**Closing Prayers**

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.**

### 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 Lectio Divina* **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.*

**Lectio Divina**

Lectio Divina is a meditative prayer, allowing God to speak through his living Word. It’s been described as a way to “feast on God’s Word”, so we use that analogy as we walk through the four steps of this prayer.
*NB A short bible passage or even a single verse or two is sufficient.*

* As you get started, find a comfortable and quiet place to sit.
* Begin to quiet your mind and body, setting aside all the thoughts and to-do lists running through your mind.
* Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading.

***Step #1: READ (lectio)*** a brief passage of Scripture – “take a bite”

Read the scripture passage or verses slowly several times, listening with the “ear of the heart”.
*NB The leader may invite several different people to read aloud.*

* Is there a word or phrase that begins to stand out to you?
* The word or phrase that grabs your heart may not be the main idea of the passage. Listen and be open to how God wants to use his Word to speak to you, either personally or about ***On the Way***.
* Begin to repeat that word or phrase over and over again, slowly, soaking your heart in the words.

***Step #2: REFLECT (meditatio)*** or meditate on the word or phrase that caught your heart – “chew”

* Sit in the silence and allow God the space to speak to you as you turn the words over in your mind.
* Ponder what these words mean for your life and for ***On the Way***.
* What hope or encouragement do these words bring to you?
* What next step or action do you feel God may be asking you to take?

***Step #3: RESPOND (oratio)*** in prayer to what God called to your attention – “savour”

* Offer up a prayer of praise, thanksgiving, or petition, depending on how you’re moved.
* Continue turning your word or phrase over and over in your mind.
* Share your heart with God in prayer, responding to his Word.

***Step #4: REST (contemplatio)*** in God, contemplating his word – “digest”

Rest in God and contemplate his words, for your life and regarding ***On the Way***. Sit in the silence and just “be” with God for a few minutes.

* Individuals may want to journal their experience later to see how God may be moving in their lives.

**Allow time as a group to share anything that people feel God may have been speaking to them about concerning *On the Way.*** *Remember, there should be no pressure on anybody to share unless they wish to and that if it’s personal, ‘What’s shared in the room stays in the room’. If anything is shared in connection with* ***OtW****, the leader may make a note of it 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.*