

Charlbury with Shorthampton

'Journey Makers'

A Pilgrimage Through Lent



Welcome to this series of leaflets inviting you to turn your walk into a pilgrimage during the weeks of Lent. A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place, and you might want to begin or end your journey at a church, or visit one on the way. You can use this leaflet for any walk, although you will find a suggestion for a route on the back page.

Week by week we will explore the story of Easter, looking at different aspects to the last few weeks of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and what they can teach us.



Week One: Repenting

Beginning with prayer:

Find a quiet place and stand still for a moment.

Dedicate your journey today to God, asking him to speak to you as you read, pray and walk.

Pilgrim God,
You are our origin and destination.
Travel with us, we pray,
in every pilgrimage of faith
and every journey of the heart.
Give us the courage to set off,
the nourishment we need to travel well
and the welcome we long for at journey's end.
So may we grow in grace and love of you
and in the service of others,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Week 1: Repenting

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Matthew 3:1-3)



Repentance begins with that vital first step of recognising our sinfulness – that which we commemorate on Ash Wednesday. However, this is only the first step along a life-long journey of learning to live and love in and through Christ.

Reflect:

A repentant life is a joyful one; it is an 'I can' experience:

'I can change';
'I can grow';
'I can live more fully'.

But it is also an 'I can't experience':

'I can't do this alone'

Only from God will we find true repentance; only through Christ can we be wholly forgiven; only with the Spirit can we live out that repentance, bearing fruit worthy of that constant renewing of our hearts and minds, turning again and again towards the Light which shows us the Way.

Question:

How can you live a repentant life? What is the 'fruit worthy of repentance'?.....Rather than overwhelming yourself with all that you might do, perhaps choose three things you wish to change; three things which will put you in a better place with God and with humanity.

Prayer:

Help me Father, to acknowledge my sin and to turn away from it. Help me to walk in a new direction, placing my feet in your footsteps, allowing your Holy Spirit to fill my heart and soul so that my words and actions might be instruments of your saving grace. Amen.



Dean Grove and Coldron Mill

Route Suggestion: approx. 2.8 miles



From St Marys church walk out via Church Lane and Dyers Hill, down the B4026 to Watery Lane. This will be flooded, so take the lower field path through the kissing gate. Follow the footpath to a small copse, and take the right fork through the copse and down a gently sloping field to Dean Grove. Turn right through Dean Grove, emerging at Coldron Mill. Over the footbridge and cross several fields before arriving back at the Watery Lane junction.

'God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars' (Martin Luther)

Evidence that God's love extends throughout his creation is found in the entire Bible, rejoicing in the capacity of nature to reveal not only Gods love for the world and those who inhabit it, but His endless creativity and imagination.

Jesus constantly uses examples taken from nature to illustrate aspects of God's kingdom and our own behaviour within it. We are taught to appreciate landscape; to learn from the details of flowers and the behaviour of birds.

As you journey today, let your senses be filled with wonder at your surroundings, so that you learn from and rejoice in the gifts of the natural world.

Warning: The map is intended to give an overview only. Parts of the walk are on roads. Many parts are very muddy and slippery – care needed!