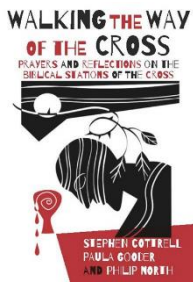




## Growing Faith "Walking the Way of the Cross"



The Growing Faith team, inspired by a book of prayers and reflections called "Walking the way of the Cross" by Stephen Cottrell, Paula Gooder and Philip North will be producing the following resources for Easter.

You can find for information about the book here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/stations-cross>

### Our Growing Faith Approach will include:

#### ***For Schools:***

A Collective Worship resource featuring 5 sessions for schools or clergy to lead in school or via remote learning. Each session will include a pre-collective worship task, collective worship plan and a take home table talk activity. This will be automatically sent to CofE schools. We will also send to all Clergy by **15<sup>th</sup> February**.

The DBE will host on You-tube a Diocesan Schools "Walking the Way of the Cross Service" online on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**.

#### ***For Parishes:***

A community trail consisting of 15 pieces of art work to be displayed around the community, in the church yard or in church. The installation is designed to run from Passion Sunday until Easter Sunday (**21<sup>st</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April**). Each piece of art work will be linked to a 'find out more' section on the Adventures with God website by QR code. For each station there will be music, readings, prayers and family activities. The landing page for the trail is <https://www.adventureswithgod.life/>. The trail will be fully populated and ready to go by **20<sup>th</sup> March**.

The 15 stations can be printed onto vinyl banners (A0 size) at an estimated cost of £100 per parish. April is happy to co-ordinate this if people are interested to achieve bulk discounts. Orders by **15<sup>th</sup> February**. Alternatively the images can be downloaded from the website and printed locally in whatever size or format is appropriate for your trail.

Each Church would publicise their trail via their website / social media / school communications to encourage people to join in. I have asked Church Schools to produce the images, and poems, spoken word, music or written reflections for the website. If you have links with a community school who you think would like to get involved do let April know to send the information sheet. Submissions will be received by **15<sup>th</sup> February**.

## ***For Churches:***

We recommend buying a copy of the book to use as a lent series, passion tide series, or to incorporate into online reflections or Sunday Services, or as a basis for a 'Way of the Cross' service during holy week. You can get the book from these retailers:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715123447/walking-the-way-of-the-cross>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Walking-Way-Cross-reflections-biblical/dp/0715123440>

<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christian-devotional-books/easter-and-lent-books-for-adults/lent-books-for-groups/walking-the-way-of-the-cross/>

There is a series of podcasts based on the book available here:



<https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/sets/the-way-of-the-cross-exploring-the-biblical-stations-of-the-cross>

There is a Common Worship service called the "Way of the Cross" here:

### **The Way of the Cross**

#### **A Brief History**

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late fourteenth century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.

The number of stations has varied immensely through the centuries from as few as five to as many as thirty-six, but the now traditional number of fourteen was established by Clement XII in 1731 – nine scriptural stations and a further five based on popular devotion. However, owing to the increasing ecumenical popularity of this devotion there have been attempts to create a wholly scriptural set on which to focus.

The selection of stations presented here all have their root in the biblical story of Jesus rather than drawing on legend or popular, yet unscriptural, stories. This development makes the Stations of the Cross more accessible to all traditions within the Christian Church.

The recent rediscovery of the unity of the death and resurrection of Jesus has also led to the inclusion of a fifteenth station – the Resurrection. Though this may be superseded by the emergence of the Stations of the Resurrection as part of popular devotion, it is strongly suggested that this station be included, especially if the stations are used outside Lent and Passiontide.

Here, we offer liturgical resources only for scriptural stations, because those churches which have non-scriptural tableaux in place will probably have the resources already. Many churches will no doubt continue to use the fourteen 'traditional' stations because they are determined by the tableaux that are hung in the churches. For the information of those who may wish to use the 'traditional' stations they are listed [here](#).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churches-year/times-and-seasons/lent#mmm134>

We hope that you will get involved! Please contact April Gold for further information.

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