

*sins He was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received.'* The first Christians, and, it is reasonable to believe, Jesus Himself saw this as a picture of Jesus' death on the Cross. One of His first followers, Peter, wrote '*Christ Himself carried our sins in His body to the cross ... it is by His wounds that you have been healed.*' 1 Peter 2 v 24

### **Good Friday is not the end of the story**

The soldiers proved without doubt that Jesus was dead and His body was placed in the silence of a guarded grave. Saturday, the Jewish religious festival, dawned and passed and the forces of evil were confident that they had won.

In His dying, Jesus had removed the finality of death and paid the price to buy freedom for all who would turn back to God. But how do we know it had worked?

On Easter Sunday morning those coming to weep and mourn discovered the heaven sent, earth shattering truth, that Father God had raised Jesus from the grave and He was indisputably alive.

In 'Silent Witness' on the TV the evidence gathered is added to the testimony of the witnesses to make the case. Christians throughout the world are witnesses that the Jesus of history is also the Jesus of today who meets with all who will trust their lives to Him. Many of us know that we still have a long way to go to be what He wants us to be but it all begins by accepting His love from the cross and allowing that love to invade our lives.



Today's event, the Easter Day Sunrise service at Dale Abbey Arch at 6.15am and this leaflet are all sponsored by **I**lkeston **A**rea **C**hurches **T**ogether. *If you would like to know more about the Christian faith please visit a church near you.*

**ILKESTON AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER**

# **"Silent Witness!"**

## **Jesus Today**



**Good Friday 2009**  
**Ilkeston Town Centre**

**"What's all this about then?"**

**"Why today?"**

**"Why are all these Christians taking part  
and most of the time there is silence?"**

**"Does this make any difference to me?"**



*Please take time to read inside to find  
answers to some of your questions*

Representatives of all the churches in the area have met to reflect on the significant events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Son of God. We endeavour to interpret those events that changed the course of history.

### **Silent Witness - walkers**

Walking in silence to the drum beat helps reflect on the significance of the day's events - as silent witnesses.

### **Silent Witness - the Jesus of history**

In today's drama we see the serenity with which Jesus accepted his lot; remaining silent in phoney trials on trumped up charges in religious and Roman courts. Pontius Pilate, (Roman Governor) couldn't understand why Jesus chose to remain silent.

Jesus the travelling preacher was filled with actions that spoke volumes about love and forgiveness, fairness and justice, the value of every individual. He offered healing to the sick and peace to the tormented. Above all His teaching brought new values which put others before self, and made possible a relationship with God that would make life really worthwhile.

### **Silent Witness - Jesus today**

He faced the challenges, pain and temptations we all face but at the same time proved it is possible to live God's way. So with each drama episode we reflect, in silence, on the significance of how what Jesus did in history affects us today - in crisis Britain in 2009.

Washing His followers' feet and sharing His last meal before his death, helps us think about the Jesus who didn't press His claims to be boss but chose to serve and share the true things of life and of God with ordinary folk like us.



On Thursday night in the Garden; knowing what He would go through - knowing His death was the only way to prove God's love and to provide the way that humankind could find forgiveness - Jesus

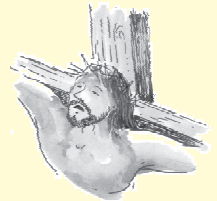
asks His closest friends to join Him to pray. He agonises in prayer. Could there be any other way? Turning to His friends - finding they had fallen asleep; He sees their failure and His heart breaks. So we are reminded that when we are let down and even broken hearted, Jesus understands and supports us because He has been there already.

If that were not enough; Judas one of his close group of 12 comes with the Temple Guard to bring Jesus to trial. He shows them which Jesus is with a close friend's loving greeting. Then without exception all His followers run away. We reflect on betrayal - an experience common to so many today.



The strong silent King of the Universe is judged by a weak Roman Governor who claims to have the power to save Him but is swayed by a crowd incited by Jesus' enemies. The innocent Jesus seems to be victim of circumstance - but He is there by choice; to bear the guilt of very one of us. And so He stands alongside the innocent victims of circumstance today.

So to the cross; the most painful form of execution devised. No angry outburst from Jesus, He prays forgiveness for his torturers, He is concerned for Mary, for a criminal dying along-side Him. His perfect life is lived to the very end! So the perfect one takes the weight of the sin (imperfections) of all the people on Himself so that through his death we might have life. "It is finished" was not a cry of defeat but victory! Jesus the victor brings hope to all Today!



The Old Testament book of Isaiah, contains a poem about 'The Servant of the Lord'. In it are the words, '*Because of our*