

Our Holy Week Trail  
Bishops Cannings School - Easter 2022

This Easter every class took a few hours out of school to walk around our village and spend time in reflection on our first ever Holy Week Trail. The trail was established as a pilgrimage journey with signposts directing the way around the village visiting eight reflective stations.

The trail was in place for the whole week and all members of our community were invited to walk it in their own time over the weekend or in the evenings. We had many encouraging comments from parents, church congregation members and village residents, with parishioners asking to hang their own ribbons and offering their own thoughts and prayers.

Many conversations with local farmers and residents were had as we set up the trail, strengthening our relationships in the community:

*'I loved to see the ribbons on the tree as I walked my dog across the field in the evenings.'*

*'We would love the children to come and visit the animals on our farm later in the year.'*

*'I would love to have a sign to Golgotha on my fence!'*

*'Gave me a fresh perspective on the familiar Easter story.'*

*'Really inspiring to see that this is being shared with every child in the school.'*

*'Thank you for making this resource available for us all to enjoy.'*

*'What a lovely thing to do!'*

A local church from Devizes brought some of their homegroup members to prayerfully walk the trail one evening and our vicar and governors joined some of the classes on their trails too. A particular highlight was when Year 6 did the trail for a second time with their Reception 'buddies' explaining what was happening at each station and helping them with the activities.

The station ideas were made and adapted from a variety of sources including Experience Easter and Experience Easter Outside (Diocese of Gloucester). We have shared our work with some other schools and parishes across the country.

Many children wrote a recount of the trail and here we have collated the words from their reports and feedback:



**PALM SUNDAY:** This Holy Week we did an Easter trail around the school grounds around the village. We started off in the back playground where we acted out the events of Palm Sunday. First, we went over to the willow arch on the back playground, which represented Jesus going to Jerusalem for Passover and everyone cheering for him. We lined up on the sides of the arch and cheered for each other as we walked through the arch. We also wrote what could make the world a better place on the large



chalkboard.

**THE TEMPLE:** Next, we went to Temple area, here there was a table with baskets full of coins on. Our teacher flipped over the table and we were all very shocked as it was very loud and there were coins all over the floor! We heard stories about Jesus going into the temple and doing the same thing to the tables there. This was where we realized even someone as



perfect as Jesus could still get angry. He was angry at the temple being turned into a den of robbers. Then we had to pick up the coins and think about what makes us angry and put them back in the basket.



**THE UPPER ROOM:** Next, we went to the memorial area on our school fields which represented the Upper Room where Jesus and the Disciples shared their Passover meal but we know it as the Last Supper. We talked about the events of the Last Supper where Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples. To symbolise the bread and wine they shared we ate some grapes.



**GETHSEMANE:** We then walked out of the school grounds and around to a local farmer's field. This was our version of the Garden of Gethsemane. The real Gethsemane was a lovely place to be and people prayed there.

We chose a ribbon and tied it to a branch of the tree. The four colours were: Purple for the official sign for royalty;

gold which was Jesus' body; silver represented the Holy Spirit and the light of the world and red for his blood. The ribbons were a metaphor for Jesus praying to God and all his worries going away. After spending some time reflecting, we shared prayers and watched the ribbons blow in the breeze.



**THE ARREST:** We moved on to the next station which was through a large field and over a bridge. On the other side of the stream was a small circle of stones. We heard about Jesus being betrayed by Judas and the signal he gave the soldiers to attack and capture Jesus. We thought about times of injustice or unfairness and placed a circular stone in the circle to represent this. We then talked about what we can do in these situations.



**THE COURTYARD:** After this station we went to our next area which represented the courtyard. We heard the stories of Peter denying knowing Jesus and how Jesus had told Peter he would deny knowing him three times before the cockerel crowed. We heard how Peter sought solace at the fire in the courtyard. We were each given a small stick or twig to throw into our pretend fire. The sticks were thrown in our imaginary fire to symbolise the burning away of our sins.





**GOLGOTHA:** After this we walked to the church in the village. We saw a large wooden cross set up in the churchyard. We were told that this represented Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified next to two common thieves. Jesus said he would remember the thief who said sorry, and this is a story of hope for Christians. Here we had a peaceful time making our own crosses from natural materials found within the churchyard.





**THE GARDEN TOMB:** Our last station was back in school. We have an area fenced off at the front of the school with a small garden tomb. We heard about Jesus dying and being laid to rest in the tomb and rising again to come and speak to the disciples. Finally, we spread wild flower seeds to show how

things that look dead can come back to life. We then prayed altogether before finishing our Easter trail.



*'It was really interesting to see the different parts of the Easter story split up in this way. And it helped us understand what happened and why Jesus gave his life for us.'*

*'I enjoyed throwing the sticks into the fire because I thought the metaphor of the cleansing ourselves from our sins was a good representation.'* Josh

*'I enjoyed making the crosses because it made me think of God deep down.'* Joseph

*'I learnt about Jesus throwing tables over and getting angry in the temple because when you hear the story of Jesus it often gets left out'* Izzy

*'I learnt that Jesus went through a hard time on earth'* Riley

*'I enjoyed doing the ribbons on the tree because they really looked nice and almost like angels coming down'* Rose

*'I enjoyed making the crosses because it was really fun making a religious cross out of the world that God gave us'* Elena