

Stations of the Cross

in

All Hallows Church

An imaginative 'walk' of prayer



The Stations of the Cross

... is a popular devotion used by many Christians around the world during Holy Week, in the lead-up to Good Friday and Easter. In fourteen stages, the story of Christ's arrest, trial, route to the hill of Calvary, death and burial is followed. At each station, a piece of scripture is contemplated and a prayerful reflection is made.

For this remote 'walk' of prayer, we ask you to imagine you are in All Hallows church. Each location and the route there is described and there is an image of each one as well. Begin by picturing yourself standing in the centre of the church, the Nave, facing towards the large cross in the east window.

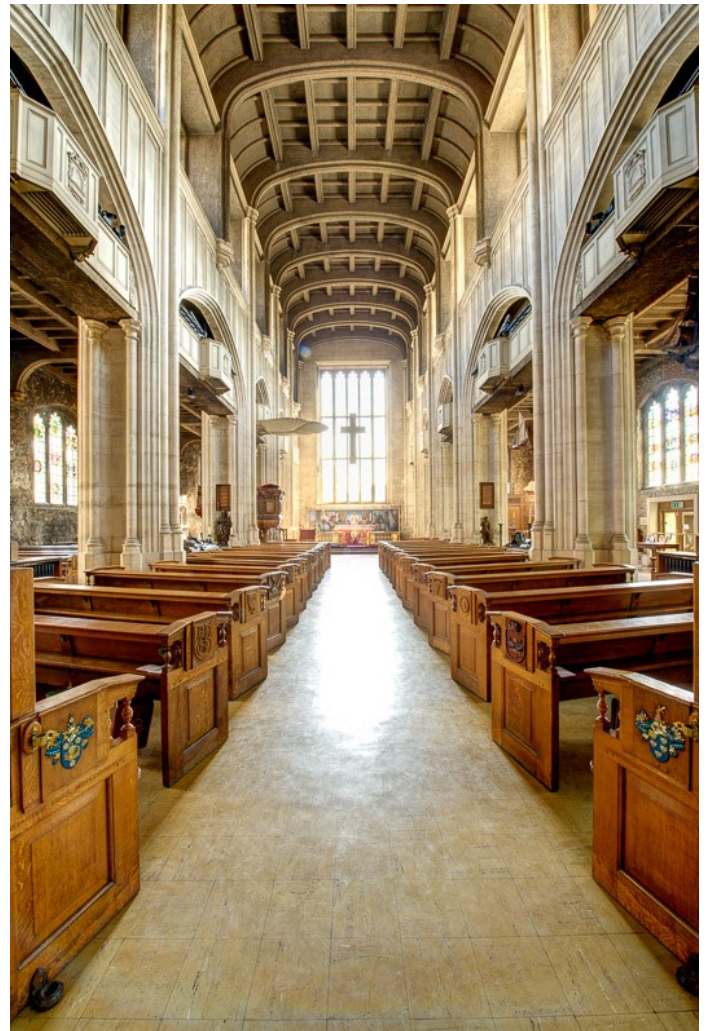
Let us proceed in peace

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

**We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**



The First Station

Jesus is condemned to death

Location – The Roman Pavement

Through the doors under the organ loft, on through the tower doors in front of you and down the stairs. The pavement is immediately to your left at the foot of the stairs.

This floor of a Roman house and other Roman stone work was found in the 1920s during underpinning work on the tower of the church.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Matthew 27:15-16 & 20-26

Now at the festival Pilate the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*Lord,
as I visit where Roman feet have trod,
as I think of brushing elbows with a busy crowd on the streets,
as I watch and wait in dread as your story unfolds,
may I find courage to be a companion to those in trouble
and so walk with you.*

Amen.

The Second Station

Jesus is given his cross

Location – The Saxon Crosses

From the Roman pavement, turn and go through the Undercroft towards the other end. The crosses are on each side of the last arch.

These fragments of richly worked stone were found in the excavations of this Undercroft in the 1930s and also in the remains of the church pillars after the bomb damage of WW2.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*



Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*Lord,
as I consider the meaning
that this symbol has borne for so many centuries,
may I find the strength to look upon it with fresh eyes today,
to discern what my own cross may be,
to shoulder it with determination
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Third Station

Jesus falls the first time

Location – the Forster Memorial

From the Saxon crosses, turn right towards the wooden door, go through and up the stairs into the main church. The Forster Memorial is in front of you.

Dedicated to the Fallen of the First World War, this memorial bears the unnamed effigy of Lieutenant Alfred Henry Forster of the 2nd Dragoons, who died in 1919 from wounds sustained at the end of WWI. The bronze is the work of the sculptor Cecil Thomas, wounded at the same time as Alfred and with whom he became friends whilst in hospital.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Lord,
may I remember now
the times I have laid burdens onto others,
have been the cause of their stumbling and falling,
and the times I have failed to feel compassion.
May I seek forgiveness now and make amends
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Fourth Station

Jesus meets his mother

Location – the Madonna of Tower Hill

From the Forster Memorial, turn right and walk towards the wooden panelling. Go up a couple of steps, turn left, go down the steps again, and cross over the front of the church, passing the High Altar, to the North aisle where the wooden altar rail is. The Madonna is in front of you on a white pillar.

This work is by the sculptor, embroiderer and artist Jacquie Binns. It is inspired by the themes of peace and pain and seeks to express opposites: calm/chaos, birth/death, sharp/soft, heaven/earth.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Luke 2:33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too'.

*Lord,
may I remember all mothers,
the times they have acted to protect,
and the times they must simply watch loved ones in pain.
May I remember their choices, however hard,
with love and respect
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross

Location – Revd ‘Tubby’ Clayton Memorial

From the North aisle altar, turn around and walk towards the back of the church. The memorial is half-way along the North aisle.

‘Tubby’ Clayton was Vicar of All Hallows for 40 years. Founder of Talbot House in Poperinghe, Belgium, during WW1, he also founded the international philanthropic movement Toc H. His vast network of international connections and his tireless planning and fundraising zeal meant that All Hallows was rebuilt after its heavy bomb damage in WW2.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Luke 23:26

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

*Lord,
for the times I have failed to step forward to help others,
for the times I have failed to share what I have,
for the times I have shut strangers out,
may I now find ways to make amends,
resolve to do better
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Sixth Station

A woman wipes the face of Jesus

Location – the De Beauvoir Memorial

Turn around and face the medieval North wall of the church. The memorial is to your left, between the last two windows.

The memorial for Charles de Beauvoir, who died in 1702, is lavishly carved with drapery framing the inscription. Married with eleven children, he worked locally in the Customs House through the reign of four monarchs.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Matthew 25:35-40

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

*Lord,
as I stand by stones that have seen centuries
as I pause by walls that have endured ages
may I remember that acts
of human contact and comfort also live on.
May I be always ready to offer a small kindness
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Seventh Station

Jesus falls a second time

Location – the North door

Turn left and walk a few paces towards the back of church. Go through the first set of glass doors and turn around. The original North door surround is still in place in the porch.

On many occasions the headless bodies of those executed on Tower Hill were brought into All Hallows before burial. The most famous political executions from Henry VIII's time were Bishop John Fisher (whose memorial triptych is just inside and who was buried for two weeks just by this door) and Sir Thomas More who were both beheaded for opposing the king's separation from the Roman Catholic church and refusing to acknowledge Henry as Supreme Head of the Church of England.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

*Lord,
as I remember those who stood up
for what they believed to be right,
may I also remember
my own times of weakness and cowardice.
I ask for strength, resolve and inspiration
to help those less able than myself
and to walk with you.
Amen.*

The Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Location – First Steps sculpture

Go back inside the church and walk through the wooden doors under the organ once more. The sculpture is immediately to your left, by the Saxon arch.

This piece is the work of sculptor John Robinson and shows a family group with a young child taking his first steps in the care of his mother.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Luke 23:27-28

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'

*Lord,
as I think of my family,
may I also think of those families who mourn,
of those who have lost one dear to them,
of those who fear for one troubled in body or spirit,
and of those who grieve alone and in silence.
May I be able to offer comfort
and support to those around me
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Ninth Station

Jesus falls a third time

Location – Nightingale carved pew end

From the 'First Steps' sculpture, turn to your left and walk back through the wooden doors and forward down the Nave. The Nightingale pew end is fifth from the back on your right.

Every pew in All Hallows is beautifully carved with images relating to its donor organisation. Some are Toc H connections, some are civic organisations, some are memorials and some relate to private individuals.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Isaiah 52:2-3

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised,
and we held him of no account.

*Lord,
as I consider the darkest parts of myself,
and my weakest times,
as I remember the hardest trials
of my faith and my strength,
may I also listen for the smallest song of hope,
May I look always for the first glimmer of light,
and so walk with you.
Amen.*

The Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

Location – the Hands Banner

From the Nave, walk back towards the organ and turn left towards the shop. The Hands Banner is behind the shop counter.

The Hands Banner was embroidered by Audrey Ormrod and given to All Hallows as a reminder to pray for prisoners of conscience.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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John 19:23-24

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

Lord,
as I think on the many ways
it is possible to humiliate and belittle a person
through violent action, calculated inaction,
biting words and wounding silences,
may I remember those times I have humiliated someone,
may I seek forgiveness,
uphold justice and simple fairness
and so walk with you.
Amen.

The Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross

Location – the pulpit cross

From the shop, turn around and return to the Nave, walking towards the front of the church. The cross, with a silver corpus, is above the pulpit.

The corpus, or body, on this plain wooden cross was commissioned by All Hallows from Christopher Den Blaker of New York. A talented sculptor, silversmith, painter and photographer, he died in 2007.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Matthew 27:33-44

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Lord,

I ask for the strength to face harrowing pain and desperation.

May I not turn away.

May I be able to raise my eyes to the horror of your torture.

May I not turn away.

May I be able to see through to its meaning.

May I not turn away.

May I be able cling to all you have assured me of.

May I not turn away

and so may I be with you.

Amen.

The Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the cross

Location – the Mariners' Chapel

From the Nave, walk forward towards the altar. Turn right at the altar rails and step up into the Mariners' Chapel. The cross is on the wooden screen to your left.

The ivory corpus, or body, on this cross is said to have come from the captain's cabin on the flagship of the Spanish Armada. The wood of the cross is that of the famous tea clipper, the Cutty Sark.



*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
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Matthew 27:45-51 & 54

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

(Pause and kneel in silence.)

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ... Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

*Lord,
I am crumpled on the ground as the storm rages around me.
I am weighed down with horror
and hollowed out with loss.
My bones are like water and my breath is like knives.
Help me.
Amen.*

The Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross

Location – the Evyngar Brass

From the Mariners' Chapel, turn left and walk a few steps towards the brass altar rails and turn right between the pillar and the altar rails. The Evyngar Brass is situated in the floor at the right (South) side of the altar, outside the rails.

The monumental brass plaque for Andrew Evyngar dates from 1530. Although some text references to praying for the dead were scraped out by Cromwell's troops for being too 'Popish' in Puritan times, they missed the Pieta image in the centre of the plaque.



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Lamentations 1:12-13

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.
...
He has left me stunned, faint all day long.

*Lord,
in the desolation,
in the nothing,
I cannot see what lies ahead.
I am blinded by my tears,
by my loss.
May I remember each word that you have spoken for me.
May I hold close each last sight and touch of you.
May I still be at your side.
Amen.*

The Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid in the tomb

Location – St Clare Chapel

From the Sanctuary, return to the Mariners' Chapel in the South aisle and go down the stairs to the left of the glass doors. The St Clare Chapel is the small chapel immediately ahead of you, before the turn of the stairs.

The St Clare Chapel is actually a burial vault from the first decade of the 17th century. Lost for several hundred years, it was rediscovered in excavations in the 1920s.



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John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no-one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*And so I wait Lord,
seated by your sealed stone tomb,
still and voiceless until you come.*

I pray for patience.

I pray for calm.

I pray for comfort.

I pray for a spirit of generosity to offer these things to others.

I pray for your rest after such suffering.

I pray for your glorious triumph to come.

I pray.

I pray.

I pray.

I pray.

Amen.



Written and compiled by Adey Grummet for All Hallows by the Tower

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