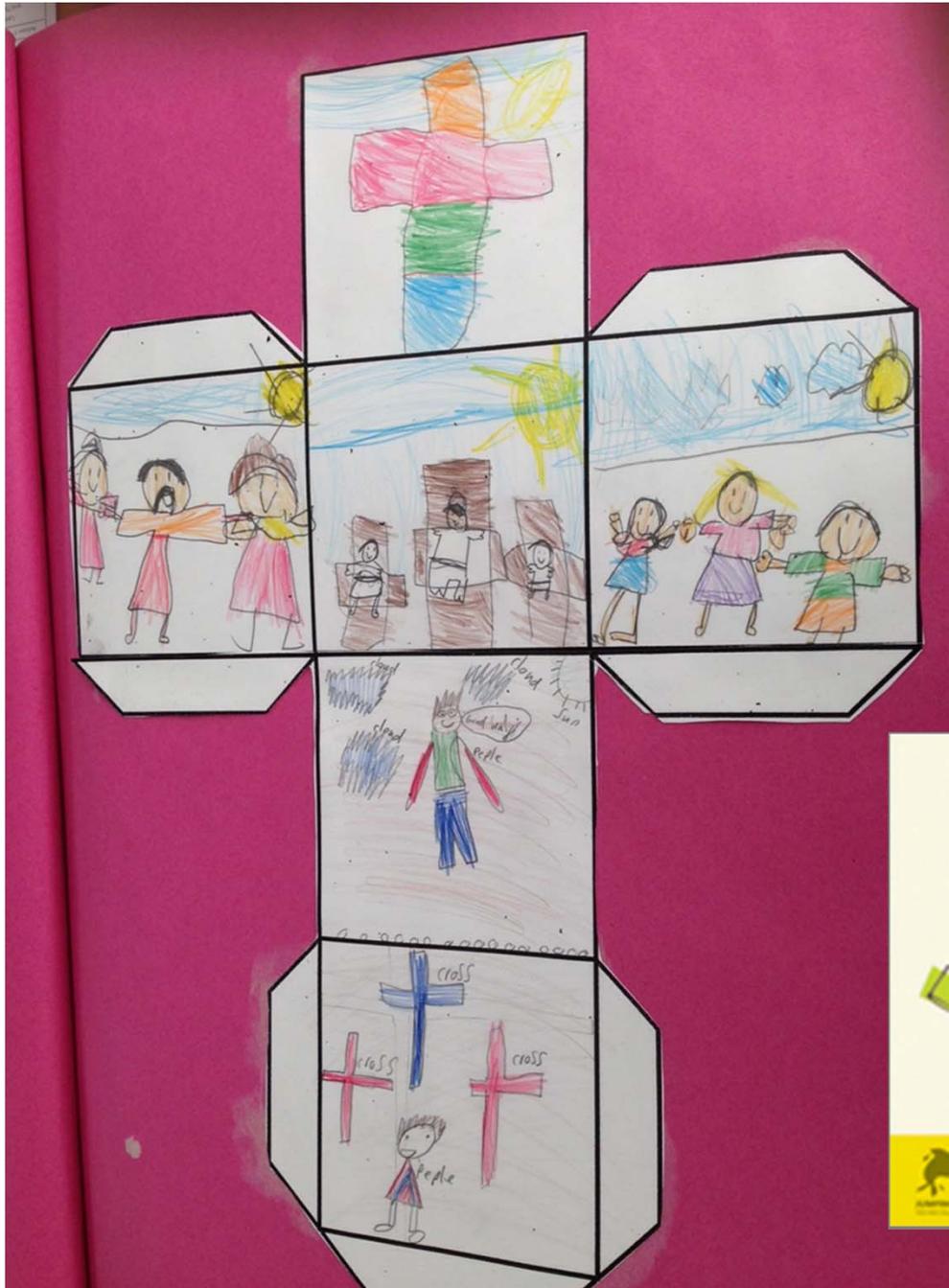
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