

# New for Easter: a white cross and a marker pen

by Madeleine Davies

**CHURCHES** across the UK, and even abroad, are expressing an interest in a scheme to erect white crosses for Easter.

Last year, eight churches in the diocese of St Albans erected the crosses, bringing to life the vision of the Rector of Knebworth, the Revd Jim Pye. People were invited to write their names on the crosses in order to identify with the message of the cross, and to publicise it in their community.

This year, Mr Pye hopes that many more churches across the country will participate. The website that promotes the initiative is receiving 150 hits every day, a third of which are from abroad.

"Last year, there was a tremendous, positive response from

church members, leaders, people outside the churches, and the local press," Mr Pye said. "It's a way of proclamation to people about what Easter is about. It's about God, who came to earth and who died for us, and rose again for us. We really do need to get the message across in every way that we can. This can empower local believers to take a stand."

Mr Pye is being supported by the national adviser for mission and evangelism for the Church of England, Rachel Jordan, and the Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes.

"This is a simple and helpful initiative for churches that wish to underline the events of Holy Week," Bishop Bayes said. "It encourages local churchpeople to proclaim their faith in the death and



Mark gospel: the Revd Jim Pye holds a cross outside St Martin's, Knebworth

resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to witness to that faith quietly and boldly in the public square."

*A guide to how to create and display*

*a white cross, and more information about last year's initiative, is available at [www.easterwhitecrosses.org.uk](http://www.easterwhitecrosses.org.uk).*