

➡ Walk through the lychgate entrance past the church porch to the vicarage steps, and move left to the wall overlooking Church Hill.

The Vicarage View

From here you have a wonderful view down over lower Baildon and the Aire Valley, across to Shipley, Bradford and far beyond.

Pray for all that catches your eye: places, people, activities. Use what you know, and your God-given gift of imagination, to pray for the needs you sense – both material and spiritual.

Especially at this season of Easter and new life, ask God to bring revival to this whole area, and open yourself to the changes that such a movement of the Spirit might bring in your own life too.

➡ When you are ready, make your way back to Hall Cliffe. Either turn left to return to the Village centre, or turn right and walk a few yards to the Community Gardens, through the gateway on the left.

You may wish to spend some quiet time here pondering your thoughts, and perhaps sharing them.

Wherever you go,
may the peace of the Lord Jesus fill you,
as he draws you closer to God the Father,
in the sustaining, transforming, and life-giving power
of the Holy Spirit.



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Churches Together in Baildon

The Easter Life Walk

A walk between some of Baildon's Churches,
for reflection and prayer during Easter Week



Created from the full text of St Mark's Gospel

Easter changes the world. Hope is reborn. Like the dawn creeping over the horizon reveals the contours and contents of a landscape hitherto hidden in gloom. Or the swelling of buds promises burgeoning fresh growth to come. Or better still, as an acorn lost in the soil germinates to begin its new life journey from tender seedling to sturdy oak.

Except that the Easter sun never sets, nor its flower fades, and the growth of the Easter oak is everlasting, for it never dies. That is Easter in the world where we live. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Start at The Stocks

Stand and look around you. Be cheered by the tubs of flowers, symbolising for us the brighter future now available through Jesus.

Note that the stocks and the cross are empty, as were the cross and the grave that first Easter. For their job was done: Jesus had died and risen, and not just back to life as it had been, like Lazarus (Jn 11). Jesus was raised from death to a totally new and indestructible life. That was something new in the history of the world, and it's for us to celebrate. For even 2,000 years down the line it involves us: in him we live eternally too. Thank God for his mercy and grace in calling you to see and follow.

➡ Make your way across the bus lane and cross The Grove by the zebra. Turn right and walk up to the Methodist Church in Newton Way.

If you find the hill a bit of a pull, praise God that in the new creation your vigour will be restored, for ever.

The Methodist Floral Cross

Stand and look at the floral cross by the Methodist Church entrance. Note the richness and diversity of colour, shape and texture of each bloom, and how they are fitted together to form a whole picture of rejoicing – for those with eyes to see. You are very welcome to add your own flowers to this cross (if you can reach).

Pray that our churches in each place may be similarly united in rich diversity of membership, and send out a similarly appealing message of hope and joy to the world, because of the Lord whom we worship.

➡ Walk down the narrow path just beyond the church, with the strip of garden on your right, and past the somewhat larger garden with its triangle of grass in the middle.

Take note of the spring flowers in the borders, and ponder their promise of life to come. Each is beautiful in its own way, and the question arises of how we can be beautiful for God in our own way. What is he calling you to be, and do? And how can you do it beautifully?

➡ Walk down to the bottom of Binswell Fold, cross over Westgate, and turn left. Continue down to the roundabout and turn right down

Browgate until you reach the Moravian notice board and gates, just beyond the tiny garden with the Baildon in Bloom notice.

The Moravian Church Floral Cross

Here you will find another floral cross, witnessing to all those who pass, on foot or in cars, or who park across the road. Pray for them as you stand there, that they may see the message of the cross, and take it on board in their busy lives. Feel free to add your own flowers here.

Ponder the priorities of your own life and the fidelity of your walk with the Lord Jesus, whom you have promised to follow. Confess before him any particular failings you're aware of, and ask for restoration, and help in pulling your life into better order for him. If appropriate, share your thoughts.

In the adjacent little garden is an elegant birch tree. Admire the trunk with its bark, and look at the twigs and buds, with signs of new life just coming. Ponder the stature and longevity of trees, but that through Jesus your life will be eternal, never ending. Marvel before God.

➡ Walk back up Browgate and cross over the zebra. Continue up to the Potted Meat Stick on the corner.

The formal name for this monument is The Frances Ferrand Memorial Fountain, and it may remind us that in Jesus we have a spring within us: the Holy Spirit, welling up to eternal life (Jn 4:14). That is something to rejoice in, and praise God for, not just in words, but in our whole new way of living for him – to which we have just recommitted ourselves.

➡ Turn right into Hall Cliffe, crossing the car park entrances with care, and walk up to the Parish Church.

The Parish Church Floral Cross

Don't add to this floral cross: focus instead on the contrast between the flowers, which despite their beauty will soon wither and fade, and the solidity of rock out of which the church is built. The rock on which Jesus builds his church is faith: faith in him and his words, from the moment we first come to realise they are rock-solid truth to build our lives on, come what may (Mt 7:24).