

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 Seven: Changing

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.

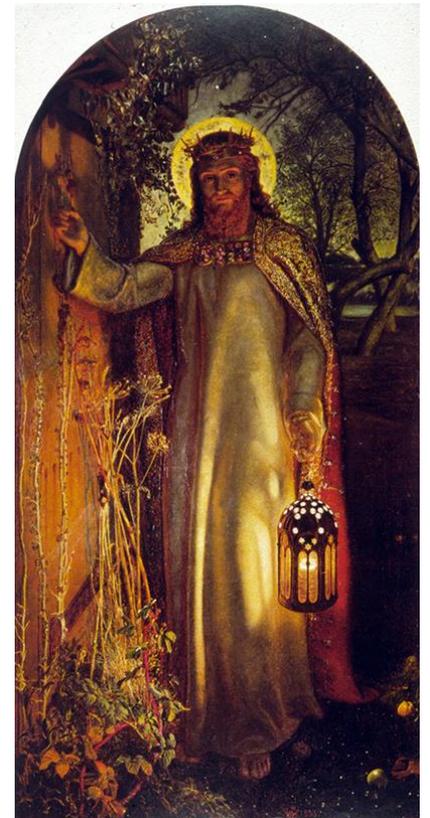
Pilgrim God,
You are our origin and destination.
Travel with us, we pray,
in every pilgrimage of faith
and every journey of the heart.
Give us the courage to set off,
the nourishment we need to travel well
and the welcome we long for at journey's end.
So may we grow in grace and love of you
and in the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



Week 7: Changing

'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.' (Revelation 3:21)

Everything the gospel writers have told us of the life, death and resurrection leads to this point, this moment of decision.



Reflect:

The gospel is good news – but it can only be so if that news is shared. This is our task; not just to experience Christ wherever we are, however we are feeling, but to share that experience with others. Jesus himself gives us examples – simple conversations, cheerful sharing of hospitality, easy and sympathetic companionship. Nothing drastic, nothing really difficult, just a constant, loving presence – that's all that is needed to rescue an Easter from the bleakness of 'three for a pound' chocolate eggs and transform it into the start of the joyous and challenging journey which is the Christian faith.

The gospel story is bigger than my story, its bigger than your story, it is bigger than the story of our church communities.

And always it invites us to go on, in whatever place and in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

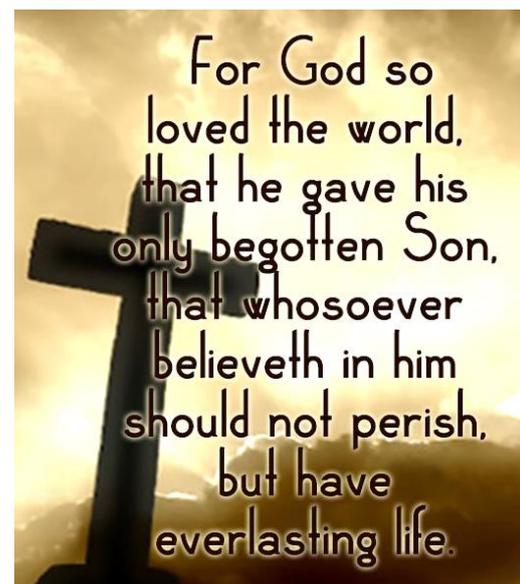
We must live out the Resurrection truth for ourselves and with others and in love.

Question:

What have you learned about yourself this Lent?
What have you learned about God?

Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Dustfield Farm – Oxfordshire Way

Route Suggestion: approx. 6 miles



From St Marys church walk up to the Slade, then turn left onto the Ditchley Road a short distance. Take the right hand fork and continue along the footpath to Dustfield Farm. At the T-junction turn right and continue along the Wychwood way, over the B4437, turning right by Newbarn Farm and following the footpath until it intersects with the Oxfordshire Way. Turn right along this and follow back into Charlbury via the Cornbury Park entrance.

'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!