



# Easter white crosses

*This is feedback on the Easter White Crosses initiative organised through Churches Together in Stevenage during Easter 2011, followed by instructions on how to make a cross, and an example of a notice used near one of the crosses.*

The original guidelines were...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the "vision" of there being large, white crosses outside churches in the Stevenage area on Good Friday, 22nd April 2011. These would have the names of people written on them in marker pen who believe that Jesus died for them, and would be a means of proclaiming what Jesus has done for us.

The other details can be flexible, and can be adjusted depending on people's own traditions and preferences..

\* Obviously people will have to write their names on the cross using a permanent marker pen. This could be done from Psalm Sunday onwards, up to and including Good Friday ( or even later ?).

\* On Good Friday the cross could be the focus of a service and/or a vigil with a rota of Christians by the cross, perhaps handing out leaflets/tracts/speaking to people/offering to pray for them etc. It could also just be there with a notice, explaining what it is about and, even inviting people to put their name on ( though this could result in graffiti, but, would that be terrible, or a witness to the vulnerability of God and his people ?).

\* The cross could be left up until Easter Sunday and even decorated then. We do a similar thing on Easter Sunday when we decorate with flowers a cross, kept in church & made for Good Friday from our Christmas Tree. Perhaps flowers or ribbons or coloured paper could be attached to the white cross on Easter Day. My remarks above about graffiti would also apply to potential vandalism when the cross is left unattended.

\* The cross could be unscrewed, stored, repainted & used again.

The results were...

Eight churches in the Stevenage area participated.

Churches erected their crosses from Palm Sunday through to Good Friday. Some were left up for two weeks.

Most had the names on when the crosses were erected. Some included this as part of a service and sang a hymn standing near the cross. One church decorated the cross by pinning different coloured ribbons on Easter Day as part of their morning service.

Knebworth offered the chance for passers by to add their names to the cross and left a marker pen for this. Some people added their name, others added bogus names, there was some graffiti, and one pen was stolen.

The main use made of the cross was as a witness, sometimes with a notice on or nearby.

Those who followed the guidelines on how to make and erect the cross had no problems.

The crosses are being stored to be used next year.

*A Press release, 2 local papers featured this.*

This Easter, eight churches in the Stevenage area are displaying large, white wooden crosses up to 3 metres tall. Members of the congregations have written their names in marker pen on the crosses, as an acknowledgement that Jesus died for them and as an act of witness to their local communities. On Easter Day some of these crosses will be decorated to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

The inspiration for this came from Rev'd Jim Pye, Rector of Knebworth ( below ), who shared this vision with church leaders from Churches Together in Stevenage. More details can be found at <http://www.easterwhitecrosses.org.uk> The biggest name on the St Martin's Cross is Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford. He encouraged worshippers at St. Mary's Church, Old Knebworth, on Palm Sunday to make sure that they were "large and legible" for Jesus.

Plans are being made to make this more widespread next Easter.



# Congregation gets cross with names

TWO churches in Knebworth are among eight that displayed large white wooden crosses to mark Easter.

Members of the congregations at St Martin's Church and Trinity Methodist United Reformed Church have written their names on the crosses as an acknowledgement of

their belief that Jesus died for them and as an act of witness to their local communities.

The inspiration for this came from Rev Jim Pye, Rector of Knebworth, who shared his vision with church leaders from Churches Together in Stevenage.

Among the 120 names on the St

Martin's Cross is that of Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford, who encouraged worshippers at St Mary's Church in Old Knebworth on Palm Sunday to make sure that they were "large and legible" for Jesus.

Plans are being made to make this more widespread next Easter.

6 M MERCURY April 28, 2011

## »» Spotlight on Easter activities



LARGE CROSS TO BEAR: Rev Jim Pye with the Knebworth cross and, *inset*, the cross after it was signed by members of the congregation

(s)



St. Martin's Church, Knebworth.  
The cross was decorated with ribbons by the congregation on Easter Day during our morning service.





Bunyan Baptist Church, Old Stevenage attached theirs to their Notice Board using bolts

St. Giles' Church, Codicote used their own design and bolted theirs to their fence.





Holy Trinity, Old Stevenage, used guy ropes to the front and back of the cross and wrote on both sides





Trinity Church Knebworth used guy ropes at the back pulling against a wooden strut, as suggested in the leaflet. Names were added after the cross was put up.





St Peter's Church, Stevenage, above, used their own design and mounted theirs to their Notice Board. They, and another church, used coloured pens as well as black and both churches found that the coloured writing faded in the sunlight. This photo was taken after the fading.

Longmeadow Evangelical Church, Stevenage, screwed their to the wall. Names were added to this during the Good Friday Service, they went outside, read a Bible passage sang a hymn and the cross was put up.

Buy some planed swedish redwood 22 cm wide x 2.1 cm thick x 5.1 metres long.  
Have 2 metres cut off. The 3.1 metre length should fit into a larger family sized hatchback or mpv ( I can only get it in my Vauxhall Astra with the tailgate up ).

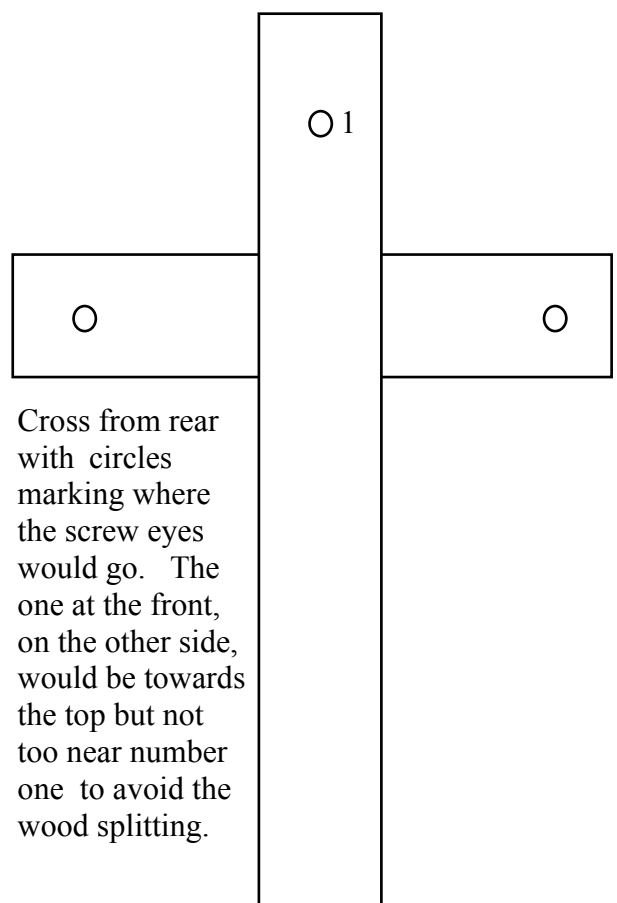
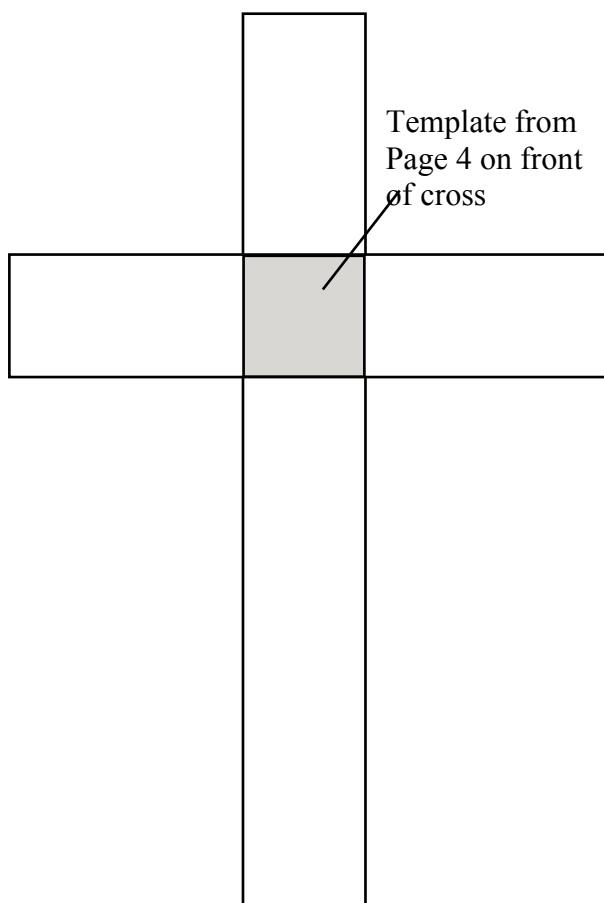
Paint the 2 pieces of wood white.

Screw the two pieces together to form a cross using 1.5” No.12 screws (6.0 mm x 40 mm see photo overleaf ) and pre-drill the timber on the “head” side with a clearance hole. Use the template on page 4 for this.

The cross is then made. Simple.

How it is displayed depends upon your situation.

- Some churches might screw it to a wall using a woodscrews and rawlplugs.
- We are attaching it to an upright post that forms part of our noticeboard using three 7 inch long bolts with nuts.
- A cross may be secured using 6mm guy ropes ( see page 3 ), screw eyes ( see page 3), and pegs. The screw eyes should be screwed at the rear of the cross towards the top of the upright and towards the end of each arm, and also at the front, towards the top but not opposite the other ( see below ). Do not screw these into the end-grain on the very end. Also, keep them a good 3” from the end so as to avoid splitting the timber. You probably need a high visibility tape or similar wrapped around the rope for safety ( see page 3 ). The pegs in the ground will need a simple notch in the rear to stop the rope from slipping off. Make sure that the pegs are driven well into the ground (probably a minimum of 12”) and at a good rake so the rope pulls against the peg rather than pulling it out of the ground.
- The cross could also be secured to exiting metal fencing using wire, secured using staples and wrapped round the fence before being twisted.





Get barrier tape, red and white, from Screwfix for £10.20

<http://www.screwfix.com/prods/76107/Sealants-Adhesives/Tapes/Hazard-Marking-Tapes/Barrier-Tape-Red-White-75mm-x-500m>



**NEXT DAY DELIVERY** \*



**FREE DELIVERY**  
on orders over £50



Drills & Tools | Garden | Bathroom | Kitchen | Heating | Decorating | Security | Lighting | go to diy.com

ALL DEPARTMENTS ↓

SEARCH

Home > Security > Rope



### Blue Stranded PP Rope 6mm x 30m

Item No. BQ 98570

Ideal for camping, pulleys and winches and general use. Knots well, floats in water and retains shape. Blue.

- Hardwearing
- Resistant to Many Chemicals
- Rot & Mildew
- Abrasion Resistant
- Safe Working Load 70kg

#### Specifications

Safe load weight: 70kg. Fixings not supplied.

Price £4.79

Add Quantity

ADD TO TROLLEY

In Stock

[See Similar](#)



Zoom In



Zoom Out



Reset Image



Go to <http://www.nextday.diy.com> and put 98570 into the search box to see this online.

### TEMPLATE FOR SCREWS

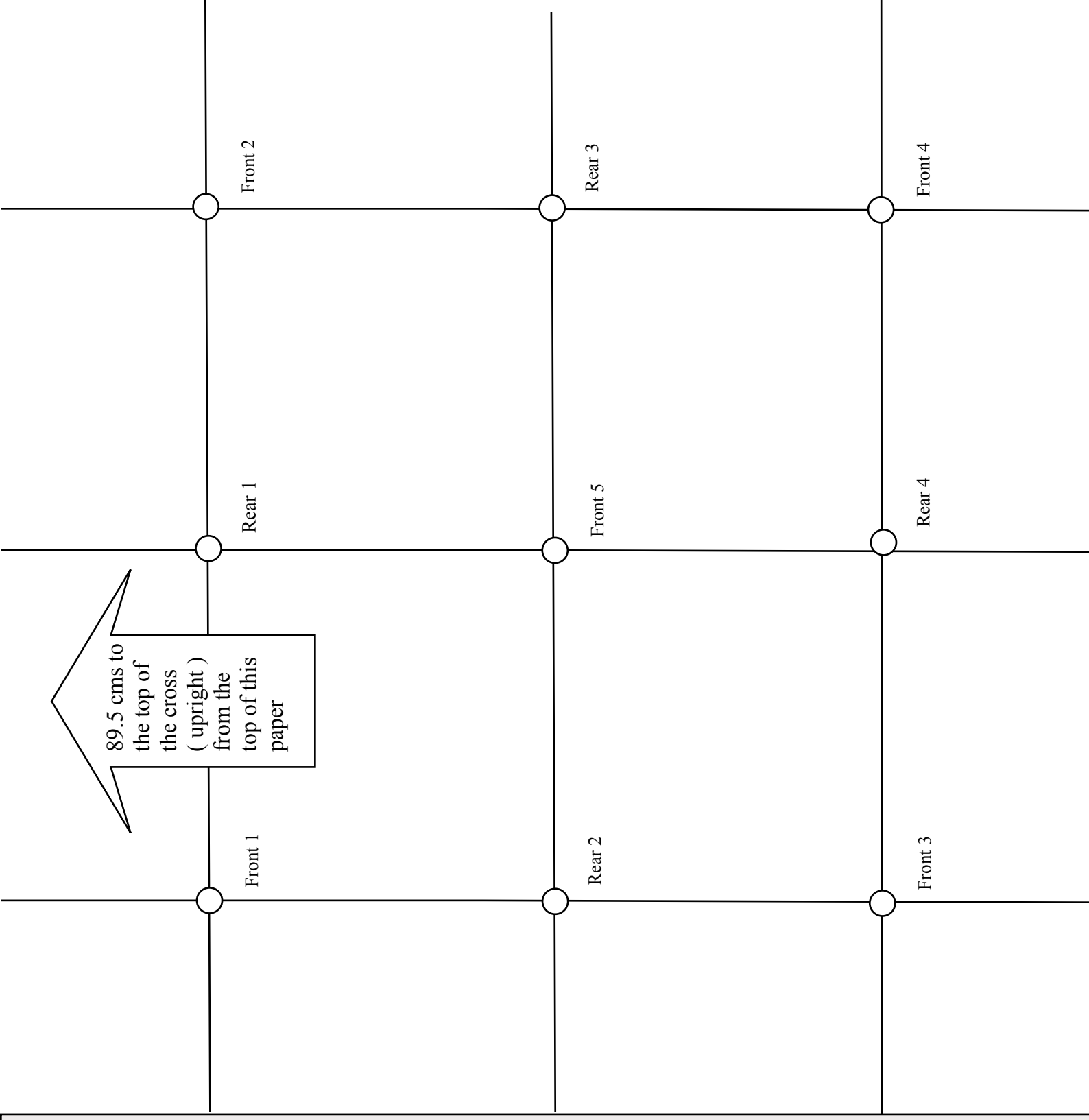
Cut off this area.

The remaining area should coincide with the overlap of the two pieces of wood, see diagram on page 2.

Pin this with drawing pins to the front, pre-drill, remove paper, & screw the 5 front screws in. Then transfer to the the back and repeat.

Pre-drill the timber on each side with a clearance hole before screwing the screws in.

Use 1.5" No.12 screws (6.0 mm x 40 mm, see picture on page 3).





The template in place, held by drawing pins, before the drilling of the holes and screws were put in at front of the cross ( Left )



Front of cross, with 5 screws, the rear with four, right.

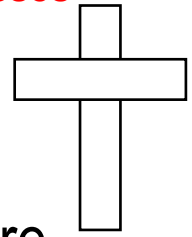




Knebworth Cross secured to a support post of the Notice Board using 10 ml cable ties.

An example of a notice displayed by one of the crosses

# White Cross



A number of churches in the Stevenage area are displaying large, white, wooden crosses this Easter. Some people have already written their names on this cross because they believe that Jesus died for them on that first Good Friday.

Please feel free to write your name, too. A marker pen has been left for this.

On Easter Sunday this cross will be decorated during our 10 a.m. Service with strips of colourful material. This reminds us that Good Friday wasn't the end, but the beginning of the end of separation from God, and the fear of death that the resurrection of Jesus brings to those who follow him.

Please feel free to come to any of our services this Easter.

Happy Easter!

**St Mary's, Old Knebworth, & St. Martin's, St. Martins Road, Knebworth**

## **21st April ; Maundy Thursday**

10.00 a.m. St. Martin's - said Holy Communion ( lasts 45 minutes )  
7.30 p.m. St. Martin's - Holy Communion with footwashing

## **22nd April ; Good Friday**

11 a.m. K.F.C. March of Witness from St Thomas More  
2 p.m. St. Martin's Service

## **Sunday, 24th April ; Easter Sunday**

8.00 a.m. St. Mary's - Holy Communion  
10.00 a.m. St. Martin's - Family Communion  
5.30 p.m. St. Mary's - KFC Easter Praise