# Planning a Pilgrimage Around Your Church

Consider the journeys of faith that have had their beginnings, challenges, joys and endings celebrated in your church.

How might you prayerfully pilgrimage around your church and re-connect with your own journey and that of your community? How will your journey focus on renewal, hope and mission?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where will you start?</th>
<th>Where will you pause to pray along the way?</th>
<th>What prayers and activities might there be at each stopping place?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At the gate?</td>
<td>The lectern? The altar? A window?</td>
<td>The touch of water at the font?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside the main door?</td>
<td>The children’s corner?</td>
<td>A verse of Scripture at the Lectern?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the baptism font?</td>
<td>Your notice boards detailing your church’s involvement in the local and wider communities?</td>
<td>An invitation to tie a prayer card or ribbon to a prayer tree? Inside or out?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long will the pilgrim path be around your church?</td>
<td>Book of Remembrance?</td>
<td>A map of your local community? Where is God calling you to make a difference?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the churchyard?</td>
<td>Wheat and grapes on the altar? Food for our journey...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Where refreshments are served?</td>
<td>Have some cut out footprints* and write a prayer - a word of hope and renewal?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Light a candle as a simple of Christ’s light in each one of us?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What will you carry with you?

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?

A length of cord and tie a simple knot at each stopping place along the way...and the join all the prayer strings together?

A simple pilgrim passport* that could be stamped at each prayer stop along the way?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where will your pilgrimage end?</th>
<th>How will people join in?</th>
<th>What will you take away with you to remember your pilgrim journey?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In front of the High Altar?</td>
<td>Is your pilgrimage appropriate for all ages?</td>
<td>A simple prayer card or bookmark**?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the Baptism font and Easter Candle?</td>
<td>Will people journey as small groups or as individuals? At a certain time or throughout the day?</td>
<td>What would be on it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the door / gate?</td>
<td>Will people follow a printed leaflet**?</td>
<td>You could leave room to write a word, a prayer or a symbol of the journey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A moment of reflection?
What might God be saying to you?
Post-it notes could be available for people to leave a word or phrase sharing what they have heard from God and their companions during the day.

Included to aid your planning…

* 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. **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.

** an example of a leaflet generously shared by Wye Church – they made a simple floor plan using overlapping shapes.
As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them.

Luke 24:15
Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road…

Luke 24:32
Welcome… You are invited to make a prayer journey around our church. There has been a worshipping community in this church since 13th century. Countless people have walked and prayed here… each one welcoming the presence and the blessing of God.

[1] Baptism Font
Touch the ancient stone. Imagine how many people began their Christian journey here.

Pray for yourself, for your journey with God and the people you meet on the way….

[2] West Window
In the centre is a picture of Christ our King - his hands raised in blessing…

Who do you know that is in need of Christ’s blessing? Pray for them now…

In this sculpture we see the deep connection between Mary and her son Jesus. How close are you to Jesus right now?

What would you like to say to Jesus today?

Here, bread and wine is blessed and shared as a reminder of the meal Jesus had with his friends before he died. He asked his friends to remember him and all that he had taught them.

What words or actions of Jesus do you remember?

The Creed, 10 Commandments and Lord’s Prayer

Read a line or two and then pray about what is in your mind and on your heart…

[6] Lectern
From here the words of The Bible are read aloud for all to hear. God speaks to us, loves us and guides us through these words.

Give thanks for this gift of Scripture…

[7] Pilgrim Saint
This wooden figure reminds us that we are all pilgrims.

Pray for God’s direction and a good path…

[8] Serving Others
These boards share news about the people this community supports

Pray for God’s blessing on all these activities…

Church of St Gregory & St Martin - Wye, Kent