

Stations for Hertford

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The 'Stations of the Cross' or 'Way of the Cross' is a guided meditation through the final hours of Jesus' life, beginning with the moment he is condemned to death and ending with his body being laid in the tomb

Jesus 'Passion' or journey towards the cross is recreated in a series of fourteen 'stations' (although in some versions a fifteenth station of 'the resurrection' is also included). The majority of these 'stations' are recorded in scripture although some belong more to Church tradition. It is thought that it was St Francis of Assisi who first created this devotional re-enactment of Christ's last hours, to aid pilgrims who could not make the long and dangerous journey to Jerusalem themselves

Usually the Stations of the Cross are represented pictorially, either in painting or images carved in relief, and displayed on the walls of a church. For each station there is an accompanying prayer and reflection designed to help us meditate upon the significance of what happens; both for Christ and for ourselves; the lengths that His love has gone to and our response to that love

During Lent in 2008, Hertford Churches Together hopes to create our own 'Stations for Hertford'.

Through artist workshops, we plan to make six artworks inspired by six of the stations, in various different media. Each work would be a collective response by those attending the workshop. The workshops will be open to anyone over 16 (with no previous artistic experience required) and will run on Wednesday evenings 8-10pm at the United Reformed Church, Cowbridge. The remaining eight stations will be produced by local artists.

We hope to site each of these artworks in a different place of worship throughout the town, and we are also exploring the possibility of using other more public, civic and outdoor locations. The idea is to plot the sequence of stations geographically and that during Holy Week there will then be opportunities to make the pilgrimage ourselves, travelling from station to station with an accompanying printed guide to aid our spiritual journey

These workshops will run concurrently with a Lent discussion group which will also meet at the URC, and both groups will begin together in church with an act of collective worship.

Information on the Lent Course *The Cross* is given on page 2.

Please put the dates in your diaries:

13th February,
20th February,
27th February,
5th March,
12th March

The stations are:

1. Jesus is condemned,
2. Jesus takes up his cross,
3. Jesus falls for the first time,
4. Jesus meets his mother,
5. Simon helps Jesus carry his cross,
6. Jesus meets Veronica,
7. Jesus falls the second time,
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem,
9. Jesus falls the third time,
10. Jesus is stripped,
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross,
12. Jesus dies on the cross,
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross,
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb