

Exploring Why

Cross

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Bear Lands Publishing

About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. In the *Exploring Why* series Aled and Siân are curious to find out why some of the things around them are important to their Christian, Jewish and Muslim friends.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources and st-marys-centre.org.uk

The storybooks and activities are devised for 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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Titles in the *Exploring Why* series are:

Bread
Cross
Light
Menorah
Veil
Water
Symbols of Faith





Aled and Siân are playing 'I spy'. Today they are looking for crosses. I wonder how many crosses they will see and where they will see them.



Aled and Siân walk through the shopping arcade and they stop to gaze at the silver and gold in the Jewellers.



There among the watches and the rings they see the silver and gold crosses. “I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Aled.



Aled and Siân continue their walk to the market square and they stop to gaze at the benches, the fountains and the people.



There among the people they look up at the tall market cross.
“I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Siân.



Aled and Siân continue their walk to the old town café and they stop to enjoy their ice creams.



There among all the pictures on the wall they find an old wooden cross. “I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Aled.



Aled and Siân continue their walk past the town cemetery and they stop to gaze at all the ancient monuments.



There among the radiant angels and tall pillars they see many old crosses. “I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Siân.



Aled and Siân continue their walk to the house where their friends Peter and Mary live.



There with Peter and Mary is their mother, the vicar, who is wearing a large cross on her jacket. “I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Aled.



Peter and Mary take Aled and Siân into the big church next to their house to look around.



There among the candles and flowers on the altar they see the gleaming cross. “I wonder why the cross is so important?” said Siân.



Peter and Mary take Aled and Siân back to their home and they begin to tell them why the cross is so important to their family.



Peter and Mary's mother, the vicar, makes them drinks and gives them hot cross buns. "We have hot cross buns to remember how Jesus died on the cross," she said.



Peter and Mary take Aled and Siân to find their Bible and they begin to tell them what happened to Jesus on Good Friday.



They find John's Gospel chapter 19 and they hear how Jesus carried his own cross to the place of execution.



Peter and Mary take Aled and Siân to join the Pilgrimage of Witness through the town on Good Friday.



There they help to carry the cross past the Jewellers, through the market square, alongside the cemetery and to the church.



Peter and Mary invite Aled and Siân back to their church on Easter Sunday to hear how the story ended.



On Easter Sunday the sad news of Jesus' death on the cross is overtaken by the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.



On Easter Sunday Aled and Siân see the empty tomb and gaze up at the empty cross. “Now we know why the cross is so important!” said Aled and Siân together.

Aled and Siân are playing 'I Spy' and today they are looking for 'Crosses'. They find crosses in all kinds of places around where they live. When Aled and Siân visit their friends, Peter and Mary, they start asking an important question – "I wonder why the cross is so important?" With the help of Peter and Mary, Aled and Siân begin to find some answers.



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