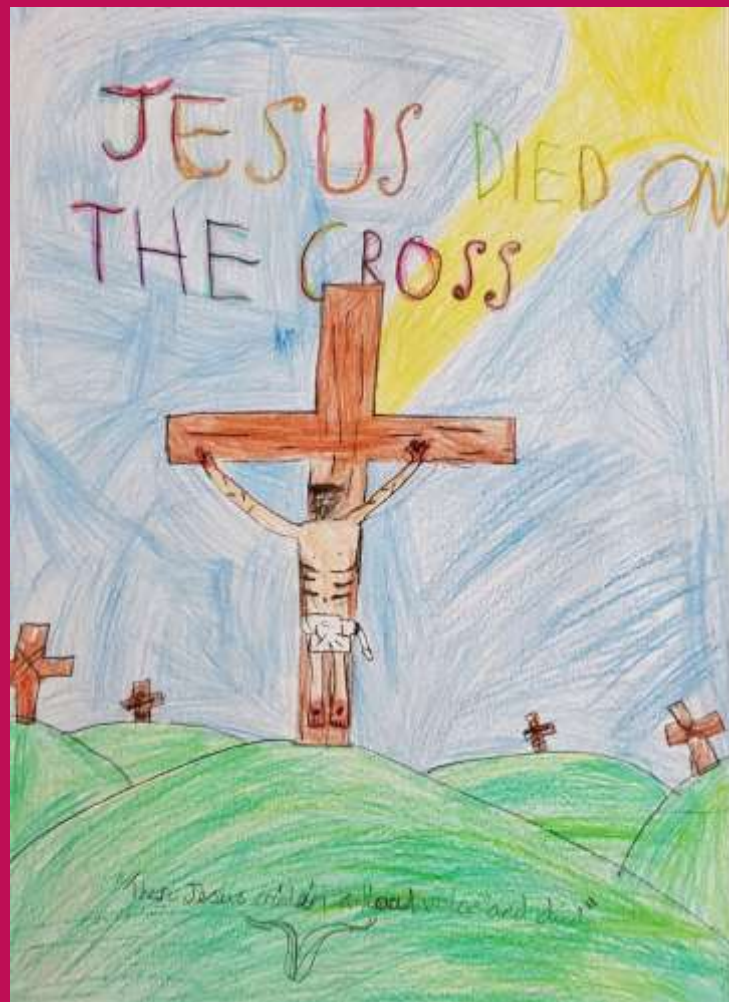


Walking the Way of the Cross

An Easter Art Trail



Then Jesus ~~died~~ ^{cried} with a
loud voice and died.



Jesus cried in a loud voice and died.



Then Jesus ~~died~~ ^{cried} in a loud voice
and died.



Then Jesus cried
in a loud voice
and then died. Mark
15:34-37.

Rubur V6



Walking the Way of the Cross

Overview

There is a tradition of walking the way of the cross. This route is called the Via Dolorosa and winds through Jerusalem's streets stopping at the places associated with the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Over time markers were erected and the route became one used by pilgrims from all over the world. Even today visitors walk the route, stopping along the way to read the appropriate section of the Bible in each place. Many churches created their own stations of the cross, sometimes as paintings and sometimes as carvings and sculptures so that those who were not able to visit the holy land could walk their own way of the cross. Traditionally a service is held in lent or holy week for people to move around the church and re-tell the story.

This website accompanies images that you will find located in your parish, perhaps on posters around the streets as an art trail, maybe as stations within the church yard or church buildings or inside or outside school. Each image has a QR code for you to scan which will take you to a page of readings, reflections, prayers and questions to help you ponder the Hope of Easter.

We hope that you enjoy your journey. If you would like to create your own stations of the cross or spend a bit more time reflecting on the way of the cross, go to the website, <https://www.adventureswithgod.life/community-trail.html> fill in your email address and postcode and we will email you with a set of colouring pages and a booklet with more detailed family reflections. On Wednesday 31st March we will post an all age worship service of the way of the cross on this page. You can watch this as a school, church or family.

Thank you to the following schools for their artwork and reflections:

- Clifton upon Dunsmore CofE Primary School
- St Nicolas CofE Primary School, Nuneaton
- Wooten Wawen CofE Primary School
- Radford Semele CofE Primary School

We hope that this resource blesses you,



April Gold

April Gold
Diocesan Director of Education

Station 1 – Praying in Gethsemane

Bible Reading

Mark 14: 32-36

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them. 'Stay here and keep watch.'

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'



Pause

Have you ever experienced walking alongside a friend going through a tough time? Perhaps they have had a fall out with another friend, a special person has died, or they are having to make a really difficult decision? Maybe you have been that person who does not know where to turn and feels so upset you really don't know what to do. That is how Jesus was feeling. He knew something terrible was going to happen, he knew that it was important that he did what God, his Father, asked him to do because it was part of a bigger plan, but it still was not easy. So Jesus went with his friends somewhere quiet and prayed. When things are hard having people who care about us just being with us, even if they don't have answers, is helpful. Putting your feelings into words and addressing them to God might also help. This is what Christians do when they pray. They ask God to listen and be alongside them. Knowing that he is there helps them to feel less alone.

Ponder

When did you last cry?

What was it that made you cry?

Who do you talk to when you feel sad?

How might you show someone else that you care when they are feeling very sad?

Have you ever prayed when you felt sad?

What might you want to tell God about today that is making you feel sad?

Station 2 – Judas Betrays Jesus

Bible Reading

Mark 14: 41-44

41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him.



Pause

Judas was one of the disciples. One of 12 men who are mentioned regularly in the gospels. He was the disciple Jesus trusted to take care of any money that they are given as they travelled around. Judas had an idea of what Jesus, as Messiah should be like. Jesus was not measuring up to his vision and so he agrees to betray him to the Jewish authorities. The signal to the guards is a kiss. Jesus is betrayed by the deepest sign of affection, a kiss.

Sometimes we are let down by those we love and trust the most. It is painful and leaves us lonely and distrusting. Jesus shares this experience. Christians believe that when you feel alone, Jesus is still with you.

Ponder

Was there a time when a friend let you down?

How did it make you feel? You might want to ask God to help you to deal with those feelings.

Have you ever let a friend down?

How did it make you feel?

How might you make that right?

What is the best way of dealing with a disagreement?

Station 3 – Jesus is condemned

Bible Reading

Mark 14: 57-64

57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. 64 "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death.



Pause

Just like Judas, the religious leaders had read all about a Messiah who was to come and restore their land. Like Judas, Jesus did not meet their expectations. The religious leaders did not like the Romans, who were in control of the land. They were hoping for a messiah who would overthrow them, but in the mean time they had a good "live and let live" relationship with the authorities. They were concerned that Jesus was stirring up the crowds who were visiting the Temple for Passover. They had seen him ride into Jerusalem to a hero's welcome. Jesus criticised the religious leaders and they were worried that the status quo would be affected if they allowed him to continue. So they arrested him and brought him to trial. Christians believe that when other people say bad things about you, Jesus knows the truth.

Ponder

Have you ever said that someone did something that they didn't?

How did it make you feel?

What would you do if you heard someone else making things up about a friend?

Station 4 – Peter denies Jesus

Bible Reading

Matthew 26: 69-74

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.



Pause

Jesus had told Peter earlier in the evening, whilst they were eating together with the other disciples, that he would deny knowing him. He predicted that Peter would do this three times that night, before the rooster crowed at dawn. Peter had been quite upset and had told Jesus, that he would never do that. Peter had bravely followed Jesus as he was arrested and taken to the High Priest's house. The other disciples ran away when the guards arrived in the garden. As Peter tries to blend in, he is asked whether he knows Jesus, afraid and wanting to be invisible he does exactly what he said he would not do. Christians believe that when you pretend to not be someone's friend, because you are scared, Jesus forgives you.

Ponder

Why do you think Peter was afraid of admitting he was a friend of Jesus?

How do you think Peter felt when he heard the Cock crowing?

Have you ever pretended to not be a friend of someone because you were afraid to admit it?

Station 5 – Jesus is judged by Pilate

Bible Reading

Mark 15: 1-5, 12-14

So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. 2 “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

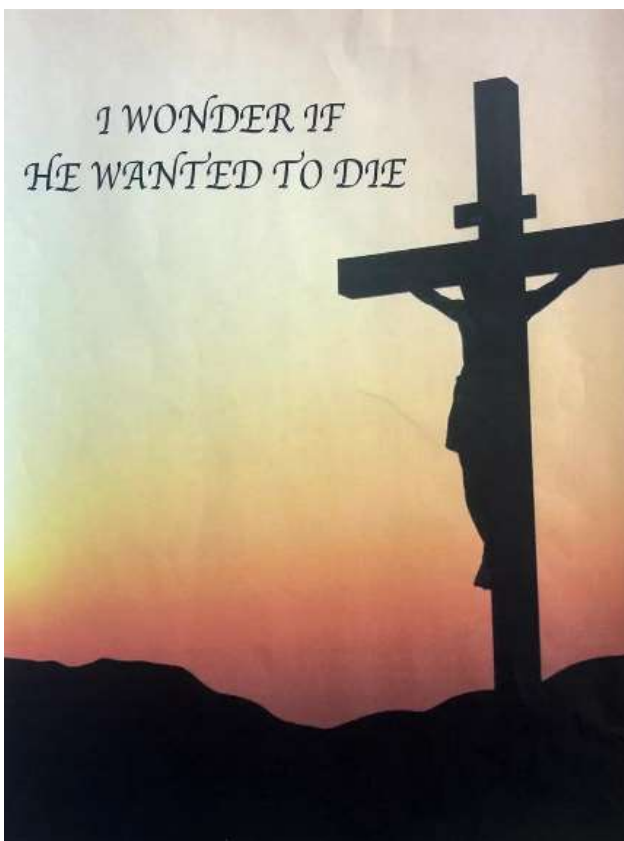
5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.

14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”



Pause

Early in the morning Jesus is taken to see Pilate. The route from the garden of gethsemane to the High Priest's house and then to Pilate's government building was up a very steep flight of stairs. Jesus climbed them whilst tied and bound. The religious teachers had decided they had enough evidence under their own law to find him guilty and now he was facing the man who could release him or convict him. Jesus knew that his life was in danger, and yet he calmly and quietly answers Pilate's questions. If you read the whole passage in the Bible, Pilate offers the crowds a chance to have Jesus released, but the same people who had been cheering him earlier in the week, shouted "crucify!". Christians believe that when people blame you for something you haven't done, Jesus is with you and strengthens you.

Ponder

Do you think that Jesus knew he was going to die and that it was part of God's plan?

Station 6 – Jesus is crowned with thorns

Bible Reading

Mark 15: 16-19

16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.



Pause

Jesus was treated very badly by the soldiers. They hit him, called him names and made fun of him. They made a crown out of thorns and put it on his head. It would have scratched him and been very uncomfortable. Jesus puts himself in the place of human suffering. He knows what it is like to be bullied for who other people say you are. The soldiers did not know anything about Jesus, and yet they followed the behaviour of the people they looked up to and bullied him. Christians believe that when you are suffering because of what other people think, Jesus is with you.



Ponder

Have you ever been bullied by someone else?

How did it make you feel?

Have you ever joined in with bullying or been a bully?

Why did you feel that you needed to do that?

Jesus tells us that we should love our neighbours as ourselves.

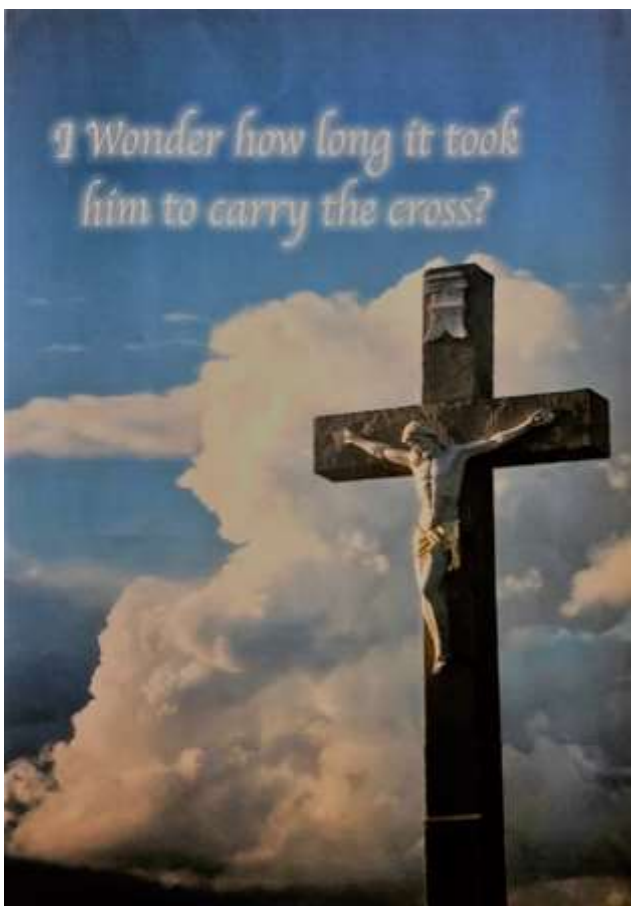
Ask God to help you to always treat other people as you would like to be treated.

Station 7 – Jesus carries the cross

Bible Reading

John 19: 16-17

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).



Pause

Jesus carried his cross to the place of crucifixion. There would have been a large crowd lining the route and calling out to him. His disciples and followers went ahead of him or followed along, as we find them later on in the story at the foot of the cross. Christians believe that when you have to do something that is really hard, Jesus is with you.

Ponder

How would it have felt to see your friend carrying a cross through the town to die?

Station 8 – Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

Bible Reading

Mark 15: 21-24

21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

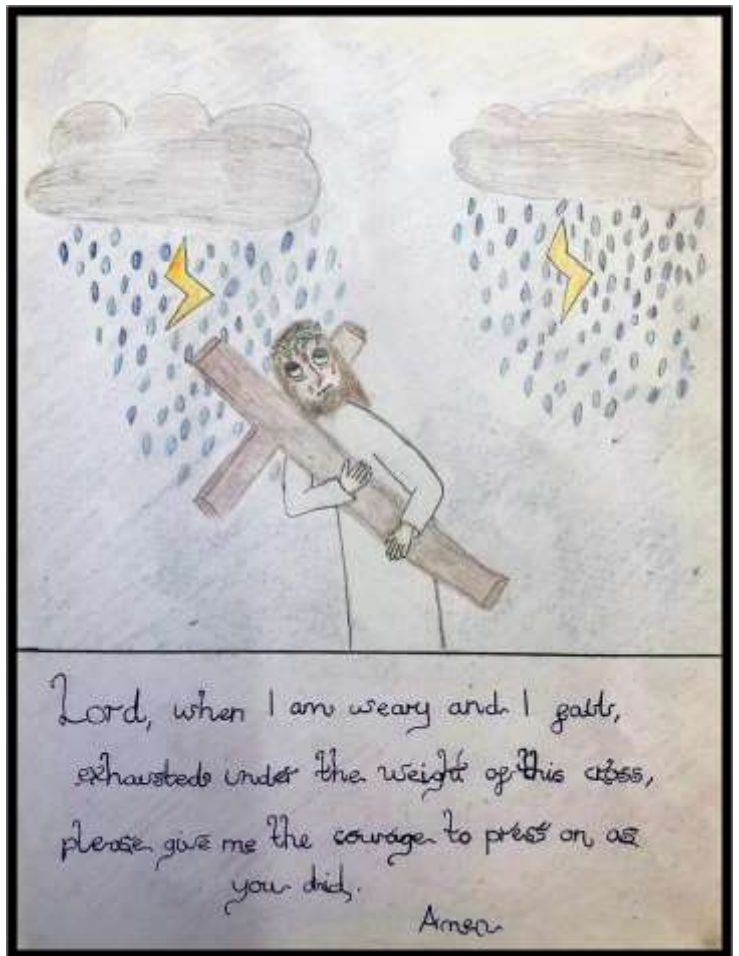
Pause

The Bible tells us the name of the man who helped Jesus to carry the cross. It even tells us where he was from and who his children were! Why do you think that is? The only way that this could have been known to Mark, the writer of this gospel, is if Simon had made it known afterwards. He must have been part of the story after the crucifixion. I wonder whether he had heard of Jesus before this encounter in the streets of Jerusalem? In Paul's letter to the Romans, he mentions a Rufus, could this be the same Rufus? Can you imagine Simon telling his story to his children and it having so much of an impact on all of them that they are named individually in the gospels?

Ponder

What stories from their lives have your parents and grandparents shared with you?

Have their stories and experiences affected the way you live your life?



What stories would you like to be able to tell your children about how life is right now?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.

Amen

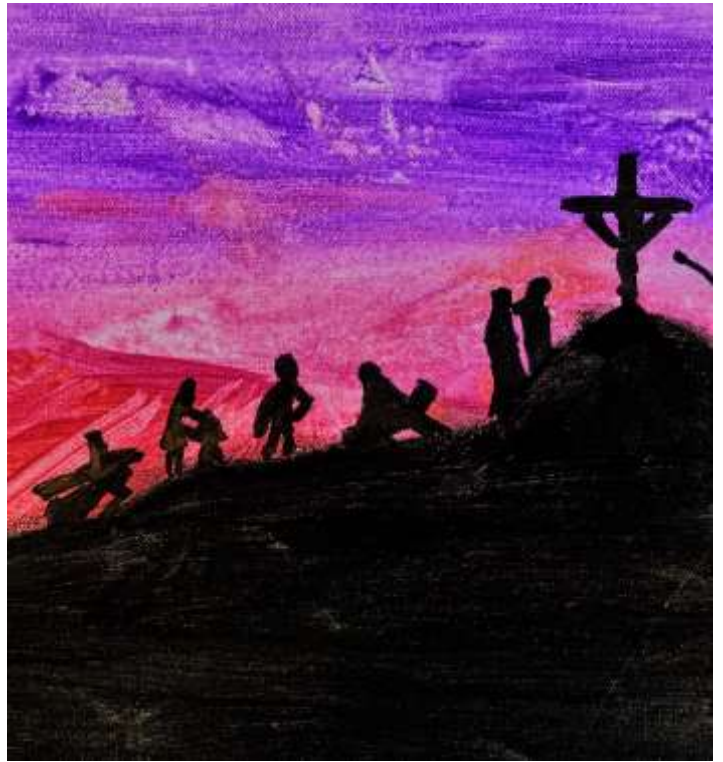
Station 9 – Jesus blesses the women of Jerusalem

Bible Reading

Luke 23: 27-31

27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"'

31 For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"



Pause

When Jesus was carrying his cross he met a group of women who were crying. Jesus noticed that they were upset and blessed them. Jesus tells the women not to weep for him but to weep for themselves and for their children. Jesus knows that life is difficult. Previously when talking to his disciples Jesus had predicted his death. You can read about this in John Chapter 16. At the end of the conversation he says "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus never promises that life will be easy, but he does promise that through his death all will be renewed and Creation will be good again. Christians believe that when things seem impossible if you pray and ask Jesus for help he will bless you.



Ponder

What are you currently worried about?

Who can you talk to about your worries?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:

move us to tears at for all those who are suffering in our broken world.

You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':

bless all the nations of the world and lead us into the path of profound peace.

Amen

Station 10 – Jesus is Crucified

Bible Reading

Luke 23: 34-38

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." [c] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

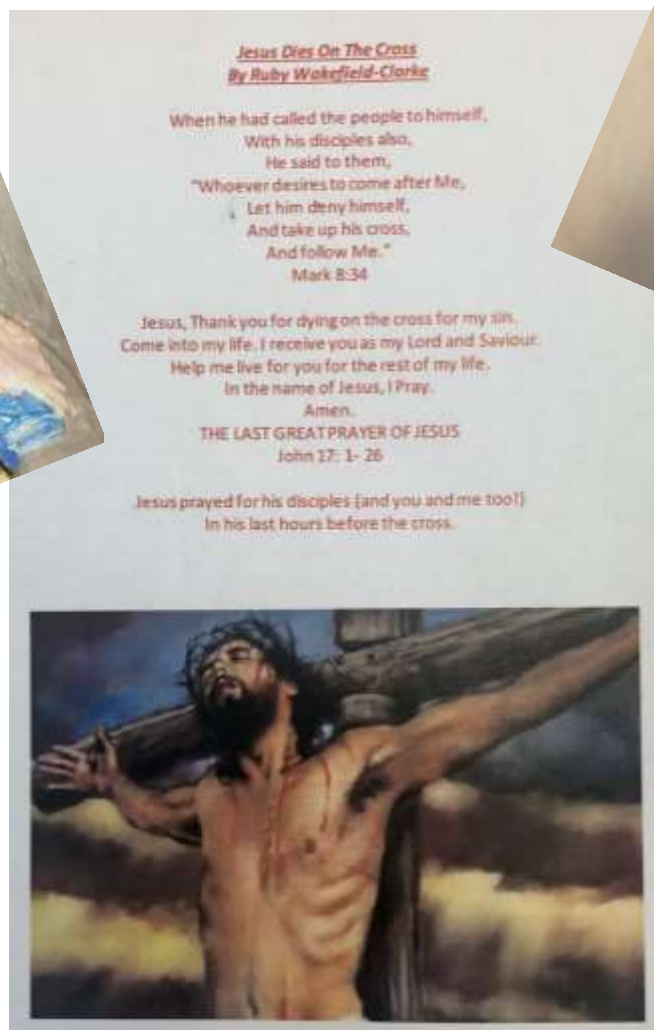
36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews.



Ponder

Children from Clifton upon Dunsmore CofE Primary School and Wooten Wawen CofE Primary School reflected on Jesus' crucifixion. What would you draw, paint or write?





Station 11 – Jesus promises paradise to the theif

Bible Reading

Luke 23: 32-33, 39-43

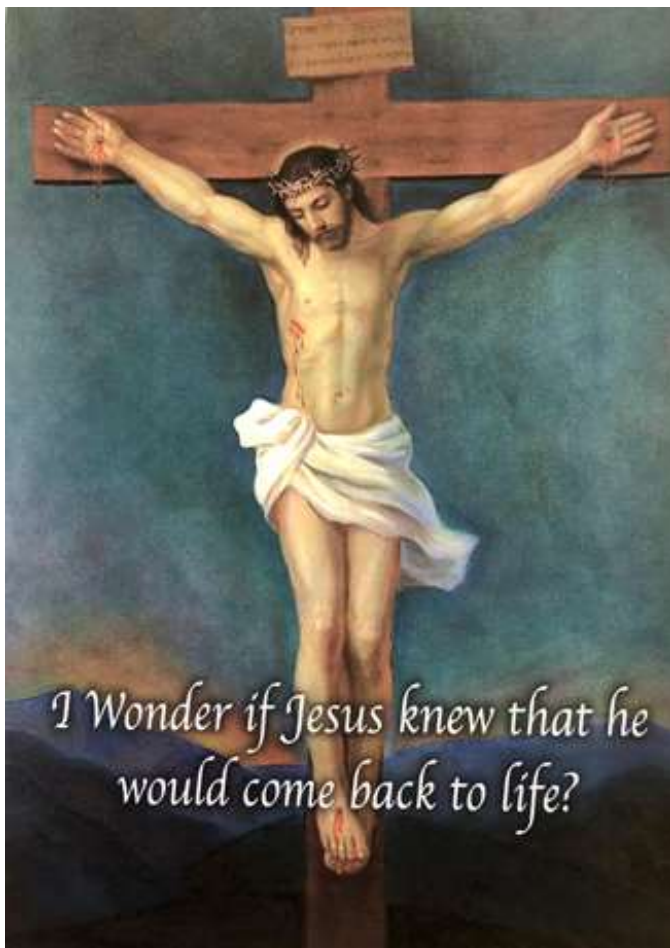
32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."



Pause

Jesus is crucified with a criminal beside him to the left and to the right. One of the criminals mocks him and tells him to save himself, if he is the Messiah. The other one recognises Jesus as someone who has done nothing wrong. This criminal asks Jesus to remember him when his kingdom comes. Jesus tells him that he will be in 'paradise' with him that day. What does Jesus mean by this? Christians believe that by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus gives birth to a kingdom. We call it the kingdom of God. By calling it paradise, Jesus uses the words found in Genesis where the garden of Eden is described. Jesus is saying that by dying, rising and returning in glory in the future, he makes all things new. The world will return to be how God intended it to be and we will all see that "it is good".

Ponder

I wonder what I would have said to Jesus?

Station 12 – Jesus takes care of Mary

Bible Reading

John 19: 26-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Pause

Jesus in his last moments on the cross notices his mother, Mary, and one of his disciples, who we think was John. Jesus is concerned about who will take care of his mother after he dies. We think by this time Joseph, who according to tradition was older than Mary, was dead. Without Jesus Mary would have been alone and so Jesus asks John to take care of her. This idea of becoming part of a new family once you become a Christian is seen in a lot of the New Testament. The Early Church were known for taking care of each other and sharing everything that they had. It was this that made them distinctive.

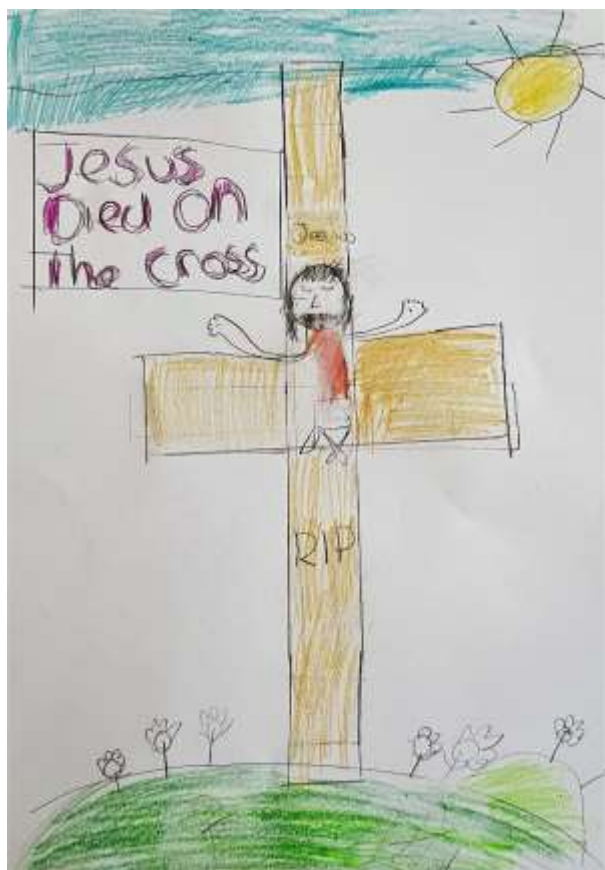


Ponder

Who is part of your family?

Are there any people that you know who might need to be adopted into your family because they are alone or in need?

How might we help other people in a way that makes them feel that they belong to a bigger family?



Station 13 – Darkness

covers the earth



Bible Reading

Luke 23: 44-49

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." 48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. 49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.



Pause

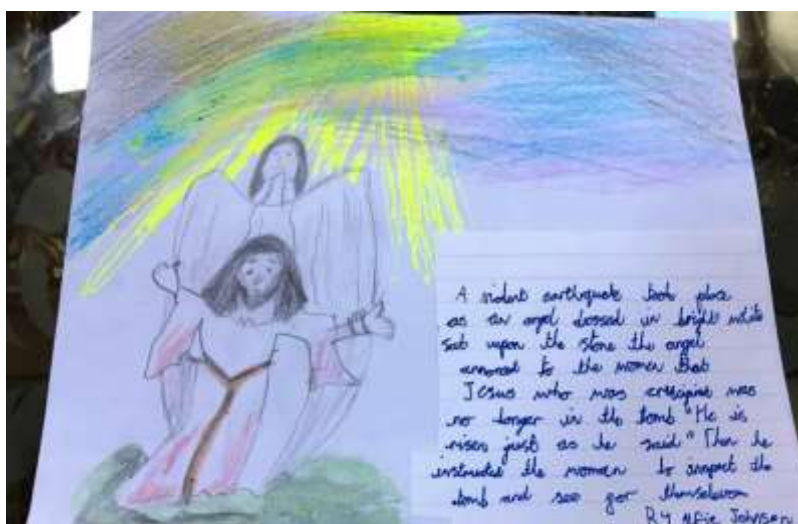
As Jesus was dying on the cross, at mid-day, when the sun is usually at its brightest, darkness descended on the land. This must have been very scary. It meant that everyone, not just those at the foot of the cross, knew that something out of the ordinary was happening. I wonder what the chief priests and Pilate thought as they sat in the homes and palaces. Can you imagine the conversations later, as people shared their stories of what they were doing when it went dark and thought about what it might mean? Early in John's gospel, Jesus is described as the light of the world, and Jesus talks to his disciples about being light. As the life drains from Jesus, a new type of darkness covers the earth. Christians believe that when the world feels full of darkness we can pray to Jesus and ask him to bring his light.

Ponder

The children from St Nicolas CofE School, Nuneaton, produced this wonderful collage of what Jesus' death means to the world. I love the way that the cross glows gold in the dark sky and brings down colours from heaven to the earth. What do you think it means when John says of Jesus:

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it?"

Station 14 – Jesus is laid in the tomb



Bible Reading

Matthew 27: 57-60

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.



in

Pause

Jesus' friends wanted to make sure that his body was placed in a tomb and treated with respect.

The next day there was a big religious festival and so they needed to act quickly because the Jewish religious rules meant that they would not be able to bury or tend to Jesus' body the next day. So they did their best, Joseph, who was an important man and knew the authorities well, went and asked for Jesus' body and offered the tomb that he had bought for himself. The entrance was sealed with a stone and Jesus was completely separated from his friends. They must have been very sad and full of despair. Life around them continued. The next day was the Sabbath and all the Jews who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the special festival of the Passover, would be involved in their celebrations. I wonder what the disciples did? Did they join in? Were they too upset to do so?



Ponder

Have you experienced the death of someone you loved?

What did you do to give thanks for their life and to mourn their loss?

How do you keep your memories of them alive now?

Take a moment to name them and give thanks to God for their lives.

Station 15 – Jesus rises from the dead

Bible Reading

Mark 16:

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.



Pause

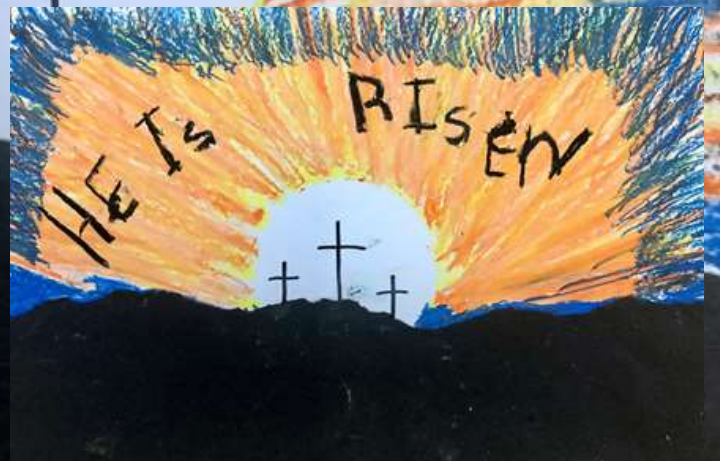
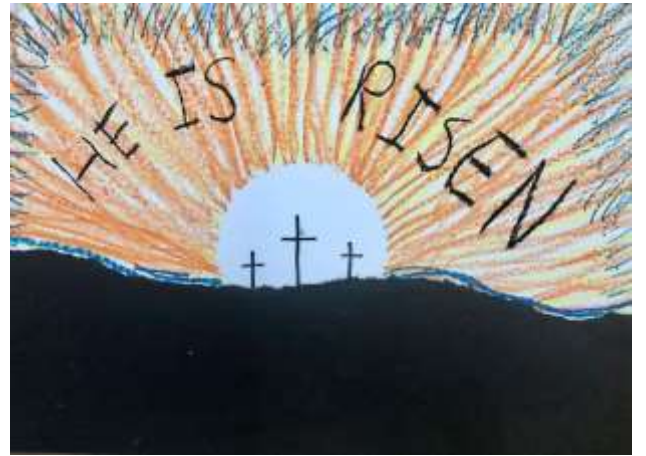
Mark leaves us with this breathless end to his gospel. The women arrive at the tomb and wonder where Jesus is. They encounter an angel who reminds them that Jesus told them that he would rise from the dead and that he would meet them in Galilee. The women run from the tomb afraid. We know that this is not the end of the story, because the other gospels include lots of accounts of what happens when the disciples meet the risen Jesus. You can read some of these stories in the gospel of Luke and the gospel of John. They both tell us that Jesus met with his disciples a number of times and ate with them. He was living and breathing and bore the scars in his hands, feet and sides. The gospels go on to tell us of Jesus' ascension into heaven. This image created by the children of St Nicolas CoFE School, Nuneaton, shows the connection created between the earth and heaven by Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. The book of revelation tells us that when Jesus returns and renews the earth Jerusalem will come down from God shining like precious jewels. Can you imagine what that would look like?



Ponder

Lord Jesus, you were dead but now you are alive:
transform the world, that we may see your radiant glory.

You were raised from death to life:
may the power of your resurrection live in us, that we
may be channels of your life beyond measure.
Amen



A stylized graphic featuring three black crosses of varying heights on a black silhouette of a hill. The background consists of three overlapping semi-circular shapes in red, yellow, and green, creating a layered effect. The text "JESUS IS RISEN" is written in bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters on the black hill.

JESUS IS RISEN