

Five+Alive

The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh
(REDRUTH PCC - registered charity no 1204231)



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FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE

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Richard and Rosemary Robinson: magazine@redruthchurch.org.uk

Latest date for articles: **FRIDAY 18 APRIL**

LISTENING

When I was little, my Grandad had a selection of children's records which he would sometimes play for me. One of them was "George, Don't do that". In it, Joyce Grenfell navigates a session with her nursery class. The scene is painted by Joyce's monologue as she manages her class, and each comedic section is punctuated with "George, don't do that.". It's worth finding on You Tube if you don't know what I'm talking about.

As an ex teacher, I am amazed that Ms Grenfell was able to control her class with a monologue! Obviously she doesn't really manage it as she says things like "Susan, we do other things not bite our friends, No, Peggy, our visitor doesn't have a funny hat on; that's her hair. Get out from under the table please Sydney"...It sounds like carnage.

Listening is a skill that takes energy, time, and effort. The nursery children in Joyce's class clearly haven't quite developed the skill, or at least, if they have, they find the lure of sticking their fingers in doors, or carrying their class mates around far more appealing than listening and then following the instructions.

The most important thing I've done since I arrived in September is to listen. Listen to individuals, to the story of this place, and to the culture here. It's only by listening that I can learn to be the priest this place needs.

Over the past few weeks I've employed a slightly different way of listening. I have sort of listened in on your conversation with God. I have taken a series of prayer stations to most of our churches now, and asked folk to leave their responses in an effort to create a picture of where we are up to, and what our hopes and dreams are. I read an interesting comment in one church where, when asking what we could do with the building, someone wrote "listen to the people who are already here". My immediate internal response was "that's exactly what I'm trying to do!". The whole idea of the prayer stations was an attempt to listen in a slightly different way.

Just as listening to someone is a skill, there are further skills required if we are to communicate well. Ms Grenfell was clearly missing some key techniques in relying entirely on verbal instruction, although another technique she had employed was to create an environment where there were expectations and routines that were understood. The children were enjoying a free play session, where they chose their own activities. So there was a certain amount of ritual and routine that set the boundaries of their session and communication, but we humans do enjoy pushing the boundaries! Communication is a huge topic, which includes so many subtle aspects of our behaviour and ritual, that academics have written endless tomes about. So it's no surprise that we sometimes struggle with it. And George certainly seems to!

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At Church we communicate not only with each other, and we listen not only to one another, but also God. And as we discern our vision for the next few years, it is really important that we listen to God together. (This is why the prayer stations were important!).

And it's actually really simple. Perhaps for the rest of this Lent, and as we go into Easter, you could commit to listening to God for the parish? Sit quietly for five or ten minutes with paper and pen nearby. Ask God to guide your thoughts as you begin, and perhaps read a passage of scripture. Then wait and see what comes to mind. Jot those things down. Listen to yourself as well as God; check if the things that come to mind seem to sit more with what you know of God, or your own agendas (we all have them!). As we move into our conversations together after Easter, it would be good if we came having listened to God already.

Listening to God is something that EVERYONE can do, just as every child can listen to their teacher. I look forward to hearing what you have sensed God saying, when we start to gather for the next stage of our vision process after Easter.

Revd Becca Bell

In-Between Worlds

It is a strange time. I can't say I'm in the Lenten mood this year—when normally, I am. How about you? It feels like an in-between season, not quite winter, but not fully spring either (even though there are hints of it). We are no longer in Epiphany, yet Easter has not yet arrived. And beyond the liturgical calendar, we are no longer just people of this world, nor are we fully people of the world to come—we are, in every sense, a people of the in-between. But isn't that the essence of the Christian story?

It reminds me of a classic joke: "If a plane crashes right on the border of two countries, where do they bury the survivors?" Most people get caught up debating the border, but the answer is simple: "Nowhere—because you don't bury survivors!"

The joke plays on our assumption that we must always choose between two clear sides, when in reality, sometimes the answer lies in neither. Being in the in-between is ok. It's a wilderness space—not where we once were, but not quite where we want to be. And it is often in this space that God does His most transformative work.

As a parish, I would say we are living in this in-between. We are no longer the church we once were, yet we are not yet the church we need to be. We are always to be a people of searching, changing, growing. I can say the same for my personal journey. I am no longer the curate I once was, yet I am not yet the incumbent I may become (or not). I stand in a wilderness of waiting—looking for that burning bush, that refining fire, that moment when God reveals something new. Because He does. Again and again. He refines us for a new story, a new liberation, a new journey.

Lent reminds us of one of the greatest biblical examples of in-betweenness: the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years (Exodus). They were free from slavery in Egypt, yet not yet in the Promised Land—a classic state of limbo. Imagine how frustrating that must have been:

Israelite 1: "Moses, are we there yet?"

Moses: "No."

Israelite 2: "Are we lost?"

Moses: "No, God is leading us."

Israelite 3: "Then why does it feel like we've been walking in circles for 39 years?"

So, where are you? How do you feel right now? Are you on the right path, or do you feel lost in the sea of the every day, wandering in the wilderness of uncertainty? If so, take heart—you are in good company. Some of the greatest figures in Scripture lived in the in-between. And they were in God's hands, just as you are now. May He guide you to the Promised Land—however, that may look.

Amen.

Revd Chris Harrigan

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Brassed Off!

A short story in parts by Pie Louis-Smith—Part 4

Sally faced the late afternoon chill with a shiver. She stood on the church steps, struggling with her gloves and her brass cleaning bag. She clattered down the granite steps and onto the gravel path. Her thoughts now centred on getting home and warming up by the Aga stove with a hot cuppa. Monty would be waiting, as always, ready to greet her with a quick wag of his tail and a little bark.

Sally's thoughts drifted around the happenings of the day as her pace quickened. "All a bit surreal," she thought. "Maxim appearing, his friends, the singing. Maxim had never done that before, just appear with other people." Sally began to think of Maxim and the fact she really knew little about him. They often chatted together, laughed and joked about how to keep warm while bitter drafts licked their hands and faces during morning service on a Sunday but other than that, nothing really.

Before she realised it, Sally was at her front door and all thoughts of Maxim ceased as she bent and patted Monty. His pleasure at seeing her, as always, made her heart swell. He yelped and danced about in excitement, fetching the blanket from his bed as an offering of his undying love and affection. Suddenly Sally felt exhausted and drained, as if she had faced a day of hard, physical labour. She made herself a mug of tea and drifted into her living room and slumped onto the couch. She grabbed the remote for the television. It was a habit she had fallen into after Brad had died. Not that she watched it much but the sound of voices somehow helped the loneliness. It was comforting and excluded the deafening silence of being alone. Sally was aware that Monty had slipped in beside her, his deep brown eyes quietly searching her face as he settled down. Dear Monty, such a comfort to her. He knew that somehow the day had unsettled her. He probably knew better than her!

Sally was suddenly aware of voices singing something that seemed vaguely familiar. She opened her eyes; she must have fallen asleep and there on the television before her were young men singing. She sat bolt upright in utter surprise. Not only did she recognise the song as the one sung by Maxim's friend in church that afternoon but she also recognised one of the 4 young men singing. It was him, Maxim's friend! Sally put her hands up to her face and let out a chuckle. No wonder he had seemed familiar. She had watched these young men rise from a talent show to take the country by storm with their beautiful voices. "Well," thought Sally, "Maxim, what a dark horse! What a day! Brass cleaning will never seem quite the same again."

The end.

St. Andrew Pencoys with Four Lanes Methodist Church

'FLAPJACK'

'Extract from Four Lanes Starling News'

Sunday Services in the Church have transferred to the Four Lanes Chapel until Easter Sunday 20 April 2025. This is due to the cold conditions within the church and very high energy bills. The chapel is MUCH warmer and the church can help with their bills. The Sunday Service pattern continues as:

FIRST SUNDAY	Methodist liturgy (Communion) 11.15am
SECOND SUNDAY	Anglican liturgy (Family service & Communion) 11.15am
THIRD SUNDAY	Methodist service of the Word (11.15am)
FOURTH SUNDAY	In the churches of Redruth
FIFTH SUNDAY	Breakfast Event 9.30am / Redruth churches TBC 10.30am

DON'T FORGET:

On the FIRST SATURDAY of each month the monthly QUIZ starts at 7.00pm in the Pencoys Hall

On the FIRST SUNDAY of each month young people are welcome at LIGHTHOUSE, 3.00pm – 5.00pm for talk, tea and teach!!

On the THIRD SATURDAY of each month you are welcome at BINGO in the Pencoys Hall, 6.00pm

On the LAST SUNDAY of each month everyone is welcome at a tea-party in the Pencoys Hall, 4.00pm – 5.00pm

OTHER CHAPEL EVENTS:

Fortnightly Welcome Warm Wednesdays Fortnightly Wednesday Club

Weekly Friday Carpet Bowls Monthly Saturday Sausage & Mash

For more information contact Fr Peter 079 038 079 46

THE OPEN PANTRY:

Brian and Sheila continue to stock and maintain the pantry in the Church Porch which is open 24/7

Hoping to see you soon / God Bless you all / Pastor Sarah & Fr Peter

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STOP PRESS: The Four Lanes Methodist Chapel have taken the brave decision to permit same gender weddings to take place in the chapel. This is an exciting development and supports other Methodist initiatives which have led on THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN, THE MARRIAGE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DIVORCED AND THE ROLE OF THE LAITY IN WORSHIP AND TEACHING. Well done Four Lanes Chapel.

EASTER IN AND AROUND FOUR LANES AND PENCOYS

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13: Meet at the Church Lych Gate at 10.30am and walk with palms to the Chapel for the 11.15am service

TUESDAY APRIL 15: Holy Week Event in Church led by the laity at 7.00pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL: 17 Memorial of the Last Supper in the Chapel at 7.00pm followed by a 'watch' in the church until 10.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18: Meditation on the Passion in the Chapel at 12noon

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20: Resurrection Service in the Chapel at 11.15am

Hoping to see you at some of these services.

Pastor Sarah & Fr Peter

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

17 February	2025	Nigel Arthur Kemp	St Stephen Treleigh
17 February	2025	June Mary Brown	St Andrew Pencoyts
25 February	2025	Teresa Morton	St Andrew Pencoyts
11 March	2025	Derek Stevens	St Andrew Pencoyts
19 March	2025	Barbara Hollingsworth	St Euny (<i>graveside</i>)
20 March	2025	Iris Betty Doreen Parnell	St Stephen Treleigh
21 March	2025	David Neil Johns	St Stephen Treleigh

ST EUNY

For several years we have been blessed by having the volunteer gardener service of Paul Wilkins who has kept the grass low for the many people who use the graveyard. Paul is now about to move to Exeter, and we will no longer be able to benefit from his hard work. His work has been much appreciated, and we wish him and Carrie well in their future life in Exeter.

If anyone is interested in helping in this way, please do contact anyone of the congregation at St Euny or the ministry team.

Our Easter floral preparations on Sunday 13th April, Palm Sunday, will include a choice of decorating an Easter Bonnet, making an Easter Garden, creating a floral Easter table top display and Easter wreaths. We will run from 12.00 to 3.00pm after the morning service, with soup lunches and buns for sale. There are many Easter decorations for sale on a stall for anyone looking for seasonal decorations, made by our very skilled crafters and knitters who meet on Wednesdays at Open Café. Please do come along and encourage others who might be interested.

Dawn will be a little later this Easter Sunday as it falls after the start of British Summer Time. According to the Met Office, sunrise in Redruth on April 20th is 6.17am, an easier time than last year for our Easter Dawn Service, which will include a fire as we watch the dawn break and will be followed by bacon breakfast baps and hot cross buns. Everyone is welcome to this very special worship.

We have been donated two beautiful wooden pillars in carved pine, which can be used to support flower arrangements or as candlesticks. Our plan is to use these for flower displays in the Chancel and Lady Chapel and hope to have them blessed at a future service after the Lent season.

The Good Old Days: In 1872 the Rev Hawksley had been Rector of Redruth for 37 years. One of his roles was to be the Chairman of the Local Board. In January of that year the report from the Town Surveyor stated that he had visited places in Plain an Gwarry and Blights Row where smallpox was said to be raging badly. He had only found two cases, but the premises were in a filthy condition, the closets being in flood and the effluvia from the stagnant water overflowing. He had ordered the defect to be remedied and now suggested that the Board allow him to buy a lime bucket and brush, so that any poor person who desired it might have the use of it. The Board readily consented. During conversation on the subject, it was stated that not only were houses without closets, but there were no backyards where the occupants could deposit their filth; and they had consequently to throw it in the street. As a result Rev. Hawksley offered to become a sanitary inspector himself to help clean up the town.

Linda Beskeen

CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am– 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am. The third Sunday is a Communion with new music and each Wednesday there is a Prayer Book Communion Service at 11.00am. *The LAST Sunday of each month will continue to revolve through the six worship settings and starts at 10.30am. In addition, the FIRST Sunday of each month will*

alternate between the settings with their Sunday Service at the same time:

ST ANDREW, REDRUTH & CHRISTCHURCH, LANNER / 9.30am

(April 6 is at Christchurch, Lanner and at St Stephen, Treleigh)

THE FLAPJACK COMMUNITY (St Andrew, Pencoys & Four Lanes Chapel) are already linked at 11.15am.

THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB: Christchurch enjoys a SUPPER CLUB every three months. There is always lots of food etc. brought by the guests and a good time, by candlelight is had by all. The next Supper Club date is on **SATURDAY MAY 31, 7.00pm**

OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH: *Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.*

The **APRIL** tea party is on April 28 and the **MAY** tea party is on May 26

FUTURE EVENTS: The games afternoons and the film nights are advertised in the weekly pew sheet. **BUT** to avoid a clash with the Treleigh monthly tea-party the rotation for the games afternoon has been adjusted: **Tuesday April 1, 15, 29 etc.**

ROAD CLOSURE: Due to the closure of Lanner Hill from 7pm – 4am for 20 days, the March Film Club has been CANCELLED, as has the WHIST DRIVE set for April 4. Please keep watching the weekly Sunday sheet to see when normality will resume!!!

ADVANCE NOTICE: These dates may help us to avoid diary clashes:

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Summer Fete</i>	<i>2pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Harvest Lunch</i>	<i>12noon – 2.00pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Patronal Dinner</i>	<i>7.00pm (Mary Anson's House)</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Skyliner Carol Service</i>	<i>7.00pm.</i>

With God's blessing upon Rebecca and our time together as we move as one to Easter

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FIRST SUNDAY EVENTS

Can you believe it? FIRST SUNDAY EVENTS have been going for 13 years. They began in APRIL 2012 and year 14 will begin in April 2025 with a presentation on CAMBODIA by Redruth School students.

THANKYOU so much for all the money you donated in year 13. Your generosity is much appreciated by the causes involved. The following list will remind you of where your money has gone in 2024 / 25:

	£
APRIL: DEBRA / Butterfly skin disease	270.00
MAY: PROSTATE UK & CHESTNUT	500.00
JUNE: South West Community Prison Chaplains	125.00
JULY: SHELTERBOX	150.00
AUGUST: NATIONAL STROKE ASSOCIATION	150.00
SEPTEMBER: TREWIRGIE SCHOOL BREAD APPEAL	125.00
OCTOBER: HARVEST / FOOD TROOPS	200.00
NOVEMBER: THE CHILDREN OF NEPAL	200.00
DECEMBER: SAINT PETROC'S	150.00
JANUARY: EPIPHANY BABY BASICS	150.00
FEBRUARY: ST EUNY FEAST / WATERAID	250.00
MARCH: SOCIETI FOUNDATION FOR KAWASAKI DISEASE	250.00
TOTAL:	2520.00

Thankyou so much FP

ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



Walking up the church path from the 'Pub' end this morning in the warm sunshine although with a chill wind, the sight of as the Wordsworth poem goes a host, of golden daffodils, fluttering and dancing in the breeze along with a splash of a variety of colour from the crocuses. Later in the morning walking up to the path to the hall the sight of a blanket of primroses filled my sight. This surely, spring is the time when the churchyard is looking at its best.

Our Upper Room group meetings have resumed at Robin and Trish's home on a Tuesday evening when we have been discussing among other things for the Lent course, the difference between hope and trust. We read a passage from the bible, say a prayer or two and sing a few hymns and talk. We end the evening with a service of compline.

Our monthly tea party continues going from strength to strength; there will be no Tea Party in April because of the Easter holidays—the next one will be on the 13 May.

On Ash Wednesday we joined the Rev Becca and Rev Margaret for a service of the Imposition of Ashes followed by Holy Communion. We sang some beautiful hymns accompanied by Charlie on the organ from Be Still for the presence of the Lord at the beginning to Amazing Grace to finish with My song is love unknown and When I survey the wondrous cross in between. The whole service from the Ashing with Rev Becca and Holy Communion with Margaret made us think of what the season of Lent leading us to Easter was all about.

The Treleigh 'family' have been saddened to hear of the sudden death of Betty Parnell. Yes she had not been well and had been in Treliske and on discharge decided to have respite care in Little Trefewha Care home. She had been in good spirits when Anne, Carol and Doreen visited her with goodies and were joined by her niece Beverley. With Betty in good spirits the ladies left for home, only to learn the next day that Betty had died later that night. Her funeral took place at St Stephens on the 20th March.

Mary Harris

The Toast Report. Spring 2025

It was the spring of 2016 when three of us sat in Caspar's study to discuss setting up a Youth Group. We had already done our homework and identified a need around young people transitioning from Junior school to senior school. For some young people it's a time of great adjustment, often a frightening and overwhelming experience. We felt we very much wanted to ease that change, if we could, by offering a social time and space where both juniors and seniors could mix and share their experiences. That was the easy bit!

Next was how and when. After lots of coffee, discussions and at times, disagreements, the happy little band of three set out to make contact with the schools, (or at least Caspar and Father Peter did!) We had cards printed that could easily be given to young people, parents, anyone who we felt might be interested. We had a large banner made declaring "Toast" in large letters. We bought games, cards, acquired a pool table, table tennis and a large skipping rope. We chose a Friday after school from 3pm to 5pm. We were ready, (or so we thought). All we needed were the young people, those in their last year at junior school and those in their first and second year of senior school.

I remember clearly those first tentative sessions. We began with one young woman, yet over the following weeks a slow trickle turned into a vibrant group of about 15. Yeah! We were off and running.

Here we are, eight years later. Have there been changes? Of course there have. Caspar has moved on and now Chris leads us overseen by Becca. We are, I think more aware of our responsibility today, our duty of care, not just to the young people but to each other. We have and always will see this as a privilege, working closely with young people who trust us. Over time it's become evident that we can and do support them as they often share their hopes and their fears during 'circle time.' A serious, short interlude where we look at issues world wide and the ones in our own lives. We have discussed bullying at school to homelessness here in our town. Yes, it's hard work and at times its exhausting. (Young people have endless energy.) We long for more help, we are too few but we keep going . Recently Robin joined us, literally 'thank God!'. This has enabled us to do an activity downstairs and sports upstairs at the same time. Magic! Our membership now exceeds 23.

There are plans for more youth work in our Parish but it's hard to see how we can do this with so few volunteers. What little we do makes a difference, we know , young people tell us. So please do pop in and see us on a Friday, 3 till 5pm. You might even get to like it!

Pie Louis-Smith

BOOK CLUB

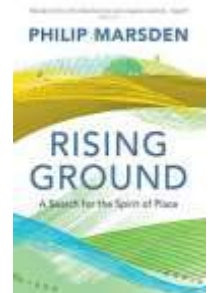
The List Of Suspicious Things by Jennie Godfrey. 1979. Margaret Thatcher is Prime Minister, but Yorkshire is in the grip of terror due to the Yorkshire Ripper. The family of 11 year old Miv want to move south for her safety as well as to help her mother, who, for some months has fallen silent due to undisclosed reasons. Miv, however, has other ideas as she does not want to be separated from Sharon, her best friend. Miv persuades Sharon that if they can track down the Ripper themselves, then she won't have to move away. As the police have said in the newspapers he could be 'hiding in plain sight' which encourages her to make a list of all the suspicious people who live nearby. As Miv and Sharon continue their investigations they discover secrets among their own friends and neighbours which, in some cases, would be best left alone.

As a group we liked the fact that this debut novel from Jennie Godfrey was written from many points of view, with several chapters having their own characters. It was noted how different children's freedom was in the 1970's compared to today. The book covers approximately two years of the girls' lives and it was interesting that there was a subtle shift in their relationship over that period. Racism, school life and the actions of the police at that time were also well observed in the book.

Our next book is The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams. Esme spends her childhood at her father's feet as he and his colleagues collect words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. One day she sees a slip of paper containing a forgotten word flutter to the floor unclaimed, as she plays quietly. Esme then begins to collect words in secret for another dictionary - The Dictionary of Lost Words. But the world is on the brink of change as The Great War looms and women are fighting for the right to vote. Can the power of lost words from the past help her make sense of the future?

The book we have chosen for May is Rising Ground (A search for the Spirit of Place) by Philip Marsden. This is a (non-fiction) journey through Cornwall where the writer lived and evokes the myth and magic of the county we call home.

Susan Perry



You may prefer just to read one of our past reads, many of which are there for you to borrow in the book case near the coffee area at St Andrew Redruth. Why not try one of these:-

The Unexpected Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	Rachel Joyce
God's Secret Agents	Alice Hodge
The Mandibles	Lionel Shriver
The Island	Victoria Hislop
Queenie's Story	Josephine Cox
Screwtape Letters	C S Lewis

Don't hesitate to contact me, Margaret on 97939 471837, for more information or catch me at church.

*Coming to the Crypt
Parish Cabaret and Supper Night
Friday 25 July
Save the date*



My way to Compostela

Day 16 Part 1

Castrojeriz to Formista—26.4km

One of the necessities when doing a long distance walk is to have a relatively decent night's sleep. Having a bed in an Albergue opposite a church is not conducive to sleeping well, especially when the Church bell continues to ding out the hours during the night, contrary to what we had been lead to believe that it stopped at Midnight!! Ear plugs are helpful but even they did not cushion the sound of the hour bell!!! So it was with very bleary eyes, aching muscles and following an early breakfast at 6.30am, we headed out to pick up the route for the day that would take us to our designated stop for the night, it was one of the very few days in which we followed the guide book's recommended path. A strenuous climb back up to the Meseta was not what you want to do after a disturbed night. A quote by Joseph Campbell (American Mythologist, writer and lecturer 1904-1987) came to mind. "If you follow your bliss, you put yourself on a track, that has been there all the while, waiting for you, and the life that you ought to be living is the one you are living". With a further 25.2Km to reach Formista I assumed that I was on the track! The day was one of warm sunshine so a plentiful supply of water was necessary. After 3.4 Km we arrived at Alto de Mostelares a delightful covered rest area with information boards explaining the local fauna and flora. We took a pleasant 10 minutes to drink some water. Any stop for longer than 2 minutes was an excuse for Andrew to get out his secret snack bag. If you can recall Mary Poppins handbag then you get the picture of how bottomless his snack bag was, we were all silently pleased that he did, as we had at least one wine gum/apple slice each. From this point the route dips downhill and after a further 4.1Km we arrived at the Fuente de Piojo, a picnic spot with drinkable water and a chance to refill our water supply. From here we joined a minor asphalt road to reach Ermita de San Nicholàs, an Albergue which belongs to an Italian Confraternity, who restored the 13th century building. It's a popular stop point for pilgrims, despite having no electricity, except for a shower and toilet in an adjoining annexe. All the lighting is by candlelight and it adds to the healing atmosphere that is the draw to pilgrims and with only 12 mattresses, a shared dinner and breakfast, one can see the attraction. From the Albergue we cross the Rio Pisuerga via the Puente de Itero a medieval bridge with 11 arches which marks the Historical boundary of the old kingdoms of Castilla and Leòn. We left the Provincia of Burgos and enter the Provincia de Palencia (Terra de Campos) Land of the Fields. This part of the Meseta is a highly productive agricultural area and is well served with water canals and rivers. As we head for Itero de la Vega, a small village 2 km away along the path, we pass manmade hillocks, constructed to act as wine cellars (Bodegas) they give the outward appearance of Hobbit homes. Itero de la Vega, is one of those small villages that continue to exist because of the Camino and here we stopped to have a lunch break, fill our water bottles and for Andrew to replenish his depleted secret snack bag!

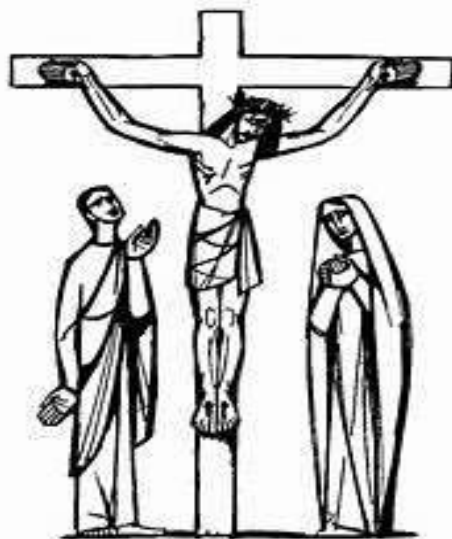
Len Cunningham

What are the Stations of the Cross?

From the late 16th century to the present, the standard complement has consisted of 14 pictures or sculptures depicting the following scenes:-

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up his Cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments (sometimes called the "Division of Robes")
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Although not traditionally part of the Stations, the Resurrection of Jesus is sometimes included as an unofficial fifteenth station. One very different version, called the *Via Lucis* ("Way of Light"), comprising the *Fourteen Stations of Light* or *Stations of the Resurrection*, starts with Jesus rising from the dead and ends with Pentecost



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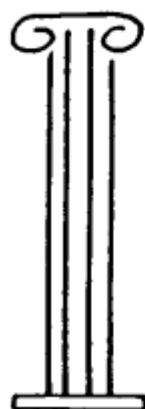


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