

# Attracting Attention: The Easter Discovery Trail



Trebullett Methodist Chapel, just south of Launceston in Cornwall, has a small congregation of about twenty people. Several community-based activities take place in the chapel hall but we wanted to let the wider community know that the chapel is there for anybody and has a message which is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.

Whatever we did had to attract attention and also convey information about the Christian message. After much prayer and conversation we decided to create an Easter Discovery Trail around the local villages with displays at key points depicting scenes from Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Jesus washing the disciples' feet, the last supper, the betrayal by Judas, the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, the trial of Jesus, Peter's denial, the crucifixion and the garden tomb.

Several people volunteered to host a display in their garden and it was agreed that the scenes of the crucifixion and the garden tomb would be displayed at the chapel. We approached Trekenner Primary School and were delighted when they agreed to make the display for Palm Sunday.

The specific details of each scene were decided by those taking part and they were accompanied by captions explaining the events of Holy Week. This resulted in a very individual and interesting Easter Trail. We wanted to make it interactive and attract families so stamps and a trail leaflet were left at each display, and any child who collected all the stamps was given an Easter Story book and an Easter egg at church on Easter Day.

The school took a very active part and spent a morning following the trail. Beginning at the chapel they were introduced to the story of Easter before they visited each of the displays. They all enjoyed the morning, agreeing that because it brought the story to life they had been inspired to ask many relevant questions. It was a great learning experience for them.

The whole experience culminated in an Easter Praise Service at Trebullett Methodist Chapel on Easter Sunday morning. All ages took part and we felt that it was a fitting culmination to the events of the week.

We were delighted with our Easter Trail as many people were observed stopping to look at the displays. The children learned about Holy Week and Easter as part of their curriculum, the Easter message was shared with the local community and we were very much encouraged with the response.

Revd Johanna Smart

On Good Friday, Lindford Methodist Church hosted a community day to share the Easter message of love and hope.

Two donkeys, Nelson and Morris, provided more than sixty free rides to local children and the church hall hosted various Easter craft stations, including an Easter cross and card decoration, and there was an Easter egg hunt.

The church hosted a series of flowers arrangements depicting four parts of the Easter story, from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection and visitors were given goody bags containing invitations to the Easter celebration service as worship music played in the background.

The day became a great witness for the wider community in which the Easter story was brought to life. After a blessed and successful first event, we plan to hold another in 2019.

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