

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 Three: Hoping

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 3: Hoping



We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

The hopes of the world – money, power, status - are fragile, insubstantial beings, ready to be carried away by the slightest gust of wind. But the Bible shows us that the Hope of God is not some will o' the wisp but solid and mighty, powerful and completely dependable. We still need hope, because we still see 'as through a glass, darkly' (1 Corinthians 13:12). But one day, we will see God face to face, and our hopes will be gloriously realised in Christ.

Reflect:

Hope is not always easy – it challenges us, bidding us to move out of our comfortable zone of despair, that grey sludge which covers the brightest thing with its mess of apathy and inertia.

Hope encourages us to look beyond our current circumstances, to imagine a better, brighter future, and then to work towards making that vision a reality.

Hope reminds us that God isn't finished with us yet - even though we might feel we have more or less finished with God!

Question:

The poet Emily Dickinson describes hope as 'that thing with feathers which perches in the soul'. It sings a 'tune without words', offering ceaseless comfort and reassurance.....how would you describe hope? What gives you hope?

Pray:

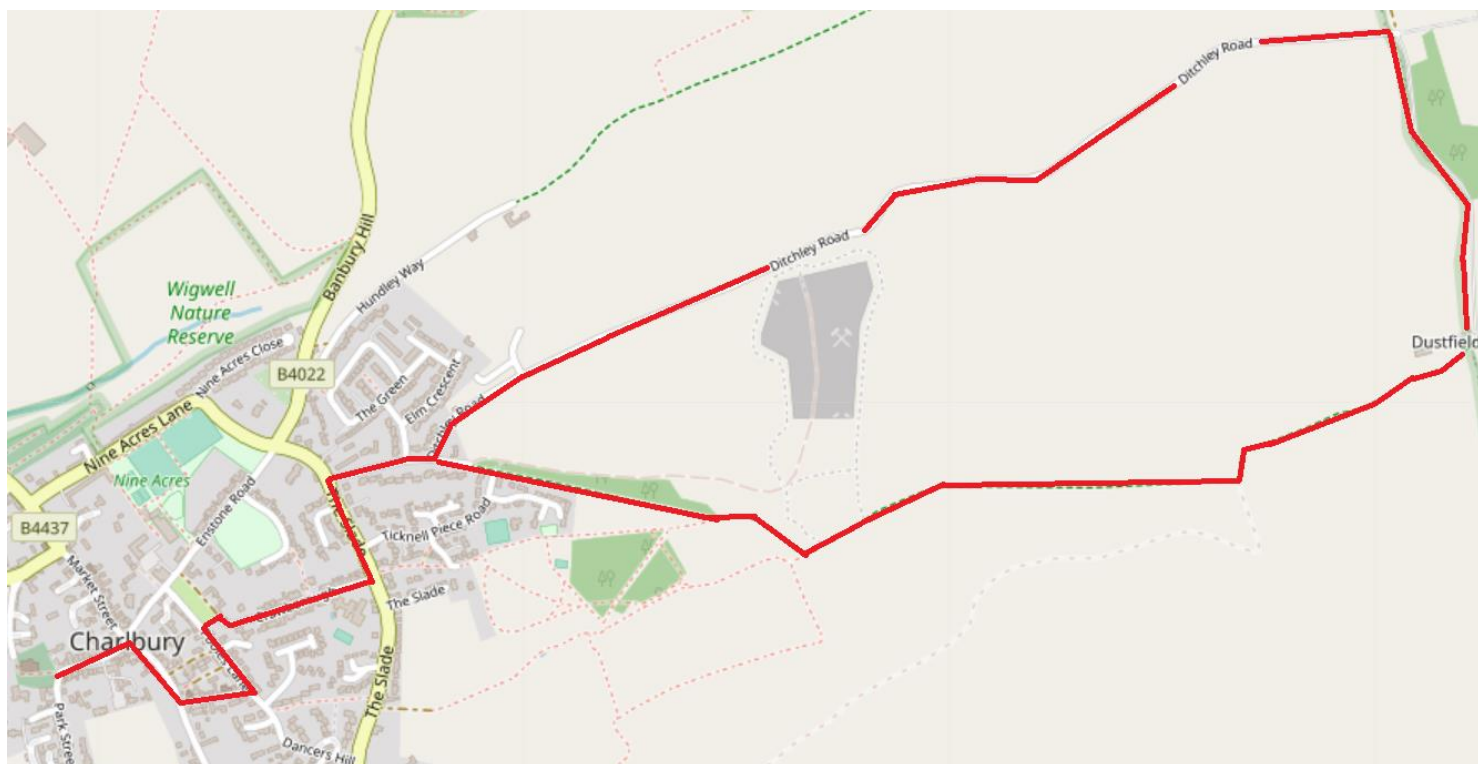
Hope like the gleaming taper's light
Adorns and cheers our way
And still as darker grows the night
Emits a brighter ray. (Oliver Goldsmith)



Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the world,
help me to see
with the eyes of hope,
that I might witness
to your light. Amen.

Ditchley Road - Dustfield Farm

Route Suggestion: approx. 4 miles



From St Mary's Church, up to the Slade via Crawborough.

Left along the Slade to Ditchley Road.

At the end of Ditchley Road, turn right along the Wychwood Way and descend to Dustfield Farm.

Turn right past the farm and follow the footpath, keeping on the track at the sharp right hand bend until it re-joins Ditchley Road once more.

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'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!