

The Legend of the Donkey's Cross

"Bring me the colt of a donkey,"

was the Master's request.

A week later Jesus was ordered crucified.

The little donkey so loved the Lord,

That he wanted to help carry the cross.

But alas, he was pushed away.

The sad little donkey waited to say good-bye until nearly all had left.

As he turned to leave, the shadow of the cross fell upon his shoulders.

And there it has remained,

A tribute to the loyalty and love

Of the humblest of God's Creatures.

(If you google "the legend of the donkey cross," you can find several versions of this story, along with pictures of the cross that the donkey carries.)

Sunday before Easter – Palm Sunday

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem for Passover, Jewish festival

People crowded the streets waving palms branches, excited and welcoming – a sign of kingship

Jesus went from walking to riding a young colt, a donkey – a sign of kingship

Hosanna! The people shouted

Unassuming part of the story, the donkey, but a gift in what it gave and used for

Reading of the Children's book *The Donkey's Tale* by Margaret Gray, Angus Hudson Ltd 1984

The legend of the donkey's cross to the truth of the cross/mark of Christ that we carry

The claims of hope and love given/marked on us through Christ

Christ's footsteps stop at the cross this week and are even nailed to the cross

The donkey carried him on Palm Sunday; Christ carries us, our sins, on the cross – our burdens