Prayer Walks in Baildon

Ideas to help you pray

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**What are Prayer Walks?**
Mostly we pray with our eyes shut, using our imaginations. With imagination we can go anywhere, and bring people or problems from anywhere to God in prayer. But imagination is all the better for a bit of information: vision is sharpened, requests are focused, and our prayers enriched. That’s where prayer walks can help.

**How do you do a prayer walk?**
It’s wise to plan a bit. Decide beforehand where and how far you’re going to walk, and for how long. It may help to have a written guide like those in this booklet, with suggestions of what to pray for or how to pray. They can start us off. They reinforce our imagination, but don’t replace it.

**Who could use Prayer Walk Guides?**
Anyone who’s interested can use these Guides: take it and go! But there may be merit in a group going together: perhaps just like-minded individuals, or your church prayer group, or any other group you may have. One Brownie Pack did the walk as part of their Faith Badge. There is scope here for creative thinking – once you have accepted that this kind of praying is worthwhile, and even important.

**What about those who can’t walk?**
People who have mobility problems can do these as “armchair walks”, contradictory though that may sound. Those who know the area well can follow the Guide from memory. Others have used a map to remind them of less familiar areas. Or someone could go round the walk and take photographs of what you can see on the walk for a slide show.

**What next?**
These Prayer leaflets were written to encourage more prayer in and for Baildon. Anyone can use the them. Each merely gives suggested ideas to start from. And you might also like to look at *Ponder Places*, published by Churches Together in Baildon.
Methodist Church Prayer Walk

A gentle walk down from the Methodist Church to Baildon centre and back, by a circular route crossing no roads

Set out with the aim of bringing what you see before God.

Ask him to guide your eyes and your thoughts. Follow the Spirit’s leading in your prayers.

Pray for, and call down blessings on, all those whom the Lord calls to your mind, not forgetting yourself and your loved ones, in the name of Jesus who said:

‘Go... I am with you always...’
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Stepping out of the church
Leave the Church through the porch, and go up the gentle ramp into Newton Way. Stand and take in the scene, with the busy traffic. Remind yourself: this is God’s world—he created it and loves it.

Heading down to the centre
Turn right, and walk down the hill. At the junction with The Grove, is a row of alms houses opposite, called Butterfield Homes (1929). Thank God for charities, and pray for the frail elderly, here and elsewhere.

As you walk down the steeper slope, you’ll see the parish church up on the right. Bless those who worship there in the name of the Lord.

You pass a car park, dentist and laundry: ponder these and pray.

The view by the roundabout
At the pharmacy, by the zebra crossing, thank God for the skills of those who dispense medications and pray for those who need them.

Beyond the pharmacy is a cafe: this part of Baildon has many eating places—cafes, restaurants, takeaways, and pubs. Think of the jobs of preparing and serving food and drink, including bar staff, and pray for those tempted to excess, or even addiction.

To your left is a bus turning area. Thank God for transport, public and private. But reflect on how we have turned so many of our roads into brutal no-cross zones for pedestrians and animals.

In the pedestrianized oasis with seats, are stocks and a market cross: Give thanks for the long history of Baildon and pray for its future. Use those thoughts to pray also for your own walk with the Lord.

To your right, above the car park is the Ian Clough Hall and Library. Thank God for the information industry, and all the many meetings held there. But pray also for Baildon’s youth, which often drifts and gathers here of an evening with, seemingly, little else to do. Ask God for leaders, to give them good role models and wise, godly direction in their lives.
The walk up Westgate
Walk round the corner into Westgate, which has many shops and small businesses. As you walk up the hill and you notice each one, think about those who work there, and their customers or clients. Turn your thoughts into prayers: for protection and guidance; for prosperity and welfare; and for fulfilment in their work.

There are lots of hairdressers and beauticians: thank God for the gift of beauty, but pray for those who trust too much in the body beautiful.

There are also estate agents, solicitors and accountants: besides praying for these businesses, remember those facing stress at the moment, but also those who trust too much in possessions, power or position.

Think of what’s not available here, and pray for those who find it hard to have to travel to supermarkets or other shopping centres.

Moravians and Methodists
On the other side of the road by The Bull’s Head pub, is a little road called West Fold along which is the Moravian Church. Methodism owes a lot to the Moravian Church; it was a source of huge inspiration to John Wesley. Thank God for those who worship there.

On this side of the road, just before Westgate Stores is Binswell Fold up which you can see the Methodist Church. If you want to cut the walk short, you can make your way back to the church at this point. Otherwise press on up Westgate.

Houses and homes
Further up the hill you pass a long-established building contractor. Use this to start your thinking about houses and those who live here (16,500 in over 7,000 households in Baildon as a whole).

For a number of years Churches Together in Baildon (Anglican, Methodist, Moravian, and Catholic) used to visit houses to tell residents about the local churches, but that programme has had to cease for lack of support. Pray for Christian outreach in all its forms.
At the junction with Newton Way
Pause at the corner. Note the barrow with flowers across the road, put there and maintained by Baildon in Bloom. Thank God for those who work so hard to improve the appearance of the town.

Diagonally opposite where you stand is a row of old cottages called Tentercroft—a reminder of Baildon’s historical involvement in the wool textile industry, from cottage-scale to mills. Little of that remains, but many firms still operate from Baildon supplying diverse markets. Pray for prosperity and jobs, but without forgetting the need for environmental riches, as symbolised by the bloom-barrow.

Back to the start point
When you are ready, turn right along Newton Way. Here is a nursery (there is also a pre-school at the Methodist Church): pray for all our children and young families, that they may be led by right paths.

Across the road is Baildon Medical Practice. Pray for your own doctor and all medical professionals, and those you know in need of healing.

Pass the upper end of the building contractor’s yard, which may reinforce your resolve to pray for industry and environment.

In the garden and orchard beside the Methodist Church are conserved many old varieties of fruit tree, the legacy of the late Robert Pemberton, a Methodist who was a recognized authority on this subject. Walk down the path admiring the gardens lovingly tended by church members and friends. Pray for good stewardship everywhere.

At the front of the Church is a Commonwealth War Grave. Pray for peace.

Now you are back where the walk began. If Wesleys is too busy for you just at the moment, slip into the Quiet Room (Room 4) and sit for a while in peace. May the Lord bless you with his presence always.
St John’s Church Prayer Walk
A walk from St John’s Parish Church through Baildon Village Centre, to Jenny Lane and back by East Parade

Start in the Parish Churchyard.
Look around you, both here and throughout the walk.
Bring what you see and hear before God in prayer.

As you walk through the town centre, remember:
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)
Ask the Lord to watch over Baildon, and build it up.

You may want to complete this prayer walk in stages.
May the Lord bless you and keep you as you call down his blessings on others.
Prayer Walks in Baildon

**St John’s churchyard**
You are surrounded by old gravestones: use the experience to pray for the recently bereaved; and give thanks for the lives of the departed.

At the top of the steps by the vicarage, pray for all Baildon’s clergy. To the right you can see the Moravian Church: pray for Christian unity.

**Hall Cliffe**
Leave the churchyard by the lychgate and go into Hall Cliffe. Cross the road and turn down left past the Baildon Club. Thank God for social activities, but pray also for those, especially youngsters, who feel there is nothing much to do in Baildon. Ask God to raise up godly leaders.

Look back across to the library and thank God for books and learning, and pray for wisdom as librarians cope with changes in the electronic age, and Council budget cuts.

Note also the flower beds, and pray for the work of Baildon in Bloom and others who strive to improve the appearance of Baildon.

**Northgate and Towngate**
At the foot of Hall Cliffe turn right into Northgate, past the Ian Clough car park and the busy roundabout. Bring before God your thoughts on cars and traffic: convenience, congestion, pollution, pedestrians.

Across the road is Towngate, where the buses turn. Thank God for public transport, and pray for its future.

Head up through Northgate. On both sides of the road are shops, offices, businesses, eateries and pubs. Pray for employees, clients, customers, suppliers; and that the businesses themselves may prosper. Pray that all our commerce may serve rather than exploit.

Near the top of Northgate is the Co-op (cross the entrance with care). Along with many others in Baildon, it sells Fair Trade goods: Baildon is a Fair Trade Town. Pray for vulnerable traders wherever they may be.
Jenny Lane
At the top of Northgate by the chip shop turn right into Jenny Lane. Here, in this residential area, pray for all the residents of Baildon – it’s a big parish – but particularly for the elderly because on the right as you walk along are two roads of old people’s houses: Laburnum Drive and Heather Road.

Pray for elderly people whom you know, and also for looming difficulties, as longer life and lower birth rates threaten to make care of the elderly increasingly burdensome on society. Ask for wisdom for those in medical and social care, and those who have to choose how best to use scarce funds.

Pray for all who work to understand and alleviate dementia (Bradford University is a world leader in this research), and for those who are working to make Baildon more dementia friendly. Bring before God your own hopes or fears about old age. Praise the Lord for the promise of eternal life (without pain, sadness or decline!) through Jesus.

Continue to the corner of Jenny Lane (beyond which is Heygate Close, also housing for elderly people). Across the road is a play area for young children: here pray both for them and for parents or other adults who care for them.

Beyond the play area are rugby and cricket pitches. Thank God for the gift of sports, but pray also for those who would love to be actively involved, but can’t for one reason or another.

The narrow walled lane past the sports clubs gives access to more rural areas and a network of footpaths, including the Moor: Baildon has recently become a ‘Walkers are Welcome’ town. Thank God for our open country, and ask for its protection and wise management.

When you are ready, walk back along Jenny Lane as far as Heather Road. Turn left here, and go down to the cobbled East Parade, accessed by a short footpath.
East Parade
Make your way down the road, taking care with the uneven surface, and enjoying the quieter environs and older architecture.

Bring before God your thoughts about homes and houses and living conditions, and urban conservation and planning. Ask for wise guidance for those who have to make decisions on these matters.

Pray also for those in politics, especially elected representatives on Baildon Town Council and Bradford Council, that they may work for the best interests of those they stand for, including all who live and work in Baildon, and uphold the rights of disadvantaged people.

At the foot of East Parade, through The Courtyard, you come back to Northgate. Just opposite, beside the bus turning area, are the market cross and stocks, with a number of seats. If you have time and wish to do so, cross the road by the zebra crossing and sit awhile, allowing the stocks and cross and flower troughs to stimulate your prayers as the Spirit moves you.

When you feel ready, recross Northgate, turn right, and go back up Hall Cliffe to the Parish Church, where this walk began.

Finally, give thanks to God for his blessing of prayer, praise him for the answers he has provided or is planning in response to your requests, respond to anything he has called you to do, and resolve to keep any promises you have made to him as you prayed.
St James’s Church Prayer Walk

A gentle walk from St James’s Church through Kirklands, along Otley Road and back past Hoyle Court Primary School

Begin in the St James’s Church car park.
Look, listen, and take in all that is around you, remembering:
The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

As you walk, use this leaflet only as a guide and aid.
Do not feel the need to cover everything all in one go.
Bring what you see and hear before God in prayer,
asking him to guide your thoughts and words.

May the Lord bless your going out and coming in.
Kirklands Lane
Pause at the junction with Kirklands Lane. Below you is the busy Otley Road, on which ‘the white wooden church’ is a prominent and well-known landmark. Pray that the building may convey something of the presence of God to the thousands who pass daily.

Turn right and walk up Kirklands Lane to the cross roads. Around you all the way is a residential area, some of it quite well to do. Pray for any you see and for those who live here: their domestic activities and family life, and also relations with neighbours and daily commute to work.

From the cross roads you can see Kirklands Avenue, which leads up to a small open play area (‘The Mound’), managed by local residents in partnership with Baildon Town Council. Pray for such local initiatives.

Hoyle Court Road
Turn right into Hoyle Court Road and continue down the slope. There are no bus stop signs, but several buses each day do pass here, picking up or setting down on request. Pray for this service between here and Baildon Town centre, and on to Shipley, or Esholt and Otley: the drivers and bus company managers, as well as those who use it.

On your left, up either Hoyle Court Avenue or Drive, you can see Baildon Railway Station, with a frequent service between Bradford and Ilkley. Pray for the train service: those who work on it and travel by it.

Past Hoyle Court Drive you enter the area of flats and maisonettes: pray for those who live here in these different styles of houses.

Up behind the trees on the corner is Hoyle Court Masonic Lodge. Pray that all may come to see that Jesus is Lord of all.

At the bottom of the slope is Otley Road with its relentless traffic and frequent long queues. Pray for all road users: drivers, riders, and pedestrians; and for road safety. Pray also for residents who have to endure traffic noise, which you too will experience as you turn right along Otley Road. Pray for sufficient silence for all to hear God.
Otley Road

As you make your way (to the right) along Otley Road, note the industrial areas on the far side. Over on the left is a small and older industrial area which also contains the building which was once St James’s Mission Hall. Pray for mission still, and continuing witness to the Lordship of Jesus and the reality of his gospel in all walks of life.

The land opposite you is occupied by vast grey warehouses, a very recent industrial development which aroused vigorous local resistance. Use the memory of that struggle to help you pray for democracy and transparency in all our planning decisions. Pray for all those who now work in these factories, and for customers who buy their products.

Adjacent to the second grey building is the Denso Marston works, and as part of planning permission for their extension some decades ago a small nature reserve was established down by the River Aire: you can see the public footpath leading to it between the two properties. Thank God for such reserves, and pray for wardens and visitors. Pray also for more long-term stewardship initiatives of this kind, here and elsewhere.

Next is the Halfway House pub. Pray for all who work and dine here: for responsible management and drinking.

Here you may cut short the walk and return to the Church, if you’ve had enough for the moment, or you may cross Kirkland Lane (with due care) and continue along Otley Road.

Just after the main entrance to Denso Marston, you pass another pub, The New Inn: pray similarly for managers, clientele and suppliers. Opposite is Briar Rhydding, a mixed residential and industrial area: pray for all those who live and work here

Opposite the corner of Fyfe Lane is Acorn Park industrial estate. As with all the other premises we have seen, pray for integrity, safety and welfare for all those (at every level) who work here, or who are linked with these firms: financiers, suppliers, and customers; near and far.
Fyfe Lane and Fyfe Grove
Turn right into Fyfe Lane walk up to the cross roads. Here you move back into a residential area. As before, pray for residents; any whom you meet or see; but also for the occupants of cars and vans rushing through this increasingly congested old lane.

Turn right at the crossroads into Fyfe Grove and make your way along this road, admiring some of the garden displays and praising God for the beauty that such green-fingered gifts can produce with his creation.

Hoyle Court Primary School
On your left is Hoyle Court Primary School, with its tall hedge. As you pass the playground, and the school entrance just beyond the corner, give thanks for children, and pray for aspects of schooling that come to your mind. If you need a prompt, perhaps include some of these:

- Teachers and support staff; management and administration;
- Children and parents; families; child minders;
- Nursery places; moving up as children grow older
- Knowledge and responsible citizenship
- Classrooms and educational facilities;
- Outdoor and sports activities;
- Getting to and from school;
- Parking of vehicles; conflict with local residents;

Pray that children may be enabled to learn about Jesus.

Kirklands Lane and back to the church
Continue to the cross roads and turn down to your right into Kirklands Lane and back to St James’s church where this walk began.

Hold in your heart only what God has given you to carry, and leave the rest with him. Praise him for his continuing love and care for us all.
St Hugh’s Church Prayer Walk

From St Hugh’s along Coach Road to Roberts Park, and back by Thompson Lane and Glenaire Drive

Pause briefly in the car park and take in all that surrounds you. Remember that all you will see on this walk belongs to God, and that he cares deeply about all the people, places or problems you will be praying for as you go.

Don’t feel you have to do the whole of this walk all at once. Do just what you feel comfortable with.

Seek the Lord’s presence, and pray as you feel led.
**Coach Road**

Stand in the St Hugh’s Centre car park and look at the houses around you. Think of the different sorts of people who live here and pray for them all, in their home activities, family relationships, interests, travel to work, or (too frequently) unemployment. Pray for social justice.

As you walk through the area, pray for all whom you see, driving, on foot, or waiting at bus stops. Bring before God your thoughts on traffic.

Cross Coach Road and walk down the short road in front of you (Aire Way) to the wide open green area which is part of the River Aire flood plain, frighteningly evident in the 2015 Boxing Day floods. Pray for those who make decisions about flood control and where houses should (and shouldn’t) be built: wisdom, and good sense.

This is also an important area for recreation, with a cricket ground, riverside footpath, and an ideal area for ball games and dog walking. Give thanks for all these activities, and pray that such facilities may be preserved for future generations. Thank God also for the blessings of pets, and pray for their safe keeping.

Turn right and walk along the path past two blocks of houses, praying as you feel led, and right again up Tennis Way (there used to be courts near here). Then turn left and continue along Coach Road.

Shortly after Tennis Way is the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Pray for those who meet here (and go out witnessing from here), that the true life, light and Lordship of Jesus may be shone into their hearts.

Continue along Coach Road until you come to an outstandingly good children’s play area with Roberts Park beyond, and a small parade of well-used shops opposite.

**Roberts Park and Titus Salt School**

Follow the road round to the left (with caution) and go through the gates into Roberts Park. To your left is the footbridge across the River Aire to Saltaire – important for heritage and arts, as well as shops and businesses. Pray for honesty, integrity and safety for all those involved in any of these activities, on both sides of the river.
Wander wherever you like in the Park, but eventually find the bandstand and head uphill from there towards the shelter, by which is a gate out of the park and a zebra crossing on Upper Coach Road. Cross, and turn right. On your left is Titus Salt School, a mixed comprehensive for students aged 11–18, specialising in Mathematics and Computing. Use this information to help pray for the teachers and children, and all support staff and parents. Ask God that children may learn wisdom as well as knowledge, and that they may all have the chance to hear about Jesus.

Cross the car park entrance with care. Just beyond this is a bridleway leading past Shipley Glen Tramway up to Shipley Glen and the Bracken Hall Countryside Centre. Thank God for the potential of those areas, and pray that they may be well used for recreation and education, and wisely looked after.

Thompson Lane
Continue to the junction with Thompson Lane and turn left by the play area. Pray for the safety of small children growing up in a rapidly changing world, and for parents and others who look after them.

A little farther along Thompson Lane is Glenaire Primary School. Pray for the children and teachers (and other staff), the classrooms and educational facilities, and the pressures children feel as they grow older and move up classes or to new schools. Pray here too that none may prevent the children learning about Jesus, as happens increasingly.

Just beyond the school are allotments belonging to Baildon Town Council and managed by Baildon Horticultural Society. Thank God for this urban opportunity for practical earth stewardship, and pray for the allotment holders and their families, as they both work here and enjoy the food and flowers that they grow and make available for sale.
Heading back to St Hugh’s
The most direct way back to the St Hugh’s Centre is down Glenaire Drive, just opposite the allotments entrance (with the centre of Shipley visible in the distance).

However, if you wish you can extend the walk a little and include Baildon Green on the way back. To do this, continue to the end of Thompson Lane to the junction with Green Lane just round the corner. Here you can look up towards Baildon Green across the open ground. Pray as you feel led for the conservation of this important piece of common land, and for the welfare of the people who live around it.

To your right is a triangle of grass with a tarmac path through the middle of it. Take this path and enter Fernbank Drive (not named at this end). Follow the road down to Coach Road: there turn right and return to the St Hugh’s car park (not far, and easily visible).

Whichever way you return, pray for those who live in the houses you pass, and (as throughout the walk) for those whom you see or meet on the way. Pray for peace between neighbours.

Back at the St Hugh’s Centre, have a look at the notice board by the door and pray about the many and varied activities and initiatives advertised – for all ages and circumstances – including the food bank. Thank God for the work of the Centre, and for its faithful service to the community. Pray for all those who work here, professionally or as volunteers, and that the work may flourish in godly ways.

Pray also for work and witness of the church members who worship here, and the clergy who preach here, that the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may be boldly proclaimed and openly lived out, throughout this area.
St Aidan’s Church Prayer Walk

A short walk from St Aidan’s Church down to Woodbottom, and back by Lower Holme (in places fairly steep, with some steps)

Begin on Baildon Road, just outside St Aidan’s church. This is a busy road, but set in a wooded area. Look, and listen – to both human activities and nature.

Bring what and whom you see and hear before God, both here and throughout your walk, adding your prayers to those of past generations.

May he guide your thoughts and words as you go.
Baildon Road
Outside the church, pray for passing motorists and their passengers. Ask for safety, considerate driving, and freedom from road rage. Cars are convenient, but roads are dangerous: difficult to cross for pedestrians and animals. Bring your thoughts about this before God.

On the walk, pray for those whom you see and meet on the way, allowing the Spirit you prompt you about what to pray for.

Make your way uphill until you are opposite Ferniehurst Dell, with its huge ornate gates. In the Dell among the trees is the Yorkshire Armed Forces Sculpture Trail. Pray for peace between nations and neighbours, but also between people and the Lord who is the Prince of Peace. (You may wish to cross the road now – with great care – and explore the Trail, or leave that for another day.)

Down to Woodbottom
When you are ready, go back down the road a short way to the snicket, and down the steps to St Aidan’s Road. Pray for the welfare of those who live here, in any way that seems important to you: perhaps responsibility of home ownership; family life; neighbourly relations; daily occupation; interests and activities; or whatever.

Continue down the slope and across Woodcot Avenue to Woodbottom with its small open green area and flower beds (give thanks), and shops and pillar box. Pray as you feel led for the people who work here, and those who shop, remembering how important to God is honesty and how strong are the temptations to be otherwise.

By the bus stop are two notice boards. One, erected by the Local History Society, gives information about the area which you may find useful in prompting your ideas as you pray.

The second, on the other side of the bus stop, was erected by Baildon Town Council and gives information about their activities. Use that to help you pray for local councillors and the work that they seek to do in Baildon. And perhaps reflect on your own role as a responsible citizen.
**Otley Road**
A big landmark at Woodbottom is the railway bridge with its striking arches. Take time to pray for those who work for the rail companies, and those who travel by train. There are buses too: bring your thoughts about the importance (and adequacy or otherwise) of public transport before God.

Thank God for the light-assisted pedestrian crossing. Pray again for road safety, especially for those who make their way on foot.

If you see or hear an emergency vehicle passing, here or on Baildon Road (they are very common), pray for paramedics and those in the medical, police, or fire services.

When you are ready, walk along Otley Road, crossing Woodcot Avenue again (it’s awkward here; take care) and head in the Shipley direction towards Lower Holme.

On your right are houses and apartments: pray as before for those who live here, but perhaps adding to your prayers thoughts about living adjacent to such a busy road.

On your left, across the road, are many businesses, each catering for our material needs (or wants), directly or indirectly, from building supplies to bodily fitness, and convenience stores to dentists and motorbikes. Using the type of business to stimulate your thoughts as you pray for each of them: those who work there and how they get on as a team – their safety and wellbeing, as well as their salary or wages; and suppliers and customers and the movement of goods – the balance of prosperity against social and environmental health and welfare.

There is more industry on the other side of the river, just visible from time to time. You may wish to include those too in your prayers.

You also pass some smaller businesses on this side of the road on your way to Lower Holme, such as: eateries, barber, taxis, pub, lifts. Pray as you pass each one, however you feel led.
Lower Holme
As you approach Lower Holme, you pass huge advertising hoardings and you may see more towards Baildon Bridge. Pray your thoughts about advertising, and how far it helps satisfy our needs or needlessly exaggerates our wants.

Pause at The Junction pub by the busy intersection. Pray for those who work here and those who drink, but ponder before God also the dangers of too much alcohol and possible addiction, with ensuing harm and even ruin to whole families.

Across the road is a trading estate. Pray for the businesses you can see, and ask God’s blessings on those who visit the various outlets.

Back to St Aidan’s
Walk back up Baildon Road. On the left is a tall stone building: this used to be a Moravian church, and although it no longer is, you can allow it to remind you to pray for Churches Together in Baildon and Christian unity.

Farther up the hill you pass other businesses: bodyshop repairs, cafe, french polisher, second hand cars – each of which may evoke prayers, as you feel led.

There are also houses on steep little roads, and on the right you can see over the wall into back gardens. Without being too nosey pray once more for those who live here, and also those whom you see or meet.

As noted at the start of the walk, there are many trees in this area. Pray for their wise care and management, and for associated wildlife.

Finally, back at the church, thank God for his company with you during the walk, and ask that it may continue every day.
Moravian Church Prayer Walk

From the Moravian Church along the top of Baildon Bank and back by West Lane

Outside the Church door, pause and reflect. Although you can pray with the eye of imagination anywhere, at times what you can actually see may stimulate prayer.

Remind yourself, then, that during this prayer walk God longs to bless all that you see: so ask him how you should pray.

May he richly bless you too as you go in his name.
The Church railings and Baildon folds
Start by the church door and give thanks for the long history of the Moravian Church, both in Baildon and throughout the world.

Look over the railings.
You can see the Parish Church: pray for your fellow believers who worship there, clergy and congregation, and for those in other Baildon Churches.
In front of St John’s is the library: pray for those who work there and for those who use it; and for wisdom in facing the difficulties caused by changing technology and Council cuts.
Below the library is the Ian Clough Hall: thank God for all the meetings and activities that take place there; but pray also for the young people who often gather outside of an evening with seemingly little to do: ask God to raise up godly leaders as good role models.
In front of the Hall is the car park and the busy road: pray your thoughts about cars and traffic; their convenience but also the congestion and pollution they cause; and the alternatives of public transport.
But visible by the car park, and also immediately below you, is the work of Baildon in Bloom, a dedicated band of volunteers who do much to enhance the appearance of the town. Give thanks for them, their gifts and sense of stewardship, and ask for blessings on all they do.
Pray also for all whom you can see: walking, driving, or in buses.
Leave the railings and walk past the Church hall, praying for all who meet there in various activities, on Sundays and during the week. On your right is the Bulls Head pub car park. Use this to stimulate your prayers for all the licensed premises in Baildon: for the blessings of moderate social drinking, but against the awesome curse of over-indulgence and addiction. Pray for any sufferers whom you know.
Then make your way round the Hall and through the folds past James Wilks (plasterers, concretors and tilers), and right again past well kept houses and gardens out into Westgate. Thank God for the character these folds give to the centre of Baildon, and pray for those who live and work here.
Westgate, Bank Walk, and the footpath
In Westgate turn left up the slope. Pray for the shops and businesses you pass on the way: customers or clients; suppliers; and others connected in any way. Think about each place, and pray as you see fit or are led. Just weights delight the Lord (Prov 11:1): pray for honesty and equity in all trading in Baildon (a Fair Trade Town).

Turn left into Bank Walk, passing Bank Crest and South View Terrace. At the end of Bank Walk, turn right into the narrow public footpath along the top of Baildon Bank. Pray for those who live in the many houses you pass (with such a rich variety of fencing).

To your left are spectacular views over Low Baildon and Threshfield, and across to Shipley, Bradford and beyond. Just below, houses fit into the very steep slopes, ill-designed for cars, but giving great character to this area. Pray for those who build and adapt houses, and planning committees who exercise control. Identify places of interest to you, and pray for them as you may be led, or pray for mission in general.

Many signs tell dog walkers to clean up after their pets: and from this footpath there is access to Baildon Bank which is a favourite dog walking area. Besides praying for cleanliness, thank God for the many blessings pets can bring to their owners, and for the skills of vets (they are just below you in Browgate). Pray for pets to be well looked after.

As you go, note also signs prohibiting litter and dumping. Use these to help you pray for responsible citizenship in all its forms: not just disposal of waste, but also use of energy, recycling, and anything else that comes to mind.

Admire the rich variety of trees and shrubs visible below you on the Bank. Thank God for his many and varied gifts, not just in plants, but in so many ways, around us and within.

At the end of the footpath turn right into Ferncliffe Drive and follow it round to West Lane, admiring and praising God for the beauty of the gardens – showing what people can do with what God provides.
Prayer Walks in Baildon

**West Lane, and back to the Church**

Turn left and walk the short distance to Sandals Primary School playing fields. Pray for both the school and Baildon Children’s Centre located here: for workers, teachers and support staff; children and parents, and the difficulties of getting here for those without transport; for all young children growing up in a rapidly changing world; and for parents who are finding family life especially hard. Pray also that none may forbid children from learning about Jesus and his love for them (as is often the current vogue).

From here make your way back along West Lane, praying as you go. This does not look like a poor quarter of Baildon, and although appearances can be deceptive, and in any case everyone needs Jesus, it may nevertheless be appropriate to pray that material plenty may not blind people to their need of deeper spiritual riches in heaven (as Jesus warned). Pray also that we all, whether we have much or little, may use it well and wisely as the Lord may direct. Pray with compassion, and with such insight as you are given as you walk past the houses, or are passed by cars, or see or meet people walking.

Some of the side roads may catch your attention and suggest prayers, either from the name or where they lead. For instance, Hope Lane leads up to footpaths over Baildon Moor, and you can pray for its care and conservation. And Collier Lane may remind you that coal was once important here, and lead to prayers about energy: those who work in energy supply companies, and decisions about renewable energy, and global care.

Turn right into Westgate, and then right again into West Fold and back to the Church where this walk began. Finally, you may wish to rest awhile in the Moravian Churchyard, round the walk beyond the church.
Baildon Green Prayer Walk

A walk through the streets and snickets of Baildon Green, with open areas and great views

Begin outside the Church on the Green (here shown before the extension was added).
Take in your surroundings: look, listen, savour.

Ask God to alert you to his prompting:
what and whom you should pray for as you walk,
with your eyes open to needs and opportunities, and
not forgetting to thank and praise him for joys and promises.

Lord, please guide my feet, eyes and thoughts as I walk round this area.
By the Church on the Green
Immediately around you is an open grassy area with a pond, near which there are often goats tethered. Pray as you feel led.

To your right is the picturesque old settlement of Baildon Green: houses without roads between them. Walk through this area and pray for the people who live here. If you wish to sit and pray awhile, there is a seat by the big weeping willow below the houses. The view from Lower Green sweeps down across the river to Salts Mill and Saltaire.

Green Road
When you are ready, cross the road to the Cricketers Arms pub. Pray for those who run it, and for responsible drinking.

At the bus stop, pray for public transport and for those who use it. Note the board with information about the area, erected by members of the Local History Society. Pray for voluntary effort of this kind.

Take in the open expanse of the green, with its many footpaths. This is common land: a haven to nature, as well as giving breathing space for residents and visitors; a venue for occasional functions (a cricket club once played here). Pray for its proper stewardship.

Walk up Green Road and turn right along Bertram Drive. On the far side of the Green is Green Bank Court and other sheltered housing. Pray for old people, forced to face changes as they age.

Bertram Drive
Follow the road round from Bertram Drive into Knoll Terrace. Use the wide variation in the state of the houses and gardens in this section of the walk to guide your prayers for those who live here.

Walk as far as the first cross roads, which is Southlands. Up to the left is a small hairdressers, one of the very few shops in the area. (It used to be a library.) Pray for small businesses, of which there are few here.
Southlands and Valley View
Turn right down Southlands, and then left into Valley View, which is well named: a little farther along you get a splendid view over Windhill and Shipley, Idle Hill and Wrose Brow, and along the valley to Bradford. Pray for what you see, both rural and urban, distant and near, and for anything that comes to your mind.

When you are ready, continue along Valley View which now curves left, with some new housing on the right, Pray for those moving house, and getting used to the necessary changes.

These houses have been built on the site of the old Ferniehurst School: Pray for those who plan the location of schools, and parents and children affected by them.

On the left is a convenience store on the corner of The Crescent. Pray for shops operating in Baildon Green.

From The Crescent to Temple Rhydding Drive
Walk round The Crescent, praying for what catches your eye. (As you cross Central Avenue, you get a long view, far up the Aire Valley.) When you come out into Cliffe Lane West turn left, down the road with its view of Baildon Bank and the old stone quarries. Pray for the heritage of the area.

On your right is a football pitch: walk round the edge of this on a track, with the back gardens of houses on your left. Ahead, you will see more distant trees: these are in the Dell, where the Yorkshire Armed Forces Sculpture Trail is located. Pray for the armed forces.

At the end of the houses to your left, turn left away from the football pitch, along a path skirting tennis courts and a basketball court, with a bowling green beyond. Pray for these and all other facilities in the area for sports and recreational activities, catering for all ages.
Continue round the edge of the courts and up into Temple Rhydding Drive. Turn left, then up right into Enfield Road, and after a few yards left into Glenholm Road, still letting the variety of house and garden guide your prayers. Just round the first corner, on the left between Nos 42 and 40, is a snicket with a footpath sign. Follow this to Cliffe Avenue.

**From Cliffe Avenue back to the start**

To your right is a row of old people’s bungalows, and ahead of you is a park and extensive children’s play area: pray for the provision and maintenance of such facilities, for old and young.

At the far end of the park to your right is Baildon Community Link, which serves the area in many ways. You may wish to walk along and have a look at it, or just pray where you are for the staff, paid and voluntary, and those they serve.

When you are ready, turn left down Cliffe Avenue, with the park on your right, at the end of which you will see the small peace garden with seats and an information board. Pray for peace.

Continue down Cliffe Avenue. Cross Cliffe Lane West, past the old chip shop with its landmark squint chimney, and continue down Green Road, with the Green on your left, and the much treed Baildon Bank on your right, well used by dog walkers. Pray for the blessing of pets. Pray also for those who look after trees and woodland.

A little further down you come once more to Bertram Drive, directly opposite which are two tracks, both of which lead to an old mill, now home to a miscellany of small businesses, as the signs indicate. Pray for enterprise and employment opportunities.

Then complete the walk by continuing down the road to the church.
Hall Cliffe Community Garden Prayer Walk

A place of rest and quiet – A place for prayer

As you walk round the garden,
bring before God in prayer what you see and feel.
Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your thoughts.

Or let the words in this leaflet start you off.
May the Lord bless you in your time together with him.
Shalom!
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Welcoming flat paths; no steps; easy walking; disabled access

Visitors; occasional; frequent; regular; residents; nearby and afar

Children; prams; push chairs; adventure; safe space

Minders and family; mums and dads; grandparents

Walking; strolling; meandering; pausing; standing; stooping

Seats; benches; rocks; walking sticks; seat sticks; wheelchairs

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Nature’s colouring and God’s palette; restfulness; peacefulness

Flowers and grass; soil and paths; rocks and ponds; vegetation and fruit

Herbs in cooking and medicine; health and wholeness

Trees: shade; shelter; longevity; memory; stability

Blooms and twigs; leaves and boughs; stems and trunks

Shapes and shades; variety and change; seasons

True; pure; lovely; commendable; excellent; praiseworthy; good; great
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Wild nature to work with for gardens; allotments; farming

Moorlands round about: Baildon; Ilkley; Rombald’s

Playground past; creative present; hopeful future

Gardening heritage; hands-on exploration and discovery

Ideas and plants from overseas

Design; management; establishment; maintenance

Cultivating; digging; sowing; planting; nurturing; caring

Pruning; snipping; trimming; tidying; hoeing; sifting; sorting

Preservation; conservation; green fingers; gifts and talents

Work and toil; weeds and frustration; blooming and joy

Public involvement; volunteers; togetherness; teamwork; co-operation

God and humanity; Creator and creation; roles and responsibility

Land; lessons from the past; stewardship for the future

Boundaries; gates; and locks; opening and closing

Lordship and obedience; Spirit and direction; calling and response

The seed of his word; us as soil – hardened, rocky, weedy, or receptive

Thankfulness for being grafted in to the parent stock, by his grace

Accepting God’s pruning of our fruitful branches
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Rest; reflection

Ages and stages; all our lives; here and hereafter

Repenting; believing; following; receiving; passing on

Being and thinking; compassion and sympathy; sharing; reaching out

Asking; requesting; interceding; beseeching; persisting; conquering

Awareness; thankfulness; blessing; holding; keeping

*Your thoughts; what you hear; the still, small voice*
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Praying for Baildon

Wherever you are

Baildon is a large community, as the map shows, but you can pray for your bit of it, from just where you are.

Pray with the insights your own circumstances give you.

Start with yourself, and ask God to guide your thoughts...

Lord, who shall I pray for, and how – this morning, this afternoon, and as I lie in bed?

Please bless all those I bring before you, through Jesus.

Amen.
Here are some suggestions which may perhaps help if you are not too familiar with praying. These may start you off. Let the Spirit lead your thoughts. Do just a bit at a time, as you feel led.

Thank God for all the nice things that have happened to you, and ask him for strength to accept the rest. List them, if it helps:

Tell God about all your hopes...

And your fears...

Ask blessings on those who come in to help you...

And on those you wish would visit you more.

Think of those who make deliveries to your house.

Pray for your neighbours who live around you – those you know the names of, and those you don’t.
Prayer Walks in Baildon

Ask God to be with all those you see from your window, passing along the road, on foot or in vehicles.

As you pray for these people, think about what they do...
And about how they may be affected by what’s in the news...

Bring to the Lord those you know who are sick, or in trouble.
Ask for their wellbeing, and strength to endure their trials.

Share with the Lord your longings for Baildon: what might improve it as a place to live; and its community spirit.

And ask God for his protection of Baildon, from all harmful influences.

Ask for the Lord’s wisdom for our Town Councillors: for all the decisions they take, and how they spend money.
Think about the roads through your area:
Drivers and bikers; hold-ups, and problems of parking; safety
Pedestrians and pavements; paths and snickets; street lighting
Mobility scooters and wheelchairs; kerbs; crossings; steep slopes
Public transport: availability, frequency and punctuality; taxis

And those living in the houses or other buildings these roads serve:
Families and homes; neighbours, hedges, fences; privacy, isolation
Love, care and friendships; friction, irritation and forbearance
Plans, promises and hopes; disappointments, hurts and forgiveness
Child care, nurseries, special needs; housebound, daycare, homes
Education, teachers, role models; learning and wisdom; libraries

Remember those who are sick, and those who care for them:
People you know who are ill; disabilities you are concerned about
Medical professionals and the services they run; pharmacists
Counsellors and therapists; having and giving time just to listen

Darker elements often lurk – bring your concerns before God:
Abuse (age, gender, race, substance); victims and perpetrators
Homeless; drunkards; druggies; prostitutes; illegal immigrants
Thieves, con-men, cowboys, bullies and victims, modern slavery
Policing and emergency services; wardens; courts; prisons; rehab
Pause to think about local amenities, and those who keep them:
- Parks; gardens; play areas; open areas; trees and grass; dog walking
- Leisure facilities and social activities for all ages, including elderly
- Noise and pollution; litter; bins and recycling; eyesores
- Planners; Councillors (Baildon, Bradford); Council officers

Pray about where people shop and work, locally or farther afield:
- Shops and supermarkets; eateries and pubs; on-line buying
- Hairdressers and beauticians; pet care; pampering
- Offices and businesses; mills and factories; new opportunities

And the sometimes worrisome business of property ownership:
- Lawyers; architects; accountants; advisors; banks; borrowing
- Estate agents; sales; lettings; property management
- Cleaning and garden services; removals and storage

Bring before God the aims and ambitions of those in work:
- Employment and self-employment; working from home
- Teamwork and cooperation; responsibilities and obligations
- Money; relationships; competition; management; promotion
- Computers and automation; mobile phones; always-in-touch

And pray for those seeking work:
- Unemployed and underemployed; interns and voluntary work
- Debt, poverty, and distress; benefits, allowances and regulations
- Job applications; interviews; rejection; sense of failure; guidance
- Education and qualifications; training; encouragement; self-worth
**Praying for Baildon**

Praying for Baildon was a group who prayed regularly for Baildon, both its churches and community. It began in 2009 (as the Fellowship of St Andrew) linked with Churches Together in Baildon.

They met monthly from April to October in various venues around Baildon, with a review and planning meeting in November. Sometimes they gathered for prayer breakfasts, or went on prayer walks, using the leaflets for each of the Churches and elsewhere, reproduced here. From time to time they prepared other aids to prayer.

They did this because they believed that prayer connects us with the Father God, who is our life, through Jesus; that he hears us when we pray; that prayer really does matter; and that Baildon needs prayer.

Then age and infirmity diminished numbers, and they no longer meet. But the spirit of prayer lives on. If you would like know more, contact Roy Lorrain-Smith: t: 01274 593955 e: royls3@virginmedia.com