

Simply Outside

'Mini pilgrimage'

What is it?

An outdoor activity to help us move towards God and better understand his purposes.

What do you need?

1. A venue, i.e. churchyard, (pocket) park, playground, public space or large back garden,
2. Sheets of card,
3. Refreshments,

What do you do?

1. On sheets of paper write and illustrate some treasure. The theme of your pilgrimage will dictate the treasure. If you are celebrating creation each item of treasure might be a Bible verse explaining one aspect of the creation story.

If you are celebrating God's faithfulness, and the way he regenerates His creation, it might be a detail of the story of the Great Flood. This might be particularly useful in an urban environment!

If you are focussing on your patron saint it might be episodes from their life which give us examples we might follow, and shows how God changed them and can change us.

2. When all the treasure is found the pilgrimage is completed by meeting together to hear a talk explaining the significance of the treasure, and for a time of prayer and worship, followed by refreshments. Perhaps you could give each participant a certificate, or badge, with the customary symbol of pilgrimage, the shell?

Follow-up: Send participants away with a 'postcard'. Invite them to write explaining what they did/found on their pilgrimage and bring it to a service at which the postcard can be left on display in church.