

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 Five: Sacrificing

## 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 5: Sacrificing

*O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare  
your praise.*

*For you have no delight in  
sacrifice;*

*if I were to give a burnt  
offering,*

*you would not be pleased.*

*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:15-17)*



Of what value to anyone is a broken spirit, a broken heart?  
Our God is one who mends, heals, redeems!

**Reflect:**

Broken objects can be fixed in such a way that they look better than before. There is a Japanese skill called 'kintsugi', which is used in mending broken porcelain. The craftsman doesn't try to conceal the fact that a valuable dish has been broken – instead the pieces are joined with lacquer mixed with molten gold, silver or platinum. The break is not disguised but becomes part of the history of the object – and the more valuable for that.

A sacrificial life is one which offers to God all the trials as well as the joys, all the challenges as well as the triumphs - accepting life in all its fullness and praising God throughout.

And at its heart is the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, made once for all so that no further sacrifice is needed on our part in order to access forgiveness, love and eternal life.

**Question:**

What do you think is a 'broken heart'? Has your heart ever been broken? How did the experience change you?

How might your experience enable you to come closer to God, and to help others?

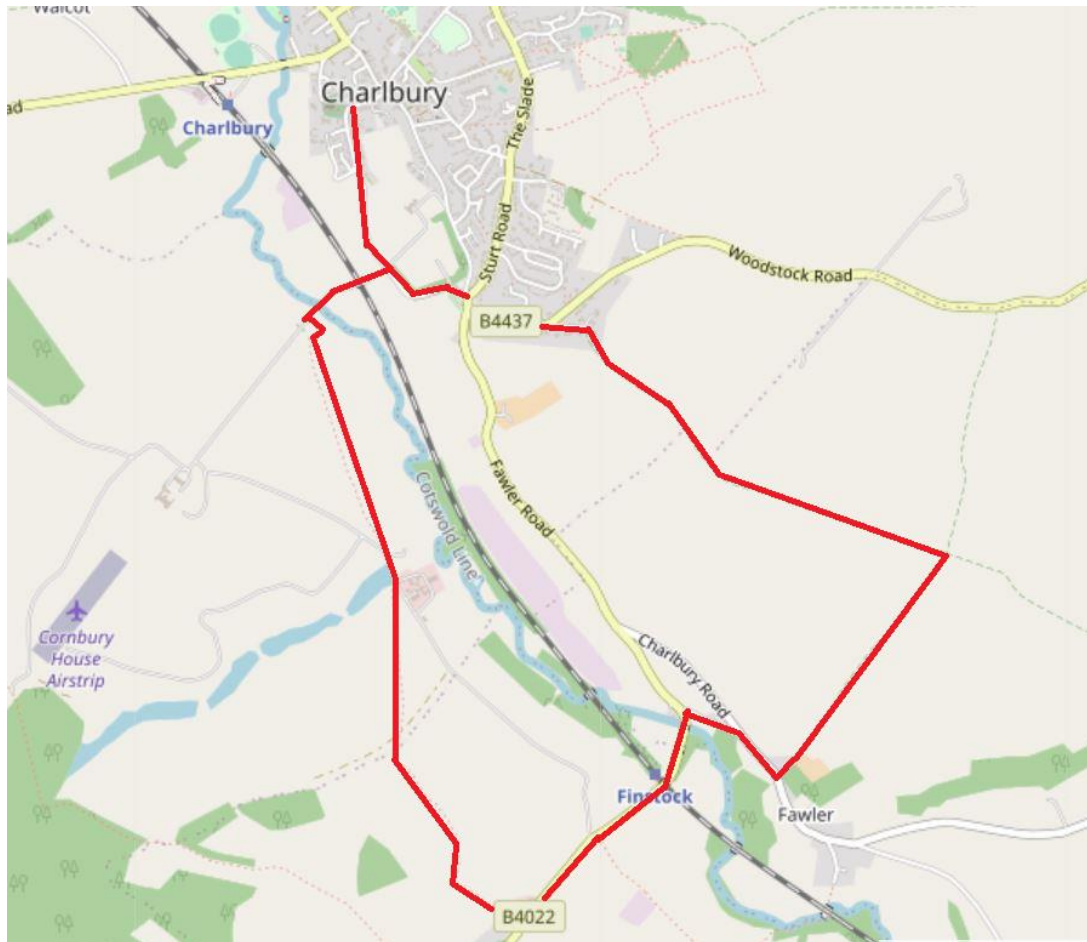
**Prayer**

Forgiving God, help me to look inside my heart and see the brokenness. Heal those parts which prevent me from walking in your paths, and help me to share that healing with those I encounter on the Way. Amen.



## Cornbury Fawler

Route Suggestion: approx. 5 miles



From St Mary's Church down Park Street to Cornbury Park. Take the footpath through the park, emerging onto the B4022. Walk down the hill (warning: fast traffic), over the railway bridge then right towards Fawler. Take the footpath on the left and continue to where it crosses with the Oxfordshire Way.

Turn left along the Oxfordshire Way, emerging onto Stonesfield Road and thence to Fiveways, returning to the church past the Cornbury Park entrance once more

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 God's 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!***