




STATIONS

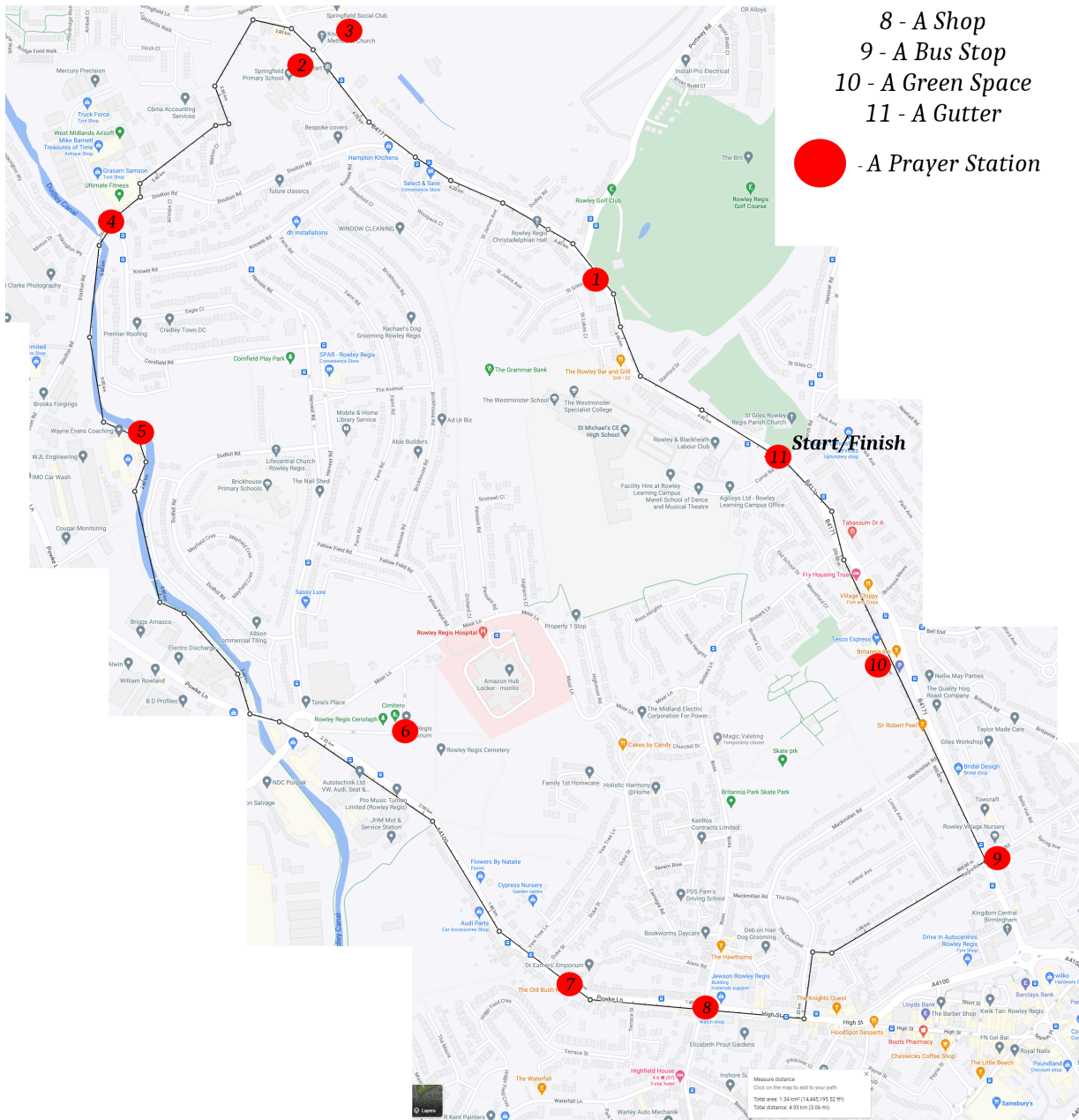
**Places to Pray in the
Community**

We begin outside St. Giles, to prepare to walk (or cycle) around the parish, so that it becomes a place of pilgrimage. There is no set route or time-scale. You may visit each place on the same day, or separately, or just pray for each place from home.

Legend

- 1 - A Doctor's Surgery
- 2 - A School
- 3 - A Church
- 4 - A Road
- 5 - A Canal
- 6 - A Cemetery
- 7 - A Pub
- 8 - A Shop
- 9 - A Bus Stop
- 10 - A Green Space
- 11 - A Gutter

 - A Prayer Station



The route starts at St. Giles, where we pray this ancient Celtic prayer:

**Bless to me, O God,
the earth beneath my feet;
bless to me, O God,
the path whereupon I go.**

In a moment of silence we offer to God the place where we live and strive for an increased awareness of the world.

We set off for our first station of prayer....

1) A Doctor's Surgery (Hawes Ln Surgery, Hawes Lane B65 9AF)

Notice: the carers, the cared for, the variety of ailments, the mothers, the dependant, the old...

Think: of all the physically and mentally ill people in our community, those frightened of the health system, the waiting, the drugs, the pain.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for the measure of health that you have.

Pray: for the sick and the dying.

2) A School (*Springfield Primary School, Dudley Road, B65 8JY*)

Notice: the building, the people, its place in the community.

Think: of the learning that goes on, and the learning that never stops, that never starts, the learning that happens elsewhere, the openness of children.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for your own childhood.

Pray: for the grace to always go on learning.

3) A Church (*Knowle Methodist Church, 202 Dudley Rd, B65 8LB*)

Notice: how it fits in, its architecture, age, height and proportions, its beauties, its place in the community now.

Think: of all that has happened here, of all the life events, all the people, all the longings and the prayers, all the joy.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for the worldwide church.

Pray: for the beauty of its life now.

4) A Road (*Doultou Road*)

Notice: the travellers, shoppers, workers, children, people meeting friends, people waiting, people talking, people relaxing....

Think: of the beginning of their journeys, and of the end.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us.**

Give thanks: for the journey.

Pray: for all travellers.

5) A Canal (*where Doultou Road crossed the canal*)

Notice: the water, the wildlife, the stillness.

Think: of the history of canals and what they've been used for over the years.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us.**

Give thanks: for places of peace and tranquility amid the business.

Pray: for anyone seeking peace in their lives.

6) A Cemetery (Rowley Regis Crematorium Powke Lane, B65 0AD)

- Notice:* the graves and the memorials. The people visiting the graves of loved ones. The flowers on the graves.
- Think:* of all the lives represented by the graves, for the symbols of love.
- Pray:* **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**
- Give thanks:* our departed loved ones.
- Pray:* for all those who mourn, those who are preparing for funerals and those involved in funeral ministry.

7) A Pub (The Old Bush Revived, 44 Powke Ln, B65 0AD)

- Notice:* the faces, the smiles, the talk, the silences...
- Think:* of the pleasure shared, the celebrations of life, and the discomfort and the irritation too.
- Say:* **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**
- Give thanks:* for pleasure.
- Pray:* for alcoholics.

8) Shops (Junction of Powke Lane and Holly Road)

Notice: the goods, the presentation, the prices, the shoppers, the workers....

Think: of the needs supplied, the needs not supplied, the excess, the waste, of the things we can't buy here.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for sustenance.

Pray: for more evenly shared resources, for a sense of proportion.

9) A Bus Stop (Junction of Regis Road and Birmingham Road)

Notice: the people waiting- patient, expectant, restless, lost, the destinations served.

Think: of the different places linked together here, the lives that touch and overlap here, the journeys ended and begun.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for journeys done.

Pray: for the way ahead.

10) A Green Space (Britannia Park, Rowley Village, B65 9HH)

Notice: how nature fits into our community. Does it blend or jar?
Do they grow together?

Think: of this place before humans lived here, of the countryside beyond, of the sky above and the air around us.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for the Earth.

Pray: for greater friendship with the Earth.

11) The Gutter (Church Road, outside St. Giles)

Notice: the litter, the drains...

Think: of the hidden edges of our community- criminals, prisoners, victims.

Pray: **Living God,
living and strong,
loving and gentle,
pour your mercy on us**

Give thanks: for carers.

Pray: for all victims.

Conclusion (outside the main door of St. Giles)

We say together a version of the Prayer that Jesus taught his friends:

**Father and Mother of us all,
you are love through and through,
and we bless You.
Let your new world come,
let what You long for be always done,
in everyone, everywhere- and in us.
Be near enough to reach our need every day.
Be gentle enough to forgive us the hurt we have
done to You-
as we are gentle and forgive in our turn.
Never let us fall
but draw us away from evil and the dark.
For we know the world that is coming is Yours,
all Yours, in richness and beauty and splendour.
Amen.**

Blessing

**Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always.
Amen.**

If you would like to help St. Giles raise funds for the restoration fund, please use this form to record your sponsorship donations. If you don't feel able to walk the route you can be sponsored for praying each station from home. Please return your sponsorship money to church by Sunday 16th April.

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