

Reading the Gosforth Cross

The Bible: John's Gospel Chapter 19 verses 31-35

"Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

*Instead, **one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.** The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true."*

Mark and Luke's Gospel

Both these versions of the Easter story say that Mary Magdalene brought spices to Jesus's tomb on the Sunday morning.

The Book of Revelation

The last book in the Christian Bible is a complicated account of what the writer believes says will happen at the end of the world. It has many similarities with the carvings on the cross;

The Four horsemen of the Apocalypse are featured in the Revelation story. This picture of one is taken from the 'Bamberg Apocalypse', an illustrated version of the Book of Revelation made in a German monastery not long after the Gosforth Cross.



Satan Bound in Hell

Another section of Revelation describes Satan being tied up in Hell with massive chains.

A Dragon and a war in heaven (Revelation Chapter 12, verse 7)

*"And there came war in the heaven; **Michael and his messengers did war against the dragon**, and the dragon did war, and his messengers,"*

In a Christian story not found in the Bible, at the end of the world, **Archangel Michael will waken the dead with a blast on his trumpet.**

One of the hardest Christian beliefs to understand is the **Trinity**. The 'Triquetra' has been used since before the Gosforth Cross to explain the idea. The shape is formed from one woven line, yet has three distinct points.

