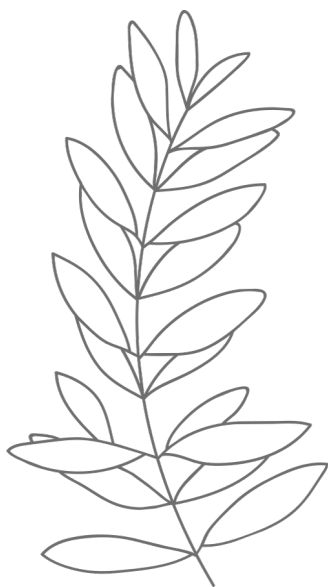


THE WAY OF THE  
CROSS IN HARROGATE  
An **Easter** trail



# *You are invited to walk with Jesus on a journey*

This journey takes you through Harrogate, and also through some of the stages of Jesus' journey to the cross on Good Friday. This is an experiment in worship and prayer, a chance to link the stories of our town with the story of God and to ask ourselves – what does Easter mean to us?

How does Jesus' journey help us to pray for everything going on in our world right now?

Feel free to use this guide any time in the week before Easter. It takes us from the logs on West Park Stray to the Japanese Garden in Valley Gardens. There will be 9 stopping points on the way. Try the trail on your own, with your household, or in a larger group. If you are with others, read the stages out loud, look at what is happening around you and listen to what God might be saying. You could either do the whole walk in one go or split up stages 1-5 and 6-9 into a couple of smaller walks. There are three more stages that you can do from your home on Easter Sunday or afterwards.

If you need help finding the locations there is a google map with the route marked here: <https://bit.ly/3fakQuK> or it can be accessed using the QR code below. Please cross roads carefully and take care of each other in your group.

As you walk you might find different feelings come and go: happiness as you enjoy being out together in Harrogate, deep grief as you consider the death of Jesus, hope as you think about the message of Easter. These feelings might connect with other things going on in your life or the wider world.

Talk about how you are feeling and what you are seeing and noticing. Listen to each other.

At each station there are prompts to pray. You could pray in silence, out loud together, or write your prayers on this booklet.

scan the code to get the map!



# Let's begin!

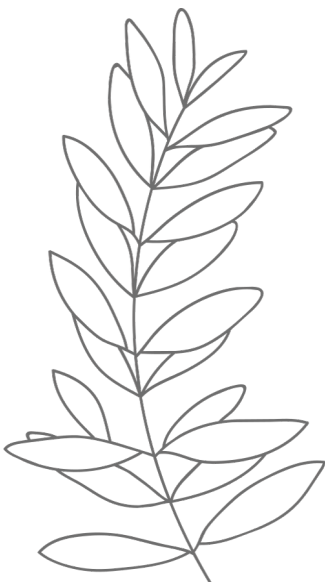
## As you set out:

"Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'"

Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus, who bore such pain upon the cross,  
And suffered the nails in Your feet and in  
Your hands, Turn to me and I will turn to You,  
and may I never turn from You again.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**



# STATION 1      The West Park Stray Logs

## Jesus Before Pilate

“Pilate asked them ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more ‘Crucify him!’ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.” Mark 15:14-15



Completely unjustly Jesus was tried and condemned by a man who claimed to want to set him free. It was a crowd of ordinary people who cried out ‘crucify him’, people like you and me. Jesus’ journey to the cross begins. Will you go with him?

### PRAY

Spend a moment looking around you.

What can you see that is good, beautiful and hope filled?

What injustices might be happening around us?

What injustice might we be part of?

What is going on in our world that is unfair or wrong?

Thank Jesus that he knows what it is like to face injustice. Pray for those who are overlooked or treated unfairly.

Next: walk across West Park Stray toward Holy Trinity Methodist Church. Look for the site of Brunswick station, opposite the church.



## STATION 2

## The site of Brunswick Station



### *Jesus carries the cross*

“After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.” Mark 15:20

Jesus carried a rough cross through the streets of Jerusalem. He would have been watched and seen by everyone there. The purpose of a cross was to wipe someone out, to destroy them publicly and cruelly, so it was as though they were not there (a bit like this old station). We know that Jesus couldn't be destroyed fully, but we also know he carried the cross and went to his death.

Thank Jesus that he knows what it is like to go through the most difficult of journeys.

Pray for those in our town, and in our world, who face obstacles or trials that seem too big for them.



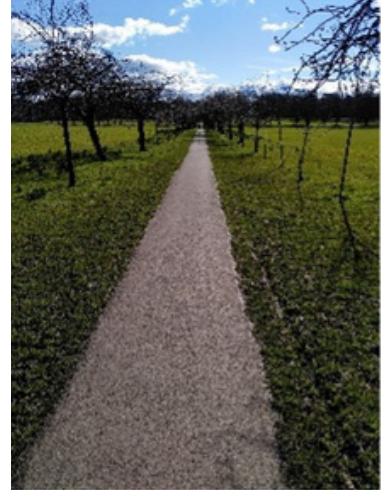
Next: carefully cross over Leeds Road and walk onto the Stray.

# STATION 3

# The Stray

## *Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross*

“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.” Mark 15:21



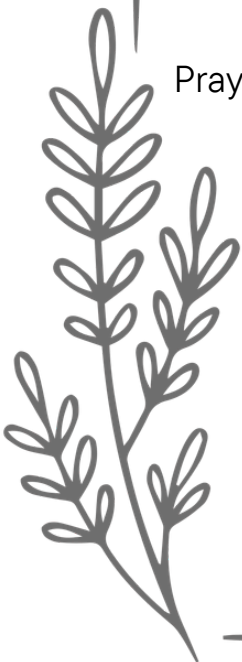
We don't know if Jesus fell, or if the soldiers just didn't want him to die too early. Either way they forced Simon to help. We don't know anything else about Simon, except that his sons are named which probably meant they were known to the early Christians as believers. This encounter with Jesus transformed a family.

Thank Jesus that he accepted help from others.

Pray for those who need your help, or who help you.

Pray for those who are lonely or feel helpless in our town, and in our world.

Ask that there would be life transforming encounters with Jesus today.



Next: leave the Stray on York Place, carefully cross the road and walk down Station Parade to the Victoria Monument.

## STATION 4

# THE Victoria Monument



## *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

“A great number of 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 your children.’ Luke 23:27-28

Even as he walks to his death, Jesus cares for and engages with people around him. He knows the emptiness and pain in the crowd’s heart. He can also see the awful consequences of choosing their own ways - violence and destruction. He could see that soon there would be confrontation between Jerusalem and its Roman rulers.

## **PRAY**

Thank Jesus that he loves people.

Look around you, who can you see?  
Try to imagine what different people  
might be thinking or feeling today.

Ask God to show you how much  
he loves the people in this town.

Who might be weeping in our  
world today? Pray for them.



Next: walk through the town towards the Cenotaph on Cambridge Crescent.

## *Jesus is crucified*

“And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.” Mark 15:24



Crucifixion was a public execution. Jesus’s death was watched by many. We’re told some insulted him and others believed. He died in the public eye.

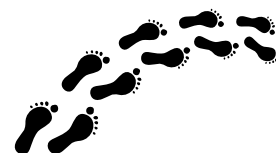
## **PRAY**

Thank Jesus that he lived, and died, openly.  
Thank God that he accepted crucifixion for you and for the people around you.

Stand and be quiet for a moment.

**Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

At this memorial to those who have died in past wars, pray for peace in our world.



If you are doing the walk over two days you might like to stop here.

If you are continuing, walk down Montpellier Hill to the Royal Pump Room.

# STATION 6

# The Royal Pump Room



## Jesus talks to a thief

"One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other said... 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:39-43

As Jesus dies he talks with two criminals who are being executed with him. One is unrepentant to the end, but the other turns to him. 'Remember me Jesus...'. Jesus gives him what he needs to hear - forgiveness, hope and assurance that he will be with him eternally.

## PRAY

Thank Jesus that he gives people hope, a future, forgiveness.

Thank Jesus that he gives those things to you.

Pray for some people you know who might need to know that Jesus can be with them.

Pray for those in our world who might feel hopeless.

Let God remind you that he is Lord of everything you see.



Next: walk to Valley Gardens and head for the Harrogate Heritage Sculpture in the middle of the garden.

## *Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend*



“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 says to the disciple, here is your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” John 19:26-27

In a very personal exchange on the cross Jesus makes sure that his mother and his friend both have someone that can support them. He makes sure they do not have to face the difficulties that his death will bring alone.

## **PRAY**

Look at the flowers around you. Thank God for the things that are beautiful and good in our town. You might like to take a photo of something beautiful.

Thank Jesus that he gives us each other.  
Thank Jesus for the people who live in this town

Spend some time praying for relationships between different people in Harrogate.

Pray for reconciliation between different groups and nations in the world.

Next: continue up the hill towards the Pinewoods.

Stop at the War Memorial Cross just before you reach the woods.





## Jesus dies on the cross

“At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice: ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it they said, ‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.” Mark 15:34-37

On the cross Jesus cries out, separated from his Father God. And as he dies he is misunderstood and mocked by people. Yet because he chose to be separated, we don’t have to be. We don’t have to know what it is like to live without God. Jesus has made sure of that.

## PRAY

Look at the cross and thank Jesus that he has made it possible for you to live with God.

Spend a few moments thanking Jesus for what he has done for us.

Turn and look back through the park and across the town. Pray for people in Harrogate who feel far from God.



Next: when you are ready head back down the hill, towards the Japanese Garden.

## Jesus is laid in the tomb

“Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.” Matthew 27:59-60



Jesus is buried in a tomb in a garden.  
It seems like everything is over.  
But three days later the tomb will be empty  
and Jesus will walk in the garden.

## PRAY

Spend a few minutes imagining you are in the garden where Jesus was buried.

How might Joseph and the women with him feel? How do you feel?

Can you turn your thoughts into a prayer of worship to God?

We will stop our journey here for now.

Take a moment to rest before moving on.  
You might like to repeat the prayer:

**Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**



# THE WAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Last week we walked through some of the stages of Jesus' journey to the cross.

This week we are meeting the risen Jesus in three everyday places: the garden, the road and the locked room.

Take some time to ask Jesus for a fresh revelation of his risen power and his love for you.



# EASTER 1

**Go outside. if you have a garden why not sit there or find a park or green space .**

## *Jesus in the garden*

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:11-18

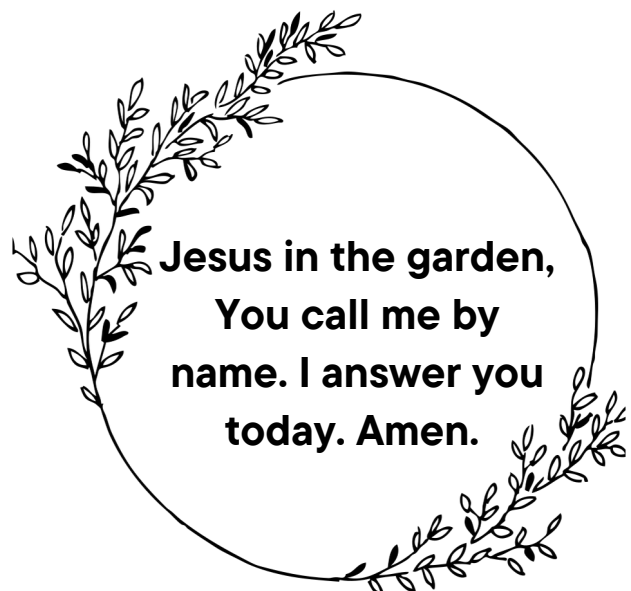
Mary sits in her grief, and the risen Jesus comes to meet her.  
Sadness turns to joy. She is called by name and sent to tell the others that He is alive!

## PRAY

As you sit in the garden look around you and listen.  
What signs of new life and hope are there?

Imagine the risen Jesus coming to sit with you. What might you and he say to each other? He calls you by name and sends you.

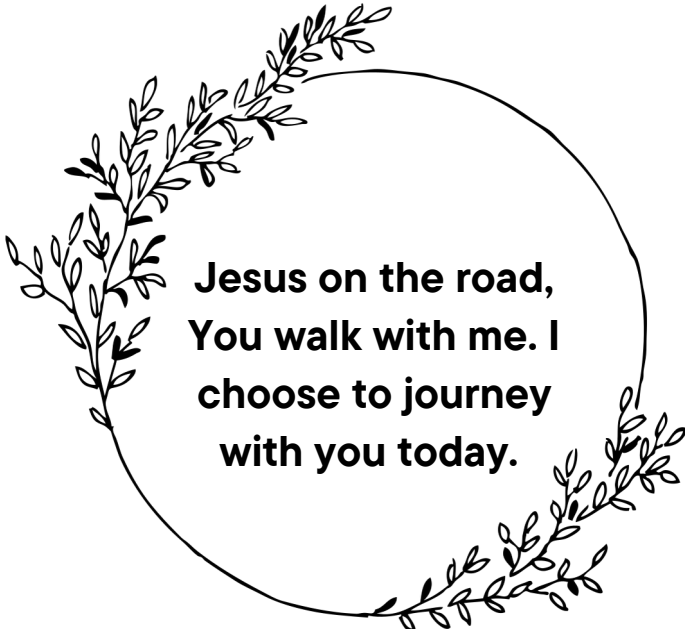
Spend a moment writing down or speaking out your prayer response to God.



## Jesus on the road

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. Luke 24:28-34

Two disciples walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus deep in conversation. As they walk Jesus is with them, but they don't know it's him. Jesus explains everything to them and they invite him in to eat with them. As they share bread together they recognise – it's him! But suddenly he's gone. They jump up and run to Jerusalem, they can't wait to tell others the news.



**Jesus on the road,  
You walk with me. I  
choose to journey  
with you today.**

What are you puzzling over?

What do you want Jesus  
to make more clear to you?

Imagine Jesus on the road with you,  
walking along your familiar routes.

Think about the things you  
and He might talk about.

Take some time to write down  
or speak out loud your prayers.

## Jesus in the locked room

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:19-23

The disciples are confused and anxious, the doors are locked. Suddenly Jesus is there. He offers reassurance and peace. Then he breathes on them saying "receive the Holy Spirit".

## PRAY

What you worried or anxious about? Imagine Jesus appearing to you saying "Peace be with you."

Open your hands and receive the Holy Spirit.

Take some time to write down or speak out loud your prayers.

