

Planning a Pilgrimage Around Your Town or Benefice...

Here are some ideas, prompts and resources to contribute to your pilgrimage planning....

Things to think about before setting off

Why are you going on this journey?

What are your hopes? How will you focus on listening for God's direction in renewal and mission?

Do you have a special, mission focused intention for your journey today?

Where and how will you go?

What's the route? The distance? The accessibility? Will you travel by foot / cycle / car / bus?

How might you meet up with other pilgrims?

Will people join in as you reach each church / stopping place? If you are going as a large group what health and safety concerns might there be? Who will do a risk assessment to help you plan your day?

Who else might you meet along the way?

How might you engage with your local community? What might you say or do?

Could you share something with them?

What might you do when you pause along the way?

In addition to stopping at benefice churches, you might like to create natural stopping and pausing points that are in safe places along the way.


At each point, allow people space to be quiet, to share experiences/ thoughts, to pray as God directs in that moment and, perhaps mark their pilgrim passport* or tie their prayer string if they have them.

Shared Hour of Prayer – 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm on Saturday 8th June. If your pilgrimage is being timed to lead into the shared hour of prayer across the diocese – please see additional resources for prayer stations on the diocesan website.



What does
the LORD require of
you? to act justly and
to love mercy and
to walk humbly
with GOD. Micah
6:8

Suggestions for your Pilgrimage Planning

<p>Preparing to travel</p> 	<p>What will you do before you set out?</p> <p>How might you prepare hearts and minds, so all are ready for what they might experience and encounter on this journey?</p>	<p>A pilgrimage tradition is that you take something with you to leave at your destination or somewhere along the way e.g.</p> <p>A pebble – a symbol of what distracts you from being closer to God.... to hold and to place at the place of completion? What will you do with all the pebbles?</p> <p>A length of cord and tie a simple knot at each stopping place along the way...and then join all the prayer strings together at the end of the pilgrimage?</p> <p>A simple pilgrim passport* that could be stamped at each prayer stop along the way?</p> <p>In your starting church / place take some time preparing your heart and mind to listen, experience and encounter something new and special on the journey.</p> <p>Prayerfully place all those you love and all that keeps you busy in God's hand, so you don't need to think or worry about it on your pilgrimage.</p> <p>Spend some time in prayer, song and silence – You might like to ponder of some words of Scripture for your journey - Psalm 119:105? Micah 6:8? Luke 24:32? John 14:6</p>
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<p>Setting off ... Taking the first steps</p>	<p>Pilgrims travel light ... only take what is needed for the journey.</p>	<p>Sing a hymn together as you leave or pray this prayer... <i>Be by my side O God, with every step I take. Be before me, Be behind me, Be in my thoughts, Be in what I see and hear, Be by my side O God, with every step I take.</i></p>
<p>Praying / reflecting on the way</p> <p>Where will you stop and pray on the way? How often would you like to do this?</p>	<p>As you journey, look around you - what you can see, hear or feel?</p> <p>Here is an example of a prayer stop - what might you do for other prayer moments on the way?</p> <p>Mark your passport – or tie your prayer string – or do something to mark this place and space.</p>	<p>Notice the rhythm of your breathing. How are feeling about this journey? What do you notice as you look around? What can you see that makes you smile? Share with those around you. What can they see?</p> <p>It is important to rest along the way to give people time to pause and reflect on the journey so far. Think of something that has blessed you on the way... Begin to think about what God might be saying to you on this journey... Share some thoughts with those around you – pray and maybe sing and listen to God's Word? Micah 6:8?</p> <p><i>God of adventure, thank you for the beauty and diversity of your world. Open our eyes afresh to the wonders you have created, surprise us again with everyday miracles, and equip us for exploration. Amen</i></p>

<p>Arriving at your destination</p>	<p>Who will be welcoming you?</p> <p>What practical arrangements do you have to make regarding parking, toilets etc</p>	<p>Time for refreshments (<i>Pilgrims relied on the kindness and hospitality of strangers along their journey. The act of sharing food and stories is a key part of being a pilgrim</i>)</p>
<p>A moment of reflection...</p> <p>When you go on a pilgrimage, you may find that you are a different person on your return because of the conversations, observations and thoughts you had encountered along the way.</p>	<p>What might God be saying to you?</p> <p>Post-it notes or printed postcards* could be available for people to write a word or phrase sharing what they have heard from God and their companions during the day. You may need some pens...</p>	<p>Invite people to find a few quiet moments to reflect on their journey and place their pebbles, or anything they have made on the way, around a candle or central prayer focus.</p> <p>Questions for reflection: How do you feel now? Did you experience God's presence today? If so Where? How?</p> <p>Give thanks for those you have met with here and on your journey.</p> <p>Write a few words on the post-it or postcard ready for our closing worship.</p>
<p>Closing Worship*</p>		<p>If your time together has drawn to a close – gather, rested and refreshed, to sing and pray your thanks and praise before departure...</p> <p>A suggested outline** is included below.</p>

Included to aid your planning... all the resources are in Word format so that you can adapt them for your community.

* templates

[1] **Pilgrim Passport** - Pilgrims sometimes carry a pilgrim's passport in recognition of the places they have visited along their pilgrimage route. You might like to do this for the stopping at points along the way in your church. A stamp or sticker is needed for each stop. Pilgrims could then take the passport home to remember their journey – and place it in their Bible, prayer space or windowsill... If you have a photo of your church you could pop it on the front of the passport.

[2] **Shell and Footprint outlines** – adapt these and use to support the prayer moments of the day... print on card for prayer trees or prayer boards – or to make prayer cards / bookmarks for people to take home

[3] **Reflection Postcards** - photocopy and place around your arrival destination inviting people to share moments of God's grace and revelation, their thoughts or observations.

[4] **Simple bookmark for pilgrims to take home** – with room to add your own image at the centre... or change the Scripture verse as appropriate for your church community. Encourage people to continue to pray for us all as we journey together as disciples in mission.

**** Suggested outline for Closing Worship** This simple prayer and praise service is suggested as a conclusion to your pilgrimage. If you have timed your pilgrimage to coincide with the diocesan Hour of Prayer 4.30 – 5.30 on Saturday 8th June please see further resources on the diocesan website.

Pilgrim Passport

Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage

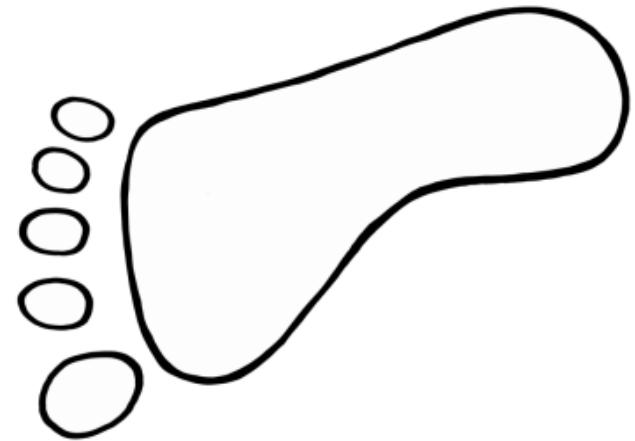
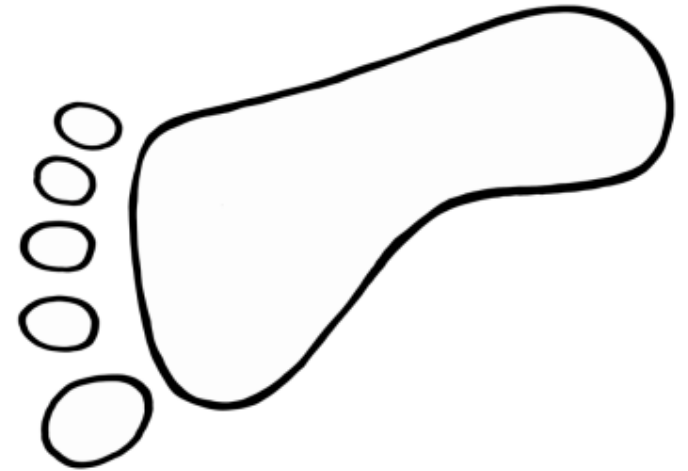
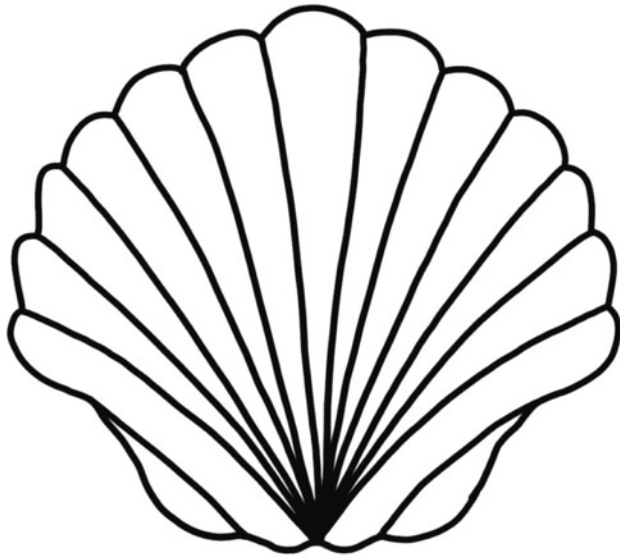
7th / 8th June 2019



As they talked
and discussed,
Jesus himself
drew near and
walked along
with them

Luke 24:15





What might God have been saying to you today?
What would you like to say to God now?



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and Pilgrimage

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*Were not our
hearts burning
within us while he
was talking to us
on the road...*

Luke 24:32



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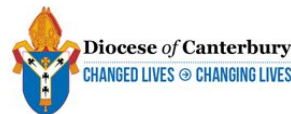


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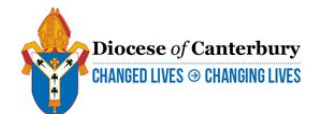


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Suggested act of worship at your destination

You may like to follow this act of worship or change it to suit your context, venue or groupings.

Gather

Greeting: We meet in the presence of God, who has walked with us on our journey
We meet together as a part of our wider church community – parish, benefice, deanery and diocese.
Together we have journeyed in hope seeking God's direction in all that we do in renewing ourselves for mission.

Light a candle to acknowledge God's light and direction in all that we do.

Sing together – something thoughtful / reflective e.g. Be still and know

Reading – Luke 24:13-35

Let's remind ourselves of two disciples that went on a journey together, how they talked, listened and shared in fellowship together ... and how Jesus walked with them.

What you have experienced on your pilgrimage journey today? What you have heard and felt?
Find someone you haven't spoken to and share your stories together.

Response: Have some quiet music playing and invite everyone to bring up their post-it note, or postcard, and place them in front of the candle. In return give them a pilgrimage bookmark* as reminder of their pilgrimage journey.

Let's celebrate all that has happened on our journey today...

Sing – Songs of thanks and praise

Blessing - *May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
Wherever he may send you.*

*May he guide you through the wilderness,
Protect you through the storm.
May he bring you back rejoicing once again into our doors.*

Dismissal - Let us go in love and peace to the change God wants us to be in his world, now and always

Amen