### and/or ON THE WAY Prayer

**Faithful God, as you led your people of old,
into a new and fruitful place,
So lead us too today we pray.
Show us the way to go,
and help us on the way with the courage and the faith
and the imagination that we need
that we may be the church that you truly called us to be.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

**Praying** – *using Imaginative ‘listening’ Prayer* **Diocese of Truro Deanery Planning Journey 2021-2022**

**Opening Prayers**

We come before God

**who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

We come before God

**asking His wisdom, inspiration and blessing
 in our prayers and our actions.**

We come before God

 **that we may be changed evermore**

**into Christ’s likeness.**

That this day and all our days may be spent

walking *On the Way* with God,
as individuals and as His whole people in this place,

let us pray with one heart and mind.

A short time of silent prayer is kept.

O God,

in whose power is our very breath,
to whom belong all our ways,
may we seek you with our hearts
and honour you with our lives,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Speak, Lord, and help us to listen. Amen.**

**Bible Passage**

*The leader chooses a short passage of scripture (possibly something used in Thursday Morning* ***On the Way*** *Prayers or from the list of suggested themes) and encourages people to look it up in their own bibles if they have them or makes it available online and/or in hard copy.
Remind participants that you are inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you not only individually, but as a deanery group* ***On the Way*** *together.*

**Imaginative ‘listening’ Prayer**

**NB** Not all of us have a particularly ‘visual’ imagination. Don’t worry at all if you don’t! Try instead to be conscious of your ‘gut’ reactions to things, your intuition, what you sense, rather than what you see.

* *Take a few moments to be conscious of how you’re feeling, the things that are on your mind. Give those things to God and ask him to guide you by his Spirit in this time of prayer.*
* *Quietly read the passage to yourself several times.*
* *Now close your eyes and try to imagine yourself in the scene:*

*What can you see? What can you hear?*

*What can you smell or taste or touch?*

*You may feel drawn to imagine yourself as one of the characters in the gospel story, experiencing their feelings and reactions, seeing things through their eyes. Or perhaps you are simply there as a bystander.*

* *How do* ***you*** *feel? Is there a particular part of the story that draws your attention? Something that resonates, that touches a deep chord in you? Something that brings joy or pain, that puzzles or surprises you?
Take some time to quietly talk to Jesus about whatever it is that speaks to you.*
* *Now repeat the exercise:* ***ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into what God may be wanting to say to your churches and deanery****.*

**Time to share the fruits of our prayers …***There should be no pressure on anybody to share unless they wish to.*

*Remember that this should be a ‘safe’ space for anything personal that may be shared: ‘What’s shared in the room stays in the room’.

If somebody shares something that they believe God may be showing them in connection with* ***On the Way****, the group leader may make a note of what is shared without attributing it to a particular individual. In this way, any common themes or strands that may emerge can be discerned over a period of weeks or months.*

**Closing Prayer**

Living and Loving God,
the God of all our journeying,
we give you thanks and praise
that you are always ‘On the Way’ with us,
walking step by step along the pilgrim path.

**All: God within us, God beside us,
 God behind us, God before us.**

New-life giving, energy-breathing God,
the God who loves to surprise us,
open our hearts, our minds, our lives
to all the new possibilities
that will lie ahead On the Way
in the months and years to come.
Help us to listen together
to your Spirit’s voice, calling,
“This is the way – walk in it.”

**All: God within us, God beside us,
 God behind us, God before us. Amen.**