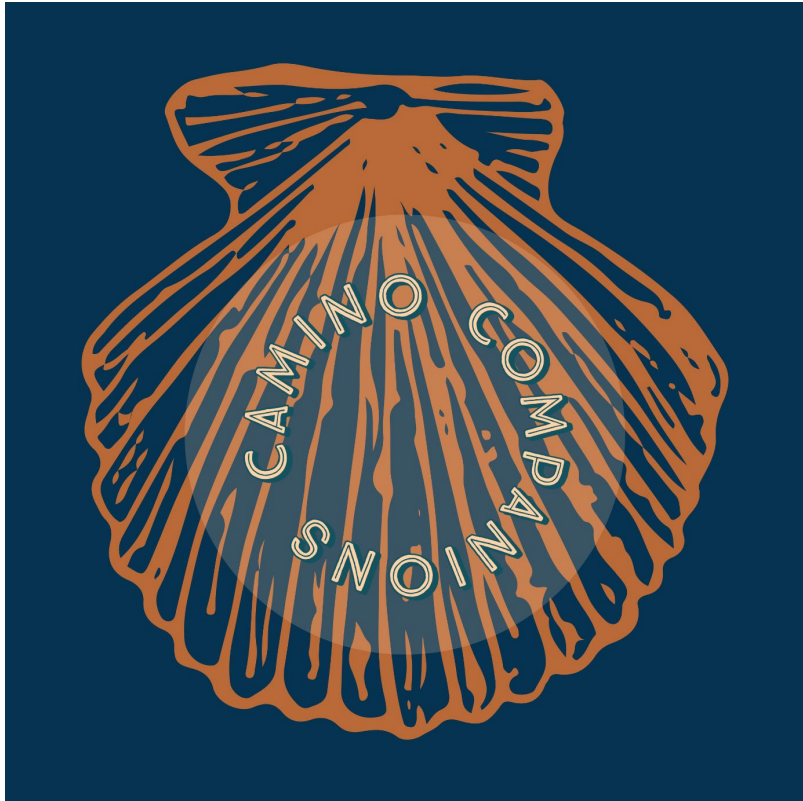


Camino Companions

Session 1

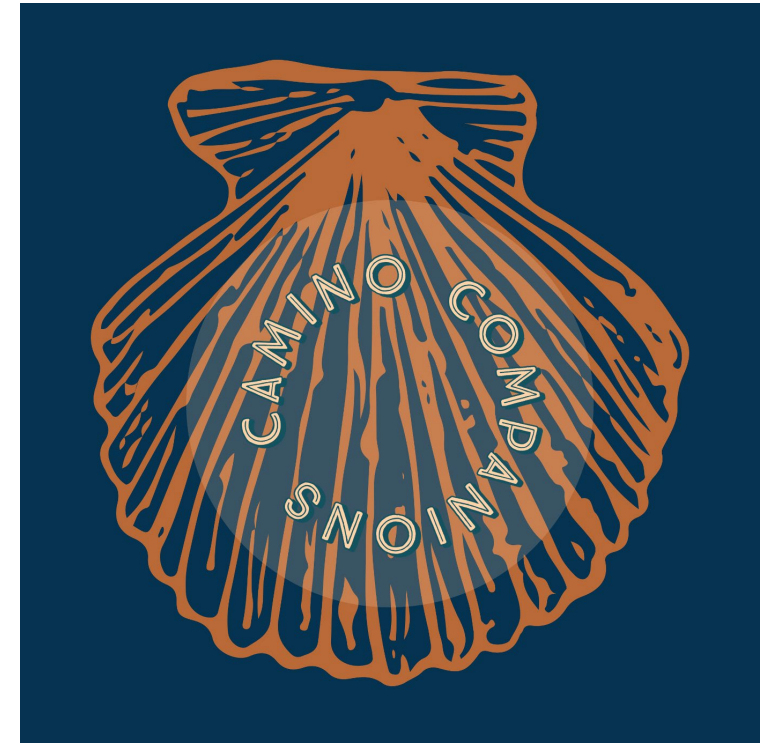
St James's Piccadilly
Sunday 15 October 2023

Why have you chosen to be a Camino Companion?
What do you hope for?



Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you sustain us along our path, wherever it may lead and however long the road. Inspired by St James, and all who have gone before us and will come after us, help us to follow you as our Creator and the source of life itself. Unite us as we seek justice, peace, and truth. In your world and in your church, guide us in our travels together so that we may be transformed and shaped by your divine love, today and forever. Amen.



Conversations & Reflections

connecting, deepening faith, walking together, building open-hearted spaces

What will this look like? How will it feel?

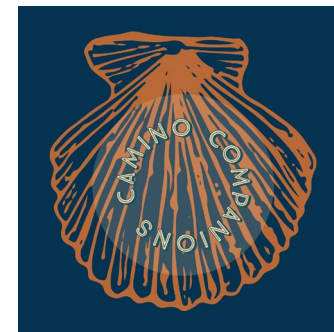
How will we know when we've got it right?

Kind, open, curious, deeper, listening deeply, challenging, radical, receptive, accepting diversity, accepting different opinions, honest, confidential, non-judgmental, caring, respectful, compassionate, courageous, supportive, patient, searching, attentive, prayerful, giving each other space, gentle, accepting of silence, generous, uplifting, sympathetic, creating a space in which people feel 'held', creating safer spaces, equanimity, sense of humour, belonging

‘Prayer is a form of communication between God and humanity, and humanity and God... I am always impressed by the fact that it is recorded that the only thing that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to do was to pray.’

- Howard Thurman

Wisdom for the road ahead...



Intercession is spiritual defiance of what is, in the name of what God promised.

Walter Wink

Pray as you can, not as you can't.

John Chapman

May God break my heart so the whole world falls in.

Mother Teresa

The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of one who prays.

Soren Kierkegaard



PLACES...

- Nature
- Church
(in the building
and with the building)
- Online
- Home
- Work
- Tube
- Anywhere!

Some ways to pray at St James's...

Eucharist

Daily Office

Holding the Silence

Alone

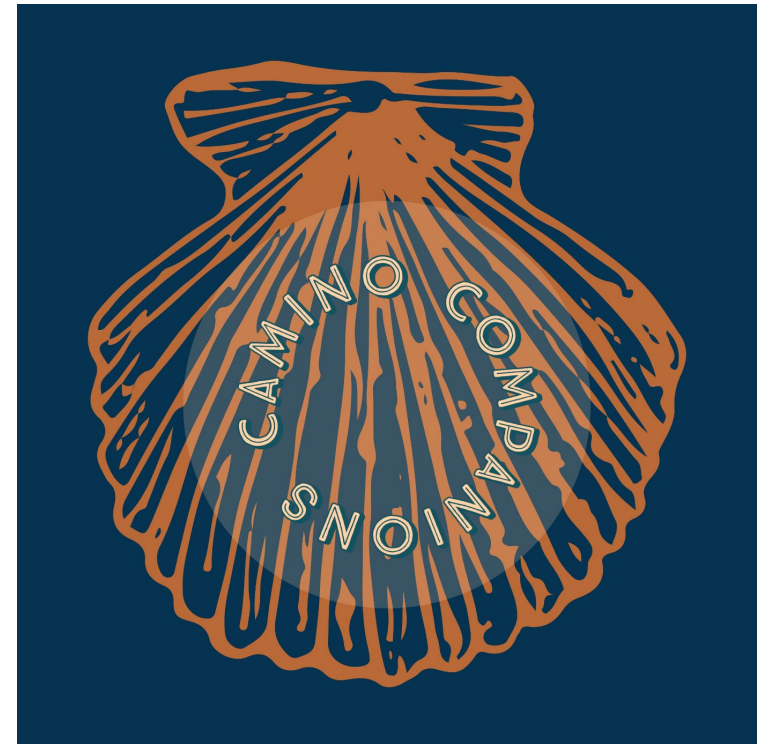
Together

Every day - Sunday to Friday services

'All who don't know why they come'

Church without walls

.....are we ever alone when we pray?





‘My first prayer was into a purple plastic toy megaphone. I even went into the closet to do it in case God was shy like me.’

- *Cole Arthur Riley*

‘Prayer, in my opinion, is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us.’

- *Teresa of Avila*

What is prayer?

- What does it feel like?
- What's its purpose?
- Why does it matter?
- What's going on?

Where is God in prayer?

- Does God listen?
- Does God act?

Why does Jesus pray?

How does Jesus pray?



In lament, our task is never to convince someone of the brokenness of this world; it is to convince them of the world's worth in the first place. True lament is not born from that trite sentiment that the world is bad but rather from a deep conviction that it is worthy of goodness.

Cole Arthur Riley

“ quote fancy

‘I’ve accepted that the whole of my life will be a pilgrimage toward the sound of the genuine in me. This may sound troubling to those who’ve been conditioned to believe that our journey is to God and God alone, but I say the two paths are one. My journey to the truth of God cannot be parsed from my journey to the truth of who I am. A fidelity to the true self is a fidelity to truth. I won’t apologize for this.’

- *Cole Arthur Riley*



My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- Thomas Merton



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Glory is the final word of religion, as joy is its final state.

The sparks and trickles of the Supernatural which come to us, the hints received through beauty and through sacrifice, the mysterious visitations and pressures of grace reaching us through the conflicts, rebellions and torments of the natural world—all these are earnestings of a Perfection, a Wholeness yet unseen: as the small range of sound and colour revealed by the senses witness to the unseen colour and unheard music of a Reality which lies beyond their narrow span.

All within the created order points beyond itself, to the uncreated Kingdom, Power and Glory. No life, no intelligence reaches perfection; yet in each there is a promise of the Perfect. Each comes up to its limit, and in so doing testifies to that which lies beyond it; the unlimited splendour of the Abiding, the Glory of the living God.

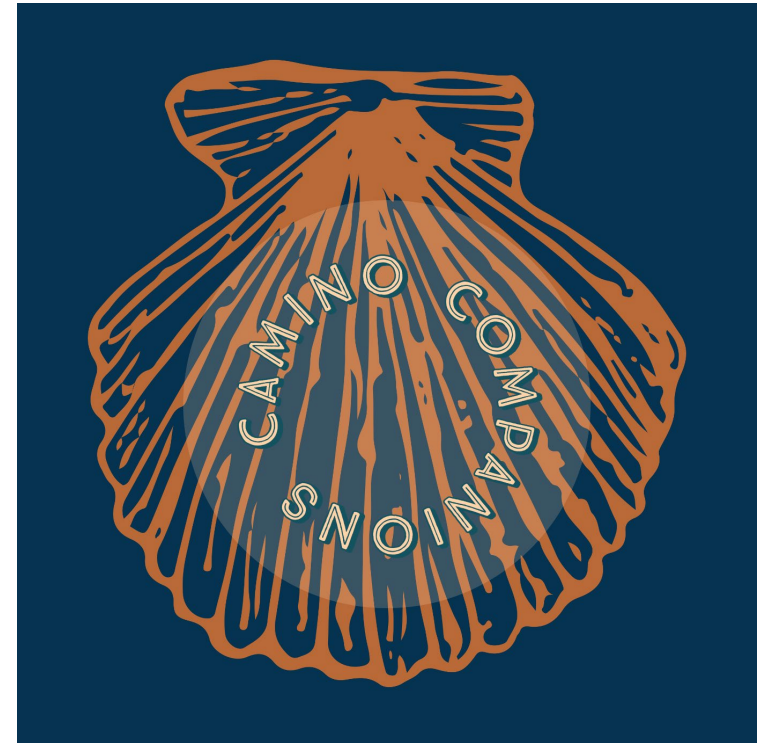
So too the creature's prayer comes up to its limit, and ends upon a word, a reality, which we can neither define nor apprehend.

- Evelyn Underhill

During the week ahead...

Try something new!

- Five minutes of silence
(or more, or less - try some
silence and see what happens)
- Come to Morning Prayer
- Pray with art
- Pray in nature
- Pray through gesture, breath,
and body



Prayer

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