

St P&P's Lent Church Walk: Sat 28th March 2026:

Focus: The Cross



“I life up my eyes to the hills ...” Psalm 121

Our view from St P & P's, Shoreham, churchyard.

Our reflection:

As we stand and keep a moment's vigil at the “foot of the cross”, what do we see?

Wide open arms.

This image helps us focus upon the indescribable and incomprehensible love that God created us to receive from Him, His love that He created the world and humankind to know.

This helps us to go beyond the brutality of tearing Christ's body in human form for us, to the beginning, when He was at the point of creation, and then full circle, to what seemed like an ending, but was in fact a new beginning forever (His death and resurrection).

In our British society today, we tend to keep ourselves to ourselves, and are in danger of losing any community spirit. But when we see Christ's arms open to embrace us for eternity, both as individuals and as our world (with all its angst and brokenness), we see love that refuses to keep its distance from us. The cross tells us that nothing we humans can ever do will change God's eagerness to love us. Divine love is made visible here-forever.

His love is far beyond any notions of deserving, and our imagining. So let us draw near to, and into this infinite love.

Prayer:



Christ our victim,
Whose beauty was disfigured,
Whose body was torn upon the cross,
Who willed to enter our abandonment and loss,
You open wide your arms
To embrace our tortured world,
That we may not turn away our eyes,
But abandon ourselves to Your mercy.
We adore You, O Christ.
Amen.

Poem excerpt (near swathes of Daffodils) :



“When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host of golden Daffodils....

I gazed -and gazed- but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie

In vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash upon that inward eye

Which is the bliss of solitude

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils”.



The Edward Burne Jones Triptych in St P & P's church, Shoreham, is magnificent. We gazed on this for some time.

We also valued the simple, but moving reminder of the blessing of the three holy oils, on Maundy Thursday, by the Bishop.



A beautiful stroll through Shoreham High St, after lunch there, then down past the ancient houses in Mill Lane, over the rare Chalk stream River Darent, and back past Samuel Palmer's residence, brought us to the War Memorial by the ford, and then to the church, where a large group of volunteers were tidying the churchyard. Inspiring stuff!



We chatted with some PCC members regarding the lighting of tealights for prayer in church, CCTV camera security, their beautiful extension, St P&P's Patronal festivals and more. We agreed to remain in communication!

Back at our own St P & P's lychgate, we ended in **prayer:**

Father,

We give you thanks for the hope given to us as we approach this Easter time.

Lord Jesus, give us faith in Your resurrection so that our doubts are overcome and our eyes opened to see beyond an empty tomb.

May you Easter within us.

Help us to be Easter people in our workplaces, schools, homes and communities.

Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Amen.