

Thanks for taking part in our *Easter Story Trail*.

Hope you are ready to enjoy **exploring parts of your community** you never normally visit; to see some **great artwork**; to **think again** about the significance of the events of the Easter story; and to **have great fun** while you're doing it all!

Make sure you download the map showing the locations of the 14 posters or follow the link to the on-line version. Using the on-line map will provide you with far more accurate locations.

Each poster has an accompanying bit of the Easter story and an explanation of the art by the artist. These should really help bring the pictures to life. They can be found below, or by clicking on the map markers on the on-line map. And there's lots & lots of extra activities based around the artwork on the website onefriday.info.

The posters are at least A3 sized and are all in easily accessible public places. The trails are about 2.5km – 3.0km in length.

There are a few locations on the *Easter Story Trail* where extra treats are available. Help yourself to one of these if you find any!

The *Easter Story Trail* starts **Saturday 8th April** and finishes at **6.00pm Saturday 15th April**.

To Enter the PRIZE DRAW:

Each poster has a word describing the theme of the picture on it. **Make a note of which word goes with each poster.** These make up the code needed to enter our **PRIZE DRAW**. Entry forms explaining how to crack the code are available at the final location.



Winners of the Easter prizes will be selected during the our Easter Sunday services – 9.30am in Chilton, 11.00am in Harwell

If you have any other questions or if you get stuck then please get in touch:

t: 01235 834256 **m:** 07467 038734

Happy hunting!



(Children & Families Worker)

Easter Story Trail

ONE FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

by Jenny Hawke

1. **Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane** (Matthew 26:36-41)

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

I've chosen a very dark background with some remnant of light to show the enormous battle between good and evil that was the story of the garden. The red signifies blood which seems to be bent wept by the tree as well as coming from the agony of Jesus. His figure shows an exhausted posture which I imagine at the end of his prayers and pleas that this will pass. I wanted Jesus to look almost drained of colour even though he still had the glory of God around him, but with the trees and night looking as if they would overcome his small figure.

2. **Jesus is arrested** (Mark 14: 43-46)

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

This may not be the scene you expected for betrayal but I felt very much that the betrayal of Jesus by Judas began before the scene in the garden. It began with his doubts, and when Jesus gave him the bread, decision became action. When their fingers touched, the darkness gained power and what followed was inevitable.

3. **Jesus is condemned** (Luke 22: 66-71)

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth."

I wanted to show the strength and irrevocable nature of the decision to crucify Jesus. The officials stand with their staffs planted into the ground, grim faces, immovable. I also wanted to give a sense of blood linked to their garments at the lower part of the painting.

4. Jesus is betrayed by his friend (Matthew 26: 69-75)

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

I wanted the scene to be quite stark with plain colour contrasts to show the utter despair in the figure of Peter. His humanity has broken his heart. He hoped to show a loyalty that was courageous but all he could do in the end was run.

5. Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate (Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Jesus' hands are open, reaching forwards, offering himself rather than the clenched fists of someone trying to escape the awfulness of what is to come. There is a calmness there that is shocking, the willingness to die.

6. Jesus is tortured and mocked (John 19: 1-3)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.

The theme of torture was more of an obvious one but I hope I have depicted it with enough emotion for the horror that it was.

7. Jesus carries his Cross (John 19: 6, 15-17)

When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

I wanted the slightly stooped figure of Jesus to be seen as standing in total surrender to what was happening. Seemingly powerless, already with the weight of the impending cross on his back.

8. Jesus is helped by a stranger (Mark 15: 21)

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

The figure carrying the cross for Jesus doesn't realise the significance of what he is doing. He is taking the weight of the world momentarily on his shoulders whilst Jesus falls and struggles on. The cross glows with a life of its own.

9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23: 27-31)

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

I started the painting with the vision of nothing else but tears, like rain dripping down on a glass. But then I saw a horizon through the tears. Whilst Jesus was carrying his cross, suffering beyond measure, the whole of creation wept. Not just the women, but the world as we know it broke its heart. The horizon is blurred but there is still the path ahead that Jesus must take.

10. Jesus is crucified (Luke 23: 33-34)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

In my mind I was thinking forgiveness started with the thief of the cross, then for those who condemned Jesus, but it reached out to the whole of creation. The cross wrapped its arms around the earth in that moment and said there is nothing that you can do to Me that will make Me love you less. And since then, forgiveness is repeated and received with every turning of the earth, with each orbit in this beautiful Galaxy. The cross is still there and the message remains the same. We are forgiven. Again and again.

11. Jesus promises heaven to the Good Thief (Luke 23: 39-43)

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This image for hope shows the ongoing path after the crucifixion. Jesus said to the thief that this for him was not the end. The journey, the hope, goes on. There is more than this barbaric end. There is the onward journey towards home.

12. Jesus speaks to his mother and his best friend (John 19: 25-27)

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The bleakness of the situation is illustrated by the rather muted colours. There is an inevitability about the two heartbroken figures that are directed to each other by Jesus. They stand alone, with a distant doorway behind them since their lives will continue once they leave this terrible cross. They are now family. As we all are.

13. Jesus dies on the Cross (Luke 23: 44-46)

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

I saw this picture complete in my head before I painted it. It came from somewhere else! I saw that Jesus was exultant throughout the process of death, even in the darkness, He was in triumph. Though He was hidden, by layers of earth, death could not contain Him. Even I'm surprised at this one!

14. Jesus' body is placed in the tomb (Matthew 27: 57-60)

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

I wanted the figure of Jesus exultant, with arms outstretched, with a golden energy emanating from him, almost too bright to look at. He is the figure of all our tomorrows. Always there, always triumphant, always welcoming.

To purchase prints in any size of these paintings, go to www.cpo.org.uk/onefriday

To find out more about the One Friday Holy Week project to go www.onefriday.info