

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 Four: Trusting

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 4: Trusting

My God! My God!

Why have you abandoned me?

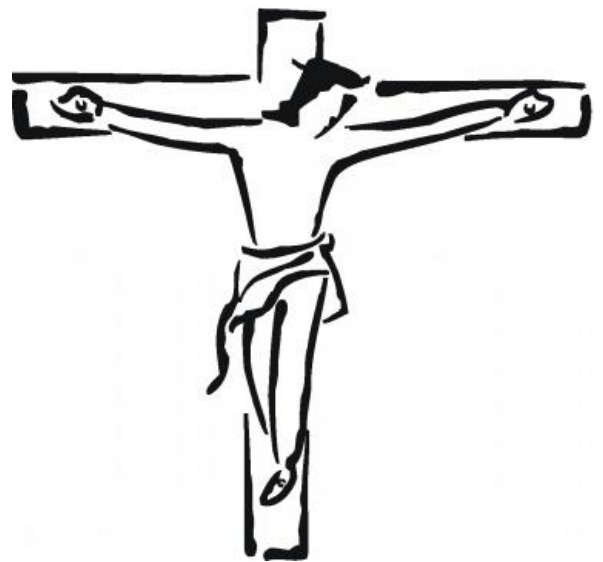
*Why are you so far from delivering me—
from my groaning words?*

*My God, I cry out to you
throughout the day,*

*but you do not answer;
and throughout the night,
but I have no rest. You are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.*

*Our ancestors trusted in you;
they trusted and you delivered them.*

*They cried out to you and escaped;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame (Psalm 22:1-5)*



Reflect:

Jesus Christ has taken on the experience for all whom the beginning of the psalm is a familiar situation. He has lived through it, died in it and in the dying, transformed and redeemed it. The cross is not just the punishment of one man but the suffering of humankind, willingly undergone in fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies, offered on behalf of all people for their salvation.

We trust in the God who has already redeemed us, who has shown his care for us in the past and continues to love us.

We trust in the Son, who shares our suffering, bearing his wounds willingly for our sake.

We trust in the Spirit, whose life giving breath infuses every moment with hope, offering the certainty that this suffering will be redeemed and transformed.

But the resurrected Christ still bears the marks of the cross. For us, waiting in between times, living in a flawed and broken world, flawed and broken ourselves, for us lament and praise must go hand in hand.

Question:

What do you lament?

What do you praise?

Pray:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5).

Father of all, help me to place my trust in you, even when it seems as if my paths are far from straight. Give me courage to rely upon you, and hope that my trust will be rewarded. Amen.

Spelsbury

Route Suggestion: approx. 4 miles



From St Mary's Church along Church Lane, onto Dyers Hill and right to Thames Street. Go into the cemetery and turn right along the path, over the stile at the end and into the nature reserve. Follow the footpath signs over fields to Congreve Farm, and continue to a t-junction of footpaths. Turn left towards Spelsbury. Take the footpath to the right just before you arrive at Spelsbury Church, then follow the path round the church wall, taking a diagonal route down the field to pick up the footpath signs. Follow the footpath to Coldron Mill, going

past the mill house to turn left along the footbridge, then up, crossing fields and streams before arriving at the Watery Lane junction and returning via Thames Street and Dyers Hill

Copyright Open Street Map. Not to scale.

'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!