



GOOD FRIDAY

Reading: Luke 23: 26-43
2 Corinthians 4:7-12

*Detail from stained glass WW1 Memorial Window
at Holbeach Methodist Church.*

'I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me'

'At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life may also be seen in our bodies'

Today is a solemn day.

The account of Jesus' death brings us face to face with the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. We're confronted by suffering and sometimes unspeakable cruelty. But on Good Friday – God's Friday – St Luke wishes to assure us that forgiveness, mercy, and not evil will have the final word. Jesus' response to a dying thief tells us that our pleas and prayers are known to God.

Often plans are thwarted and hopes lie dashed, but the cross leads Christians to believe that such moments can be transformative. Paul, the apostle, spoke of troubles, doubts and opposition. He knew what it was to be badly hurt but responded positively by relating his suffering to that of Christ. He believed that in all circumstances it's possible to discover and reflect a power working for the good. One person's self-sacrifice can enrich and enliven another.

A traditional story, 'The Three Trees' (attached) echoes this truth. On Good Friday we recognise the things and values that are *really* important.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all*

*Isaac Watts
H&P 180 When I survey the wondrous cross*