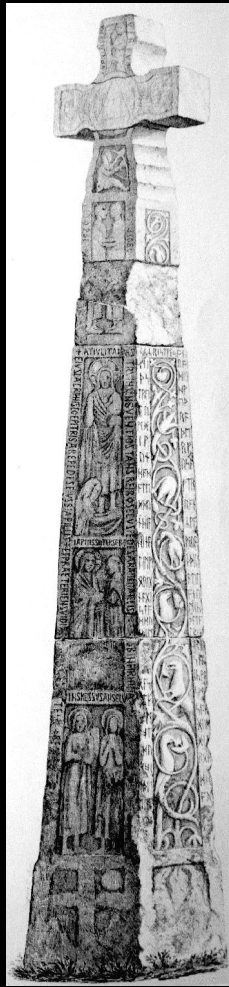


## The east and west faces of the Ruthwell Cross

have the longest Old English runic inscription with portions of the beautiful Northumbrian poem called The Dream of the Holy Rood which pre-dates Beowulf. These are replicated on the north and south faces of the Cave Creek Cross and are translated as follows:

- I. God Almighty stripped Himself. When He wished to ascend on to the gallows, brave before all men, I dared not bow down, but had to stand fast.
- II. I raised up a powerful King. I dared not tilt the Lord of Heaven. Men mocked us both together. I was drenched with blood issued from the Man's side after He sent forth His spirit.
- III. Christ was on the Cross. But hastening nobles came together there from afar. I beheld it all. Sorely was I with sorrows afflicted. I bent to the men, to their hands.
- IV. Wounded with arrows they laid Him down weary in limb. They stood for him at the head of His corpse. They beheld there Heaven's Lord. And he rested Himself there for a time.

(From, Inscriptions and Design of the Ruthwell Cross, David Howlett, 1989)



RUTHWELL  
CROSS  
8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

# PLEASE SEND A PRAYER!

Christ Church Parish collects prayers to place at the foot of the Cave Creek Cross. You are welcome to write a prayer on a card, perhaps a prayer of:

Confession - to humbly repent of sin

Petition - to make a request of God

Intercession - to pray for others

Thanksgiving - to give thanks to God

Praise - to worship and adore the Lord

You may bring your prayer to  
Christ Church at  
35500 N. Cave Creek Road  
or mail it to:  
P.O. Box 5892,  
Carefree, AZ 85377

For more information please contact:

**Father Steven Dart**  
**480-488-0525**  
**frdart@christchurchaz.org**

# THE CAVE CREEK CROSS



*A work of devotional art for*

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

35500 N. Cave Creek Road  
P.O. Box 5892  
Carefree, Arizona 85377

480-488-0525  
ChristChurchAZ.org

**THE CAVE CREEK CROSS  
IS A "PREACHING CROSS" OF  
THE ANGLICAN TRADITION AND MAY BE  
"READ" FROM THE BASE TO THE TOP**

**The Victorious Lamb of God and the Four Evangelists**

The roundel at the top of the Cross reveals the Agnus Dei Who "takes away the sins of the world" with the cross, His emblem of victory. Around him are the four evangelists with their traditional symbol, (from the top and counterclockwise) Matthew with the angel, Mark with the lion, Luke with the ox, John with the eagle.

**The Lord in Glory with the Lamb Who opens the Book of Life**

*Inscription: Lamb of God we adore Thee in God the Holy Trinity* This panel depicts the apocalyptic vision of Jesus seated on His throne in heaven with the Lamb of God Who opens the book of life (Rev. 5-6)

**A Woman Washes Jesus' Feet with Penitential Tears**

*Inscription: She brought an alabaster box of ointment and stood at Jesus' feet. She washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Lk. 7.37*

When one can see clearly the goodness and the love of God it brings them to repentance. Jesus, Who came not to condemn, but to save, forgives repentant sinners, restores them to life and rescues them to heaven.

**Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind**

*Inscription: As Jesus passed by He saw a man blind from birth and He healed him. JN 9.1.*

The blind man is both a historical figure and representative of our fallen human race. Jesus has come to heal our blindness, to illuminate us and "bring us out of darkness into His own glorious light" (BCP p. 77).

**The Annunciation**

*Inscription: The Angel came unto her, Hail Mary full of grace, LK 1.28. Blessed art thou among women.*

This panel presents the central fact of the Christian Faith: the Incarnation. The One Who is conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Son of God made man.

**The Crucifixion of Christ**

*Inscription: The preaching of the cross...is the power of God. I Cor. 1.18.* The foundation of the Cave Creek Cross has a representation of the foundation of our Faith, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3.16).

**In the spring of 2008**, Christ Anglican Church commissioned sculptor Robert Thornley to carve a monumental stone cross for its courtyard at Cave Creek and New River Roads in Carefree Arizona. The Cave Creek Cross was installed and dedicated on the Feast of Christ the King in November of 2009. It is an expression of the devotional life of Christ Church Parish and a witness to the eternal truths of the Christian Faith.

**The Cave Creek Cross** was inspired by and patterned on the Ruthwell Cross of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, an Eighth Century Anglo-Saxon preaching cross that stands over seventeen feet tall. Recognized as one of the most important sculptures from early medieval Europe, the cross has an extensive program of bas-relief sculptures and inscriptions that portray important events in the life of Jesus Christ and central tenets of the Christian religion. Over the last millennium the cross has suffered the ravages of time and the hammers of fanatics. Pulled down in 1664, it was reconstructed in the nineteenth century by the Pastor of Ruthwell Church, Henry Duncan.

**Mr. Robert Thornley** constructed the new cross out of large blocks of limestone from a quarry in New Mexico and incorporated much of the genius of the ancient cross into the present day Cave Creek Cross, with the prayers of Christ Church Parish that it may stand as a symbol of peace and hope to all who see it.

**Christ the King**

Jesus is prophet, priest and king and our sovereign Lord. Christ Church honors Jesus with our church name and we are in the Anglican Province of Christ the King.

**Mary and Martha**

*Inscription: Mary, Martha, Saints of God* Mary and Martha represent respectively the contemplative and active Christian life, lived out for example, in the monastic and married life. Both are valid expressions of the Christian faith and are sisters to each other.

**Jesus Christ in the Desert**

*Inscription: The Judge of Justice, Beasts acknowledge him in the desert, the Savior of the world* This panel depicts the Lord Jesus giving a blessing with a lion and a dragon at his feet. Those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells have dominion over their human nature.

**Saints Paul and Anthony**

*Inscription: SS. Paul and Anthony, Two hermits broke bread in the desert* This panel recounts a miracle of provision for two of the forerunners of Christian monasticism and recalls the Eucharistic feast our Lord has instituted for the life of the world.

**The Return from Egypt**

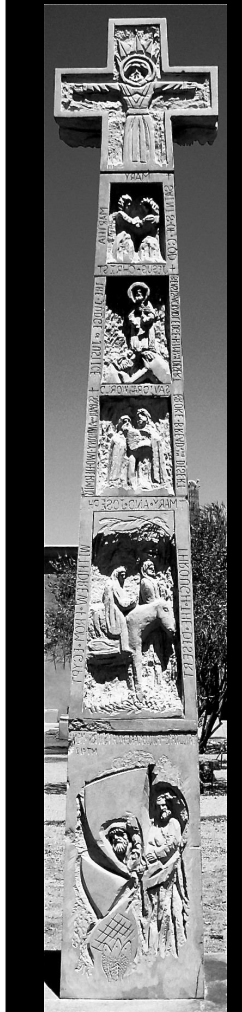
*Inscription: Mary and Joseph withdrew from Egypt through the desert* At the message of an angel, Joseph brought Mary and Jesus back into Israel (Matt. 2.21). Egypt is associated with the world and those who would become citizens of heaven must renounce the world.

**The Lord calls Simon (Peter) to be His disciple**

*Inscription: Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. MT 4.19* At the foundation of the Christian life is the decision to follow Christ as His disciple and enter into the perfect freedom of serving Him.



**WEST FACE**



**EAST FACE**