



The walk starts at the Mansfield Road entrance and goes in an anti clockwise direction around the park. It is roughly 2km in distance with several rest stops along the way to pause and admire the surroundings. There are several reflection points during the walk during which you are invited to stop and reflect on events / characters we encounter during Holy Week.

## Let's begin our walk together...

**1 The Grand Parade** As you have entered the gates of Woodthorpe Grange Park, pause to think of those stood waving palm branches from the surrounding trees as Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey on Palm Sunday

Can you visualise the crowds, pushing and shoving to get a better view? Can you smell the different scents filling the air, fragrant flowers, intoxicating incense, stale sweat and the hum of humanity gathered from far and wide?

Imagine the sound of their voices as they cried out '**Hosanna**' (God save us). Can you feel the tingle of excitement and anticipation as people gathered to celebrate Passover with the thought that maybe 'this year' might be 'the year?'



Start to walk up the incline before you. Imagine how tongues would wag as they watched Jesus approach and recalled the prophecy of Zechariah... ***"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."***

What do you think their expectations would be of this preacher/ teacher/healer / miracle worker from the northern province of Galilee?



**2 Walls** Notice the wall to your right as you walk...which wall do you imagine this is? Is this the wall to the city? Is it the wall of the temple? Is it the walls we sometimes erect in the church to prevent others from accessing God?

Stop and listen to words from Luke's gospel

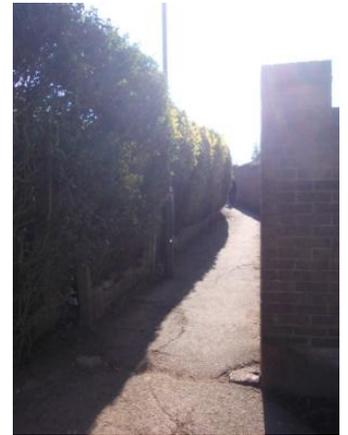
**‘Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”<sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”**

What do you think Jesus meant by these words?

Do you consider yourself a **living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built<sup>[a]</sup> into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (1 Peter 2:4-6)

### **3 The Narrow Way**

Continue on up the slope until you come to the small alleyway leading off to the right. What might this represent...is it an escape route from what lies ahead? Is this a temptation to abandon ‘the way’ that God has called you to follow? Or is it an invitation to walk the road less travelled? It is perhaps leading you to where the most marginalised in society might be found in need of help?



Look back at the route you have followed to reach this moment on your journey through Lent. Now look up the long sloping path in front of you. You cannot see the top or what lies ahead. But know that whatever it is, God will be with you.



### **4 The Fig Tree**

Pause to stop and observe the remnants of a tree. A tree that was once alive, a tree that once held promise, a tree that once bore much fruit.

Compare this tree to the fig tree that Jesus talks about during the last week of his life, a fig tree that represented the religious leaders of the Jewish faith, who have failed to live up to their position, their calling, their role.

Despite being blessed and nourished by God they have failed to produce fruit and are now just a decaying husk of what they might be.

Are you as ‘fruitful’ as you could be?

### **5 Turning Tables**

Stop and soak in the hustle and bustle around the cafe area and children’s playground. This is probably the area of greatest commercial activity in the park. Here traders sell their wares and people exchange money in order to receive for goods and services. It is normally noisy, colourful and abuzz with people from all walks of life and animals (well dogs at least). It is probably the closest area there is in the park to the court of the money changers in the temple

Can you imagine if an individual suddenly appeared and turned over the tables, stop the buying and selling and brought all commerce to a standstill!! Can you imagine how people would react?



**6 Mosaic** As you admire the mosaic of the flowers pause to consider what are the different pieces that make up your image of Jesus? What is it about him that made you want to follow him?

Is it his teachings, actions, miracles, personality, relationship with God, the way he treats others?

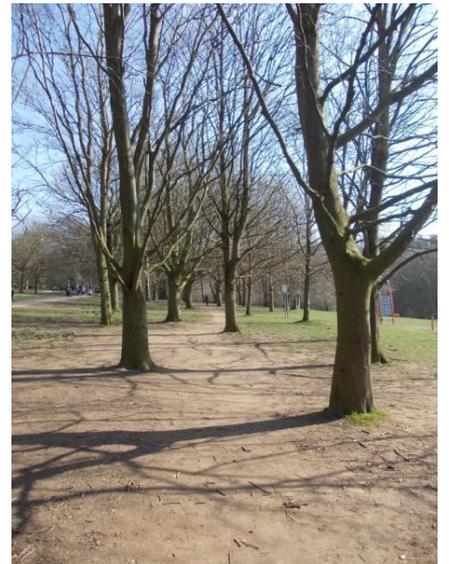
In following Jesus what things do you struggle to do / be?

**7 Testing Times** Just past the mosaics, leave the main paved path and bear right onto the trail that leads parallel to the road. As you walk along this section, imagine that the towering trees surrounding you are the religious powers of Jesus' day, looking down on him, pouring scorn on him, trying to cast their shadow over him.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and especially during Jesus' time teaching within the temple complex during Holy Week, the scribes, Pharisees and chief priests continued to try to taunt, trap and trick Jesus with questions about marriage at the resurrection, authority, paying taxes and what is the greatest commandment.

These exchanges were far from innocent banter but ones which could have had life and death consequences for Jesus and for his followers

**8 The scent of Love** Continue along this rough path until you find yourself in this secluded garden area. Take five minutes on the bench. As you rest, imagine you are a guest at the house of Simon the leper. Unexpectedly a woman appears through the crowd, breaks an alabaster jar of expensive perfume made of pure nard and proceeds to pour the perfume on Jesus' head, as the indignant disciples look on in disgust. For Judas this is the final straw and he leaves to betray Jesus to the chief priests.



Try to put yourself in the footsteps of the various people you encounter in this scene

- the unnamed woman pouring out her love by anointing Jesus in preparation for his death
- the disciples who failed to understand her actions
- Judas wrestling with his conscience
- the chief priests thrilled that their plans are falling into place

Continue your walk into Woodthorpe Grange tropical house and plant shop. Remember to pause and breathe in deeply as you stop to admire the array of blooms. How many different scents and fragrances can you smell? Think of how that room must have smelled when the women anointed Jesus with that jar of perfume made from pure nard.



## 9 The Upper Room

Retrace your steps and leave the stunning flowers behind and continue until you are stood in front of the Woodthorpe Grange building. What do you imagine is happening inside that structure? Gazing at the top floor of the building can you imagine it as the upper room where Jesus has ordered his disciples to go and prepare a Passover meal?

Can you imagine the sound of water being poured as Jesus takes off his outer clothing, wraps a towel around his waist and begins to wash the disciple's feet. Can you imagine Jesus giving you a new commandment to 'love one another as he has loved us'?



Can you imagine the stunned hush around the table as Jesus interrupts the Passover meal to announce **“This my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me”** followed by **“this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”**

Continue across the front of Woodthorpe Grange and turn left as if heading back along the length of the park in the direction of Mansfield Road...if you find yourself heading towards the

car park and recycling bins you are going the wrong way. At the fork in the road it doesn't matter which path you take as they will both end up in the same place



**10 Gethsemane** Whichever way you arrive descend the steps into this patio garden area that resembles a small amphitheatre. Remember that after sharing a Passover meal with his closest friends, Jesus and his disciples left the Upper Room and headed to the garden of Gethsemane. As they went they sang psalms.



What is your favourite hymn / worship song associated with this time of year?  
Is it a song that is associated with Palm Sunday, Holy week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter Sunday?

If you can recall the words perhaps you might like to quietly sing a verse to yourself as you sit and reflect on the events in the garden of Gethsemane .

Are there times in your faith journey when, just like those disciples, you have failed to stay alert and awake?

Are there times when you feel you have betrayed Jesus?

Are there times when you have fled from situations that were difficult?

Are there times when you have wanted God to take away some burden you are faced with?



**11 On the Spot** Head out of this garden area and continue on the path between the pitch and putt course and Woodthorpe Drive that runs the entire length of the park.  
Stop when you get to this location (It is on the left) and stand in the middle of the square.

Put yourself into Peter's shoes. You have followed the temple police who have arrested Jesus and are now stood in the courtyard outside the house of Caiphas, the chief priest. You are trying to stay hidden and at the same time get close enough to hear what is going on. Suddenly you find yourself 'put on the spot' by a series of questions you are asked regarding you and Jesus.

A few moments ago you have sworn to protect Jesus with your life, now you hear the words escaping from your mouth...'**I do not know a man called Jesus**'...and then the sound of a rooster crowing three times!!!

## 12 End of the Line

Imagine that you are Simon of Cyrene. Stopped on your way into the city you have been forced to carry the cross of Jesus on this last stage of his journey.

Your back is aching. Your legs are tired. But your discomfort is nothing compared to Jesus, his back lacerated by whips, his forehead, torn by thorns, his hands about to be pierced by cruel nails.

Continue the short distance until you are looking at a reminder of the days when the Nottingham Suburban Railway ran through the park via the Ashwell Tunnel.



Descend into the dip and go to stand with your back up against the engine. Look down at your feet. And observe how the rails end. You can see that you have reached the end of the line. Your journey is almost over. There is no light at the end of the tunnel.

Ahead of Jesus, is the slow climb up the hill outside the city, a final walk into the darkness and the fate that awaits him. Feel the weight of the heavy wooden cross on your back as you transfer your sins onto him

## 13 Empty Tomb

Continue your walk along the path, perhaps feeling numb due to the events of Good Friday. The man you have followed, the man you have believed, the man you

have loved has been killed in the most brutal fashion. He has been crucified and in the process, you as one of his closest followers, have had all your hopes and dreams have been shattered. The day seems endless and the future...well there doesn't appear to be one.



As you continue along the path, day turns into night and back into morning. You are on your way to the tomb where Jesus has been placed.

In your hands, spices and oils to anoint his broken, lifeless body. As you get closer you notice that the

stone sealing the tomb has been moved, signified here by this large concrete block.

You peer inside only to be greeted by an angel dressed in brilliant white. **“Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”**

**14 New Life** And you are so overjoyed, that you begin to do what you no doubt will have seen others doing during your walk, you start to run. Run as fast as your legs can carry you to share the Good News with others. And in your excitement perhaps you fail to see that all around you there are suddenly signs of new life



## 15 Walking to Emmaus

Exit Woodthorpe Grange park through the same entrance you entered the park. Turn right until you reach the Pedestrian crossing. Cross over Mansfield Road and walk into the main entrance road for Sherwood Community Centre.

Immediately bear right onto the small area of grassy woodland where you will encounter these three figures created as part of Sherwood Art week in 2019.

Think about the story of the two travellers being suddenly accompanied by Jesus as they walked along the Emmaus Road

As you have been engaging with this journey, have you felt Jesus walking alongside you?

Have you been attentive to the voice of Jesus offering an explanation as to who he is?

Have you recognised the presence of Jesus in and through the doing and being of others?

**And now as you continue your journey through the rest of Holy Week, to the cross, the empty tomb, then through the streets of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.....continue to walk with Jesus, walk with each other and walk together in faith.**

