Clare's favourite Twentieth Century crosses for Holy Week

Kelham Rood, Kennington



Photo: Art & Christianity

A peripatetic rood. Inspired by the horrors of the artist's 1WW service, it originally stood on an arched rood beam in Kelham Hall Chapel (Notts), home to a radical theological college founded to training those from humble backgrounds. Relocated to Milton Keynes in 1973, and now on permanent loan to St John's

Our Lady & St Alphege, Bath

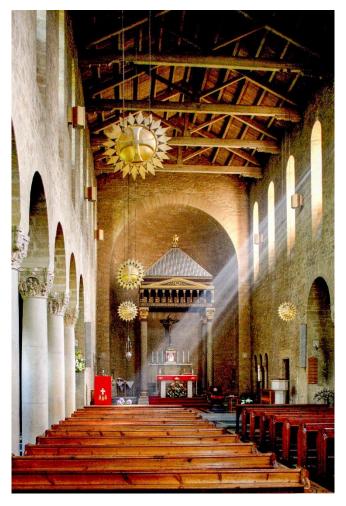


Photo: Twentieth Century Society

Scott described this church as a 'little gem' and it certainly is. Based on an Early Christian basilica in Rome, it has the most beautiful fittings specially designed by Scott, including a Cosmati pavement in lino and these lovely gilded sunburst light fittings. The crosses here are the symbol of St Alphege.

Langley Cross, Manchester



Photo: Art & Christianity

The enormous Langley Cross dominates All Saints and Martyrs Church. Designed by Geoffrey Clarke, best known for his Cross of Nails in Coventry Cathedral. Instead of the traditional figure of the suffering Christ, Clarke depicts martyrdom here with shapes that suggest modern weapons, perhaps a rifle?

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral



Photo: Twentieth Century Society

William Mitchell's 3 incised, interlinked crosses adorn the bell tower of the RC Cathedral, capping this Liverpool hill with a depiction of another hill: Calvary. The largest and most prominent cross is garlanded with the Crown of Thorns symbolising the cathedral's dedication 'Christ the King'

This sculpture symbolizes 'Christ the King', to whom the cathedral is dedicated. It consists of three crosses and three crowns: the central cross of Christ is flanked by the crosses of the two thieves who were crucified with him on Calvary and are linked together with crowns, symbols of Christ the King.

Good Friday:

Coventry Cathedral

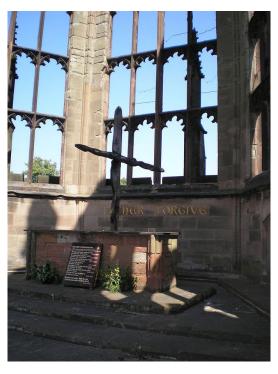


Photo: Carlos Delgado; CC-BY-SA via Wikimedia Commons

The most poignant of all, perhaps - not a work of art by a famous artist but no less affecting. It is formed of two charred roof timbers pulled from the devastation of the 1940 firebombing, bound and placed where the altar had been. A symbol of hope and reconciliation: 'Father forgive' is inscribed on the wall behind.

Easter Sunday:

Coventry Cathedral

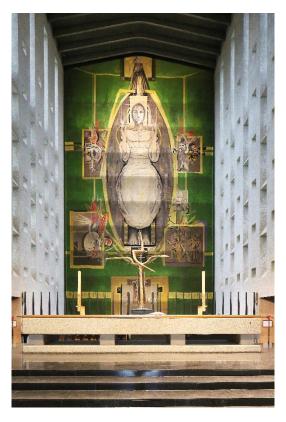


Photo: Twentieth Century Society

The ultimate symbol of rebirth. Set at right-angles to the charred remains of the old arose Spence's stunning new space. A pilgrim journey leads you through the ruins into the new: experienced as if one cathedral. It is dominated by Graham Sutherland's powerful reredos tapestry depicting the risen Christ.