



*The
Walthamstow
Pilgrimage*



ST MARY'S
WALTHAMSTOW

Welcome to the Walthamstow Lent Pilgrimage!

A pilgrimage offers a way of spiritually engaging with an area. You can do this alone, with family and friends, or in a large group. All you need is to be open to what the journey might offer and to what God might be saying.

The spirituality of a pilgrimage largely comes from connecting with the spirit or soul of a place – not necessarily what a place looks or sounds like, but the history of the place, its significance in the area, and how the place makes you feel. As you pray, we hope that God opens your eyes and prepares your heart to see the parish from His perspective.

We have assigned six places in the parish for the **Walthamstow Lent Pilgrimage**, and we are calling these ‘holy places’.

A holy place is any place that, for whatever reason, holds significance - this might be felt by one person or by many. You can choose to visit all six places, or just one; you may

want to revisit places to see if you experience something different.

Each holy place has been allocated a reading from the Gospel of Luke, along with some suggested reflections.

We recommend reading the passage from Luke a few times; leaving space in-between to see what God is highlighting to you. However, each pilgrimage is unique so feel free to be creative and responsive. You can simply choose to close your eyes, breathe, and feel the place – you may be surprised how calming and uplifting this can be.

We would love to hear about your experiences, so please email hello@stmaryswalthamstow.org if you have taken part in the Walthamstow Pilgrimage.

Holy Place #1

St Gabriel's Church, Walthamstow, E17 3JF

St Gabriel's was a mission of St Mary's Church and originally



met in a shop in Wood Street. They used funds that would have ordinarily paid for a building to

support war widows' pensions.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-centre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passages

Luke 5:1-11 – A miraculous catch of fish

Reflection

- Face towards Wood Street – consider the first missionaries who prayed and worshipped in a shop in Wood Street.
- Face towards the Church – consider the people who have helped grow the mission into the church.
- Are there any signs of hope, change, or need as you look around the area?
- What else may God be highlighting to you?
- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.

Holy Place #2

St Luke's in the High Street, Walthamstow, E17 7JN



St Luke's was originally based in Greenleaf Road as a mission of St Mary's Church. Now, they are based at the Farmers Market on the High Street serving free hot drinks, selling

home-made cakes, and offering prayer and support to the community.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to recentre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passages

Luke 6:43-45 – A tree is recognised by its fruit

Reflection

- Visit the St Luke's market stall on Sunday morning
What stands out to you as you sit and watch people?
- Are there any signs of hope, change, or need as you look around the area?
- What else may God be highlighting to you?
- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.

Holy Place #3

St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, E17 9RJ



Since the 12th Century, St Mary's Church has been the centre of worship and prayer and is the oldest building in Walthamstow. By 1903, as the population grew, St Mary's had planted 12 churches and 7 missions in Walthamstow.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-centre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passages

Luke 6:46-49 – The wise and foolish builders

Reflection

- Walk around one of the churchyards – consider the names of those who have come before and the stories they bring to life about our community.
- Sit on the benches – consider the ages of the trees around you that are reminders of the beauty and strength of creation.
- Look at the landscape – consider the echoes of many generations of local people who have come together as one: sharing silence, worship, and prayer in this place.
- Look at the building project and imagine all that might be possible in the new and renovated space.
- Are there any signs of hope, change, or need as you look around the area?
- What else may God be highlighting to you?
- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.

Holy Place #4

The Village, Walthamstow, E17 9NL



Walthamstow Village is the oldest part of Walthamstow, and Orford Road has been nurtured to become a popular spot for visitors and locals, because of its family-friendly environment and niche, independent shops and restaurants.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to recentre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passages

Luke 11:1-13 – Jesus teaches on prayer

Reflection

- Walk around Orford Road – consider the history of the buildings and the stories they share about our community.
- Sit on the benches – consider the families that use the space.
- Are there any signs of hope, change, or need as you look around the area?
- What else may God be highlighting to you?
- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.

Holy Place #5

Attlee Terrace, Walthamstow, E17 3EQ



Attlee Terrace is comprised of over 600 apartments, which were developed after the Second World War to accommodate the increased housing demand. It is currently the focus of St Mary's pioneering community organising.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to recentre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passage

Luke 15:11-32 – The parable of the lost son

Reflection

- Walk around the Estate – what do you notice? what stands out?
- Find somewhere to sit – imagine the people who live in the apartments; what do you see?
- Are there any signs of hope, change, or need as you look around the area?
- What else may God be highlighting to you?
- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.

Holy Place #6

High Street, Walthamstow, E17 7FD



The High Street dates back to the 19th Century and is home to the longest outdoor market in Europe. The Parish boundary incorporates around half a mile of the High Street: from Hoe Street to Palmerston Road.

Prayer

Lord, as we enter prayer,

We pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to recentre our scattered senses upon Your presence.

We turn our thoughts to you; we will leave aside our worries and anxieties; we will take rest and refreshment in Your presence. Amen.

Bible Passage

Luke 24:13-35 – On the road to Emmaus

Reflection

- Start at the Hoe Street entrance to the High Street and read the Bible passage.

What words stand out to you as you look down the High Street?

- Walk to the Library entrance and read the Bible passage again.

What words stand out to you as you look around?

- Walk to Sainsburys and read the Bible passage again.

What words stand out to you as you look back up to where you have walked?

- Find somewhere to stand (or sit) and pray into what God has highlighted.