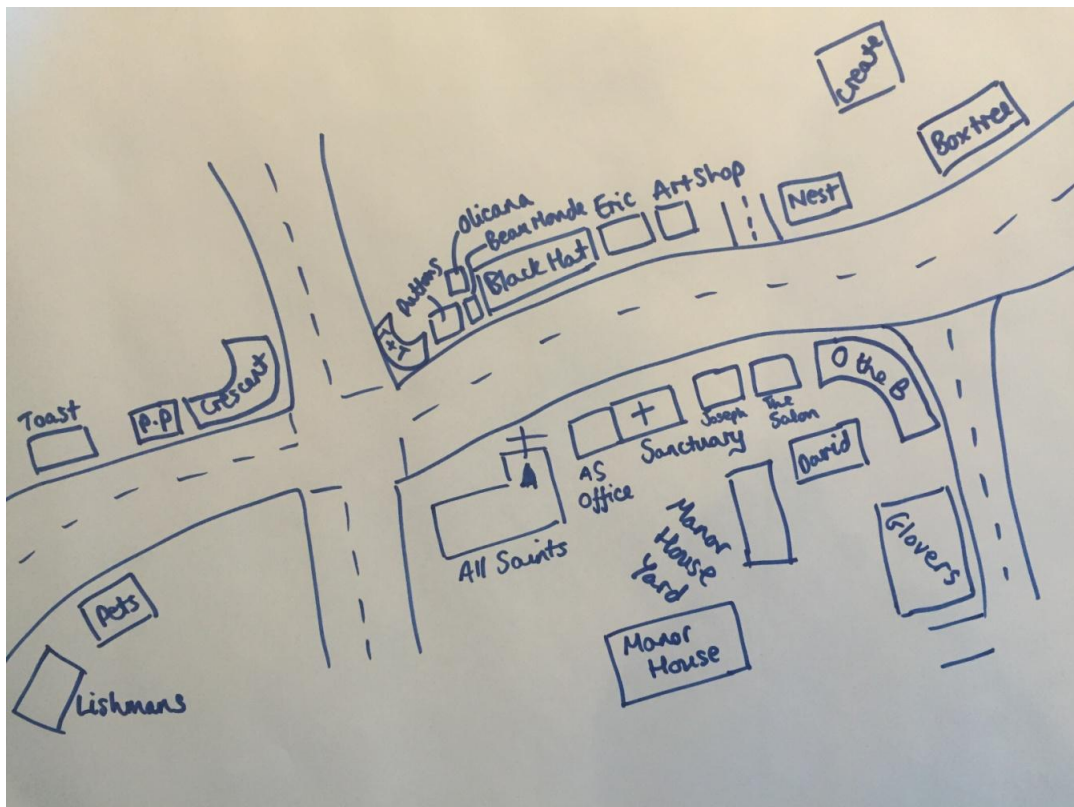


creative prayer idea

Love your street

This is a simple but surprisingly powerful creative prayer idea that we first used in one of our morning worship times in the lead up to Valentine's Day 2016. It helped us catch more of God's heart for our neighbourhood, be alert to the relationships he is building, pray for those living and/or working in close proximity to us, and listen as to what we could do to reach out more. We plan to use it again and hope you will find it helpful too.



- Begin by drawing a simple street map – like the one above which shows some of the Sanctuary's neighbours on Church Street in Ilkley – detailing the houses and/or businesses around your home or business. (You might want to draw all your neighbouring buildings, or just the ones where you know something about the people who live or work for.)
- Thank God for the place he has planted you and for those around you.
- Thank God too for all the existing relationships you have with people who live or work around you.
- Pray a blessing of God's protection and love over all those who live and work around you.
- Spend some time looking at the map, and listening to God. Ask him to bring to mind any people who might be lonely or in particular need, or to remind you of situations people have mentioned to you, and spend time praying for these people in particular. Before you move on, consider whether there is anything you could do to practically reach out to – or help – these people.
- Spend some more time looking at the map and ask God to help you grow the relationships you already have, and develop new ones with those you don't know much or at all yet, in his timing.