

# Seasonal Evangelism

## ideas for Lent

### AIM

Here are some ideas for Lent in Evangelism Year – or next year if you need to 'think ahead'.

### INTRODUCTION

Lent can be a good time for sharing our faith story as it plays an important part in our life together.

### Some ideas and resources to get you started

Look in Eggs and Ashes by Ruth Burgess from the Iona Community for ideas associated with Lent [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com). Although Ruth is primarily concerned with providing good liturgy, prayer and prayer based Lenten discipline these offer a good starting point for potential faith sharing events.

The charter for evangelism on the back page of the Exploring Evangelism Booklet reminds us that we share faith 'with prayer' and 'through stories; and 'in a variety of ways'. What you already plan to do in Lent can be the basis of your Vision4Life Evangelism Year activities.

You may run Lent groups and are perhaps planning to use Exploring Evangelism, the Vision4Life Evangelism Year booklet. More can be ordered from [tracey.hardingham@urc.org.uk](mailto:tracey.hardingham@urc.org.uk).

You may also find Hope for Easter helpful (cost £4.99 from [www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk)) as this also includes Lent ideas.

Christian Aid, Count Your Blessings is another approach to Lent which you can adapt for faith sharing. Many people do still talk about 'giving things up for Lent' or 'taking something up for Lent'. It's worth checking this out and adding it to your list of faith sharing activities ([www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk))

### PANCAKE DAY OR SHROVE TUESDAY

Food based Evangelism is very popular (watch out for those tricky allergies – label stuff clearly). A Pancake Day event could include serving and eating pancakes together, running round with pancakes in a 'race' or 'fancy dress'. Eggs and Ashes has some pancake day prayers for a short act of worship associated with Shrove Tuesday – maybe School Assembly or local Pancake House.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Could be a good day to have your church open and have a few prayer stations. 'Ideas for prayer events' is a new document from John Hall available on the Vision4life website. Prayer stations for Lent and Easter can be found under Vision4Life Prayer Year.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY

This may be a good day to invite mothers to church. Watch that you get the balance right and don't discourage people without mothers. However, we all had one and some creative ways of thinking about mothering are a good antidote to the general Mothers Day industry. Have some give always for those who come – a bag of goodies like fair trade nibbles or locally grown flowers. Remember to include a card about any planned future events like Easter or regular events like Carers and Toddlers Group if relevant. There are plenty of stories about feisty mothers in the Bible, and a service of worship for Mother's Day can be found on the Prayer Year part of the website.

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### PALM SUNDAY

A good day for a celebration of any kind. Meeting Jesus and praising him could be good themes for a worship service for all ages. Don't forget to give out palm crosses from African Palms. You can order from their website ([www.africanpalms.co.uk](http://www.africanpalms.co.uk)) where you will also find a video of people making the palms you could use. Each order includes a map of the journey made by the crosses to show how they get to UK.

### Other ideas

Please send in any ideas you have for Lent so that we can put them on the website for those thinking ahead – about next year.

### Prayer for Lent

As our Creator we come to you, ready to repent;

as our Companion we come to you, ready to make the journey with you;

as our Renewer we come to you, ready to receive your anointing.

Creator, Companion, Renewer, One Holy Life Affirming God,

be with us this Lent

as we share your story and live your life in this place.

Amen.

### EVALUATION

Evaluation is vital to the vision4life process. Please try to reflect on the year and in what way it has been transforming the church as you experience it. Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material and remember to send in your feedback to [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

### THE NEXT STEP

More new material for Evangelism Year will be appearing on the website.

Prayer Year material is still be available as is Bible Year material. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

### Acknowledgements

This material has been produced by Janet Lees Vision4Life co-ordinator for the working group.

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### HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about Evangelism Year you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: [evangelism@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:evangelism@vision4life.org.uk)