

walk with the northern saints - a pilgrimage to lín dísfarne



tríntý sundag to st aídán's dag
31st may-31st august 2026
week 7

week 6

People have come up to me this week and said, would it have been you I saw walking near Hollingworth Lake or I thought I saw you at 7 the other morning walking round, it wasn't you was it? The answer is it probably was! I have had some early starts and walked in the evening around Royton and Chadderton, to and around Hollingworth Lake from Hight Crompton, around Shaw, High Crompton and Low Crompton, around Hollingworth Lake at sunrise, and from Manchester Cathedral to the newly re-opened Salford Cathedral and around Peel Park.

At the end of Week 6 I had walked 33.67 miles, bringing the total to 196.77 miles and arrived spiritually at Runswick Bay, Staithes, Skinningrove, Huntcliffe Roman Signal Station, Saltburn on Sea, Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge and Greatham Creek. We are so close to the 200 miles mark and it will feel a great achievement when we reach it this week.

week 7

This week I have been walking around Royton and Chadderton, Werneth and Oldham, around a large part of the Crompton Circuit, around Manchester and Lees. Spiritually we will arrive at St Hilda's and St Aidan's Hartlepool and Durham Cathedral. W

sponsored walk

As well as being a virtual pilgrimage, where we pray each day and 'visit' holy and spiritual sites along the way to Lindisfarne, there is also the opportunity to sponsor Revd Liz for the physical challenge of walking 325 miles between Trinity Sunday and St Aidan's Day (31 May-31 August). Each Church, St Matthew and St Luke Chadderton and St Anne, Longsight Royton will be raising money for their own Church funds but they will also be raising money for Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

To sponsor Revd Liz and donate to **St Matthew and St Luke Chadderton and Dr Kershaw's Hospice** via our secure portal please click [here](#).

To sponsor Revd Liz and donate to **St Anne, Longsight, Royton and Dr Kershaw's Hospice** via our secure portal please click [here](#).

Please do share this newsletter with family and friends, tell them about the pilgrimage and maybe ask if they would follow along and be willing to sponsor Revd Liz.

Please do continue to pray for me as I pray for you.

With love and prayers Revd Liz

northern saints pilgrimage

Depart	Arrive	Miles	Total
St Matthew's Chadderton	St Anne's Royton	1.5	1.5
St Anne's Royton	St Mark's Heyside	1.5	3
St Mark's Heyside	St Thomas' Moorside	1.5	4.5
St Thomas' Moorside	Christchurch Denshaw	2.6	7.1
Christchurch Denshaw	St Bartholomew Marsden	7.2	14.3
St Bartholomew Marsden	Huddersfield Parish Church	7.4	21.7
Huddersfield Parish Church	CR Mirfield	4.5	26.2
CR Mirfield	Wakefield Cathedral	10.1	36.3
Wakefield Cathedral	All Saints Pontefract	9.5	45.8
All Saints Pontefract	Selby Abbey	13.3	59.1
Selby Abbey	Bishopthorpe	11	70.1
Bishopthorpe	York Minster	3.4	73.5
York Minster	Stanbrook Abbey	22.3	95.8
Stanbrook Abbey	Ampleforth Abbey	4.6	100.4
Ampleforth Abbey	St Mary's Lastingham	15.5	115.9
St Mary's Lastingham	All Saints Helmsley	10.8	126.7
All Saints Helmsley	St Hilda's Priory	27.8	154.5
St Hilda's Priory	Whitby Abbey & St Mary's Whitby	1.7	156.2
ST HILD'S WAY from Whitby	To Hartlepool		
Whitby Abbey & St Mary's Whitby	St Hilda's Whitby	0.7	156.9
St Hilda's Whitby	Sandsend	2.4	159.3
Sandsend	Runswick Bay	4.6	163.9
Runswick Bay	Staithes	4	167.9
Staithes	Skinningrove	5	172.9
Skinningrove	Huntcliffe Roman Station	3.3	176.2
Huntcliffe Roman Station	Saltburn	0.2	176.4
Saltburn	Transporter Bridge	13	189.4
Transporter Bridge	Greatham Creek	4.2	193.6
Greatham Creek	Seaton Carew	6.7	200.3
Seaton Carew	St Hilda's Hartlepool	4.7	205
St Hilda's Hartlepool	St Aidan's Hartlepool	3.5	208.5
St Aidan's Hartlepool	Durham Cathedral	18	226.5
Durham Cathedral	St Peter's Monkwearmouth	14	240.5
St Peter's Monkwearmouth	St Paul's Jarrow	7.5	248
Paul's Jarrow	Newcastle Cathedral	6.8	254.8
Newcastle Cathedral	St Cuthbert's Bedlington	13	267.8
St Cuthbert's Bedlington	Alnmouth Friary	23	290.8
Alnmouth Friary	Holy Trinity Embleton	9	299.8
Holy Trinity Embleton	St Aidan's Bamburgh	9.2	309
St Aidan's Bamburgh	Lindisfarne	16	325

Day forty three 12th July trinity 6 5.6 miles

I wasn't sure where I was going to walk to this morning and then I got to the end of St Anne's Avenue and decided I would walk to St Thomas Werneth and St Paul's, Ashton Road Oldham so turned my back on the rising sun to walk towards Oldham.

As I approached the hospital there was a band of pink cloud across the sky, looking like a roll of pink cotton wool. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind" Psalm 104:1-3



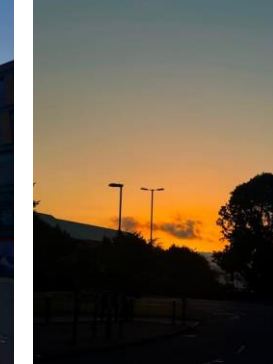
We are still on our way spiritually to Seaton Carew on the St Hild's Way. I carry on physically up to Oldham, past Oldham College, praying for staff and students and those preparing to start new courses there in September. The Oldham Crest and motto, "Sapre Aude" - dare to be wise. Praying for wisdom for those involved in discerning leadership for the Council.

Prayers for staff and students at Brian Clarke Academy as they approach the end of another school year. Praying for those starting as pupils and staff in September. Praying for G Barlow & Sons Funeral Directors and Oldham co-op Funeralcare and all our local funeral directors.



The sun was beginning to rise above Oldham, a beautiful warm orange glow.

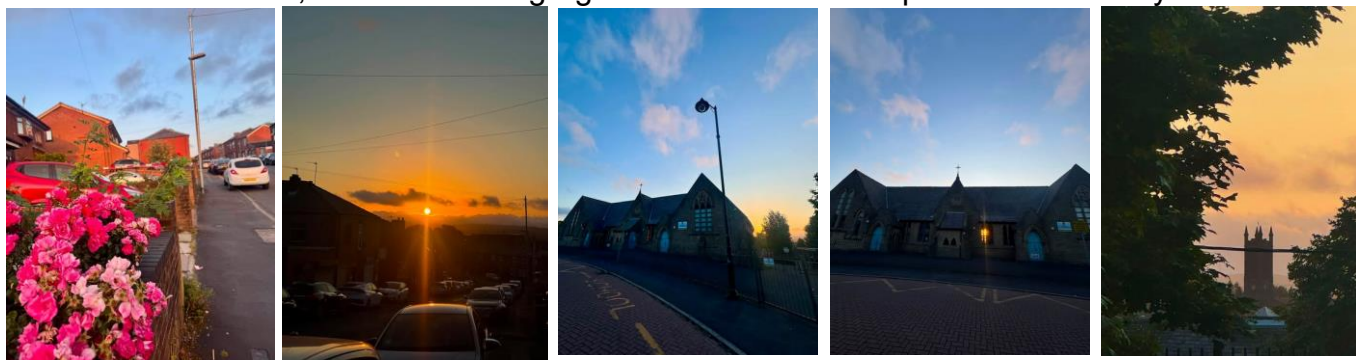
Praying for the congregations at St Patrick's and St Mary's RC churches in Oldham and their Parish Priest, Fr Phil Sumner who has recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the sacred Priesthood. Prayers for Staff and students at Oldham Sixth Form College, and for those hoping to go there in September. As I walk over the King Street roundabout and along Ashton Road I catch a first glimpse of St Thomas Werneth, my first destination today.



Walking up towards St Thomas Werneth and the sun is warming and deepening the colour of the brick of the houses and the flowers.

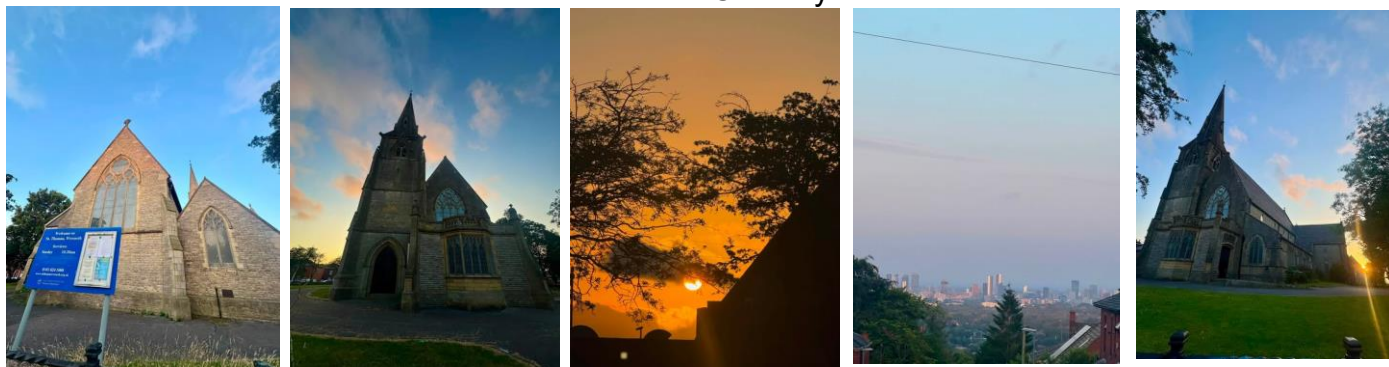
Praying for staff and pupils at St Thomas Werneth. I thought a very bright light had been left on in school then I realised it was the sun shining right through!

Oldham Parish Church looking lovely in the morning sun. Praying for Revd Canon Daniel Burton and Revd Hannah Currin, and for the congregation there and St Stephen and All Martyrs.



Arrived at St Thomas Werneth. Prayers for The Revd Nick Andrewes, The Revd Zahra Shafiei and the Revd Richard McEwen, the congregations and the parish they serve.

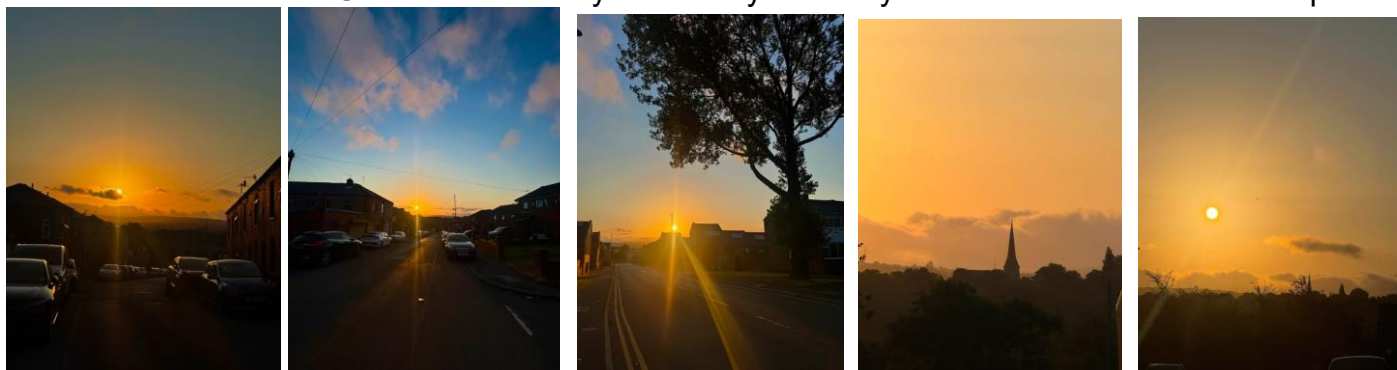
A wonderful view of Manchester from St Thomas' Churchyard.



The sun was shining brightly by the time I was walking down to St Paul's Ashton Road.

This morning at St Matthew's I have the privilege of baptising 4 children, Freddie Jay Mears, Rivaeya Kathleen Bell, Bodhi David Bell and Hallie Crossan. As they are given a lighted candle from the light of our Easter Candle they will be commissioned to "shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father". Prayers for these children and their families.

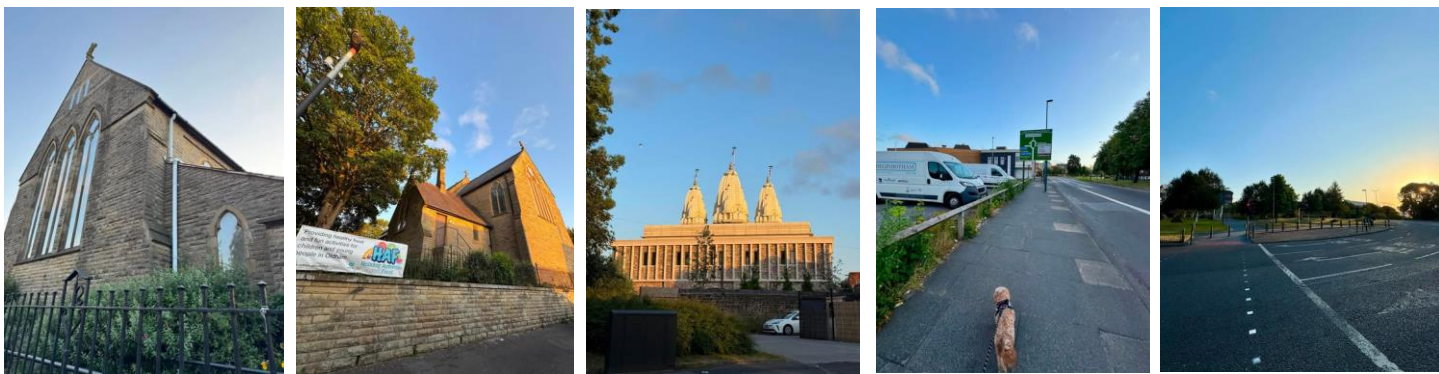
You can see St Mark's Glodwick so clearly on the skyline. Prayers for all who used to worship there.



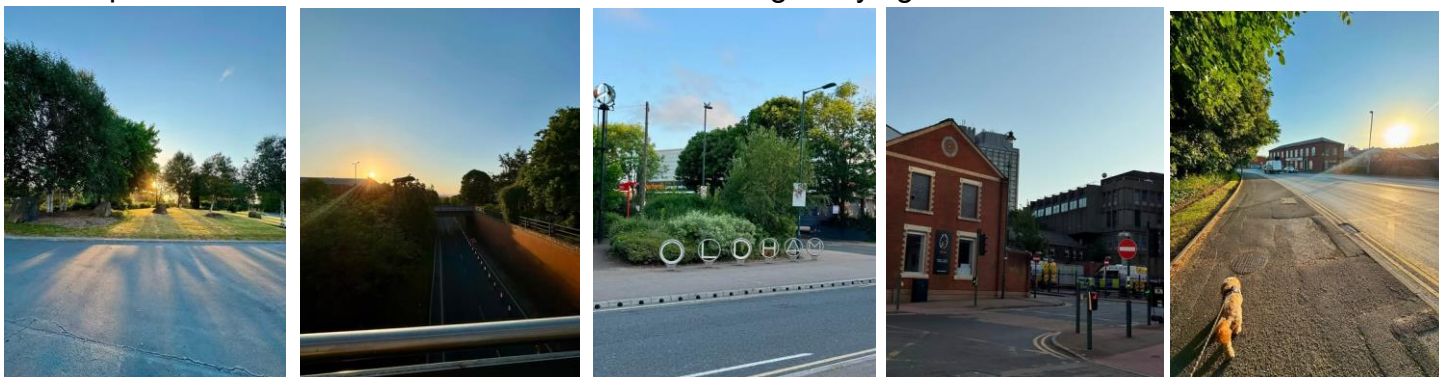
We arrived at St Paul's, Ashton Road praying for Revd Nick Andrewes, Revd Zahra Shafiei and Revd Richard McEwen, the congregations and the parish they serve.

The Temple looked magnificent in the morning sun. Praying for all who worship and serve there.

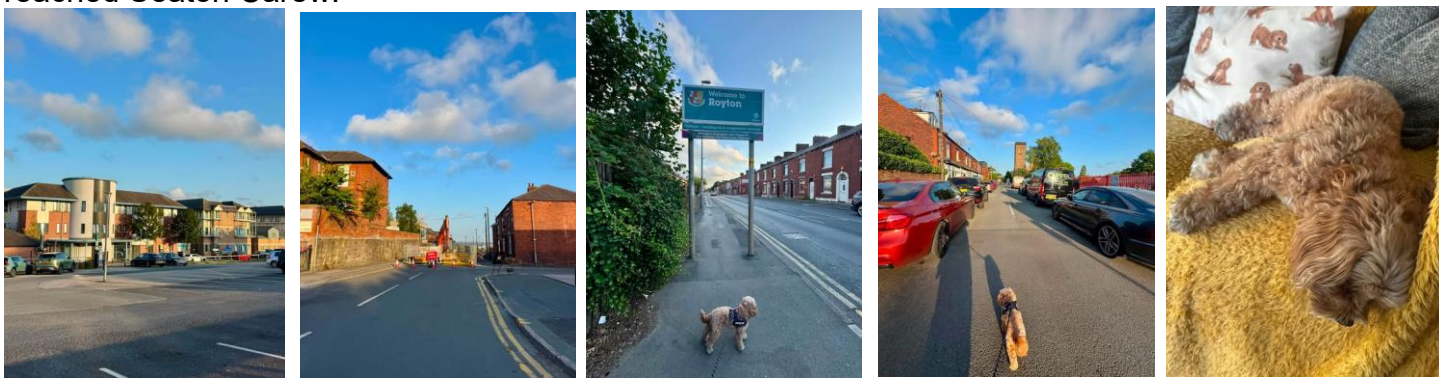
We walked back to King Street Roundabout and crossed over the bridge.



Walking back through Oldham and realising the circles I had seen twice before spelt out Oldham! It was only when I approached them from a distance and different angle I could see it clearly. Sometimes we need a distance and a different viewpoint to see things more clearly. Lots of police cars and vans out and about this morning. Praying for Oldham Police - GMP.



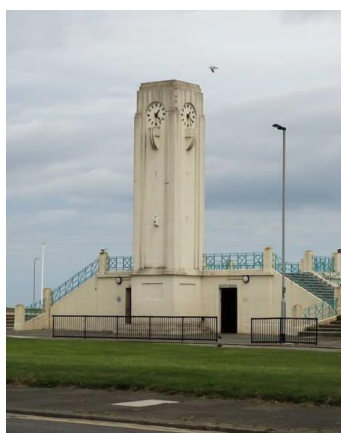
Praying for staff and patients at Royal Oldham Hospital and the paramedics and ambulance crews. Nearly home, and everything looks much brighter than when we set off at half past 4! Within 5 minutes Winnie was flat out! Thankful for my little companion. I have walked 5.63 miles meaning since 31 May I have walked 202.38 miles! A significant moment, as at the start of week 7, I have walked just over 200 miles! It also means, spiritually we have reached Seaton Carew.



Seaton Carew is a traditional, family-friendly seaside resort in Hartlepool, County Durham. It features a sweeping, award-winning sandy beach, Art Deco architecture, and an 18-hole championship links golf course.

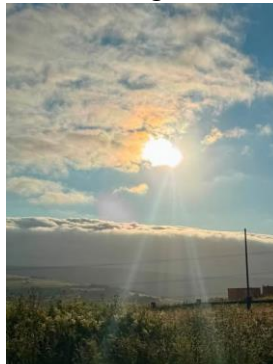
The small; community of Seaton may have been established by the time of St Hild and was probably a fishing village with good provision of food from the sea, as well as simple produce from cultivated fields inland.

Looking back at the Headland you may have seen the prominent Hartlepool Abbey, founded in 640 AD by St Aidan, surrounded by low wooden buildings in a green landscape.



Day forty four 13th July 10.02 miles

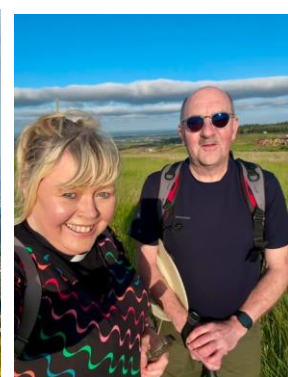
It was good to have a companion and guide on my pilgrimage walk this morning. Last week I mentioned I had not done the Crompton Circuit, before. John Corbishley, who was my churchwarden when I was Vicar of St Mark's Heyside, offered to guide me around some of the circuit today. I picked him up at 6.30am and we drove to Bishop Park car park up Grains Road and left my car there. It was a bit blustery up at the top of the hill (as you can see on the first picture!) and John had to retrieve his hat after we said the pilgrimage prayer, as the wind blew it away! We walked down Ship Lane back to where Buckstones Road, Grains Road and Oldham Road meet and walked through our first field of long grass. Most of my walking on this pilgrimage has been on roads, so this was a bit different for me this morning.



This was the first time we stopped on this walk to take in the amazing views. Instead of the game "Where's Wally?", we played an ecclesiastical version of "Where are the churches?" and an additional game of "and which churches are they?!"

If you zoom in on these pictures you can see Holy Trinity Shaw, St Paul's Royton and St Anne's Royton (a little blurry, but it's there!)

We walked across the field and began our descent down into Shaw. The wind began to calm down. One of the things that has really struck me on this pilgrimage, which seems to come up again and again, is that I can see things much more clearly, and make connections, when I look at the bigger picture, look at something from a distance and from differing perspectives.



We encountered a number of stiles on our journey today, of a variety of styles!

The Crompton circuit symbol became a regular sight, assuring us we were on the right path. I would not have had the confidence to walk these paths on my own, not knowing if I was walking in the right bit of the field, or going the right way. I was glad John was able to lead the way.

It made me think of how daunting it must be for people coming to church for the first time. Not knowing which door to come in at, where they should sit, when to stand or sit and so on. It is always easier when we have someone to guide us and reassure us

Is there someone you know who you think might want to come to church, why not invite them and offer to bring them or meet them there?

I took a picture of St Anne's in the distance from a hill in Shaw. The level of detail on pictures number 3, 7 and 8 from John's camera is amazing.



Over more stiles and continuing down the hill to Shaw Cricket Club enjoying the beautiful scenery.

We talked about the sponsored walk St Mark's had held yesterday, raising money for the "Let our Bell Ring Again" and about the restoration of the Chapel of the Living Christ and about work on the parish hall to improve accessibility.

Giving thanks for all those who work

hard to apply for grants, source funding, supervise the work and work hard to raise funds to ensure the church building is maintained and cared for and the hall is available and for the whole community.



We were soon back walking through the fields. The horses seemed unconcerned as we walked by and as the tram sped past.

John warns there is a climb once we cross the tram tracks. Trying to focus on the view we will see rather than the climb to get there!

Often climbing in the Bible represents the human desire to be closer to God or to understand more about God, it often represents a divine encounter. I pray that this pilgrimage will be for me and for those who are following along virtually a time of drawing closer to God and a time of encounter.



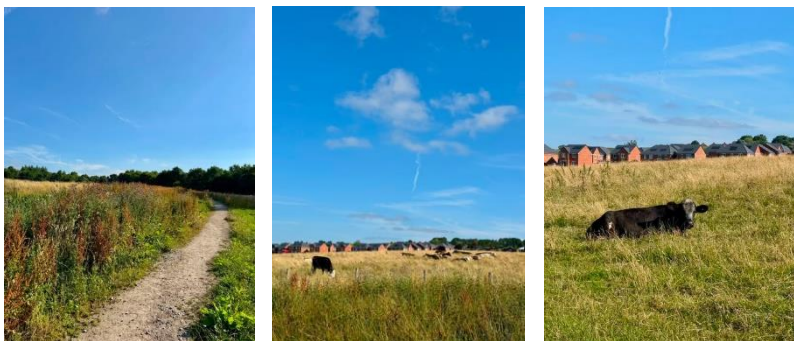
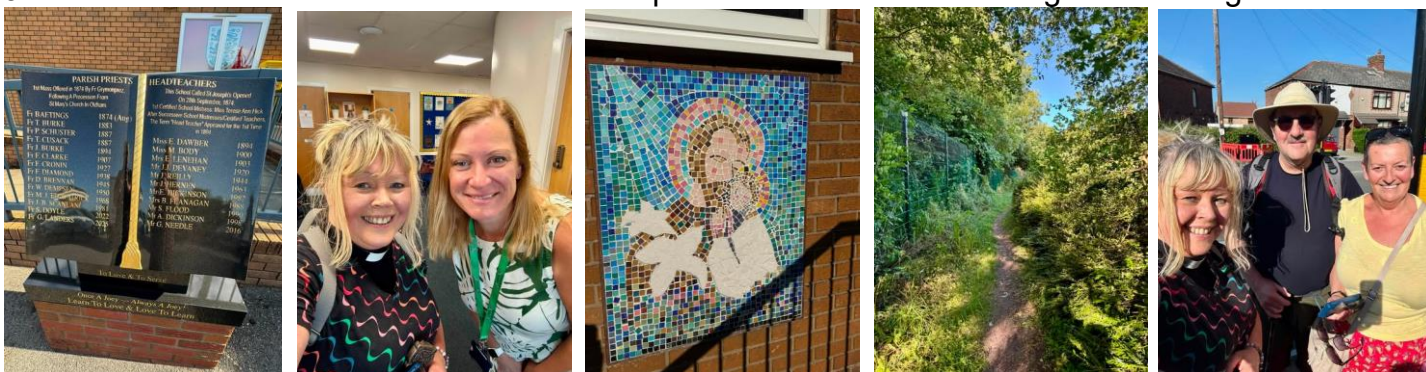
Another fantastic view of Royton as we got to the top of the hill and then we walked through some very long grass and John beat down brambles and nettles with his walking pole! We both suffered a fair few nettle stings! I was surprised when St Joseph's Church emerged through the long grass! I had no idea where this path would lead.

Praying for those who are unsure of where the paths they are in in life will lead.



I was extremely thankful that as we walked past St Joseph's church and school I met Sally, the business manager, and she allowed me into the school to use the "facilities"! Thank you so much Sally! Praying for Mr Gary Needle and all his staff and pupils as they approach the end of the school year. Prayers for Fr Gavin too.

We continued on the public footpath and as we came out on the main road we bumped into Sue, John's wife! We then walked on the re-routed path behind the new housing that is being built.



Walking through the fields behind the new houses at the bottom of Netherhouse Estate where I lived as a child. When you walk like this instead of driving or walking along the roads you realise how close places are to each other and how they connect up. It always surprises me and fascinates me!

Thankful for the opportunity to learn new things and ways each day.



Walking up through Narrowgate Farm and through fields I have often walked by but never through another view of the Manchester skyline.

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 100:3



Down a little path off Thornham Rd I have never noticed before which takes you behind houses on Sherwood Way. A number of the houses have extended the planting of beautiful flowers beyond their garden not to the edge of the path and it is so beautiful to walk along. A generous gift of beauty.

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,

hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise



Walking through these fields I have been thinking about how some of the landscape will have changed dramatically over the years and some of it will have remained the same for decades. My family have lived around here for many years and it's interesting to think that my grandparents, great grandparents and even great great grandparents could well have walked these same paths before me and seen the same fields and hills. Thankful for those who have gone before.

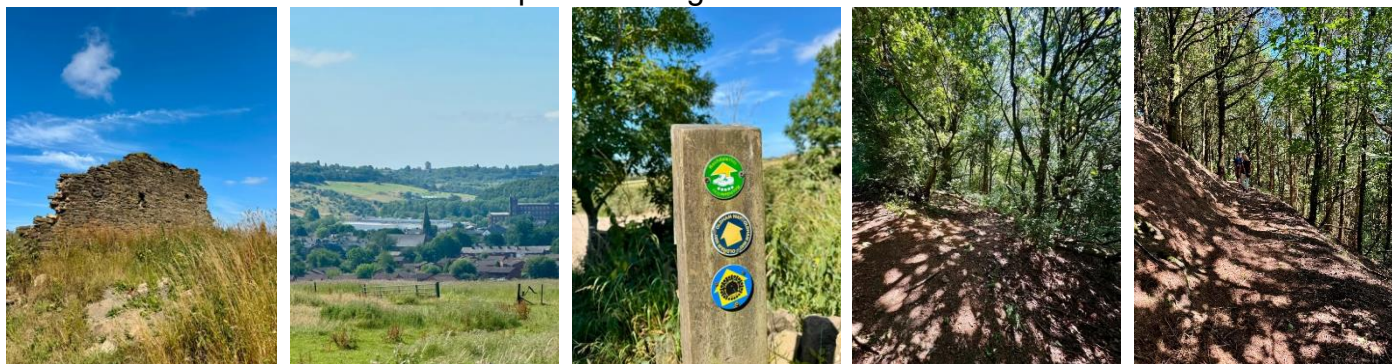


We walked down the path by High Crompton Park that leads eventually to Dunwood Park in Shaw. There have been so many butterflies around as we have walked. This one opened its wings to the sun long enough for me to take a picture.

More churches on the horizon again, pointing to God's glory.
How do we point to God's glory in our lives?



The remains of a farm building standing out against the brilliant blue sky.
St James East Crompton looks as though it is being cradled by the hills from this perspective.
We reach the point where the Crompton Circuit, The Oldham Way and The Rochdale Way meet and for a while follow the same path.
Thinking of those who I have met on my journey through life and for a while have walked alongside and then we have followed different paths. Giving thanks for them and what was shared.



Walking up the hill from the Jubilee Bends and there is an amazing view over to Newhey and Rochdale. The Severn Sisters can be seen from yet another place on our pilgrimage.
Praying for the Vicar of St Thomas Newhey, The Revd Janet Pitman, praying too for Derek and their family, the congregation at St Thomas' and the parish they serve. A little bird told me Derek has a special birthday soon- Happy Birthday Derek!

The second picture is taken by John, again you can see the church in incredible detail even though we are so far away. You can see from the other pictures just how far away St Thomas' is from us. .



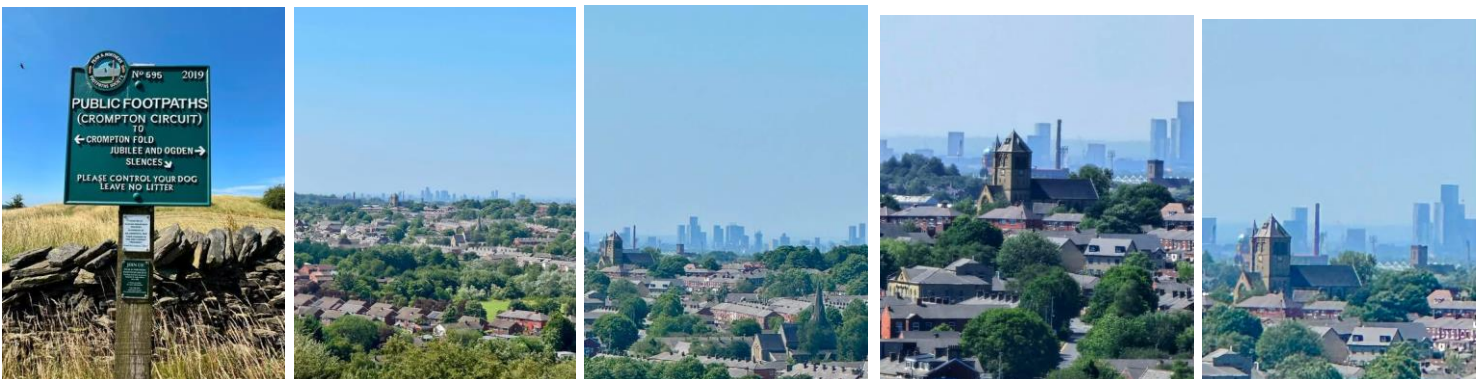
Following the path beside the old dry stone wall. More beautiful butterflies basking in the sun. William Wordsworth wrote a famous poem called To A Butterfly.

Stay near me—do not take thy flight!
A little longer stay in sight!
Much converse do I find in Thee,
Historian of my Infancy!
Float near me; do not yet depart!
Dead times revive in thee:
Thou bring'st, gay Creature as thou art!
A solemn image to my heart,
My Father's Family!

Oh! pleasant, pleasant were the days,
The time, when in our childish plays
My sister Emmeline and I
Together chased the Butterfly!
A very hunter did I rush
Upon the prey:—with leaps and springs
I follow'd on from brake to bush;
But She, God love her! feared to brush
The dust from off its wings.



A fantastic view from the shooting range. You can see on one picture, St James East Crompton, Holy Trinity Shaw and St Anne's Royton. Thanks to John for pictures numbers 3-8
Praying for Fr Paul Pritchard as he prepares for the service of licensing on Sunday and is made incumbent of Holy Trinity Shaw in addition to his present post as Incumbent of East Crompton St James' with St Saviours Mission.





At Brushes Clough, the viewing point no longer has a view as the trees have obscured it. We walked past Shore Edge Methodist Church and St Saviours Mission as we walked down

Bickstones Road waiting for my Dad to pick us up to take us back to my car. Praying for all who worship at both churches.

Winnie had enjoyed being at her Grandma and Grandad's this morning but was pleased to see me again!

Thankful for the company of John today on this pilgrimage walk and for his guidance and thankful for the beauty of all we have seen.

We walked 9.48 miles and then when I got back to my house Winnie and I had a little wander when I got back and we walked about 0.54 miles to take us up to 10.02 miles in total. We have reached St Hilda's and St Aidan's Hartlepool and we are on our way now to Durham Cathedral!



We arrived at St Hilda's Hartlepool. Praying for the Churchwardens of the parish, Rebecca and Ann and the congregation there and the community they serve. Here is a link to a video of a virtual tour of the church. [St Hilda's Hartlepool Virtual Tour](#)

St Hilda's website has a page about pilgrimage, some of which is below. It makes me want to visit in reality and not just virtually.

"Pilgrimage is not compulsory in Christianity, but many of us choose to undertake journeys to holy sites to deepen our connection with God.

It is a journey with purpose to holy/wholesome/special places. Pilgrimage promoting well-being via pilgrim practices and connecting you with yourself, others, nature, and everything beyond. To turn a walk into a pilgrimage, set your private 'intention' at the beginning – dedicate your journey to something that you want help with, or for which you want to give thanks.

Our church which has 12th century origins was likely built on the site of the original 7th century monastery which once stood on the headland. By visiting, pilgrims can experience a sense of historical continuity by walking through a sacred space that has witnessed centuries of Christian worship and spiritual transformation. Hilda was Abbess here before going to Whitby.

Pilgrimage connects visitors to the rich ecclesiastical legacy of St. Hilda, the 7th-century abbess who was revered for her wisdom and who founded Whitby Abbey – one of the most important centres of Christianity in the Anglo-Saxon period. Our church provides a contemplative environment for personal reflection, prayer. The collection of Anglo-Saxon sculpture provides a physical connection to the period when Hilda lived. The 'name stone' is of particular significance as it is a connection to a named individual: Hildthryth.

Additionally, the architectural beauty of St. Hilda's, with its historical features and spiritual ambiance, offers visitors an opportunity to step away from modern distractions and engage in meaningful spiritual introspection. For those seeking to understand the roots of Christian faith in Northern

England, explore sacred historical sites, and find a moment of peaceful contemplation, a pilgrimage to St. Hilda's Church represents a deeply meaningful and enriching spiritual experience that connects the present to a profound religious past."



We also arrived at St Aidan and St Columba Hartlepool yesterday too. Praying for Mother Becky Reeve and the congregation and the community they serve. Praying for the work of St Aidan's kitchen, the volunteers and all who receive hospitality there.

We are now on our way to Durham Cathedral having finished the Way of St Hild, from Whitby to Hartlepool. There is another pilgrimage route from Hartlepool to Durham called the Way of Love. We will not be following this route exactly, but you can find out more about it here

[The Way of Love Pilgrimage Route](#)

This route is dedicated to three of the most important female figures in the history of English Christianity: St Hilda, St. Helena and St. Mary Magdalene. It covers 28 miles and is divided into four sections leading from St. Hilda's church to the shrine of St. Cuthbert in Durham.

Is this pilgrimage inspiring you to make a pilgrimage? Or is it making you want to visit some of the places we have visited virtually, or have seen in my pictures as I have walked closer to home?

I remember when I was a child the television programme "Why don't you?" It was always on in the school holidays. Well, as we approach the school holidays, "Why don't you... " plan to visit somewhere new and perhaps learn something of the story of the place and its spiritual significance?



Day forty five

14th July

1.5 miles

Today I needed to be at the doctors for 7.30am so walked there and back as part of my pilgrimage walk today. Walking there I focussed on getting there in time. In the way back I had chance to pray. Praying for all who work at the Royton Health and Wellbeing Centre and the Well Pharmacy and serve our community.

Praying for the staff and customers at Royton Leisure Centre.

Praying for all who work at Royton Town Hall and Library and the service users.

This small area of Royton dedicated to healthy bodies and minds!

Walking up the hill to St And Aidan's and Oswald's school. Praying for the teachers and staff in their last few days of term and they look forward to the school holidays.

I walked 1.5 miles today and we are still on our way to the magnificent Durham Cathedral.



Day forty six

15th July

7.53 miles

An early start as today is a very busy day. Praying for all pupils and staff at St Anne's school. Praying for Lyndsey Martin, Head of School and Hilary Henderson, Executive Head, giving thanks for their leadership. Holding Hilary in prayer particularly as she retires from her role as Head at St Paul's School Royton and celebrates her time there this evening at a special service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Church, Royton. Walking once more down Broadway and by the side of Clayton Playing Fields. Boundary Park Road has the bunting out ready for this evening's match. Praying for the England team as they prepare for their match today.



I crossed Chadderton Way, down Burnley Lane and down Garforth Street. Praying for Revd David Saville and all at Chadderton Community Church and for the work they do in and with the community. Praying for the Registrars, who like priests, are privileged to meet with people at significant life events, births, marriages and deaths. Praying for all who work at the Town Hall.

I was shouted at by someone riding past on a bike, demanding my attention. Thankfully they cycled on. Praying for all who feel vulnerable and have the burden of always having to be alert to those around them. Walking down Landsdowne Road.



Walking towards the Freehold tram stop. Praying for the staff and pupils at Freehold Primary school in these last few days of the school year. Flocks of birds flying in different directions.

"Even the stork in the heavens knows its times; and the turtledove, swallow, and crane observe the time of their coming; but my people do not know the ordinance of the Lord." Jeremiah 8:7
Lord help us to listen to your word and follow your ways. Amen.



Prayers for Revd Ben Wilkinson and all who worship at Christchurch Chadderton and the community they serve. Prayers too for Revd Ben Somervell, the new Associate Minister at St Mary Balderstone, Christchurch's sister parish who will be working with Ben.

The words around the door,

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise." Psalm 100:4

Praying too for the staff and children at the Panda Pre-School Chadderton.

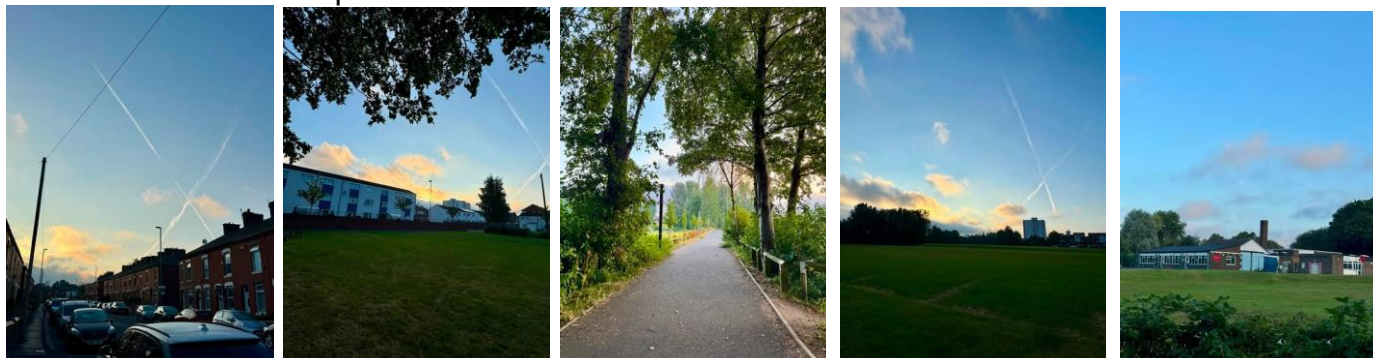


As I have been walking around I've noticed the hydrangeas seem to be doing really well this year - stunning displays. I learnt about the Peterloo Massacre in history at school and at my previous church we joined in the 200th Anniversary commemorations by making and hosting banners made by various groups in Tameside. When you read the words on the plaque "sabled and trampled to death", it brings home the sheer horror of that day. Praying for all who work for peace and justice and equity. Praying for all staff and pupils at Christchurch Primary School Revd Ben Wilkinson and the congregation at St Saviours and the community they serve.

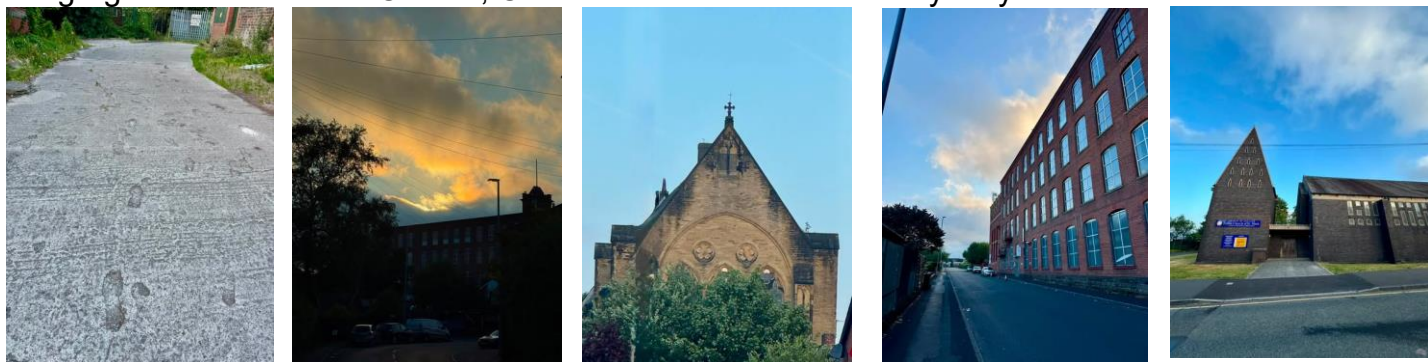


I walked back past Christchurch school and over a green space whilst the sky was being warmed by the sun dispersing through the clouds. Then, as has happened so many times on this pilgrimage, I was surprised when I realised I was at St Luke's school! I love discovering how places are connected

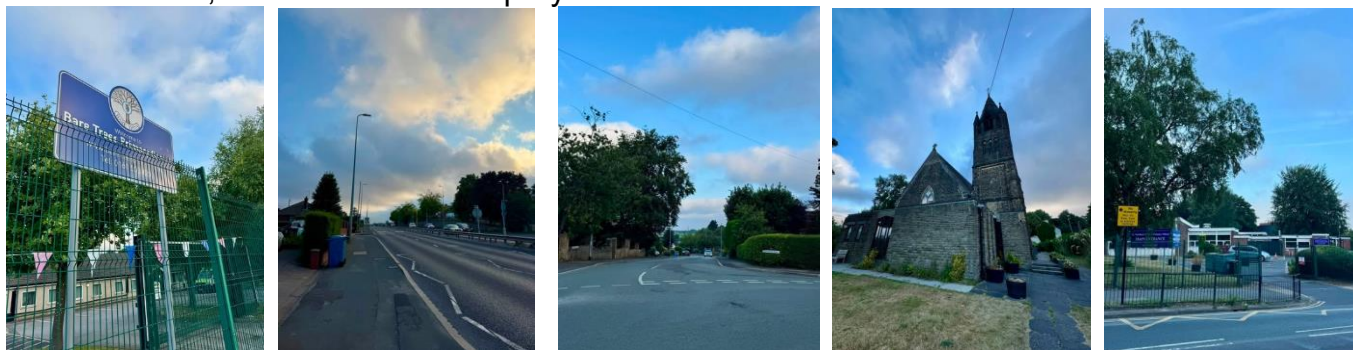
up and I've realised you find that out more on foot. Praying for the staff and pupils at St Luke's for their final week of the school year. Holiday g Year 6 particularly in prayer as they prepare to move on to new schools after the summer. Praying for Lee Bennett, Headteacher at St Luke's, and giving thanks for his leadership.



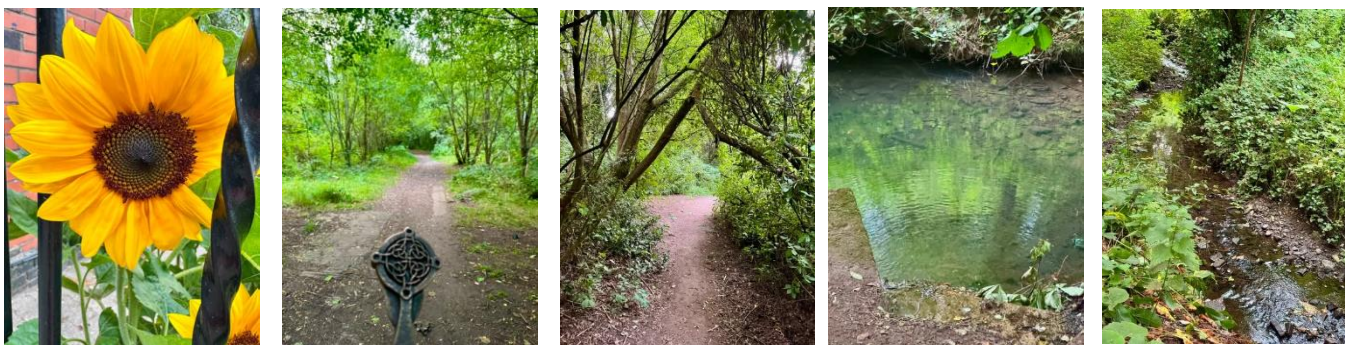
On a pilgrimage you are walking in the footsteps of pilgrims who have gone before you. Sometimes you can sense it very clearly. Here you could actually see it in the concrete! Praying for those who are restoring the fabric of St Luke's. Praying for Fr Stephen Smith and Fr Alex Walker and the congregation at St Mark's Church, Chadderton and the community they serve.



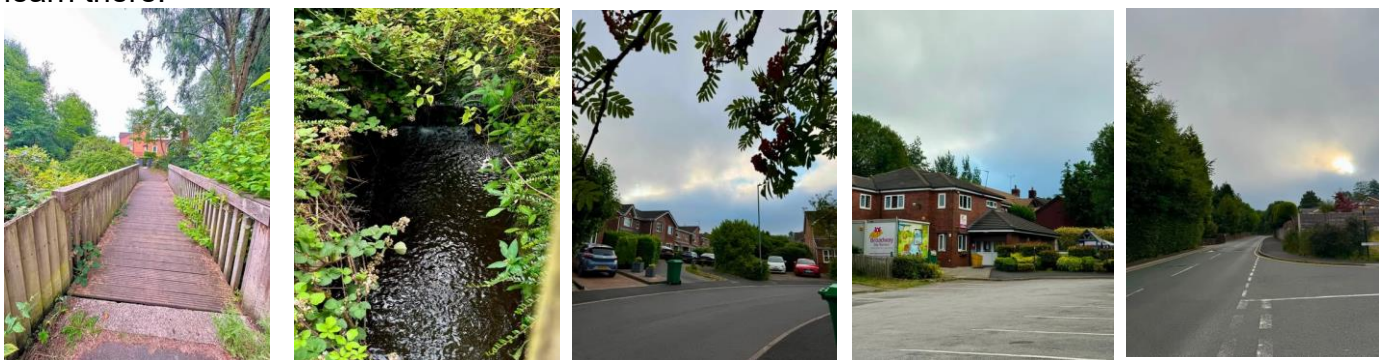
Walking on past St Mark's towards Baretrees Primary school. Praying for staff and pupils there. Crossing over Broadway and walking down Park View to finally arrive at St Matthew's Church. Praying for Maggs and Helen our churchwardens, Gillian and Jane our deputy wardens, Ann our Reader Emeritus, our PCC and all who volunteer and participate in the life of our church in so many ways. Praying for St Matthew's Infant and Junior School, for the pupils and staff and holding Simon Buxton-Moore, the Headteacher in prayer.



Glorious sunflowers brightening a hazy morning.
Walking back up to St Anne's through the trees and by the stream.
Water is running into the stream and as it drops down the surface of the stream ripples out. Thinking about how one small action can cause ripples that spread quickly and effect many people, for good or ill. Lord help us to be always mindful of how our actions might affect others.
Thinking that we are a long way from any supermarket and wondering how this shopping trolley arrived in this stream!



Walking on towards Broadway Day Nursery. My granddaughter has attended there since she was 1 years and has been cared for so well there and loves her "Aunties" and the friends she had made there. She will miss them all so much when she moves to "big" school in September. Praying for and giving thanks for the "Aunties" at the nursery and for all the children who play and learn there.



Walking back up to St Anne's via the public footpath behind Oldham Academy North. Praying for the staff and pupils at Oldham Academy North, at the end of this school year. Brambles are plentiful wherever I have walked recently, and there will be a bumper crop along this path. Back at St Anne's. Praying for Sylvia and Babs the churchwardens and the PCC and all those who volunteer and participate in the life of our church in so many ways. I have walked 7.53 miles this morning and got back home at twenty past 7. We are now only 5.03 miles away from Durham, on our pilgrimage map, where St Cuthbert was finally laid to rest.



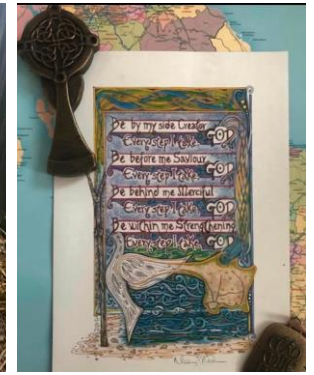
Day forty seven 16th July 2.74 miles

Spiritually we headed towards Durham Cathedral. After I had prepared for the two Leavers' Services today, one at St Anne's and one at St Matthew's, I set out for a short walk with Winnie and headed down Broadway.

A robin posed for us at the side of Broadway. It appeared unconcerned by the noise of the traffic or by the presence of Winnie and I stayed and watched it for a while. Having walked down Holden Fold Lane Winnie found a hop scotch game marked on the ground! Praying for all the children and staff at our schools preparing to finish school for school this summer.



In the words of one of my favourite songs when I was a teenager, "I still haven't found what I was looking for"! I am sure there is a large pond at the end of one of the streets where I was walking today - but I could not find it! I used my map on phone and one large pond on there was meant to be accessible by public footpath, but it wasn't - from either end- and I got stung and by nettles trying to walk through. Some beautiful flowers in the gardens as I walk around and I love the sound of the water by the little stream- so peaceful. Praying for all in Year 6 preparing to leave primary school and for their families as this chapter in the lives comes to a close and a new chapter begins. I do this as I hold my cross of beginnings and endings. I have walked 2.74 miles and we are 2.33 miles away spiritually from Durham Cathedral.

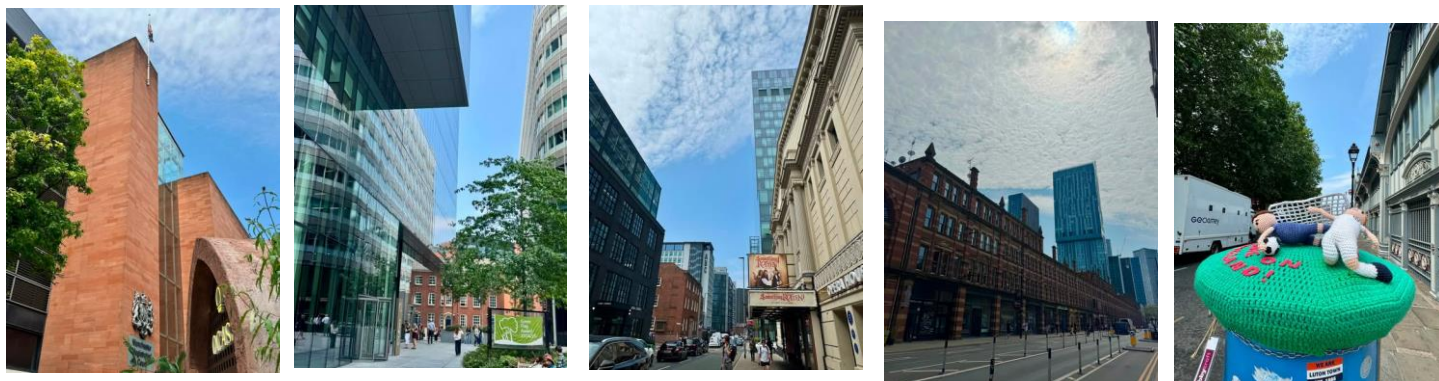


Day forty eight 17th July 5.5 miles

My rest day, but the pilgrimage continues. Setting off from Manchester Cathedral watched over by Our Lady of Manchester and walking along New Cathedral Street and into St Ann's Square. The sky was blanketed with cotton wool clouds. Praying for the Rector of St Ann's, The Revd Adam Robertson and the churchwardens and congregation there and its ministry in the City Centre. Walking along Deansgate past the magnificent John Rylands Library which holds "Papyrus P52" (The Rylands St John Fragment) widely recognised by scholars as the earliest known surviving fragment of the New Testament. It also houses a two-volume copy of a Gutenberg Bible printed at Mainz in 1455, one of the earliest printed books. Praying for the staff at John Rylands and all who conserve and preserve our history and heritage for future generations.

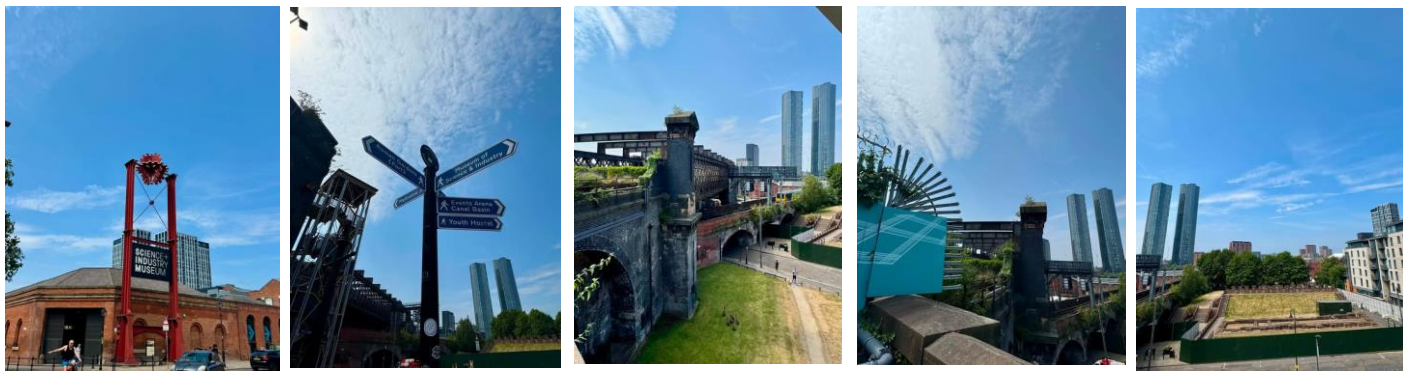


Walking through Spinningfields, praying for all who work at the Magistrate Court and the Crown Courts in Manchester. I love the mix of architectural styles and eras as you walk around Manchester. There was a football related post box topper on the sky blue post box on Liverpool Road. Giving thanks for those who share their creativity. Praying for Anne, who instead of walking on this pilgrimage has committed to knitting a number of rows per day for the duration of the pilgrimage and she will sell the items she makes at St Anne's Christmas Tree Festival! The only other sky-blue box in the country is outside Windsor Castle. A few sky-blue post boxes were initially built for the first air mail after 1911. Manchester had 3, none of which survive. This box was red and was painted sky-blue when the city's aerospace museum was opened in 1983 to commemorate the link between the Post Office and Britain's aviation industry.



Walking past the Science and Industry museum which brought back lots of memories of school holidays when my children were young, spending hours in this museum- they loved it! Praying for parents and carers in these long school holidays looking for different places to spend time with their children.

I walked to the Castlefield Viaduct and climbed the steps to discover it is closed for maintenance. The Viaduct is cared for by The National Trust. They are working with the city of Manchester to breathe new life into the Victorian viaduct in Castlefield, transforming it into an urban park created by and for the benefit of local people. The work on the viaduct is the hub of the project, but work is also taking place in the surrounding areas supporting communities to green urban areas and build confidence in working alongside nature in an urban environment. Praying for the work of the National Trust.



Signs all around Manchester of how it has constantly adapted and transformed over the centuries as a city in response to world and local events.

Walking through the Roman Gardens with original stone foundations and the reconstructed walls of the Roman Fort. A beautiful place to sit and ponder. Whilst on a pilgrimage I often think of this who have walked those paths before, fellow pilgrims. Here it is amazing to think that people will have walked around this place since 79AD.

Giving thanks for this beautiful city which grew from a small village just a short distance from this place and for those who worked to build it and re-build it, form it, and transform it to the Thankful for this who keep alive the stories of the lives lived here.



I struggled at first to find the way down the Castlefield Basin where the Bridgewater and Castlefield Canals meet. When I finally found the way down it was beautiful. Walking

along a path where so much history has occurred. History was my favourite subject at school and we studied the Industrial Revolution for "O"Level so I know how significant this place and these canals and the world's oldest surviving passenger railway station on the nearby Liverpool Road were to the creation of "Cottonopolis". I can't believe it's taken me this long to visit this beautiful place.

The reflections in the water made me think of Proverbs 27:19

"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart."

Walking on pilgrimage gives you plenty of time to pray and reflect on your life, on your souls longings, on your actions. This pilgrimage is at times difficult, a hard slog and a disrupter- thankful though for this time of reflection. The link below shows the route of one of many walks you might want to take.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/.../historic-castlefield...>



Day 48 of Walk with the Northern Saints - a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne A family of swans enjoying the canal together. Some words of wisdom on the board outside the canal boat cafe.

The message on the board addresses us with a term of endearment (love) , acknowledges we all carry burdens most people don't see, then invites us to stop, close our eyes, relax our jaw, take a deep breath and listen to the sounds of the glorious city.

God knows us inside out,

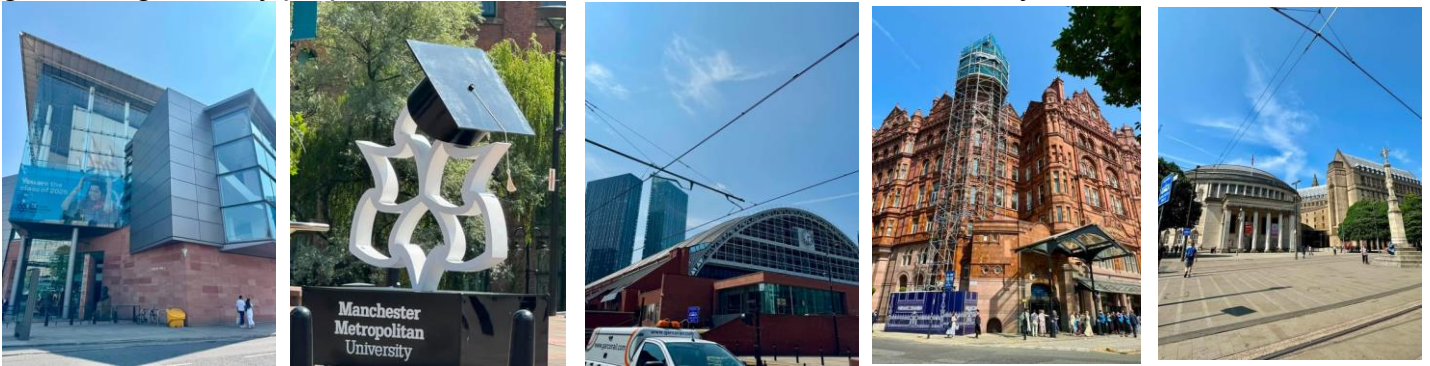
"I have knit you together in your mother's womb" Psalm 139:13b,

and he invites us to stop, to breathe in His love, relax into him and listen to His voice, the voice of one who calls each of us by name.

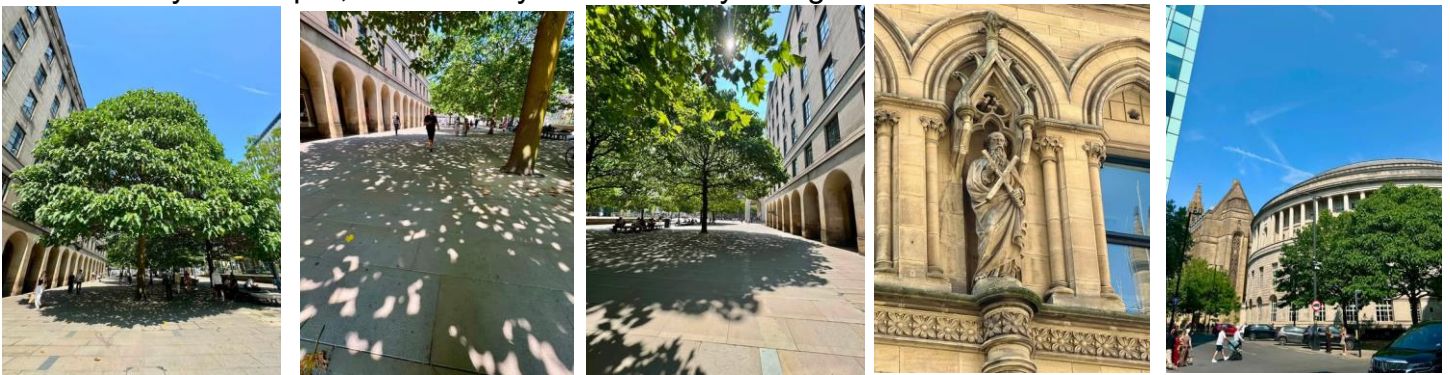
Lord help us to make time each day to stop and relax into you, allow ourselves to be held by your everlasting arms. Amen.



Walking past The Bridgewater Hall and the Midland Hotel and seeing lots of families gathered together to celebrate graduations from Manchester Metropolitan University. Praying for all those graduating, as they prepare to set out on new adventures of further study or work.



The trees in front of the Central Library provided a wonderful, dappled shade in the heat of the day. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. Psalm 121:5



I have shared a couple of times on this pilgrimage plaques commemorating the Peterloo Massacre. The Peterloo Massacre occurred on August 16, 1819, at St Peter's Field in Manchester when armed cavalry charged a peaceful pro-democracy crowd of about 60,000 demonstrators. Demanding parliamentary representation, 18 people were killed and up to 700 were injured. The tragedy catalysed the modern fight for democracy in the UK.

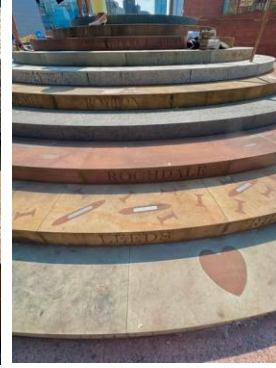
To commemorate the event, a permanent Peterloo Memorial—designed by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller—was unveiled in 2019. The sculpture is located in the square directly opposite the convention complex, which is largely built over the site of St Peter's Field.

Men and women from Royton and Chadderton, as well as other neighbouring towns, gathered to peaceably protest that day. The towns where people went to St Peter's Field from are mentioned on the memorial- Royton and Chadderton are pictured. The names of those who died are also carved onto the monument.

Praying for all who work for peace, justice and democracy. Praying for fair representation, economic justice and for those who are most vulnerable in our society. Remembering those who died.

Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote a famous poem The Masque of Anarchy in response to the Peterloo Massacre - the final stanza is below.

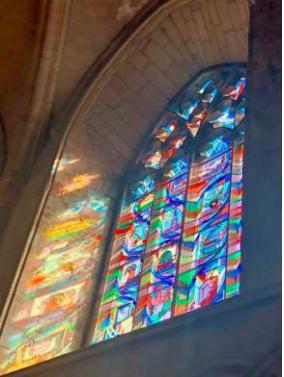
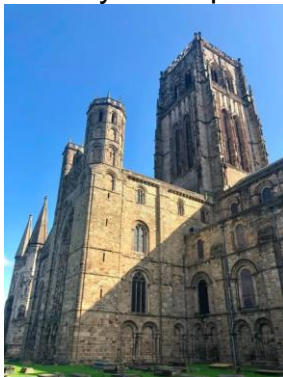
Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many — they are few. #



Walking back through Albert Square. Praying for those working on the restoration of the Town Hall. I have walked 5.5 miles today, meaning, I am pleased to say, we have reached Durham Cathedral on our pilgrimage map- more about that tomorrow! I have now walked 229.67 miles meaning I have 95.33 miles to go!



Yesterday we arrived at Durham Cathedral a place of prayer and pilgrimage for over 900 years. Durham Cathedral began to be built shortly after the Norman Conquest in the Romanesque style of architecture. It's stones are soaked in prayer and the colours from the windows on the stone remind me of that. Praying for the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Revd Philip Plymington, and the Chapter of the Cathedral, for the regular congregation and for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral and its ministry of hospitality to pilgrims.



Durham Cathedral was built to house the shrines of St Cuthbert and The Venerable Bede. St Cuthbert's shrine also holds the head of St Oswald (more about St Oswald on his Feast Day -5 August)

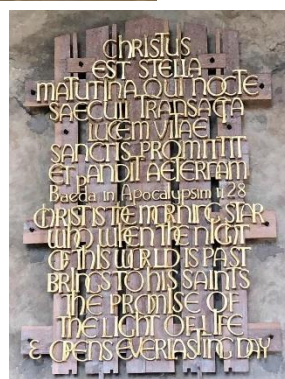
You can see his statue holding his head in the Feretory of St Cuthbert, (behind the main altar in the Cathedral) , which houses St Cuthbert's shrine.

It was on St Bede's Day (25 May) in 2020 that I had the idea of a Virtual Pilgrimage during the pandemic which our virtual pilgrimage is in the Galilee Chapel in the cathedral.

The site's religious significance began when Lindisfarne monks carried the relics of Anglo-Saxon Saint Cuthbert across the region to protect them from Viking raids. According to the 10th-century legend of the "Dun Cow," the monks were led to this location—a wooded peninsula on the River Wear—after a miraculous event caused the saint's coffin to become immovable. They initially built a simple wooden "White Church" to house the coffin in 995 AD.

The Journey, a magnificent life size sculpture from wood, housed in St Lindisfarne, has been cast in bronze and is at Millenial Place in Durham. It depicts the monks carrying Cutbert's coffin from Lindisfarne to Durham. Fenwick Lawson's sculpture the Pieta, depicting Mary holding the body of her dead son, Jesus, is housed in Durham Cathedral. To find out more him and his work click here

www.fenwicklawson.co.uk



day forty nine

18th july

3.1 miles

Winnie and I set off on our pilgrimage walk today, spiritually from just after Durham Cathedral towards St Peter's Monkwearmouth and physically from St Thomas' Leesfield. Praying for Revd Kirsten Stott and newly ordained Revd Paul Dent at St Thomas' their congregation and the parish they serve.

The butterfly reminds of us of transformation. "So if anyone is in Christ, there[a] is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" 2 Corinthians 5:17



We walked up the hill towards St Agnes, Knolls Lane. I'd like to say the hills are getting easier, but...! The Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) were traditionally chanted by Jewish people as they travelled "up" to Jerusalem for major festivals such as Pentecost, Tabernacles and Passover. Jesus himself would have used them when he set his face to Jerusalem. Psalm 121 is a famous travellers prayer assuring the pilgrim of God's constant protection and guidance.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Psalm 121



An unusual flower basket holder!

Amazing views over the fields and hills St Anne's Lydgate can be clearly seen in the distance.

Praying for the Saddleworth team of churches currently in interregnum.



It was easier walk down the hill than up it. Back in the centre of Lees and making our way to St John the Baptist, Hey. Passing the Oldham Blood Service building. Praying for all waiting anxiously for medical tests and results. The Bog Garden looked beautiful. Praying for the members of the Lees, Springhead and Grotton Gardening Group- giving thanks for their commitment and skill.



We arrived at St John, Hey. Praying for Revd Kirsten Stott, currently curate in charge but preparing for her licensing as Vicar, here at St Thomas Leesfield and St Agnes and St Hugh in 10 days time! Praying for Kirsten and her family and all the congregations as they prepare to welcome her into this new role.

Winnie dragged me back up the hill to St Thomas Leesfield where he began our walk today'. Winnie and I walked 3.1 miles which means I have walked 36 miles this week and we are 92.23 miles away from Lindisfarne and only 7.73 miles from St Peter's Monkwearmouth.



We have reached a significant milestone - I have less than 100 miles left to walk on this route. As I keep saying, please do share with friends and family, ask them to sponsor the 325 miles walk, use the social media posts or these newsletters for your own prayer time or reflection. Go out for a walk yourself and really notice what you see around you, let it inspire you in your own prayer. Or simply spend time in your garden, notice the different plants, or the birds and wildlife that visit. Winnie loves contemplating her garden and rushes out excitedly to meet birds or squirrels who come to visit! I'm not suggesting you chase squirrels up trees like Winnie, but spend some time watching and waiting and noticing, spend time with God in his creation. This is my favourite place to sit and watch and pray overlooking St Cuthbert's Island when I go to Lindisfarne.

