

Diocese of  
Newcastle



## A guide for how to run it

The Resurrection Trail is a great way to share the story of Easter with families (churched and not churched). It involves a 5 location Treasure Hunt around a church/churchyard or community. At each location, families have to find an object, listen to a story, and are given a question and a challenge to explore at home. It is designed for families to access by themselves and everything they need is found on a leaflet that you can email or give out.

The 5 Resurrection stories are:

**Empty Tomb** (John 20: 1-9)

**Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene** (John 20: 11-18)

**Jesus appears to Thomas** (John 20:24-29)

**Jesus appears to the fishermen** (John 21: 1-13)

**Jesus appears on the Emmaus Road** (Luke 24: 13-35)

These are stories that families may be less familiar with but communicate important parts of the 'good news' of Jesus in new ways.

The Resurrection Trail pack has been designed so as many people, churches and parishes can run it as possible; and to be easy to implement.

In the pack there is:

- This leader's guide
- A guide for families – able to be edited to include the details and dates for your location and church/community
- A discovery sheet for each story for you to print and laminate – for both hiding and for displaying in windows (A4 size and A5 size versions)
- Video stories (some from within the Diocese) embedded using QR codes
- A sample publicity poster where you can tailor it to your own church/community

You will need to provide:

- 5 locations where you can hide a package (A5 size)
- 5 ziplock bags
- The object that matches each story. Suggested items are:-
  - Story 1 The Empty Tomb – a rock
  - Story 2 Jesus appears to Mary - an Easter Garden with open tomb
  - Story 3 Jesus appears to Thomas – a ring doughnut
  - Story 4 Jesus appears to the fishermen – Haribo freaky fish or a bathtime net and fish
  - Story 5 Jesus appears on Emmaus Road – small shoe or footprint
- A clue to the location of the next object (for each story)
- Packets of Mini eggs
- A contact point for families to receive their prize

**Step One: decide where your Resurrection Trail** will take place - whether you want to be inside a church, in a churchyard or within your parish/community.

**Step Two: find 5 locations** where you can hide a package (A5 size).

Here are some suggestions to get you thinking:

Empty Tomb – In a Church: the Altar. In the community: churchyard/cemetery  
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene - In a Church: next to an Easter Garden. In a community: in garden/park/village green

Jesus appears to Thomas – in a Church: Pulpit. In a community: somewhere where there is a hole - in a wall or empty phone box.

Jesus appears to the fishermen – in a Church: font. In a community - river/pond/water

Jesus appears on the Emmaus Road – in a Church: near the church path. In a community: on a path/street.

For each location you need to devise a 'clue' to that location that can be used to help the families find the next location. This is then written onto the bottom of the discovery sheets before they are laminated. The first clue will be on the handout you give to families to get them started.

Another alternative in the community, for some or all of the locations, is to use people's homes or local businesses – as long as they have windows facing the street as you walk by. This can be a great way of making this a community thing. You would need their permission to stick an object and an A4 card in their window.

**Step Three: Decide if you want to offer Easter Eggs and/or copies of the Bible Society's Seriously Surprising Story booklet** (which is a colour picture

book version of the Emmaus Road story, the last story people would have watched) as prizes. The booklets cost £1 each if you offer 10 or more. Easter Eggs can usually be found at £1 each.

We suggest that families photograph each of the 5 objects they find and if they send you the photos (email/text/WhatsApp), they win an Easter Egg. This is a good way to encourage interaction with the Church and see who has taken part! In addition, you could give them a copy of the Seriously Surprising Story booklet.

If so, you might like to order the booklets – at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bib-000369/>

The Diocese of Newcastle's Children and Youth Team has parish grants available to cover the cost of Resurrection Trails (booklets and easter eggs). All requests welcomed – email Rachel Scheffer at [r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)

**Step Four: Decide when** you want to run your Resurrection Trail from. Despite this being based around Jesus' resurrection, we suggest you run it in Holy Week and in Easter Week, but it is up to you.

**Step Five: Publicise your Resurrection Trail.** Create your own poster or add your details to the text boxes on the sample poster. Then print and distribute in hard copy or by email and social media. Why not record a short video about it and ask your local school(s) to show the children in an Assembly – or tell them in person (if permitted!)

**Step Six: Prepare the packs for each location.** For each location you will need to hide a ziplock pack (keeps everything dry) with the story object and the discovery sheet. You will need to provide the object, print out and write on your clue to the next location by the 'Where to go next?' section at the bottom and then laminate the discovery sheets.

**Step Seven: Get the prizes in!** The clue for the last story (Road to Emmaus) should lead to a hoard of mini eggs (in packets). So you will need lots of packets of mini eggs and a waterproof container to put them in. Also you will need some Easter Eggs if you are offering prizes.

**Step Eight: hide the ziplock bags and mini eggs** the day before you start! Sit back and enjoy a hot cross bun!

**Step Nine:** we suggest **periodically checking** the 5 ziplock bags remain in place and if any of the mini eggs need re-stocking over the period you are running the Trail.