

A Sample Faith Tour Leaflet

This sample leaflet is an example of how a faith tour can be developed for a particular church.

The original leaflet also included illustrations of the parts of the church being described, directions around the building during the tour and follow-up contact details.

You are welcome to adapt the material for use in your own church.

The order in which the material is presented reflects the layout of St. Peter's Church, Cringleford for which this faith tour was written.

Visiting a Church

can be a trip into history as you enjoy the building's art and monuments that previous generations have left – like visiting a museum or stately home;

or it can be a kind of pilgrimage – an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life and our place within it as you discover the church's spiritual treasures.

This guide is for the second sort of visit. At each point on your journey round the church you are invited to consider both the spiritual significance of this ancient building and to reflect on aspects of your own life. Take time to pause and ponder at each point before moving on to the next.

To begin your Faith Tour take a few minutes to sit quietly at the back of the church and remember that this place is dedicated to the service of God. Relax into the silence and enjoy the peace of this place.

When you are ready, move on to the next section.

1. The Nave – this is the central section of the church. The word “nave” comes from the Latin for “ship”. Look up to the roof and you will see it's beams are like the inside of a wooden ship upturned. Here they remind us that St Peter, in whose name this church is dedicated, was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called him to be a disciple.

Reflection – *What matters to you in your life and work? Where are you headed? What are your priorities?*

2. The Pulpit and the Lectern – from here the Bible is read and the Good News of Jesus Christ is preached. Christians believe that in Jesus Christ God himself came amongst us to show us the true meaning of our lives.

Reflection – *What resources bring meaning to your life? Who or what shapes your values and sense of purpose?*

3. Christ is Risen: the window at the front of the church – this window shows the angel (on the right) telling the women who have come to Jesus's tomb that He is risen from the dead. Christians believe that Christ has overcome death and all that separates us from God and each other. By faith in Christ we are able to share His victory, receive His love, and claim His promise of abundant and eternal life for ourselves.

Reflection – *What aspects of your life are in need of healing and reconciliation? Where do you find hope for the future?*

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4. Christ Crucified: the window by the organ – the window shows Jesus’s death on a cross. Beneath is an altar – from the Latin for table – where we celebrate Holy Communion. In Communion we share in bread and wine remembering the Last Supper Jesus had with His disciples and His command that we are to do this in remembrance of Him. We especially remember His death for us.

Humanity often misuses the gifts and freedom that God has given us. Christians believe that in His death Christ took on Himself the guilt of all that is evil in the world and all that burdens us so that we, by believing in Him, might be free to receive God’s forgiveness and live life anew.

Reflection – *What burdens would you wish to hand over to God? There is a prayer board to the side of the altar where you may write down and leave prayers for inclusion in the church’s daily act of worship.*

“God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son Jesus Christ that whoever believes in him will have eternal life”.

5. The Wedding Feast at Cana – the picture shows Jesus (seated in the centre) turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. The story reminds us that Jesus liked a party! Christianity is about enjoying the abundance of life to the full in the way that God intended. This picture also reminds us of how our church is regularly used for weddings as well as baptisms, funerals and other special services.

Reflection – *In what ways could your life be enriched? Do you wish to make space in it for a living relationship with God?*

6. The Font – is placed near the door to remind us that we may enter the family of the Church through Baptism. Jesus commanded his disciples “go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. True to this command people have been baptised here for over a thousand years.

In Baptism (from a Greek word for drenching or pouring over) water is poured over the head to symbolise the outpouring of God’s renewing Spirit in the lives of all that believe in Christ. This life of faith is available to all who make a personal commitment to follow Christ.

Reflection – *we invite you to sit down for a few moments and reflect on your Faith Tour. There may be things you would like to think through further or you may simply wish to offer a prayer, perhaps using the one printed below.*

The Prayer of St Benedict

Almighty God give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For further information about the Christian faith and the life of this church please contact.....

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