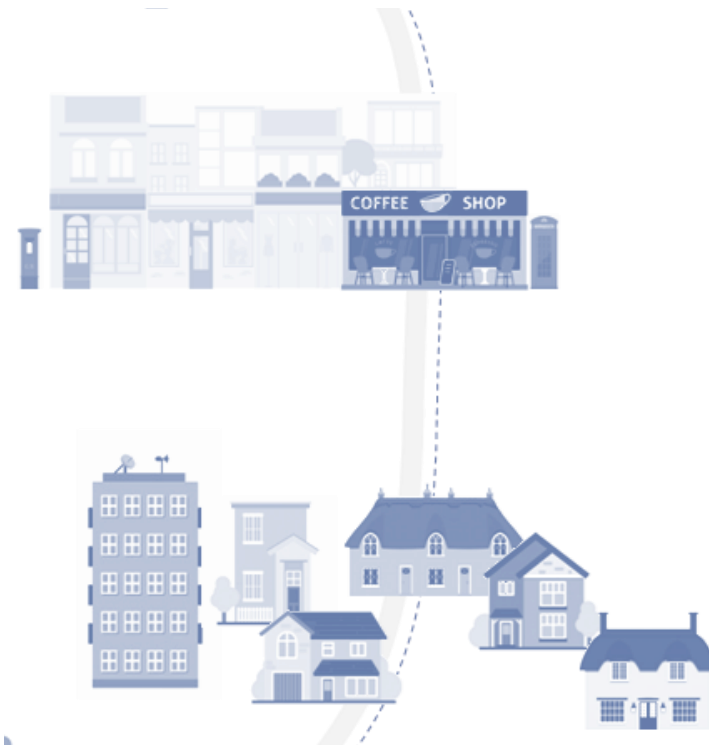
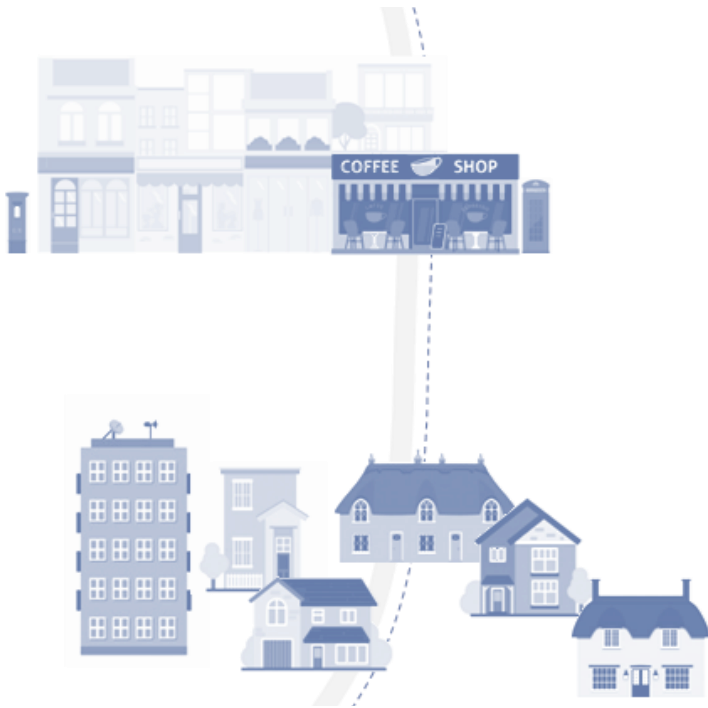


End point

Return to your starting point; pause and reflect on the journey you've made. What picture stays with you and what you think God might have shown you. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for something that has brought you joy, and also pray for something that has challenged you.

You might like to end with something familiar like the Lord's Prayer.



Pilgrim Paths

Praying for your community



We can pray for the community within which we live, or where our church or place of worship is based.

This leaflet outlines some of the ways in which you might pray for your community, by going on a 'pilgrimage' around it; a journey on foot to holy or special places. This can help you to take some time to see creation and community through God's eyes and to reflect and pray.

Start point

Perhaps a church, chapel or place where people worship:

- gather,
- pray for your journey, with open eyes,
- start to take in some of what you can see around you,
- listen with open ear - what can you hear?



Possible places to visit and prayer suggestions

A local care home: pray for the care given there, those who are still linked into their communities and those who feel separated from the homes they once had. For the staff, the challenges of their role and the care they give. For the links that exist between the home and the community around it.

A local shop: pray for local businesses in the current economic situation and any challenges that businesses face. Pray for any businesses that have closed. Give thanks for the conversations and relationships that can develop in shops and businesses.

A letter box/phone box, post office/health care location: pray for those who provide services for a community: postal workers, refuse collectors, emergency services, police, health care professionals etc. Pray particularly for those who have to meet tight deadlines or who are under constant pressure in their daily roles.

The local pub (or equivalent): pray for the role they play as 'hubs' of communities. Pray for the regulars, the conversations that occur, the care for one another that can be shown.

A 'For sale sign': pray for those who have lived in this house and those who will move in. If you know the sign has been up for a long time, pray for those whose lives are in a state of flux.

Somewhere children or young people gather: pause a moment and take some time to try to see the world through their eyes. And then pray for what you see with them in mind.

A village hall or community space: pray for the people who meet there and for good relationships within the community. Pray also for those who feel isolated or struggle in some way to feel connected to the community. Pray for good relationships within your community and for opportunities to explore faith.

