

Issue 51 - Easter 2025

It only seems a short while since I last sent out Sunrise but that was because I had sent it late due to a move over Christmas. I have settled in and am as busy as ever.

We are experiencing a lot of sunshine at the moment and it is lovely to see lots of signs of spring, daffodils everywhere, lambs in the fields and leaves returning to the trees.

As I write this I realise it is the start of the school holidays already and I hope you are enjoying the break.

The magazine has an article about Palm Sunday and a picture to go with it. On the back is a puzzle also based on this time of year.

I hope you have a go at the Easter activity. I would love to see some photos of your creations. Don't forget you can photocopy these if you don't want to damage your copy of the magazine.

Towards the back of the magazine is some information about events at Bradford New Church, Wellspring House and at Purley Chase and there are details about the Creative Exhibition. Don't forget to get your entries in, in time. I always enjoy seeing what you get up to with this.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

Riding on a donkey (read Matthew 21 v1-11)

You probably don't know this but I love Eeyore! Why? I guess I like him because he is a stubborn and clumsy creature who gets picked on and I feel sorry for him.

In our Palm Sunday story today Jesus sent two of his disciples to find the donkey and it appears that the owner let them take it willingly.

It probably seems incredible, doesn't it, that Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem, that day, on a donkey. A donkey seems such an insignificant animal to us, but in biblical times it was not so. It was seen as traditional for a King to ride into his capital city on a donkey. This simple animal was seen as a sign of peace. However it was rather different if you were seen riding on a horse as this was seen as a symbol of war.

Jesus had been preaching and performing miracles and many people put their faith in him.

We hear how Jesus sent two of the disciples to fetch him a donkey to ride. He tells them to say, 'The Lord has need of them,' should they be challenged.

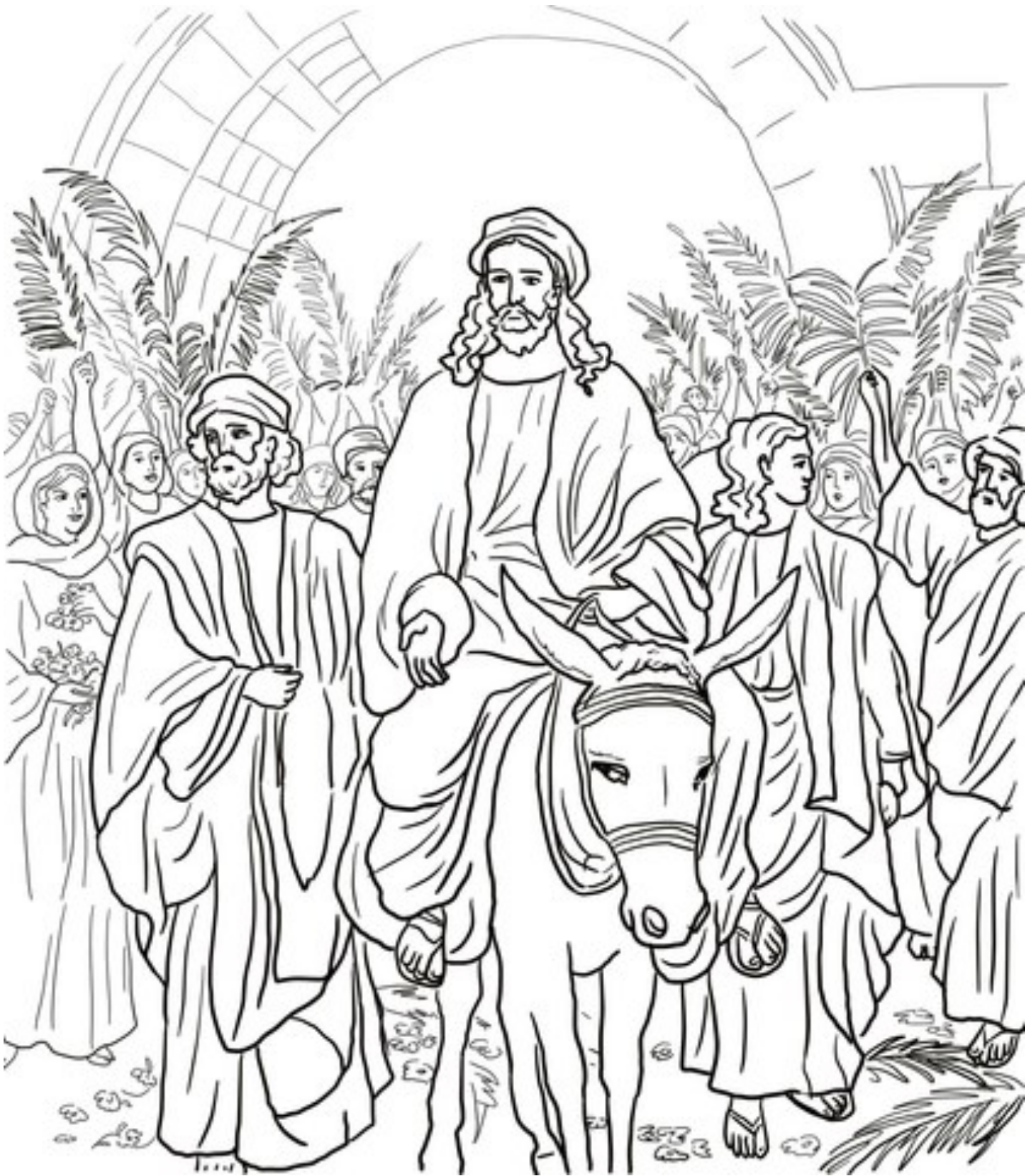
Have you ever wondered what the reaction of the owner of the colt was, when the disciples came and asked for his donkey? Was he surprised when they said the Lord has need of it or was he honoured to think that this man, called Jesus, wanted to ride his donkey? This is something that always intrigued me growing up. It always surprised me that when the disciples went, as instructed to the appointed place, there, sure enough, was a donkey tied up as if put there, specially, for this occasion. And the owner appears to accept this and lets them take the donkey. It appears he acted willingly. We may feel that what we can offer the Lord is very insignificant but far more important is our willingness to share what we do have.

So let's consider the donkey. Donkeys are stubborn creatures and they stand for our natural reason, our common sense if you will. We are like this when we choose to act selfishly putting us first and stubbornly refusing to admit it would be far better to follow the Lord's way. Instead of helping a friend we might choose to be selfish and do our own thing. Therefore we are not following the Lord, we are not being obedient to what he would want us to do, which would be, in this instance, to help our friend, just as the donkey owner showed willingness for Jesus to use his donkey that day long ago.

So on Palm Sunday Jesus rides into Jerusalem to shouts of joy from the crowds. However, sadly, later in the week things took a rather dramatic turn. The problem was that the crowds were looking for someone to fight their earthly battles but this isn't what Jesus was offering. He wants to rule our hearts. He wants us to obey him willingly. We, too, can easily change - one minute following what the Lord wants us to do but at other times slipping into more selfish ways.

So remember it isn't about how much you have to offer, it is about your willingness to share what you can and it is about offering to share rather than acting selfishly. Being willing rather than a stubborn donkey!





**"Hosanna to the Son of David!
'Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the LORD!
Hosanna in the highest!"**

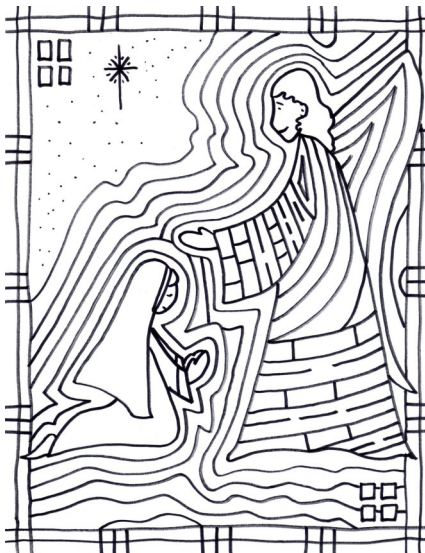
Matthew 21 v9

New Church Youth Association Creative Exhibition 2025



We hope that by now you are busy working on your entry for this year's Creative Exhibition on the theme of Angels. We have heard that some children have already completed theirs!

Entry sheets feature a wide variety of angels from stories throughout the Bible. You have a choice of not only colouring angel pictures but also drawing your own angels, creating 3D angel models or interpreting the theme in your own way - painting, embroidery, peg doll angels etc etc



Stushieart.com

Entering the exhibition is open to all ages - adults as well as children. All children who enter will receive a small reward and there will be larger prizes for the best entries. Entries will be on show at the NCYA AGM Activity Day in June and at Conference in July.

Please contact Carolyn Kennion for more information, entry sheets etc

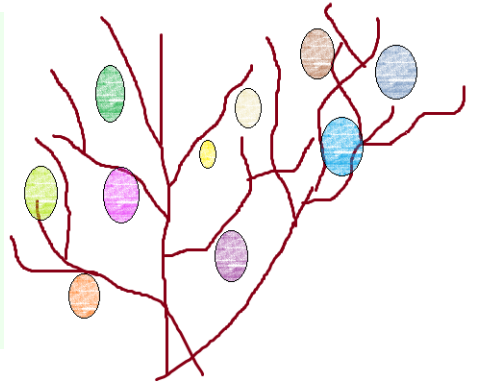
Entries should be posted to Carolyn Kennion (contact details on entry sheets and in the conference directory) to arrive by Friday 16th May at the latest.

We hope that you will enjoy learning about and creating angels and sharing them with all who see the exhibition.

Make an Easter Tree

Use a tree branch or branches (*found on the ground in woodland or park*) to be the tree and put them in a large vase or a tall pot.

Colour the Easter Egg pictures and cut out. You may want to stick them to some card to make them more solid.



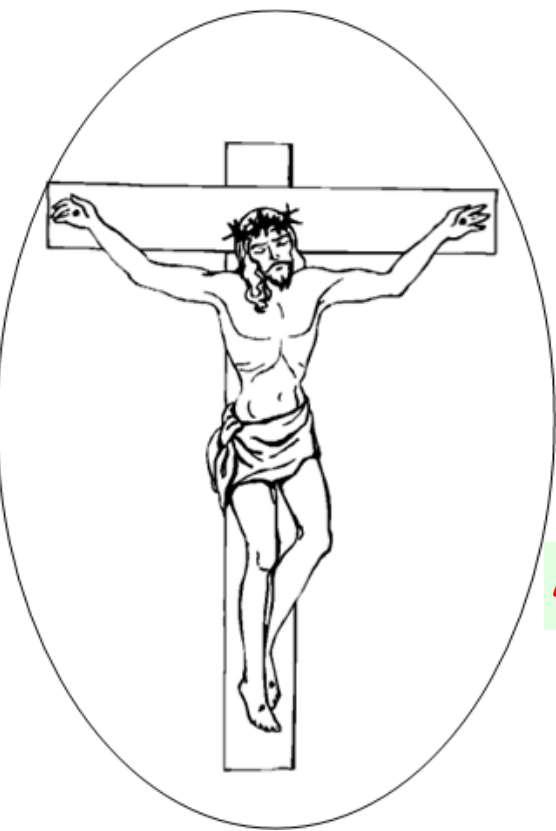
Mark 14 v12-26



John 19 v17-27



Mark 14 v32-42

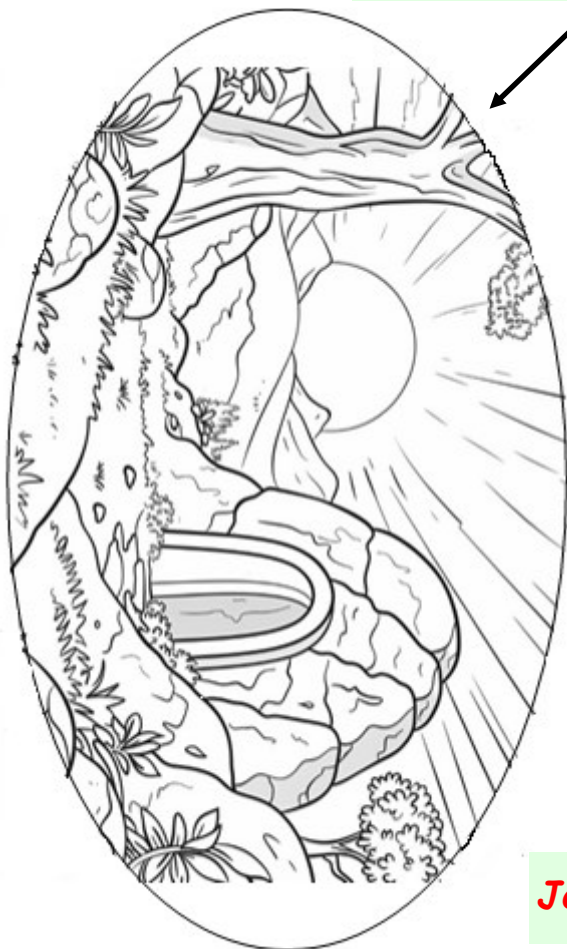


Mark 14 v33-41



If you want the egg shapes bigger why not enlarge them on a printer before colouring them in and cutting them out.

Luke 24 v1-12



John 20 v11-18

Events coming up

9-12 Summer Camp

28th-31st July

Wellspring House

Come and have a few days of learning, laughter and fun. There will be group activities, fun and games. For enquiries and to book for this please contact Jenny Jones (see Conference Directory).

International Summer Camp 13-18

27th July-2nd August

Purley Chase Centre

The New Church Summer Camp is filled with fun, friendship, and adventure!

Our camp offers a vibrant and exciting environment for young people to explore, learn, and grow. From thrilling outdoor activities to creative projects and team building challenges, every day is filled with opportunities to make memories that will last a lifetime. Join us for a summer of laughter, new experiences, and endless possibilities!

Please visit www.newchurchcamps.org.uk for further details. Book directly with Purley Chase on their website: www.purleychasecentre.org.uk

New Church Youth Association AGM & Creative Day

Saturday 28th June 2025

2.15pm-5.30pm

Bradford New Church

Come and join the NCYA for an afternoon learning about what we do and enjoying the creative art on display in our Exhibition. We will be holding a creative session on angels after our Annual General Meeting. Everyone welcome. There will be some light refreshments towards the close of the event. Please keep an eye out in Enews and on our website (www.ncya.generalconference.org.uk) for further information

Gwendolen's Puzzle Page

The Triumphal Entry

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"
Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV).



T J J E E U Y S R G J H Q K L
H P U A E E X Z P I H G I H O
F V O A K P B N K O D W G G R
O S U N K J P O V A K I E H D
A K O F E V I L L A G E N D R
L D D I H O S A N N A C N G V
B D I S C I P L E S D G T Y R
R E P T J E R U S A L E M N I
A I F I I P R O P H E T K L S
N Y C O L T J V K E E P L E S
C J E S U S P R I O X I V K T
H O J Y P J P K N D F I A N E
E G E N T L E K G L L O U R F
S H Y Q C T O D U O L O Y N P
B L E S S E D F C C M S H J Y

KING	JERUSALEM	LORD	BRANCHES	VILLAGE
DISCIPLES	FOAL	BLESSED	SPOKEN	FULFILL
GENTLE	MOUNT	HOSANNA	COLT	RIDING
CLOAKS	JESUS	DONKEY	PROPHET	OLIVES