

From Cloud To Fire



Ascension to Pentecost
Pilgrimage 2016
5th – 15th May

Walkers' Booklet

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From Cloud to Fire!

The Cloud: enveloping the risen Christ as he ascended into heaven.

The Fire: descending on the apostles to empower them to make the good news of Jesus known in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.

Welcome to our pilgrimage from Ascension to Pentecost.

Our Diocesan Pilgrimage gives us a chance to step into the experience of the apostles who, over this time, 'were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers' (Acts 1.14).

Our prayer is not only that we will be 'clothed with power from on high' (Luke 24.49) as Jesus's first disciples prayed. Our prayer is also that everyone in Warwickshire and Coventry – and beyond – will know the love of the living God for themselves and that the Spirit of the living God has been poured out on all – women and men, young and old, rich and poor (Acts 2.17).

This booklet has been put together to help everyone, across the diocese, journey as one on a Pilgrimage of Prayer. It provides a pattern of prayer for each day of our pilgrimage: a short verse of scripture, a reflection from Bishop John, themes for prayer and our own Pilgrimage Prayer written by Bishop John. We are using this prayer each day to invite the Holy Spirit to work in us and among us among us. This is a unique and powerful opportunity for everyone in the diocese to read and reflect on the same verse of scripture, and then to pray for the same needs – the needs of others as well as for ourselves. We will be making this Pilgrimage of Prayer together, wherever we are – praying that the Holy Spirit will refresh, inspire and equip us in our own lives and in our life together as we seek to work for the kingdom of God where we are.

There are simple formats to help you to pray together at the start and at the end of each walk, using the scripture verse and reflection for the day. You will also find the routes of the five Pilgrimage Walks taking place in the North, South, East and West of the Diocese and around the outskirts of Coventry.

Bishop John and I greatly look forward to joining you in prayer from Ascension to Pentecost!



Bishop Christopher

The Pilgrimage Walks

During the pilgrimage, everyone is invited to join in one of five walks across the diocese. You can walk from church to church with a bishop in the north, south, east or west of the diocese, or you can walk the Coventry Way route each evening. The final Coventry Way walk will take place throughout the day on Pentecost Sunday, finishing in the cathedral ruins in time for the Pentecost Celebration. You are invited to join in any part of the walks, with family and friends. The timings of each walk are listed here – each starts and ends in the local parish church.

Making a physical pilgrimage is a powerful way of deepening our spirituality together, as we mark the journey of faith we are making as Christians with the ancient Christian practise of walking a journey from place to place. Each walk will begin and end with prayers, and as we walk we will reflect together on the scripture verse for the day and take time to talk together about our spiritual walks with God. The walks are relaxed, enjoyable, and you don't need to be an experienced hiker to take part! Please wear sturdy shoes and arrange your own way back.

For more details, visit dioceseofcoventry.org/pilgrimage2016

Five Routes

A Coventry Way

This is a circular footpath in the countryside which completely encircles the city of Coventry.

Friday May 6th 5.15pm - 8pm

Meriden to Burton Green via Berkswell

Wednesday May 11th 5pm - 8pm

Brinklow to Ansty

Saturday May 7th 2pm - 5pm

Burton Green to Stoneleigh via Kenliworth

Thursday May 12th 5pm - 8pm

Ansty to Bedworth

Monday May 9th 5pm – 8pm

Stoneleigh to Ryton on Dunsmore
via Bubbenhall

Friday May 13th 5pm - 8pm

Bedworth to Fillongley

Tuesday May 10th 5pm - 8pm

Ryton on Dunsmore to Brinklow
via Wolston

Sunday May 15th 9.30am – 5pm

Fillongley Churchyard to Coventry Cathedral
via Allesley (lunch provided),
St John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

The northern route

This route follows part of the Centenary Way. Bishop Jonathan, Bishop of Ebbsfleet and Honorary Assistant Bishop in Coventry Diocese, the Dean and Archdeacon John Green will also be walking this route.

Monday May 9 th from 9.30am	Mancetter to Hartshill – <i>The Dean</i>
Tuesday May 10 th from 10am	Hartshill to Old Arley – <i>Bishop Jonathan</i>
Wednesday May 11 th from 10am	Old Arley to Stockingford
Thursday May 12 th from 10am	Stockingford to Chilvers Coton – <i>Archdeacon John</i>
Friday May 13 th from 10am	Chilvers Coton to Bedworth – <i>Bishop Jonathan</i>

The southern route

This route follows parts of the Centenary Way and the Shakespeare Way. Bishop David (Honorary Assistant Bishop) will also be walking this route.

Saturday May 7 th 10am – 12pm	Long Compton to Cherington
Sunday May 8 th 11.15am – 1.30pm	Shipston to Halford
<i>Come to Sunday Worship at 10am, followed by coffee, and then walk.</i>	
Tuesday May 10 th 10am – 12.30pm	Tredington to Ilmington
Wednesday May 11 th 5pm – 7.30pm	Ettington to Newbold
Thursday May 12 th 10am – 12.30pm	Alderminster to Clifford Chambers via Preston-on- Stour
Friday May 13 th 10am – 12.30pm	Clifford Chambers to Stratford, Holy Trinity

The eastern route

This route follows part of the Millennium Way. Bishop Christopher will also be walking this route.

Friday May 6 th from 9.30am	Southam to Stockton
Saturday May 7 th from 9.30am	Stockton to Napton
Monday May 9 th from 9.30am	Napton to Lower Shuckburgh
Tuesday May 10 th from 9.30am	Lower Shuckburgh to Flecknoe
Wednesday May 11 th from 9.30am	Flecknoe to Willoughby
Thursday May 12 th from 9.30am	Willoughby to Clifton on Dunsmore
Friday May 13 th 9.30am	Clifton on Dunsmore to Rugby, St. Andrew

The western route

This route follows part of the Arden Way. Bishop John will also be walking this route.

Saturday May 7 th from 10am	Alcester to Coughton
Monday May 9 th from 2pm	Coughton to Studley
Tuesday May 10 th from 10am	Studley to Ullenhall
Wednesday May 11 th from 2pm	Ullenhall to Henley in Arden
Thursday May 12 th from 10am	Henley in Arden to Wooton Wawen
Friday May 13 th from 2pm	Wooton Wawen to Wolverton

Prayer to begin a walk

Preparation

In the morning:

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

At other times of day:

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and clothe your people with power from on high. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
Raised to your right hand on high
the ascended Christ shows the prints of love
and bestows on us the gifts of grace.
As your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
may we bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
and reveal your glory in all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Word of God

The scripture verse for the day is read.

The reflection for the day is read.

A discussion, sung worship or this responsory may follow:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
All who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God and fellow-heirs with Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people.
Renew the face of your creation, Lord,
pouring on us the gifts of your Spirit,
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
For the creation waits with eager longing
for the glorious liberty of the children of God.
**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Time is kept for prayer and reflection, using the themes given for the day.

The Pilgrimage Prayer is said:

Come, Holy Spirit:

Come among us, come upon us.

Come, Spirit of Truth – enlighten our minds;

Come, Spirit of Love – enlarge our hearts;

Come, Holy Comforter – strengthen and heal us;

Come, Holy Fire – enflame and purify us;

Come, Breath of Life – inspire us in our witness:

that all may be drawn to know you and to praise you

One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

As God's people in this place, let us pray for the coming of His kingdom:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Conclusion

May the Holy Spirit kindle in us the fire of God's love.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Thursday 5th May Ascension Day

**'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.'**

(Acts 1:8)

The risen Lord, just before the Ascension, promises the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a promise given to all His disciples in all times and places. It is a promise for us today. We need the refreshment and renewal of the Holy Spirit to enliven us and empower us in our witness to Christ. Let's pray that we would have the same expectant faith of the first disciples when they heard this promise from Jesus.

Pray: Spend time reflecting on your relationship with God – how aware do you think you are of his Spirit's power in your own life? Consider your Christian living and place before God your desire for the refreshment, renewal and power of his Spirit in every aspect of your life.

Pray for the world: Consider the call and mission of the Church to witness to Jesus Christ 'to the ends of the earth'. Bring before God a place on your heart – close to home or far away – and pray for his kingdom to come in that place.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Friday 6th May

'Oh that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways...

I would feed you with the finest of wheat and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.'

(Psalm 81:13,16)

The Rule of St. Benedict, written in the sixth century, begins: 'Listen, my child.'

We often miss out on what God has for us simply by not listening to Him. We so easily prefer our own agenda to listening to God. Let us pray that we may 'listen with the ears of our hearts', as St. Benedict said.

Pray: As you pray, remind yourself that you are one of God's own people and that he longs to give you his good blessings. Ask him to take away anything that keeps you from listening to him and doing his will.

Pray for your own church community: Lift your own church community before God, asking him to open the ears and eyes of your hearts. Pray that, as you continue to learn to listen to God and do his will together, you would reflect the love and mission of his coming kingdom.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Saturday 7th May

'Whoever says 'I am in the light' while hating a brother or sister is still in the darkness.'

(1 John 2:9)

We cannot receive all that God has to give to us and to others through us if our hearts have become hardened by hatred or bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness. We need to ask God for the grace to forgive others as we have been forgiven in Christ; and for humility, so that we may ask the forgiveness of others. Let us pray that we may grow in the understanding and practice of the ministry of reconciliation – the process of forgiving, and being brought into fellowship with one another.

Pray: Spend time thanking God that he has forgiven you and reconciled you to himself by Christ's body on the cross. Name before him others whom you want to forgive. Name before him others whose forgiveness you want to ask. Ask God for a fresh view of God's grace and Jesus' humility to help you begin a journey of forgiveness and reconciliation. You might like to simply repeat the words 'Father, forgive' from the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.

Pray for your local area: Our diocese's identity focuses on the ministry of reconciliation – with God, between peoples and nations, and in the light of past wrongs. Pray for your own church community and its local area: for forgiveness and love between different people and groups, and for reconciliation where there has been hurt.

Pray for the world: Pray for the Community of the Cross of Nails and for Coventry Cathedral, which leads it. Ask God for the empowering of his Spirit in the Community's work of reconciliation around the world.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Sunday 8th May

'They were continuously in the temple blessing God.'

(Luke 24:53)

These are the last words of Luke's Gospel. The disciples have encountered the risen Lord and are full of joy! So they bless God continuously: they thank, praise and adore him. When we bless God, we are changed on the inside. Blessing God releases us to bless others and to be a blessing to the world.

Pray: Spend time reflecting on the ways in which you bless God (in other words, how you thank, praise and adore him), and think about how often you bless him in these ways and by serving God faithfully in the world.

Ask God to show you ways you can bless those around you in his name: how you can pray for them, give thanks for them and seek to serve them – including the people you find hardest to like.

Pray for Pentecost events and services: Pray in particular for the HOPE Coventry events on Friday and Saturday, that those who attend would encounter God and hear the message of his love and that many hearts would be changed to thank, praise and adore him. Pray for those who will be baptised and confirmed at the Cathedral, that they would bless God and be a blessing to the world.

Pray for the Church throughout the world: Pray that our worship would bless God, and so that the Church would be a blessing to the world, praying 'your kingdom come'.

Today is sometimes called 'Expectation Sunday', as a reminder of the expectation the first disciples had, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised them to be their Comforter and Advocate after he had ascended to the Father in heaven. Christians wait with expectant faith for the renewal of Holy Spirit and live with a sure hope of the return of Jesus and the fulfilment of God's kingdom.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3:7)*

Monday 9th May

**'It is the Lord who goes before you.
He will be with you; he will not fail or forsake you.'**
(Deuteronomy 31:6)

There is nothing we can do, and no situation we can find ourselves in, that can take us outside or beyond the presence and the love of God. But God is always calling us on, inviting us to trust him with the next step of our journey deeper into the kingdom of his love. Let us pray that we would know and believe: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

Pray: Ask God to give you confidence that he will always be with you and will go before you in the challenges you face. Place into his hands the next step of your journey, whether it is big or small, whether you know it clearly or not, and ask him to increase your trust.

Pray for someone else: Pray for someone who feels failed or forsaken by God, or for someone who is taking a new or difficult step, or facing a challenge. On their behalf, pray they would know the love of God and their place in his kingdom in a new way.

Pray for someone who does not yet know the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ. Ask God to draw them to him.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Tuesday 10th May

'No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.'

(1 Corinthians 12:3)

It is the Holy Spirit within us who enables us to recognise the Lordship of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, who leads us into the truth, the truth that sets us free. The Holy Spirit helps us to see as God sees, and so to walk in the truth that Jesus is Lord. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten us with a fresh revelation of the ultimate truth that is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pray: Spend time acknowledging Jesus' Lordship over the whole world and over your life. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to see the truth of Jesus more clearly, and to equip you to live in the light of that truth that sets us free.

Pray for the Church in this country: Pray for the Archbishops' Call To Prayer, that the nation will be caught up in the Lord's prayer of 'thy kingdom come!' and that many will hear the good news of the risen Christ and respond to God's love. Pray that those who speak for the Church, those who worship and those who lead would proclaim 'Jesus is Lord' faithfully and clearly.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3:7)*

Wednesday 11th May

'God said to Elijah, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'

(1 Kings 19:11)

Elijah encounters God not in the earthquake, the wind or the fire, but hears him speak in 'the sound of sheer silence'. It is so easy to get hooked up in the rush, the busyness and the noise around us and within us that we neglect the call of God to 'be still' (Psalm 37:7) and to be silent before him (Habakkuk 2:20). Let us pray for God's help to allow ourselves time to spend in his presence every day.

Pray: Set aside some time to be still and silent, without distraction or hurry. Begin this time by acknowledging to God that you are there for him, and that you want to encounter him. Ask God to make you more aware of his presence.

Pray for your own church community: Pray that you would find strength to work for God's kingdom in quietness and trust before him.

Pray that you would know that 'in quietness and in trust shall be your strength' (Isaiah 30:15) and that, in that place of stillness, the people of God in your community will see what God is calling them to be and to do.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Thursday 12th May

'I will give them one heart and put a new Spirit within them.
I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart
of flesh.'

(Ezekiel 11:19)

'Keep your hearts soft and tractable lest you lose the imprint of God's love.' So wrote Irenaeus of Lyons, a Christian leader from the third century. The Holy Spirit softens our hearts to reflect more fully the love and the light of Christ. That's the point of making this pilgrimage of prayer – to open our hearts to the work of God's Spirit so that we can live the life of Jesus more fully, walk his way more faithfully and speak of his truth more joyfully. As Christians we are to give our hearts over to God's transforming love, not keep them for ourselves. Let us pray for a new Spirit within us, that our hearts may be truly of flesh.

Pray: Offer your heart again to God, however hardened or small it might feel to you. Ask God to fill it afresh with his living Spirit and to mould it to look more like the heart of Jesus.

Pray for children and young people: Pray that those at school in our diocese and in our churches may have role-models in people with Christ-like hearts, and that their own hearts would grow to mirror the love and light of Christ.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Friday 13th May

**'Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God
in Christ Jesus.'**

(Philippians 3:13b)

When the Israelites were journeying to the Promised Land, God was always ahead of them, leading them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. Though they travelled through the wilderness, God always went before them. The Christian life is a continuing journey forward into all that God has promised and prepared for us. Jesus is always with us but at the same time he is ahead of us, like the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night for the people of Israel. He invites us to follow and to enter more completely into God's purposes for our lives. God's call for us in Jesus is the prize towards which we run; the Promised Land towards which he leads us.

Pray: Ask God to help you see the ways he is guiding and leading you. Pray for confidence to follow where he wants you to go, and for faith to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Pray for someone else: Pray for someone at a different stage of life to yourself. Pray that they may continue pressing on towards the goal of God's kingdom.

Pray for our diocese: Pray for your bishops, clergy, lay leaders and ministers, and for the heads of schools in our diocesan family. Ask God to give them a renewed vision of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus – for themselves and for those they serve and lead.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Saturday 14th May

'Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink.

As the Scripture has said,

'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living waters.'" '

(John 7:37)

The Holy Spirit is dynamic and moves. The new life of the Spirit flows like rivers. To come to life in Christ and to stay alive in Christ means to enter that movement of God's love. Our faith grows when we share it, when we witness to the Lord of life. God's love flows more freely and fully through us when we allow ourselves to be part of its free-flowing, refreshing movement outwards to a thirsty world.

Pray: Spend some time allowing God to revive you with the waters of his love, in whatever way he chooses. Remember that you were baptised by water and the Spirit into new life in Jesus.

Pray: Ask God to open your eyes to the opportunities he gives you to share your faith, and pray for the Holy Spirit's help to do it.

Pray for the world: Pray for renewal and refreshment for areas of our nation and the world that are thirsty – for justice, for resources, for peace, for a knowledge of the Lord of life.

Today the Church remembers St. Matthias. Because, having betrayed Jesus, Judas Iscariot died, Matthias was chosen from amongst the disciples after Jesus' ascension and before Pentecost (see Acts 1.15-26) to be one of the twelve apostles.

*Today, as the Holy Spirit says, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.
(Hebrews 3.7)*

Sunday 15th May Pentecost Sunday

'The Risen Jesus said, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
When He had said this, He breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit." '
(John 20:21,22)

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of
fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them
were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the
Spirit gave them ability.'
(Acts 2.1-21)

Today is the day of Pentecost, the day when the Church was breathed into life by the risen Christ and sent out to the ends of the earth to proclaim the transforming love of God, equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit. Today is the day when we are invited to let the risen Christ breathe upon us and send us out in the power of his Spirit. As Christ's followers we are his hands and feet to bring his love to our friends and neighbours, our families and colleagues: to tell the good news that forgiveness, hope and new life have come into the world.

Pray: Make some time today to wait expectantly on God, as the first disciples waited in Jerusalem 'for the promise of the Father'. Ask God to breathe on you his Holy Spirit, and to work in you whatever he chooses.

Trusting that God equips us for what he calls us to, ask him to put on your heart and in your mind someone talk with and share the good news about the love of God in Jesus.

Pray for the whole Church: Pray that we would go faithfully where God is sending us and be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in us, and in the lives of those we seek to share God's love with.

Pray for the world: Pray that the whole world would be told the good news through the words and witness of Christians, and pray for the coming of God's kingdom in all the earth.

Prayer to end a walk

Preparation

In the morning:

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

At other times of day:

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and clothe your people with power from on high. Alleluia.

A time of silence is kept for reflection. This may be followed by open discussion, sharing thoughts and inspirations from the group's walk and conversations together.

Prayers

Time is kept to lift these thoughts in prayer to God, aloud or in silence.

The Pilgrimage Prayer is said:

Come, Holy Spirit:
Come among us, come upon us.
Come, Spirit of Truth – enlighten our minds;
Come, Spirit of Love – enlarge our hearts;
Come, Holy Comforter – strengthen and heal us;
Come, Holy Fire – enflame and purify us;
Come, Breath of Life – inspire us in our witness:
that all may be drawn to know you and to praise you
One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

As God's people in this place, let us pray for the coming of His kingdom:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Conclusion

The following or another blessing may be said or sung:

May the peace of 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 home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors:
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

May the Spirit kindle in us the fire of God's love.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!