

# The Cross

References in this leaflet are from the Bible:

1. John chapter 15 verse 13
2. Romans chapter 5 verse 8
3. John chapter 3 verse 16

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The Victoria Cross is the highest award for bravery that can be won by a member of the British and Commonwealth armed forces. Private Johnson Beharry of The Prince of Wales Royal Regiment was awarded this prestigious medal.

While on active service, Private Beharry rescued wounded comrades on two separate occasions, while under intense fire. During the second of these incidents he was himself badly wounded.

General Sir Mike Jackson said of Private Beharry: "He is an example of selfless service." Of his own actions Johnson Beharry modestly said: "Maybe I was brave, I don't know. At the time I was just doing the job, I didn't have time for other thoughts."

## Selfless service

The Bible tells of the supreme example of selfless service: Jesus Christ the Son of God. For his life of selfless service Jesus was also given a cross. Not a prestigious award, but the means of his execution.

The amazing thing is that Jesus knew for a long time before the event that he would face such a death. When he deliberately placed himself at the mercy of his enemies, it was not the reflex action of a brave man in a desperate situation, but the premeditated laying down of his own life. The question is, why did Jesus choose to die?

It was Jesus himself who said, "*Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend*".<sup>1</sup>

So when Jesus chose to die, it was an act and demonstration of love. What was the purpose of this demonstration? A man called Paul supplied the answer:

"... *God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ dies for us*".<sup>2</sup>

When Jesus laid down his life, he was demonstrating the full extent of God's love; love towards men and women who did not deserve it.

This supreme demonstration of divine love was not a mere gesture, but was made to obtain a specific result:

"*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*".<sup>3</sup>