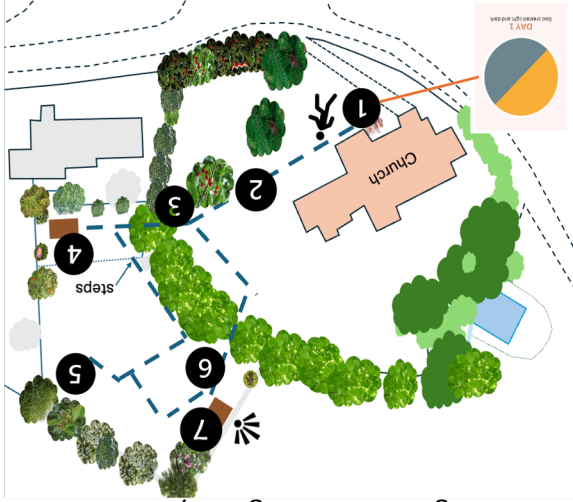


Here's a route taking you through the churchyard to each of the places on this prayer walk to stop to take a moment to read the prayer text for that Day of Creation. Look out for the seven numbered green stakes to guide you.



Note: be careful around all graves/headstones. Use the steps on the route to get from prayer stop 4 to stop 5.



Important safety note:

Please be aware of your surroundings in this ancient churchyard. Before doing this walk, do take a look at the health and safety notices on the church gate noticeboard and around the building and churchyard. Please keep children safely supervised at all times.

1

Day 1: Light created and separated from darkness (Day/Night)

Heavenly Father, Source of all light and life, as I stand here looking up at the clock on the high church tower chiming the hours through day and night over the centuries I stand in awe of Your mighty power. Thank You for commanding: "Let there be light," (Genesis 1 v3) separating the day from the night and bringing order out of chaos. Hope is in itself a light we carry into a world anxious about its future. As You began Creation with light, illuminate my heart and mind today and let me be a bearer of Your light, hope, and peace in my family, community, and in all I do.

2

Day 2: God created sky and seas

Standing beneath the large cherry tree with its wide-open arms offering shelter and shade from the rain and sun, I thank You, Lord, for the air and water that sustains life. It shows us a world of breath-taking beauty and intricate interconnection entrusted to our care. I pray for tranquility and Your loving protection. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit and strengthen me in difficult times: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41 v10).

3

Day 3: Dry land appears, and vegetation is created

Scripture says: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever," (Isaiah 40 v8). As I stand next to the little wooden bug house amongst the wild plants like ivy, let me be reminded that Lord, You created vegetation that brings life. Lord, I pray for my community to have deep roots in Your love. Let seeds of kindness, love, and justice be scattered so Creation is a place where people flourish and thrive, just as these plants thrive.

4

Day 4: Sun, moon, and stars created for seasons and to govern the day and the night

Sitting on the 'In loving memory' bench and looking at the shadows of the headstones created by the sun, I thank You, Lord, for the rhythm and Your goodness in every season. Weather conditions are unsettling those rhythms for communities who depend on them. God is greater than any darkness. I pray for those in a difficult season of life, for those working the land through wetter winters and hotter summers, and for the stars that shine reminding us of those we love but see no longer.

5

Day 5: Fish and birds created

Looking at the white headstones of soldiers fallen in battle in protecting my freedoms today, remind me of the abundance, movement and freedom You created when You filled the waters with fish and the skies with birds. Thank You for the joy, song, and vibrant life You have filled this world with. Help us all to safeguard the integrity of this abundance and nurture and protect every creature great and small.

6

Day 6: Land animals and humans created in God's image

As I stand next to the rugged headstone of Reservoir Woods who used plants to help heal people in this community, I thank you Lord for making me in Your image (Genesis 1 v27). I am woven into the web of life alongside every creature You have made. Help me to reflect Your love, creativity, and kindness to everyone I meet today. Give me a deeper appreciation of the dignity of every person I pass and those that help care and nurture us.

7

Day 7: God finishes Creation and rests, blessing The Seventh Day as Holy

As I sit on the bench enjoying the extensive view of the Welland Valley, help me know I am resting in God's presence, celebrating the completion of His work and thanking Him for the beauty of Creation (Genesis 2 v2-3).

Scripture points beyond this day of rest to His promise of new heavens and a new earth, where all things are reconciled in Christ.

Lord, as I recite Psalm 46 verse 10: "*Be still, and know that I am God,*" renew my strength for the week ahead, and help me to carry Your hope and peace with me.



Genesis 1 v3

A Prayer Walk in St James the Great Upper Churchyard

This short walk with 7 prayer-stops along the way reflects the Bible story of God's Creation of the world in 7 days in the Book of Genesis.

It offers an opportunity for anyone to reflect and pray on our connections and relationships with God, people and nature.