

St Michael All Angels

Southam, Woolstone, Gotherington & Oxenton

Known by Name

An activity

You can take part in this activity in two ways. Firstly go off on a walk around somewhere with lots of plants and trees.

Then choose whether to:

- Identify as many plants and trees as you can in 10 minutes, writing them down on a list
- Go on a scavenger hunt to identify plants and trees on a pre printed list for example:

- An Oak Tree
- A Beech Tree
- Common Hawthorn
- Bramble
- Crab Apple
- Nettles
- Cow Parsley
- Cleavers

In both cases you might use a phone to help with identification. Consider how everything has a name and is known by God.

Outdoor Worship and Prayer Summer 2026

Genesis 2:19

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

A way to pray...

Using twigs, stones, leaves or whatever you can find to mark out your name on the ground. Then someone shares this prayer:

"God, you created the whole world and you called it good. Thank you that you know every tree, every bird, and every wild creature. But most of all, thank you that you know us. Thank you that the names written here are precious to you. Watch over [Name], [Name], and [Name] this summer holiday. May we walk through your world knowing that we are loved, we are seen, and we are known. Amen."

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Knowing the Way

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An activity

As christians we are told to trust Jesus as the way, truth and life. However, we sometimes like to go off on our own paths.

Discuss this as you take it in turns to lead a walk in whatever direction the designated person wants to go in and at whatever pace.

Consider together what difference it would make to your life to follow Jesus' path.

John 14:5-7

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

A way to pray...

Take some pencils and paper with you. At the end of your walk draw signposts on your paper and write out 'signpost prayer' to God asking him to lead you in areas of your life you need His direction. For example, you might want to draw or write in a word to represent these areas: *Work, School, Money, Friendships....* After this say this prayer:

'Thank you God that you are the way, truth and the life. Lord help me to walk in step with you and accept your guidance in all these areas of my life.'

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Come and See

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An activity

Give each family member a cardboard cut-out frame or use a phone camera.

Challenge them to find something tiny (like a beetle or moss) and something massive (like a mature oak), taking a photo or viewing it through their frame.

Do this a number of times to recognise the vast difference in size and detail of the world God created.

Psalm 104: 24-25

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number -
living things both large and small.

A way to pray...

Close your eyes, point your face toward something beautiful, open your eyes for three seconds to take a "mental snapshot," close them again, picture the image in your mind and say, "Thank you, God, for what I just saw." Repeat this a number of times with items big and small.

You might like to share with each other what you saw and said thank you for.

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Come and Hear

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An activity

Create a sound map. Sit perfectly still for two minutes. On a piece of paper, draw a small cross in the centre representing you.

Every time you hear a sound (a birdsong, wind in the leaves, a distant car), draw a symbol for it in the direction that it came from.

At the end compare with others what you noticed when you paid attention.

Psalm 98: 4-8

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's
horn—

shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

A way to pray...

Using your sound maps. Each person chooses one sound that was heard, then everyone else has to immediately copy that sound for two seconds. This should be very silly and fun. After each sound shout together, "We praise you, God!"

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New Life

An activity

at St Michael's Churchyard

Start at the churchyard's compost area behind the church. Look closely at how leaves, cuttings and dead plants are slowly broken down into new soil.

Now walk over to the flower beds, remembering that every flower there began life as a tiny seed or cutting. You might want to hold a little compost in one hand and a flower or leaf in the other.

Choose one of the paths towards the church and walk it slowly, noticing the trees, herbs, birds, insects, and the gravestones along the way.

Pause beside a gravestone. What does it feel like to stand somewhere that holds both endings and, all around it, so much new life?

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this 'resurrection body' look like?" If you look at this question closely, you realise how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a "dead" seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different.

A way to pray...

Composting to new life – Still holding your compost and your flower or leaf, thank God that just as a seed must be buried before it can grow, he can bring new life out of what looks like an ending. Ask him to help you trust that in your own life.

Among the gravestones – Read a name if you can find one. Give thanks for someone you have loved who has died, and thank God for the hope, found in this passage, that death is not the end of the story.

Signs of life – As you walk back along the path, name one sign of life you noticed today – a bird, an insect, a new shoot – and ask God to help that same kind of new life grow in you.

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Bearing Fruit

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An activity

For near the end of the holidays

Go on a long walk and search the hedgerows or park for signs of fruits and seeds. You might look out for conkers, acorns, rosehips, or blackberries.

As you do this consider together what ways God wants you to grow and bear good fruit using the piece of scripture.

Galatians 5: 22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A way to pray...

You will need to find two things for this prayer, something rough or thorny and something smooth like a pebble.

Take it in turns to think of times in your life when you are more thorny and rough than you want to be then hold the smooth pebble and ask God for help to smooth out those difficult ways with the help of the Holy Spirit.