



Stations of the Cross

The Traditional Walk of Witness
around Cookham

Good Friday
29th March 2024



Station 1 - St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean
Pilate condemns Jesus
Artist: Len Van Zyl

John 19:15-16

They cried out 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Artist's Reflection

I depict this piece as a modern-day High Court Judge, presiding over his Court in the act of judging the son of God, Jesus Christ. 2,000 years ago, the Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, acting in his capacity as a Judge, could not find any fault with Jesus and yet still proceeded to condemn him, the Son of God, to die a terrible death of on the cross. Standing as an eyewitness to this place of judgement the atmosphere is decrepit, seedy and manifesting cowardice and evil. Evil prevailed on that day and continues today. This courtroom scene reflects that. The ultimate judge, God, is emphatically judging all on earth. We are compelled to watch and to accept the sentence.

Prayer

Lord, help us to do all that we can to defeat evil and to build your kingdom of justice, peace and love.



Station 2 – Whyteladyes Lane by the Cricket Club

Jesus accepts the cross

Artist: Lilly Key

John 19:17

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Artist's Reflection

I have really enjoyed this sometimes daunting experience of painting Jesus accepting the cross. I must admit he has changed several times through the process, but the end result is my interpretation of him looking to God for strength and accepting the cross with his head held high and not in defeat. The painting is dark; however, in the distance, it is bright and there is a new beginning; eternal life.

Prayer

Lord, help us to understand the ways we contribute to injustice and evil in the world and then help us to truly repent.



Station 3 – Outside St Elizabeth’s Church, Lower Road
Jesus meets his Mother
Artist: Marcelle Kennedy

John 19:25-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour, the disciple took her into his own home.

Artist’s Reflection

To Mary, Jesus was the son she gave birth to and nurtured. How can she have felt when fleetingly meeting Jesus, blooded, beaten and vilified on his way to be crucified. It is said that looking into his mother’s eyes gave Jesus the strength to carry on. A mother’s love is most powerful. Hopefully, there was mutual comfort and sympathy on this fateful day.

Prayer

O Jesus, by the compassion which You did feel for Your Mother, have compassion on us, and deliver us from eternal death.



Station 4 - Outside the Methodist Church, Cookham Rise

Jesus falls

Artist: Sarah Reeve

Isaiah 53:3-4

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering, and acquainted with infirmity. Like one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...

Artist's Reflection

While I was painting I found myself thinking about suffering. We all suffer and fall at some point. In my family I've seen and tried to help loved ones suffering through illness and the callousness of others. They all want to get up and walk on. By this time Jesus has been starved, deprived of water, beaten and humiliated. News reports in 2024 show us that human nature doesn't seem to have changed as wars and other examples of human oppression are always in the headlines. Sadly this was the aspect of human nature Jesus was telling us to overcome.

Prayer

Lord, help us to sense your presence when problems weigh us down.



Station 5 – Malik’s, Station Parade

Simon helps Jesus

Artist: Sandra Johnstone

Mark 15:21 & Galatians 6:2

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

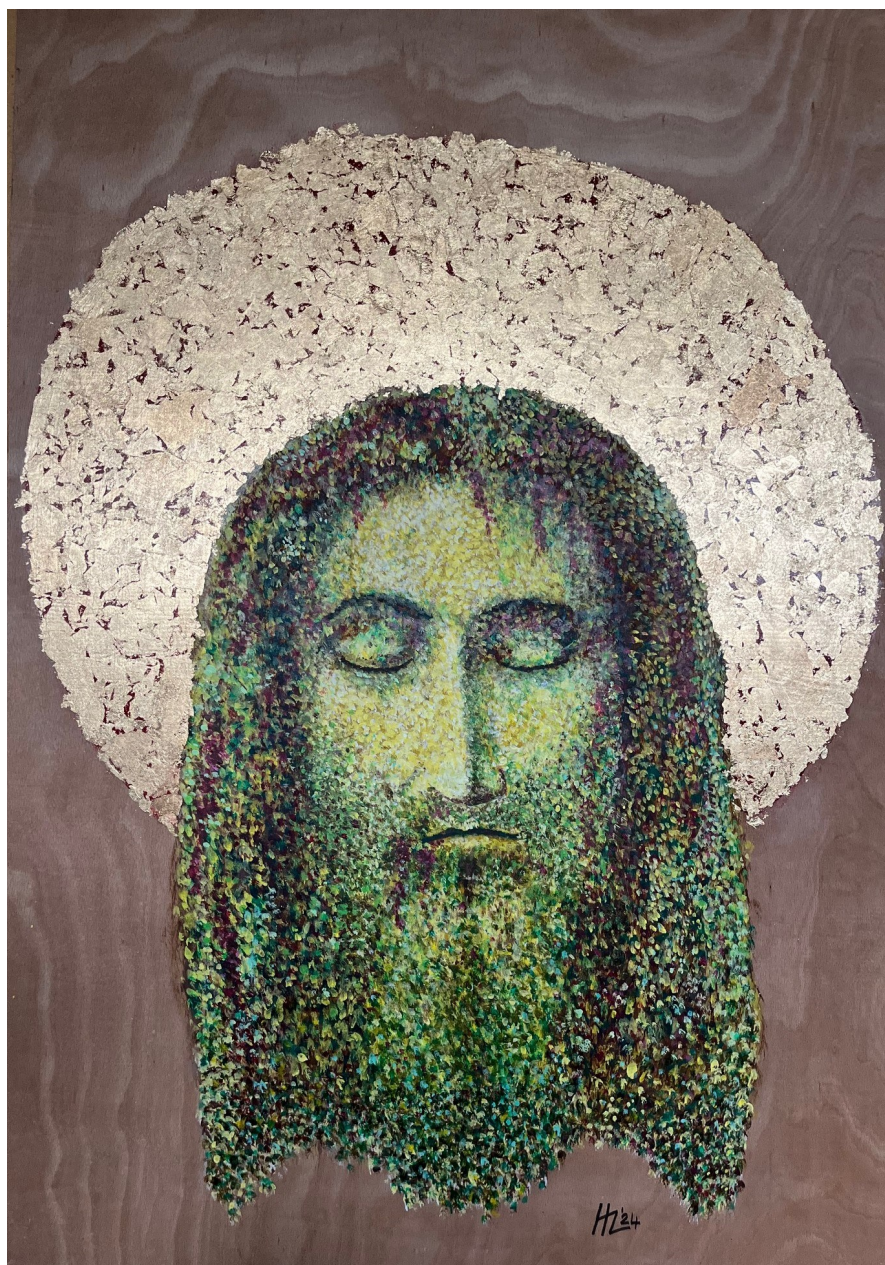
Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Artists’ Reflection

I have never painted a large picture before. Once I started to do some research, I realised the enormity of the challenge for me, and I knew I wasn't going to be able to achieve this without meditation and strength from above. I love stained glass and decided this would be my theme. Jesus and Simon are alone on the path to Golgotha for very different reasons. We reflect on Christ’s thoughts and I wonder what Simon's feelings were. Was he a follower of Christ? How did he feel? What impact did this have on his life?

Prayer

Lord, help us to always help others when we can and to graciously accept the help of others when that time comes.



Station 6 – The Pound Roundabout
Veronica wipes Jesus' face
Artist: Helen Longvill

Matthew 25:40

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Artist's Reflection

The imprint that Jesus's face left on Veronica's veil got me thinking about filters. Nearly everything on social media and in life is a filtered edit of how we want people to see us. It is not reality and no one is living a perfect life. His face on the veil is a too-true reflection of his pain. I left the board unpainted and used pointillism to represent the millions of people suffering, His halo is fractured because He forgave and radiated love despite his own suffering.

Prayer

Lord, we give thanks for all who serve others and pray that we may always be people who serve others, particularly those in need.



Station 7 – The Causeway, Cookham Moor
Jesus is nailed to the cross
Artist: Julie Bennett

Luke 23:33

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Artist's Reflection

When planning this painting, I decided that I wanted to leave parts of the wooden surface visible. I didn't want anything to distract from the brutality of the crucifixion, even if that is unsettling. I want the viewer to contemplate what Christ must have gone through as they look at this representation of his face. I also feel there is a poignancy that Christ was a carpenter, so would have worked with materials similar to those used for the cross he had carried and the nails that were hammered through his hands. Looking at the painting as a whole, I can't help but reflect on how strong the urge is to look away from the suffering of others when we can't ease their pain. Sometimes we just have to be there, sit with them and face our own discomfort to offer comfort to them.

Prayer

Lord, help us to see through pain to the possibilities beyond.



Station 8 – The War Memorial, Cookham

Jesus dies on the cross

Artist: Will Davies

John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Artist's Reflection

I wanted to depict this scene from a distance with a sense of atmospheric grandeur, which also carries spiritual undertones. Dark, billowing clouds represent turmoil around Jesus, while rays of lights represent God reaching out. Symbolically, there's a sense of chaos and order in the same picture. I kept my palette simple, with mainly earthy colours. Some reflective silver paint was used for the main cross being lit up by the sunlight. The background was a physical battle to complete, painting wet on wet helped to convey the conflicting forces of nature I wanted in a Turner-esque way.

Prayer

Lord, help us to understand your sacrifice for us, given through your love for each one of us.



Station 9 - Outside Holy Trinity Church, Cookham
Jesus is taken down from the cross
Artist: Inge du Plessis

Mark 15:42-47

As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So, Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw where he was laid.

Artist's Reflection

This is such a dark moment for those standing around the cross. Twilight has fallen over the land, and the limp and broken body of Jesus is taken down to be buried. This could have been a moment devoid of hope and light. Yet we know that neither the light nor the life was extinguished. Death has been defeated. Through His death we inherit life. Through His cross we are made free to be light.

Prayer

Lord, help us know your love even when all seems and feels dead.

Stanley Spencer's painting, 'Christ carrying the Cross' (1920) set in Cookham High Street, was the inspiration for our now traditional Stations of the Cross walk on Good Friday. For many years we have been inviting local artists and school children to paint or create images which tell the story of Christ's walk through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha.

Once again the artists have managed to create a "Cookham" look and feel to their paintings, and make it seem as if the events really could have taken place here in our village.

We hope you find the paintings and reflections comforting at this challenging time for all of us regardless of faith.



**BENEFICE of
THE COOKHAMS**



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