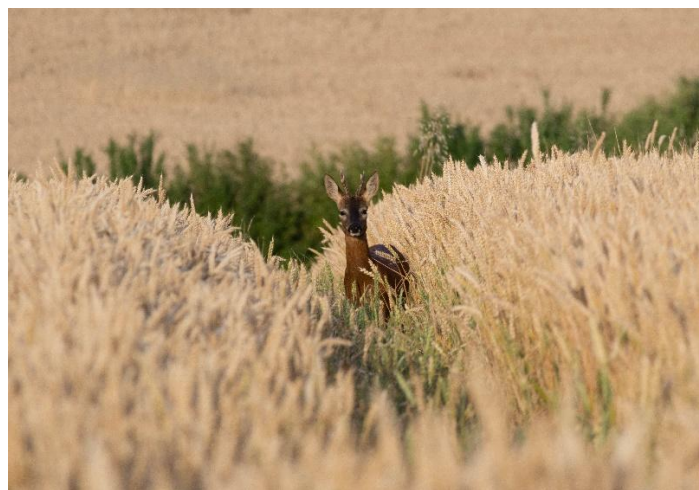


## Weethley's Walk, Talk and Pray



The Weethley seasonal walks came from an idea to help people reconnect with their spirituality and with each other amidst the countryside and embrace God's creation in His outdoors church. Our first walk on 6 July started at St James on a warm summer's evening.

Kelvin kept the 'home fires burning,' ably assisted by Mike Newey at the firepit, whilst we intrepid adventurers, ably led by Rob, marched forth. It was brilliant to meet several new people, who soon became friends as we chatted, as well as a few familiar faces. An interested onlooker watched our travelling.



As we trod the straight path through a field of barley swaying and rippling in the wind, someone commented that we felt like the Israelites passing through the Red Sea. When we reached halfway, we paused to enter the wood with its emerald, leafy canopy enclosing us in stillness.



Such a contrast, from all the busy sounds of birds and folk chattering alike, to find ourselves in calm quietness, as we stood in silence with our thoughts. We then strode onwards and upwards, with the church in view and the thought of marshmallows and hot chocolate around the firepit beckoning us home.



We encircled the firepit and the conversations continued to flow. We paused for a while to consider and write down any worries or concerns we might be holding, and to place them in the fire, releasing them into God's care.



There was a strong feeling of togetherness among us, through walking and sharing conversations. As the glowing embers and the setting sun gradually faded, we all gathered in the church for a short, reflective Celtic-style evening prayer.

The gentle sounds of '*The Lord bless you and keep you*' as we departed seemed a fitting and comforting end to a wonderful evening of walking, talking and praying. People said: "Can we do this again?"

So, our Autumn walk around the fields of Weethley will be held on Sunday 28 September at 4.30pm. The walking is purely voluntary; you are very welcome to sit and chat around the firepit whilst our more active folk venture into the wilderness and then join in the service after refreshments. Do come along and bring a friend!