

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 Two: Forgiving

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 2: Forgiving



*Then Peter came and said to him,
“Lord, if another member of the church sins
against me, how often should I forgive?
As many as seven times?”*

*Jesus said to him, “Not seven times,
but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”
(Matthew 18:21,22)*

Forgiveness is a wonderful, healing, life-transforming gift won for each one of us and presented to us freely and endlessly. But we must make space for this gift, for it will change our attitudes and our lives if we use it properly.

Reflect:

Forgiveness doesn't depend on restitution, it doesn't require that others acknowledge their own sin before we forgive them. That is wonderful when it happens, but it is not a requirement.

Forgiveness is not an action, it is a process.

Much like its sister, repentance, forgiveness needs to be lived; taken up each day and implemented in every word and action. Forgiveness does not involve judgement, only mercy, and a constant awareness that although none of us are worthy, every one of us is invited to the feast.

Question:

Ask yourself some hard questions: Who do you find it hard to forgive? Why is this? How transactional is your method of forgiveness – do you need a 'quid pro quo'? What are you waiting for before you forgive?

Prayer:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Forgive our foolish ways.

Reclothe us in our rightful mind

In purer lives thy service find

In deeper reverence praise. (John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92))



