

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS Reflections by Jenny Hawke

### 2. BETRAYAL

A lynch-mob arrives to arrest Jesus, led by one of his closest friends. While Jesus was speaking to his friends in the garden a mob arrived, heavily tooled-up with knives and sticks. Behind them were the religious leaders. They wanted Jesus out of the way, but they wanted the mob to do the dirty work. To make sure they got the right man they had bought one of Jesus' friends and arranged a secret signal. A kiss.

Whenever someone is arrested the tension is high. But Jesus had done nothing to deserve arrest. He was unarmed and had no history of violence. This arrest was totally unjustified. It was purely political – a set-up for the cameras.

'Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.'

Mark 14 v 43 – 46

*This may not be the scene you expected for betrayal but I felt very much that the betrayal of Jesus by Judas began before the scene in the garden. It began with his doubts, and when Jesus gave him the bread, decision became action. When their fingers touched, the darkness gained power and what followed was inevitable. Jenny Hawke*

**Can you remember a time at school or at work when someone was blamed for something they hadn't done?**



J. HAWKE

# BETRAYAL

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