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**Guided Walk around Nether Winchendon 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 new route 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 Nether Winchendon House; up Barrack Hill; turn left onto the footpath opposite Barns Piece; follow the footpath downhill back into the village; rejoin the road at the telephone box; then back to the Churchyard.

**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 – Outside the gates of Nether Winchendon House**

***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:*** Many businesses are struggling at the moment, some because they don’t have enough work, others because they have too much. Think of the different businesses that are being run from the village right now.

***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 towards the Church*

**Number 2 – 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 Barrack Hill as far as the footpath on your left opposite Barns Piece*

**Number 3 – 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 4 – Stop at the top of the footpath, looking over 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 this ancient prayer from the Book Of Common Prayer for the weather that will enable crops to thrive:***

O GOD, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance: Send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Follow the footpath downhill through the field, and back into the village, emerging by Laburnham Cottage and the Telephone Box.*

**Number 5 – As you walk down the footpath**

***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 6 – 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.

Almighty God

Thank you for ways in which we are helping each other in our village.

We pray for the safety of farmers and food producers.

We pray for the team at the Aylesbury Foodbank,

And for all the people they serve.

Amen

*Walk back along the road towards the Church*

**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 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 into the Churchyard*

**Number 8 – 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.