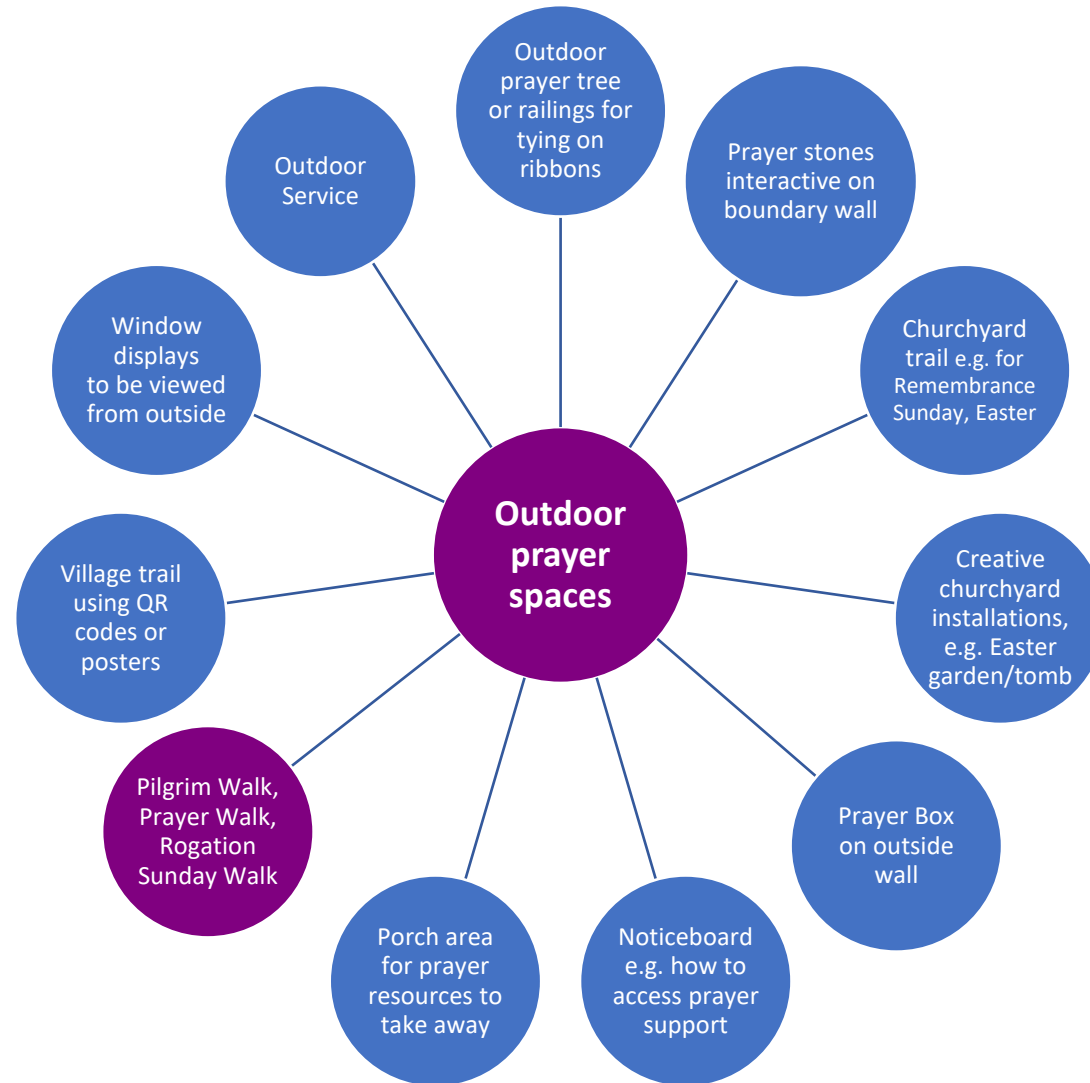


Outdoor Prayer Spaces, 2020-2021

Houses of Prayer stories



St John the Evangelist, Sandiway

Prayer stations in church garden for event, along with prayer take-a-way bags, Prayer box outside church, Prayer walk with resources for TKC, Outdoor service.

We have held three previous Prayer Weekends in 2017, 2018 & 2019 – when we were able to have church building open all weekend, with lots of interesting and thoughtful prayer stations. These are both around the building and outside in the church garden. For September 2020 we created instead a ‘takeaway prayer weekend in a bag’!



We have a Prayer Box available outside in the church porch.

For Thy Kingdom Come, (TKC), our prayer group organised a *Pray & Walk Day* on Sat 22nd May 2021, where prayer resources will be available to collect from the church building between 10.00am-12.00pm for people to use to have their own “walk & pray”, or to use at home. We will also be delivering the resources to people’s homes.

We held an outdoor Vine Service in the church garden in May 2021.



St Mary's, Eastham

Churchyard team formed, prayer stations walk in churchyard, use of noticeboard

As Lockdown was eased in 2020, people started to form a strong graveyard team, which has transformed the public walkway through our ancient grave space. It is now much safer. We have developed a laminated walk around it for people to use, and that is left inside the lychgate for people to take and they walk around.

Three vinyl posters surround the church proclaim that, "we never closed, just grown into God's digital church and how they can join us.

Christ Church, Bebington

Prayer box outside, interactive prayer activity using stones on the wall, prayer ribbons on railings

Prior to be able to open the church in 2020, we provided a prayer box outside the church building.

The church was asked if people could place stones on the wall outside the church building, and that's how the idea started. This has grown enormously and many of the stones added contain prayers. Response was very encouraging, with many prayers written and some contacts made to follow this up.

As part of the National Day of Reflection, we are encouraging people to tie a yellow ribbon to the railings as well as coming in to pray and reflect.



St Mary's, Upton

Prayer box outside

A prayer box has been on the outside of church building for many years as one part of prayer ministry in the parish.

St Andrew's, St Peter's and All Saints, Crewe

Prayer tree for Christmas outside with prayer ribbons

We had community prayer trees where we tied ribbons for prayers; some were inside the church buildings and one was outside in the grounds.

Easter

Easter Garden at the foot of the empty cross at St Peter's, Crewe



Little Budworth, St Peter

Churchyard prayer tree during Advent, use of church noticeboard

A prayer tree was created in the churchyard during advent. Also, they used their porch area to display a notice for prayer requests and provided prayer resources to take away.

St Mary's, Great Budworth and St Mark, Antrobus

Easter

They used their outdoor space more imaginatively in 2021 and displayed crosses and decorations in the churchyard for the first time.

Rogation Sunday walk

Their Rogation Sunday in 2021 included a rogation walk.

St Mary the Virgin, Lymm

Easter 2021

Churches Together in Lymm clubbed together to produce an Easter Trail, which began at St Mary's and went round the village. The Trail told the Easter Story and using QR codes it showed questions, details about the particular display, bible readings and images. There were some fantastic displays. In addition, the first person to get all QR code questions right won a prize. This Easter Trail was Covid Safe and anyone from any denomination could get involved.

St Peter's, Congleton

Remembrance Sunday churchyard trail

In November 2020, we made use, in all four of our churchyards, of the Remembrance material from St Albans Diocese for an outdoors trail. Difficult to assess how much use was made of this - people certainly walked through St. Peter's churchyard, people were looking at the signboards, with 36 poppy stones placed on war graves.

Easter

The Children and Families Missioner painted 100 wooden easter eggs and hid them around the area. On two given Saturday's, people could swap the wooden eggs for a real Easter egg. Most people engaged with the Church and were very grateful. In addition, there was a Small Easter Walk along the footpath through the Church with three wooden crosses and a creative reconstruction of the tomb, which opened up on the Sunday.

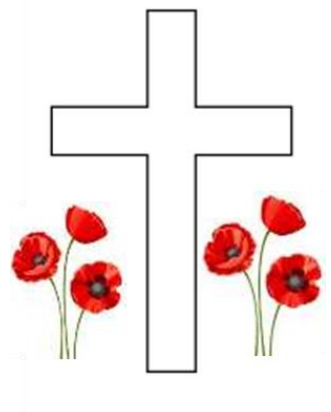




St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston and St Chad's, Irby

*Churchyard prayer trails on seasonal themes,
Window displays, Trail around the parish*

We have adapted an outside trail on the St Albans Diocesan website for our churchyard and removed all "touchy feely" props, so it was completely Covid Safe. See Remembrance trail overleaf.



Since our first ever **Prayer trail** in the church yard in November for All Saints and Remembrance in 2020, they have had several more:-

1. Nativity Trail
2. Epiphany Trail
3. Love Trail – which will be linked to “heart-bombing” the community for Valentine’s Weekend (using Muddy church resources <https://www.muddychurch.co.uk>). We have the whole community on board (two local primary schools, WI, ITPAS (local amenities society), local shops, and even a small group who maintain a reclaimed old fashioned phone box!
4. Easter Trail – includes the Easter Story and a quiz with stickers for all who take part and a prize for one randomly chosen winner.

Our **Window prayers** continue and will be updated as part of our Heart Bomb weekend:



Above from left:
Scripture message 2020
Advent 2020

Left:
Pentecost 2021

Prayer trail: Thy Kingdom come prayer trail installed around the parish, 2021



All-Age Remembrance Trail at St Bartholomew ,Thurstaston and St Chad, Irby

Welcome to YOUR churchyard

This space belongs to you. It belongs to all of us. Spend as much time here as you like. Please respect the plants and animals who make this space their home.

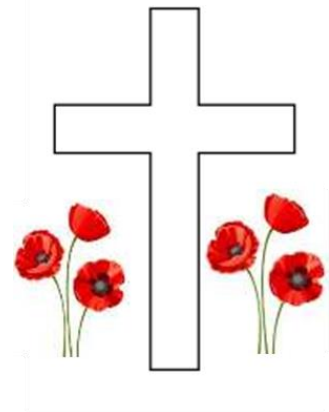
There are 4 special places to pray in the churchyard during this season of Remembrance. You can do these in any order you like; and do as many or as few as you want. Look for the poppy and the cross picture.

At each station, there is a way to pray with words and a way to pray with your senses. Children and adults may do whichever one they prefer.

Remembrance Trail 1:

Can you think of any films that have graveyards or cemeteries in them?

Many people are watching scary films this time of year, for Halloween. Halloween is a time when we think about death and dying. This can be scary, but it's a part of life. Talking about death and dying can help us feel less scared.



Praying with words:	Praying with your senses:
<p><i>God of life and death,</i></p> <p><i>You made us, and everything that has ever been.</i></p> <p><i>In this peaceful place, we are still surrounded by reminders of those who have died.</i></p>	<p>Run your hands over a gravestone. What does the stone feel like? Are there pictures on it? What do you think those pictures mean? Say the name of the person who is buried here and pray for them.</p> <p>Then touch your stomach and your forehead. Usually when we're scared</p>

In these scary times, we may be facing our fears of death more.

Help us to remember that you are with us all the time, no matter what. Help us to know that even death cannot stop love. Be with us when we are afraid. AMEN.

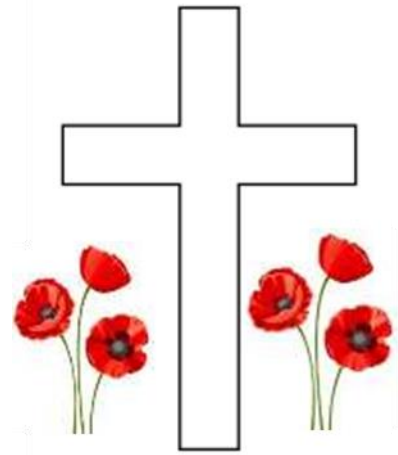
or worried, these parts of our body hurt. Feel the warmth of your body's life. Ask God to help you with any fears or worries you have. Then take three deep breaths in and out.

Remembrance Trail 2:

November 1st is a special day for Christians called ALL SAINTS DAY.

On that day, Christians remember the people who have lived and died before us, who followed the Christian faith and whose lives made the world better.

Christians believe that people who have died have a new life with God, that never ends. Death isn't the end of the story.



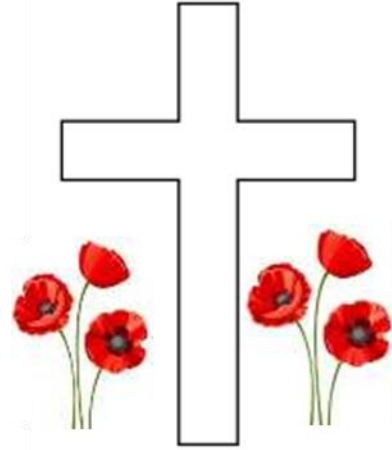
Praying with words:	Praying with your senses:
<p>What stories have you heard about saints? Some of the more famous ones are Mary, St. Francis, and St. George. Many people also consider people like Martin Luther King Jr., who fought for a more just world, to be saints, even if they aren't officially.</p> <p>What different ways are there to be saints? What associations does the word have for you? Is there a saint with your name? Is there one who</p>	<p>If you have a smartphone or camera with you, go around the churchyard and take some pictures of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anything you can find with a saint's name on it or any statues of saints (is the church named after a saint?) 2. Anything that makes you think of death and new life. <p>Tweet us with your pictures:- @StBartsStChads</p>

reminds you of you? Is there a saint you would like to be more like?	
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Remembrance Trail 3:

After Halloween and All Saints Day, November 2nd is a special day for Christians called ALL SOULS DAY.

On that day, Christians remember the people we love who have died. Christians believe that they are living forever with God, but we still grieve for them.



Praying with words:

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)

"The home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:3-4)

Praying with your senses:

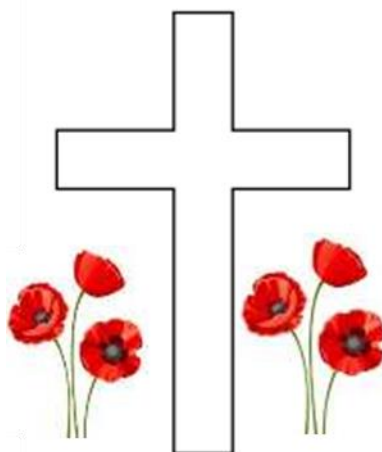
Find a quiet place to sit. Place your hands on your knees or on your belly and close your eyes. Focus on what you can hear – birds? Traffic? Voices? If thoughts arise, acknowledge them and let them go.

After a minute or two of listening, say out loud the names of anyone you love who has died. What does it feel like to hear their name(s) spoken?

If you would like to talk to someone about loss and grief, contact:-
Revd...

Remembrance Trail 4:

On the 11th of November 1918, the horrors of World War One ended. Millions had died, and many more had been wounded. Every year from 1919, people have marked 11th November as Remembrance Day. On that day, the sacrifice of those who served in war is honoured, and we pray for an end to war, and the coming of God's lasting peace.



Praying with words:

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability, and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

May your peace calm our fears, bring justice to all people, and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praying with your senses:

Look at the Poppies on display around the war memorial.

What do you feel as you look at these poppies?

When you go home could you make a poppy to add to our display?

1. Paint a Poppy on a pebble and place it at the base of the war memorial
2. Make a (weatherproof) Poppy – don't forget a hanging loop so it can be tied onto the tree.