

The Nail (Being part of the Passion): Stephen Cottrell

An excellent Lent reader, but a good read at any time. It looks at the events of Good Friday and thereabout from the individual perspectives of some of the main players. It goes on to ask the reader to stand back and look at his or her own role. This is a hugely refreshing way of re-visiting a familiar story, and one of the very best ways of taking something new from the turning point in world history.

Reading the book isn't as good as acting the part, but it goes a long way towards helping us get inside the heads of those who were involved.

A major theme is acceptance or denial of responsibility – with the “What would I have done?” question. OK, it is unreal, because (a) you were not literally there; and (b) until you are actually there, you can't be wholly confident what you would do. Peter was very confident what his response would be when it came to the crunch.... and Peter was wrong. But thinking it through as best you can does help you prepare a bit better for the might be that is.