



Pilgrim Paths

Chipping Norton Deanery

Chadlington to Spelsbury Walk

3.7 Miles

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place

In addition to route directions, this leaflet offers Bible passages and reflections to accompany your journey, with suggestions of places to pause. Although the trail could take around two hours, you should allow much more time if you wish to participate fully in the spiritual element of this pilgrimage.

The circular route includes road walking through and beyond the villages, on public footpaths and bridle roads, through woods and fields (some of which may contain cattle or horses), and it involves negotiating some stiles.

St. Nicholas' Church, Chadlington

Preparing : Inside the Church


St Nicholas' Church was built in 1100 and was originally Norman with subsequent alterations in the Early English Style.



Can you spot Kneelers made for a Millennium Project

In the church, notice kneelers made for a Millennium Project. There is a folder with descriptions and information.

Enjoy taking some moments to look around and then find a place to sit.



Pilgrimage is ... a sign of contradiction, and of resistance to our prevailing value system, that of the market. Pilgrimage, after all, has no function other than itself; its means is as important as its end, its process as its product. Its utility value is small, and its benefits cannot be quantified or costed. Its value is intrinsic. It is something that is good to do because it is good to do. It states clearly that the extravagant gesture (because it is extravagant in terms of time and commitment) is an irrepressible part of what it means to be human and to walk on the earth. And whether the context for pilgrimage is solitude or community, we will be drawn deeper into the mystery of God and the care of creation. (Kathy Galloway)



Begin by placing yourself in God's presence

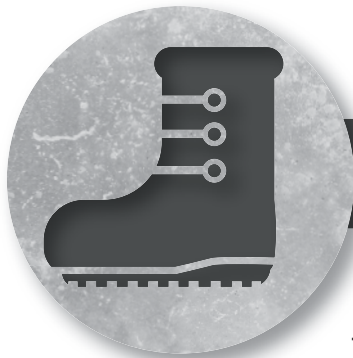
Prayer

*Bless to us, O God,
the earth beneath our feet.
Bless to us, O God,
the path whereon we go.
Bless to us, O God,
the people whom we meet.
Amen*



Psalm 145

*I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.*

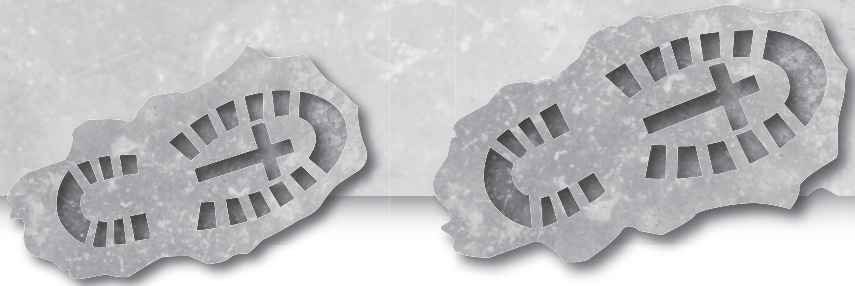


Leaving

On leaving the church, turn left and walk through the churchyard and around the church. In the east end of the churchyard is a rather striking memorial to Frederick Schofield and his two wives. The memorial takes the shape of an ornate winged angel, which really stands out in a graveyard full of table tombs and simpler headstones.



Many headstones speak of generations who have put their trust in God's powerful grace. These verses of Psalm 145 echo this.



Psalm 145



- ³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no-one can fathom.*
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.*
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works*
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.*
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully
sing of your righteousness.*

The church is enriched with a fascinating array of gargoyles, and also a green man on the east wall of the nave high above the chancel on the north side.





Journeying

Go through the gate from the churchyard and turn left. Walk along East End passing the village school on your right.

Turn left down Watery Lane, just before some terraced houses, following the wall round on your **left**.

Notice the village well in the wall on the **left** as you go down the lane, now a rather unprepossessing pipe! The water is still said to be very good, but we don't suggest you try!

Walk on down the lane, which turns into a grassy path and veers to the **left** and into the corner of a field.

Notice the view of Chadlington Manor House on the **left**. Major-general Sir Henry Rawlinson, the renowned assyriologist, (the study of the ancient civilization and language of Assyria) was born in this house.

He lived for many years in Baghdad deciphering cuneiform. Returning to Britain, he was feted by society and was knighted. He bequeathed his collection to the British Museum.



Continue

Walk along the **left** edge of the field and then turn **left** through a kissing gate (k-gate) next to a green gate. Turn **right** and along the edge of the field (hedge now on right) along to the next K- gate.



Pause Here and look back at the view of the church and the tall chimney serving former agricultural buildings.

Psalm 145 continues

You may like to take some moments to see how these words resonate for you and acknowledge your thoughts.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

K- Gate



Go through the **K-gate** and over a stream in the wood. Follow along the path diagonally across the field and through the next **k-gate**, turning **right** onto a track along the edge of the field with a hedge on the **left**.

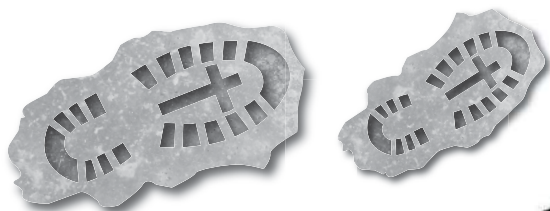
At the end of the field, turn **left** on a broad green track, keeping the hedge on your **left** and a wood on your **right**.

At the corner of the wood, walk straight on with the hedge still on your **left**. Continue along the edge of the field, dropping down towards more woodland ahead of you and **cross** a bridge over a stream. Follow the woodland path and turn **right** at the **Wychwood Project** information board, past a marshy area, continue on to a gap in the hedge and go over another **wooden bridge**.



Wooden Gate

Turning **left**, walk along the field edge, following it round until you reach a wooden gate at the corner. Here, turn **right** along a track as directed by the footpath sign, again following the field edge.



Walk through a small copse and continue on the track with the field hedge on your **left**. Eventually, just after the track bears **left**, pass a gap in the hedge and turn **left** through a **k-gate** into another field where there may be horses grazing.




Pause Here

The theme of Psalm 145 continues; God intends and does nothing but good to absolutely everyone. This means that no matter what we do, no matter what choices we make, the Lord will continue to do whatever can be done for our well-being and for our salvation.

As you walk you may wish to consider your response.

How can we "speak of [God's] might so that all people may know"?

- 
- ⁹ *The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.*
- ¹⁰ *All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.*
- ¹¹ *They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,*
- ¹² *so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.*
- ¹³ *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.*

Walk

Walk along the field edge, keeping the hedge on your **left**, (not diagonally-right towards a gate in the distance) and turn **left** when you reach the next **k-gate** which is 60 metres from the far-left corner of the field. Bearing **right**, walk along the **right** side of this field towards a wood at the end. In the corner, go through a **k-gate** next to a wooden gate.





Dean Grove

Entering tranquil Dean Grove with a burbling brook on your **right**, proceed to the next **k-gate** beyond which the woodland consists largely of coppiced hazel. Keeping the meandering brook on your **right**, and passing by a **k-gate** at the edge of the wood, continue **straight** ahead at a fork, following the lovely woodland path.



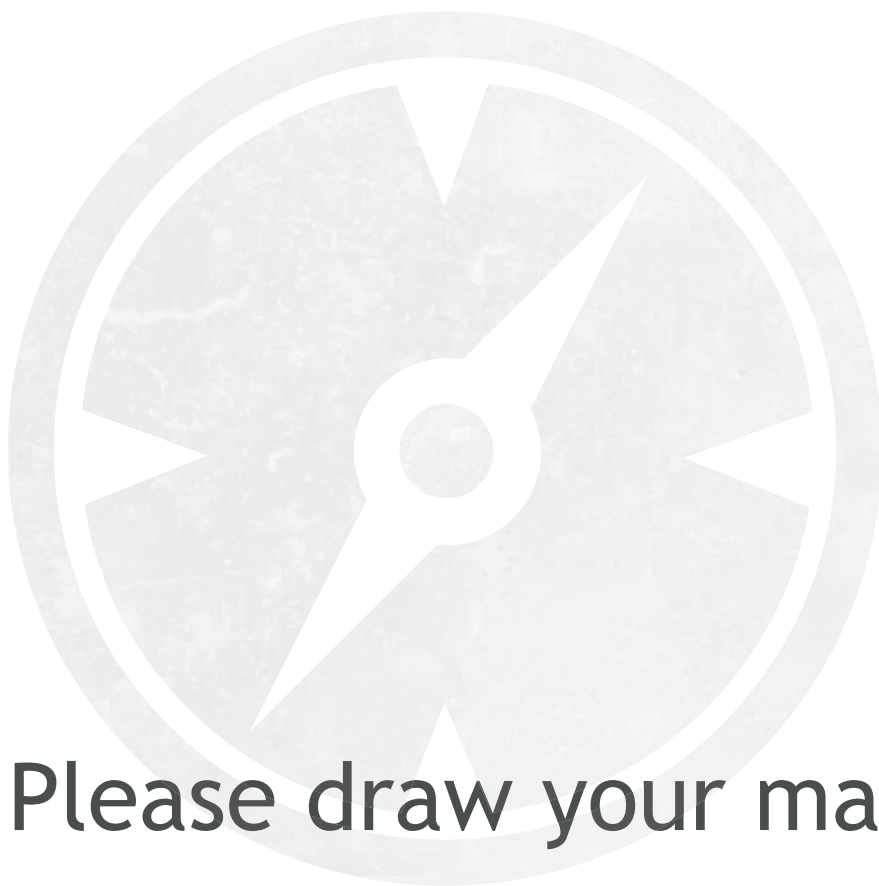
Pause Here

Pause under the canopy and take note of what you can hear. There may be no obvious sound, if it is a still day, or you may hear the wind, or something else besides?

Allow these verses of the psalm to penetrate your thoughts as you walk.

*The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.*

¹⁴ *The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.*



Please draw your map here . .

Pilgrim Paths



K- Gate

Where the path bears sharp **right**, go through a **k-gate** and across a clearing.

Go through another **k-gate** with a muddy approach, **cross** a stream by a **wooden bridge** and then another stream to reach a large garden providing the perfect setting for **Coldron Mill** with its operational water wheel.

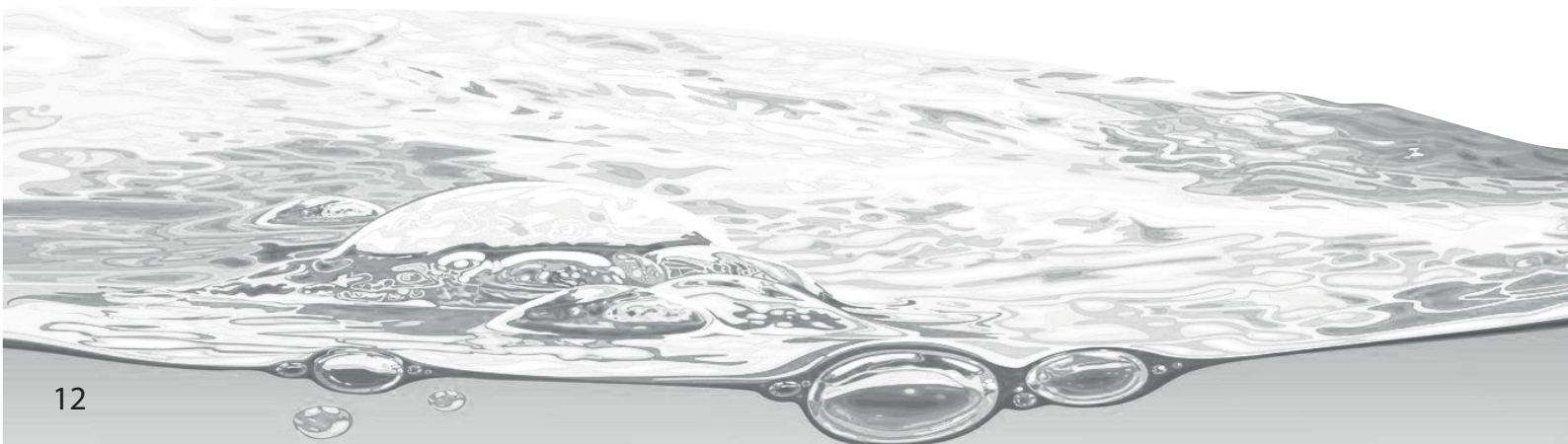
¹⁴ *The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.*

Here the water is upheld
by the wheel and its
falling is part of the
purpose, creating power
through vulnerability and
offering.

Could this speak to you?



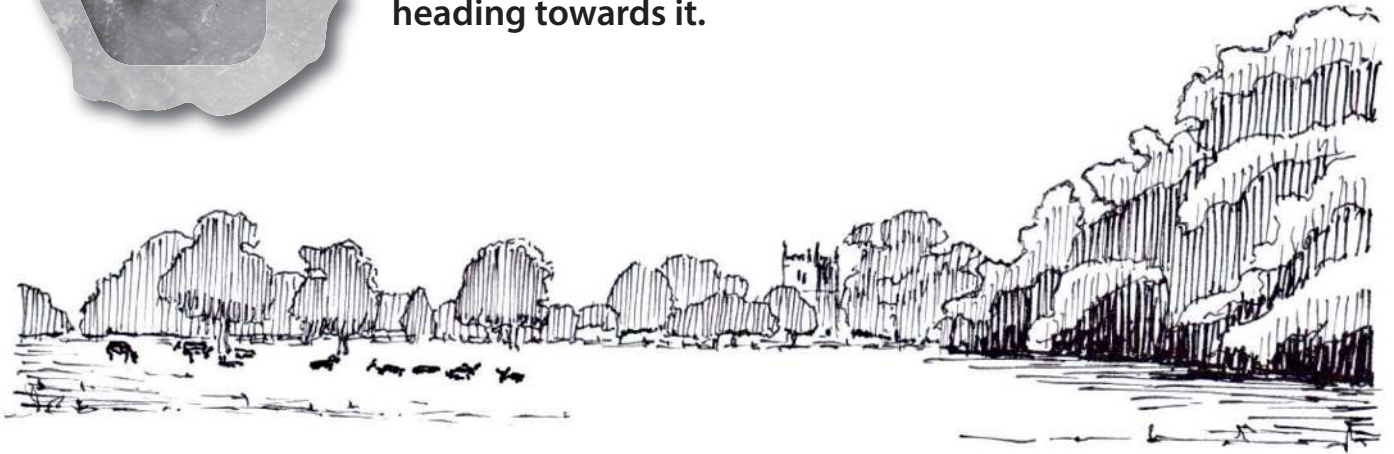
Keeping the water wheel and mill house close on your **left**, walk up to a clump of six trees and **bear left** through an **orchard** to a gate with a cattle grid.





Pause Here

to enjoy the view of Spelsbury church before heading towards it.



The church is still a way off, but within sight.

As you read these verses you may well sense that God's provision can feel a way off too.

¹⁵ *The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.*

¹⁶ *You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, you created everything and you provide for our needs.

We are your children.

You tell us that when we have a need we should ask and keep on asking.

We pray for the needs of our world.

We pray for our own needs too.

I am your child,

Into your love, I place my path, my direction and my goal. I place my life.

Amen

Continue

Cross the field (probably containing cows) and go through another gate to the next field which has a dovecote folly to your **right**.

Walk **across** this field and to the **left** of the churchyard and, in the **left** corner, find a gate between two cottages (old on the right and modern on the left).

Go along a track to the road and **turn right** to reach the church of All Saints.

All Saints' Church, Spelsbury

Entering through the tower, the lower stage of which is early-Norman or possibly pre-Conquest, look at the exceptional collection of recently refurbished memorials and tombs commemorating members of the Dillon/Lee family from Ditchley Park.



Leaving . . .

Leaving the church, turn **left** along the village street and retrace your steps to turn **left** on the track. Just before the field gate, take a footpath to the **right** and continue along to the field corner. Go **straight** ahead through a gap in the wall, cross a track and **climb over** a stile into a field. Bearing **right**, continue across the field to where there are step-over gaps in two parallel electric fences.

Proceed

Proceed along the edge of the section of the field behind the houses, and **climb over** a stile to join the road to Chadlington. Turning **left**, walk along this road to a sharp **left-hand** bend where you bear **right** onto the bridleway to Dean. On reaching a junction of tracks, your route is **straight on** along a narrow path between bushes. Pause first and enjoy the view to the **left**.

Before you negotiate the next part of the walk, where you will need to be following the instructions carefully, you may like to consider this prayer and keep it in mind as you continue.



Pause Here

And enjoy the view to the left

PRAYER

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

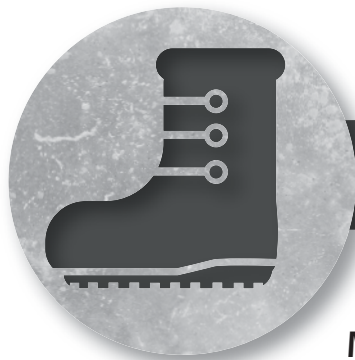
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

Continue along the green lane, ignoring a track into a field on your left, then fork **left** where the path divides, dropping down through a wood and **across** a bridge. Continuing for 20m through a clump of poplar trees, turn **left** to **cross** another bridge and go through a wooden gate into a field.

Keeping the hedge on your **right** through this field, go past Dean Cottages, also on your **right**, to meet the village street.

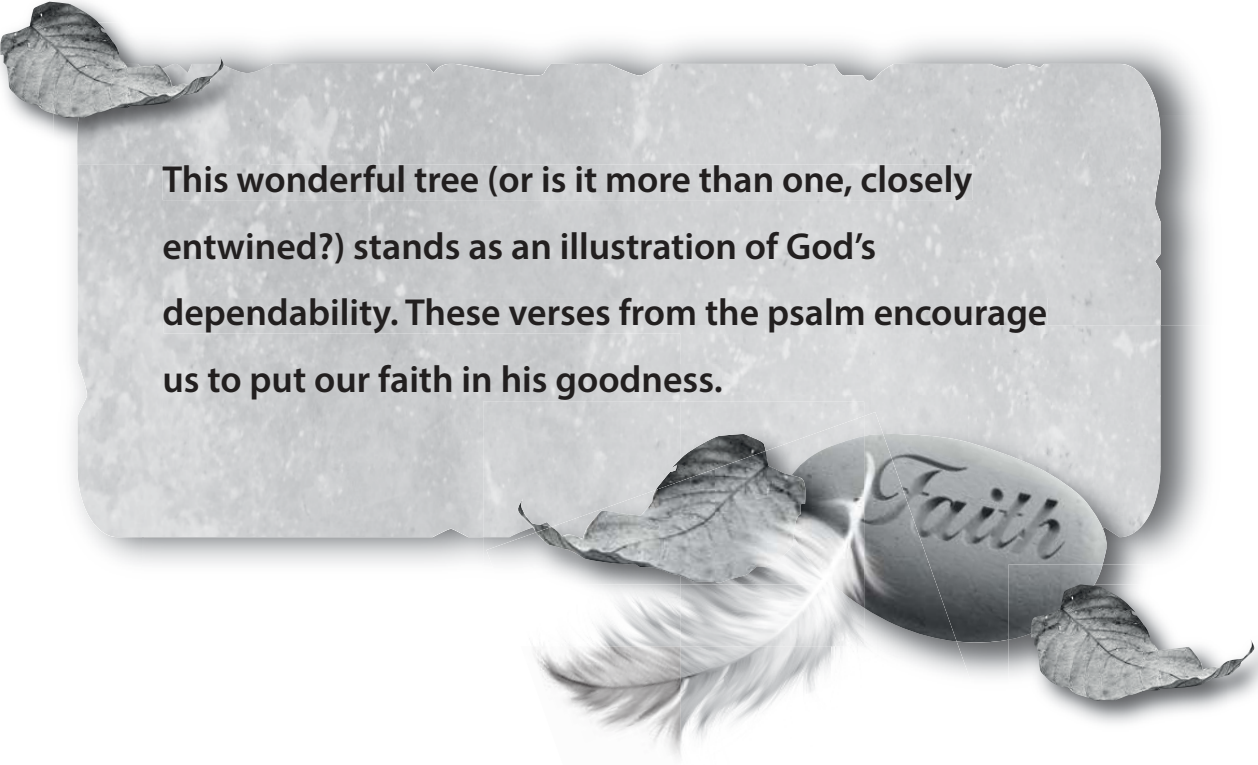
Turn **left** on this lane and then immediately **right** at the road junction, where there is a shady seat under a tree if you need a rest. (This tree was planted for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the bench was installed for her Golden Jubilee.)



Returning . . .

From the junction, continue along the lane and pass **Dean Manor**. At the point where the lane goes around to the right, turn **left** on the bridleway to Chadlington. Go through two gates and along edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your **right**.





This wonderful tree (or is it more than one, closely entwined?) stands as an illustration of God's dependability. These verses from the psalm encourage us to put our faith in his goodness.

Psalm 145

- ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.*
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.*
- ¹⁹ He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.*
- ²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.*





Finishing

Continue to the corner of the field, through **two gates** in the gap and **cross** the stream. Continue up the **left-hand-side** of the next field, through a **gate** and along a track. At the road, turn **right** and enter Chadlington, going past **Langston House** to reach the church again.



Pause Here

Pause in the churchyard or the porch to reflect on the last verse of Psalm 145

Psalm 145

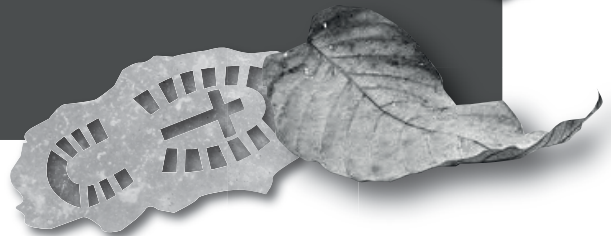
²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord

Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

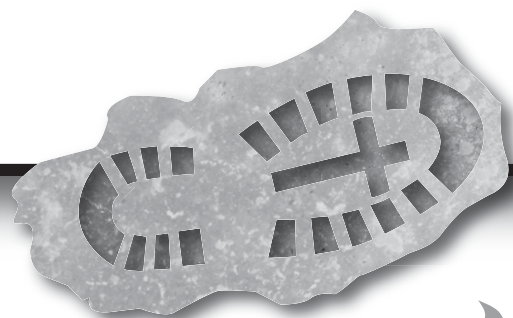
Prayer

*Gracious God,
As this pilgrimage finishes, our journey continues.
We go from here to new horizons.
Give us
Your peace in our hearts
Your presence to accompany us
Your grace to share
That we may speak of your love
So every creature may come to praise your holy name.
Through Jesus Christ,*

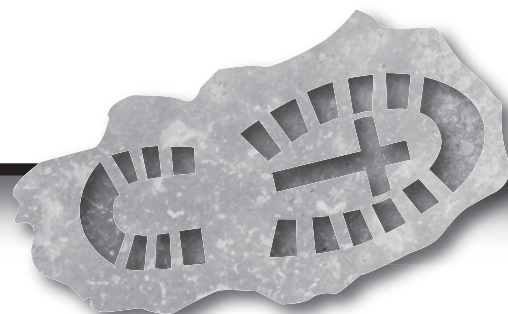
Amen



Notes



Notes



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