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**Guided Walk around Chearsley for Rogation Day**

For over 1000 years, people have kept up the tradition of ‘Rogation’ - walking around the boundary of the parish and asking for God’s blessing on the land and the people working on it. Today, we can pray for the health and work of the whole community, as we take this circular walk through our village.

At certain points along the way, there will be a chance to:

1. Read a short verse from the Bible,
2. Reflect on an aspect of village life, and
3. Pray.

*Don’t forget bring a snack which forms part of reflection along the way!*

**The Route**

From the Green; all the way down Church Lane; along the footpath at the bottom of the village to Lower Green Lane; Up School Lane; Up Winchendon Rd as far as the Cricket Club; Then back down to the Green.

You can pick up the walk wherever you like.

**As you leave your house**

***Pray:***

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.

**Number 1 – Stop in the middle of The Green**

***Read:***Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us - and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands! [Psalm 90:17]

***Reflect:***Look at the **Village Stores** and give thanks for Jay, Surgi, and Geoff. Then look at **The Bell** and give thanks for Sharon and the whole of her team. Think about the different ways in which COVID-19 have impacted both.

***Pray:***

The Lord bless you, and keep you.
Make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face towards you, and give you peace

In the morning, in the evening,
In your coming, and your going,
In your weeping, and rejoicing,
He is for you, He is for you.

Amen

*Walk down Church Lane towards the Telephone Box.*

**Number 2 – Stop at the Telephone Box**

***Read:*** Love your neighbour as yourself [Leviticus 19:18]

**Reflect:** Think of the different ways in which you have helped, and been helped, by your neighbours.

**Pray:**

Almighty God,

Thank you for the ways we are helping each other, and for Susan Olding & the Volunteer Assistance Scheme.

Bless each act of kindness. Keep us safe as we serve each other.

Give us the strength to continue, and the humility to ask for help ourselves. Amen

*Continue down Church Lane*

**Number 3 – As you walk down Church Lane**

***Read:***Give thanks in all circumstances. [1 Thessalonians 5: 18]

***Reflect:***Think of as many things as you can to say thank you for.

**Number 4 – Stop in the Churchyard**

***Read:*** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [John 3:16]

***Reflect:*** Stand as still and quiet as you can – what can you hear?

***Pray:***

God of compassion,
We commend all who have died into your loving care.

Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;
Through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Continue down Church Lane, round the corner, through the gate, onto the footpath next to Lower Green Farm, and along the bottom of the next field.*

**Number 5 – Stop in the corner of the field, before the gate, overlooking the fields**

***Read:***The Lord will indeed give all that is good. And our land will yield its increase. [Psalm 85:12]

***Reflect:***Eat your snack!

***Pray:***

Almighty God

We thank you for the food we have to eat.

We pray for the safety of farmers and food producers.

And for the right amount of rain and sunshine for the crops and livestock to thrive.

Amen

*Turn left and walk along the edge of the field onto Lower Green Lane and then up School Lane.*

**Number 6 – As you walk up the hill**

***Read*:** Jesus said: ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest’. [Matthew 11:28]

***Reflect:*** Think about your own work and life at home – what’s good and what’s tough?

**Number 7 – Stop near the Old School**

***Read:*** Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. [Mark 10:16]

***Reflect:***What do you miss about school?

***Pray:***

Lord Jesus

We pray for CHUFs, and for all our schools and pre-schools.

For children learning at home or without their friends.

For teachers and staff to remain healthy and strong for us.

And for parents learning to teach at home.

Please hold them all in your arms and bless them.

Amen

*Continue up School Lane, to the Post Box*

**Number 8 – Stop at the Post Box**

***Read:***Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. [Joshua 1:9]

***Reflect:***Paint a rainbow with your fingers – for each stripe, name of a different category of key worker.

***Pray:***

God of hope,

we commend to your protection all healthcare professionals and key workers

who are putting themselves at risk as they attend to the needs of other people:

as we thank them for their courage and compassion,

we pray that your Holy Spirit will support and encourage them,

especially at times of physical or emotional exhaustion,

that they may know the strength of your healing love.

We ask this for your tender mercy’s sake. Amen.

*Walk up Winchendon Rd, to the Cricket Club*

**Number 9 – Stop at the Cricket Club**

***Read****:* Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won’t let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. [Heb 12:1]

***Reflect****:* Which sport, club, or society are you missing most?

***Pray:***

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for Cricket Club, and all the things we enjoy here.

We pray for the whole Club; for its players, volunteers, and finances.

Bless and preserve all that is good. Amen.

*Walk back down Winchendon Rd, to the Village Hall*

**Number 10 – Stop at the Village Hall**

***Read****:* The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore. [Psalm 121:8]

***Reflect****:* Think about the many different groups that meet here – how many can you name?

**Pray:**

Lord Jesus

We give thanks for this place of fellowship and fun, and for those who run it.

We pray for all the clubs and community services who meet here.

We pray for all the leaders & volunteers, their finances, and all who are missing them.

And we thank you for our parish council and local government.

Grant them wisdom to guide us through this crisis. Amen.

*Walk back to The Green*