



Dating from 1630, the Spanish crosses wooden base is covered by thin gilt metal and is incredibly heavy! Each quatrefoil's plaque is engraved and enamelled with figures of the evangelist saints, but at the top is a pelican. By tradition the pelican, if she cannot find food for her children, will feed them on blood from her own breast, and so is closely associated with the love and sacrifice of Christ. The cross was presented to the church in 1921 by Princess Beatrice, youngest child, companion and unofficial secretary to Queen Victoria.

PROCESSIONAL CROSS

A traditional church service begins and ends with a procession, to follow in the footsteps of the writer of Psalm 42:4:

“These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.” (Psalm 42:4)

The procession may include a virger, a thurifer swinging an incense-burner or thurible, acolytes carrying candles and a processional cross or crucifix, representing Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, but also his resurrection. The robed choir and clergy will follow the cross in the procession, either from the Vestry into the church, or on special festivals, outside into the parish.