

Closing Music-

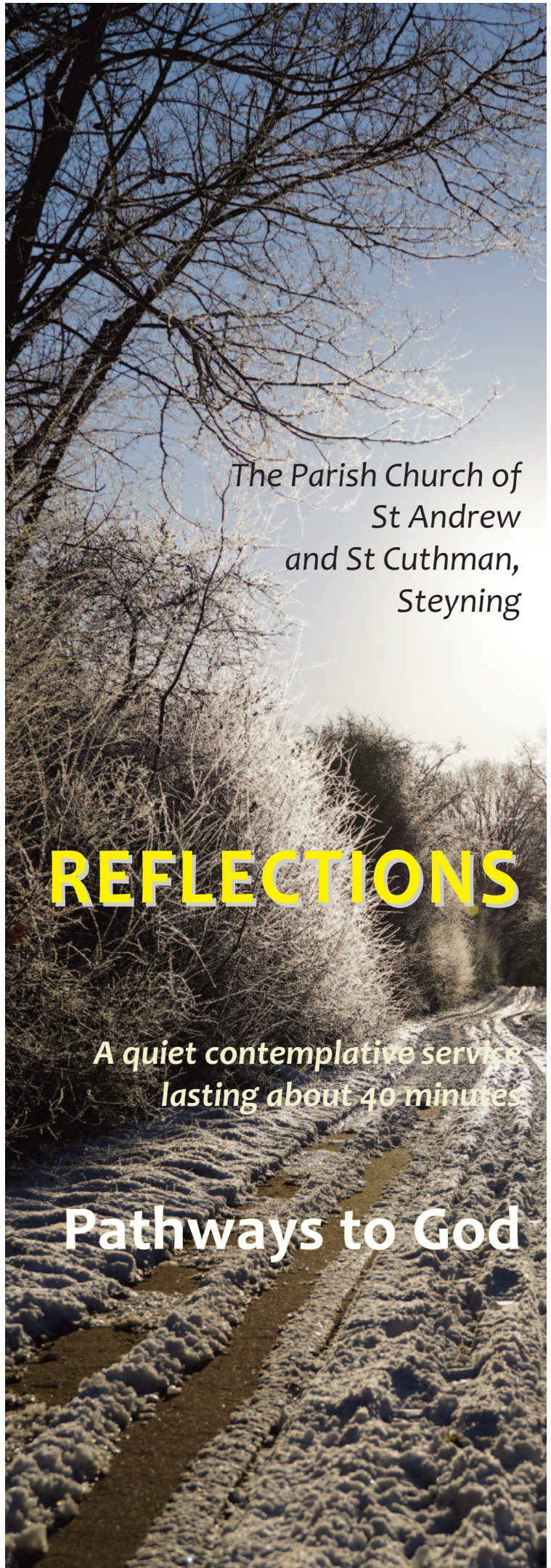
Irish Blessing

Bob Chilcott (born 1955)

May the road rise to meet you
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your
face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his
hand.

*If you would like to be part of our
Reflections team, helping us to put
together the service and/or deliver it,
please speak to any one of the team.*

*Please feel free to take this service sheet
away with you after the service.*



The Parish Church of
St Andrew
and St Cuthman,
Steypning

REFLECTIONS

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*

Pathways to God

Music on entrance

Gregorian chant

Welcome and introduction

Reading

Be stil

You do not have to look for anything,
Just look.
You do not have to listen for specific
sounds,
Just listen.
You do not have to accomplish
anything,
Just be.

And in the looking
And the listening
And the being,
Find
Me

– Ann Lewin (1918-1997)

Bible reading

1 Kings 19:11-13

The Lord said:
Go out and stand on the mountain in
the presence of the Lord, for the Lord
is about to pass by. Then a great wind
tore the mountains apart and shattered
the rocks before the Lord, but the
Lord was not in the wind. After the
wind there was an earthquake, but the
Lord was not in the earthquake. After
the earthquake came a fire, but the
Lord was not in the fire. And after the
fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah
heard it, he pulled his cloak over his
face and went and stood at the mouth
of the cave. Then a voice said to him
“What are you doing here Elijah?”

Prayers with Responses

The response to ‘In faith we pray’ is
‘We pray to you our God’

We pray to the Lord:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

That the rest of this day may be holy,
peaceful and full of your presence:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

That the work we have done
And the people we have met today
May bring us closer to you:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

That we may hear and respond to your
call to peace and justice:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

That you will sustain the faith and hope
of those who are lonely, oppressed
and anxious:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

That you will strengthen us in your
service,
And fill our hearts with longing for
your kingdom:
In faith we pray
We pray to you, our God

Blessing

Claire Benediction (John Rutter)

May the Lord show His mercy upon
you;
may the light of His presence be your
guide:
May He guard you and uphold you;
may His spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep, may His angels watch
over you;
when you wake, may He fill you with
His grace.
May you love Him and serve Him all
your days,
Then in heaven may you see His face.

Prayer

Lead kindly light amid the encircling
doom
Lead thou me on
The night is dark, and I am far from
home
Lead thou me on
Keep thou my feet
I do not ask to see the distant scene
One step enough for me.

Amen

- John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

In the bleak mid winter
Christina Rossetti (1830-1894),
music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
performed by Tenebrae.

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen,
snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him
whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Meditation on Bible verses

Readings with themes

Pathway of nature

Job 12:7-9: Go and ask the cattle,
ask the birds of the air to inform you,
or tell the creatures that crawl to
teach you,
and the fishes of the sea to give you
instruction.
Who cannot learn from all these
that the Lord's own hand has done
this?

Pathway of beauty and splendour

Psalms 145:5-7: My theme shall be thy
marvellous works,
The glorious splendour of thy majesty.
Men shall declare thy mighty acts with
awe
And tell of thy great deeds.

Pathway of simplicity and solitude

Matthew 6:6: When you pray, go into
a room by yourself, shut the door,
and pray to your father who is there
in the secret place.

Pathway of activism

Proverbs 31:8-9: Speak up for those
who cannot speak for themselves, for
the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly: defend the
rights of the poor and needy.

Pathway of love

John 13:35: By this everyone will
know that you are my disciples, if you
love one another

Music into silence

*This music speaks of the
pathway of words and music*

Ancient words

Michael W Smith (born 1957)

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.
Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where'r we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Chorus:

*Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Reflective Silence

*(We will keep a period of silence for
12-15 minutes, please feel free to find
your own quiet place within the church)*