

walk with the northern saints - a pilgrimage to línðisfarne



trínty sunðay to st aíðan's ðay
31st may-31st august 2026
week 8

week 7

Last week walked around Royton and Chadderton, Werneth and Oldham, around a large part of the Crompton Circuit, around Manchester and Lees. Spiritually we arrived at Seaton Carew, St Hilda's and St Aidan's Hartlepool and Durham Cathedral, the final resting place of St Cuthbert.

week 8

This last week we have journeyed on spiritually from Durham Cathedral to the twin monasteries of St Oeter's Monkwearmouth and St Paul's Jarrow, where St Bede lived and worked. We then continued on to Newcastle Cathedral and finally to St Cuthbert's Bedlington.

Physically I walked around Derker, Waterhead and Clarksfield visiting St Thomas' Leesfield, St Agnes, Knolls Lane and St John Hey. I completed the rest of the Crompton Circuit, Very early on in this pilgrimage I walked to Christchurch Denshaw, this week I walked around the Saddleworth villages and visited the rest of the churches in the Saddleworth team – St Chad's Uppermill, St Thomas' Delph, Holy Trinity Dobcross, St Anne's Lydgate, Christchurch Friezland, St Mary's Greenfield, and Kilngreen Church Diggle as well as the Uppermill Parish Centre. This means that I have now walked to and prayed for each of the churches in the Oldham part of the Oldham and Ashton Deanery.

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

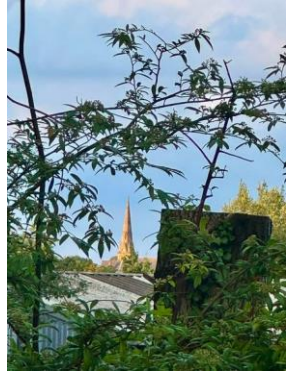
northern saints pilgrimage

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 fifty

19th July trinity 7 3.65 miles

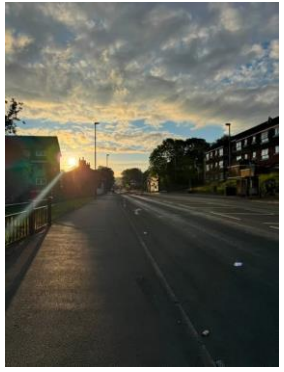
A glorious sky before I set off walking on Week 8 on #NorthernSaintsPilgrimage. Spiritually we are heading toward St Peter's Monkwearmouth. Physically Winnie and I drove to Derker tram station and began walking towards Holy Trinity Waterhead. There was one point on the street where I was walking where I could see St Stephen and All Martyrs, Lower Moor, St Mark's Glodwick and St James Barry Street on the skyline. Giving thanks for the start of beautiful start to this new day and week. As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, your Spirit ever renew our lives and your praises ever be on our lips. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever. Amen.



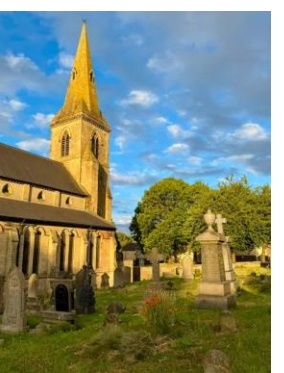
The early morning sun makes even the most dull streets filled with industrial. There have been times walking in this pilgrimage I have felt a little uneasy. This morning as I walked towards Waterhead two people were fighting in the street. When they saw a Vicar walking towards them they separated and walked away shouting at each other. The refrain to the psalm and the psalm prayer in today's morning prayer is a good prayer for such an occasion!

O God, be not far from me.

Faithful Lord, living Saviour, in youth and old age, from the womb to the grave, may we know your protection and proclaim your great salvation to the glory of God the Father. Amen



The climb up to Holy Trinity Waterhead was worth it. It looked magnificent in the early morning sun. Praying for the churchwardens and the congregation here as they wait for the appointment of a new Vicar. Praying for all who are stepping into new roles during the interregnum.



Walking past Waterhead Academy. Praying for pupils and staff as they begin their summer holiday. Prayers for those preparing to start school here in September. Winnie got very excited when she saw a squirrel as we walked up the very steep Greenacres Road. I had to drag her away! The squirrel seemed unconcerned! The light this morning was glorious.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we rejoice in this day you have made. Amen.

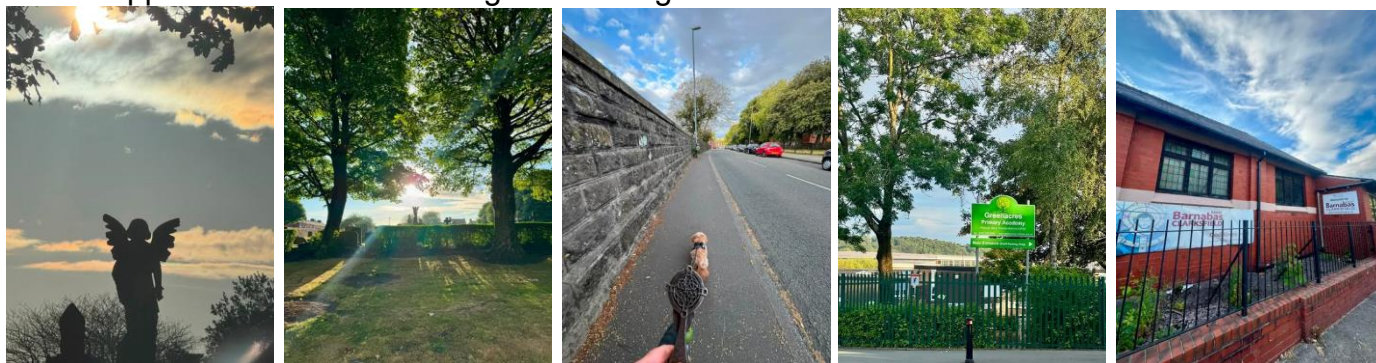


Walking past Greenacres cemetery. Remembering with love Yvonne Shaw, former member of the choir at St Anne's Royton, who was laid to rest here.

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes. Amen.

Praying for staff and pupils at Greenacres primary school as they begin the school holidays .

We arrived at St Barnabas Clarksfield. Praying for the churchwardens and congregation and all who have stepped into new roles during the interregnum.



Walking back to Derker we passed by St James Church, Oldham. Praying for Fr Lewis and all the congregation at St James as they prepare to celebrate their Patronal Festival next Friday. Winnie wishes all at St James a happy Saints day and joyful celebration! From the hymn, By All Your Saints Still Striving

"We praise you for the witness of James, the one who died in telling of his Saviour, Jesus the Crucified. Lord, help us not to treasure our worldly goods or fame, but may we, trials enduring, bring glory to your name"

We arrived back at Derker Station after walking 3.65 miles and driving back home, before heading off to church. Still spiritually in the way to St Peter's Monkwearmouth.



Day fifty one 20th July

5.66 miles

Today's pilgrimage walk began at the top of Grains Road again with John Corbishley, churchwarden at St Mark's Heyside, as we set off on the walk to complete Crompton Circuit we began last week. It is good to have a companion guide once more on paths I've never trod before. Spiritually we are headed to St Peter's Monkwearmouth. Yesterday at both churches we sang this hymn.

Awake, my soul, and with the sun, Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise, To pay thy morning sacrifice.

It feels like it could be an anthem for the early morning walks of this pilgrimage! Many mornings when I have set out early, I haven't always felt like going, I've been physically tired, and as I've got ready to walk I've wondered if I should go back to bed instead!

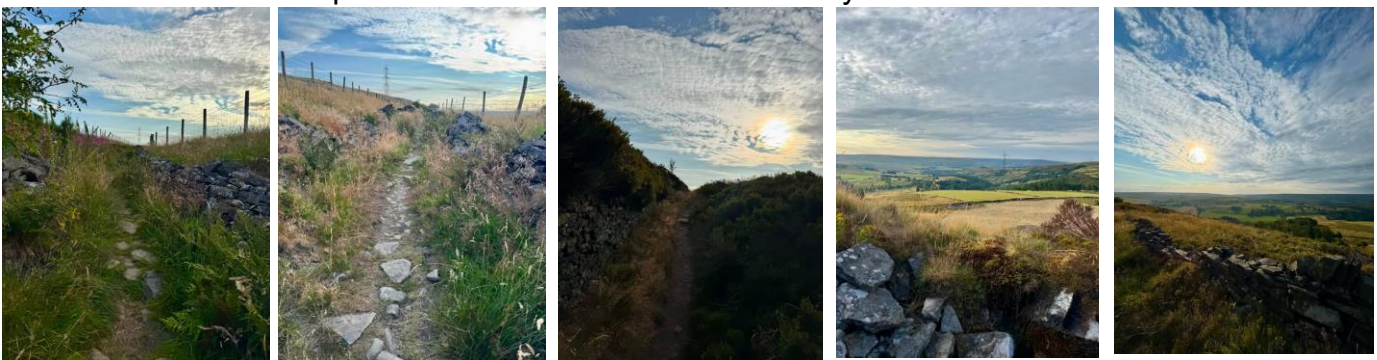
The line "shake off dull sloth and joyful rise. To pay thy morning sacrifice" really resonated with me. I am always glad I have gone for a walk, I feel as though I have shaken off "dull sloth" and as I've taken notice of the beauty of the world around me, to praise and worship God in thanksgiving and wonder has been the most natural response. Today is no different!



There was a lot of cloud this morning but the sun was burning through and warming up the landscape. The paths are clearly defined on this part of the walk. Each day at Morning Prayer we say the Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah). As I walk these paths with the rising sun before me I am reminded of the last two verses ,

"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace"

Praying for all suffering a bereavement at the moment. Praying for the family and friends of Eunice, whose funeral will take place at St Matthew's on Wednesday.



Looking over the patchwork of fields on of the fields was brilliantly lit by the sun. My phone camera doesn't quite capture the how the sun illuminated the

field. I'm reminded of the beautiful R.S. Thomas poem,

The Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.
Praying I may learn to "turn aside" more, instead of "hurrying on".



The heather was attracting the tiny butterflies I noticed on the pilgrimage walk last Monday. The fourth picture was taken by John when he spotted Th'Heights Chapel, St Thomas Old Church in Delph on the hillside. At the top of the hill we paused to admire the view in all directions. The Manchester skyline was obscured by haze.

Mist in the bible often symbolizes the brevity of life.

"Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." James 4:14

John had said that last week after our walk when he returned home he found a grasshopper in his shirts pocket. The combination of the hazy skyline, the passage from James and John's story made me think know Mary Oliver's poem

"The Summer Day"

Who made the world? Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean —
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?
Thankful for this time to stroll through the fields.



Magnificent views once more. St Anne's Royton is in the centre of the third picture.

Thankful for John's guidance once more on this walk. I would not have the confidence to walk over these fields and hills on my own. Sometimes the path is clear and obvious. Other times it's hard to know which path to take. Thankful for waymarkers along the way too.

A prayer from Mary Fleeson's book Prayerscapes

<https://www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk/index.php...>

Pilgrim Posts 4

How many times in life
are we blessed with a big, neon arrow
pointing which way to go?

~ Show me the way!

How many times in life
do we hear that still small voice
and listen and obey?

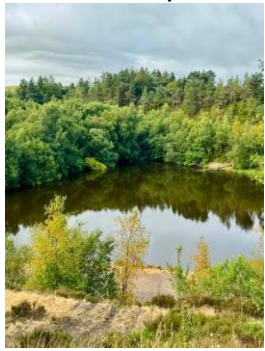
~ Speak and help me listen!

How many times in life
are we called to a clear situation
where we should be?

~ Lead and I will follow!

I thought there were lots of pine trees by
the side of the path, but google images
tells me they are Larch Trees, which,
unique amongst deciduous trees

John was able to capture 4 The Diocese of Manchester churches in one photograph. I have circled them in red. St James East Crompton, St Paul's Royton, Holy Trinity Shaw and St Anne's Royton. Praying for Fr Paul Pritchard as he was licensed yesterday to be Vicar of Holy Trinity Shaw, alongside his role as Vicar of St James East Crompton, and St Saviours.



The bench is placed in a
place where there is an
incredible view. A beautiful
place to stop, rest and
contemplate. I hadn't
realised that this was part of
the Greater Manchester
Ringway, a 200 miles route



around Greater Manchester. Lynda at St Anne's, is also walking virtually to Lindisfarne, and collecting sponsorship, but is taking the more direct route up the A1M which is also 200 miles! On Sunday she said she had walked just over 150 miles! Praying for Lynda and giving thanks for her dedication to this challenge. We arrived at the point where we finished the Crompton Circuit last week. Now we walked into Shaw, on a scenic route rather than just down Grains Road.

We walked along this path which John remembered as being less overgrown. I suppose the warm weather has encouraged more growth even if people have still trod this path.

I love the poetry of Malcolm Guite, a priest and poet and he has written a poem in response to George Herbert's poem Prayer(I) which resonates with my experience on this pilgrimage. Malcolm describes Herbert's poem Prayer as listing poem in which every phrase is both its own literal self but also is an image or emblem of what prayer is. In Malcom's poem, Prayer/Walk all the phrases are accounts of walking in the English countryside but he hopes each might become an image or emblem of prayer life.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2015/03/04/prayerwalk/>

Prayer/Walk Malcolm Guite

A hidden path that starts at a dead end,
Old ways, renewed by walking with a friend,
And crossing places taken hand in hand,
The passages where nothing need be said,
With bruised and scented sweetness underfoot
And unexpected birdsong overhead,
The sleeping life beneath a dark-mouthed burrow,
The rooted secrets rustling in a hedgerow,
The land's long memory in ridge and furrow,
A track once beaten and now overgrown
With complex textures, every kind of green,
Land- and cloud-scape melting into one,
The rich meandering of streams at play,
A setting out to find oneself astray,
And coming home at dusk a different way.



As I write this now, my legs are still stinging from the nettles that "got me" along this path. As we tried to hold back the brambles and nettles John said perhaps we should have walked the less scenic route. We might not have got stung then, but we would have missed all this beauty if we had.

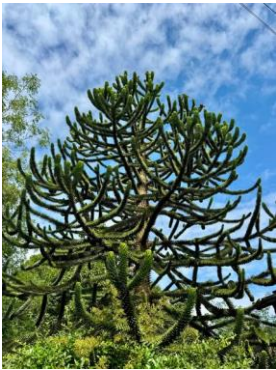
When we used to celebrate the school's Anniversary Sunday at St Mary's in the 1970's we would always sing the hymn Think of a World Without Any Flowers. The verse is in a minor key to reflect the sadness and horror of thinking of a world without any flowers or animals etc. The chorus changes to a major key, and is much more joyful. I am reminded of this now.

We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine,
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.



Walking back through Shaw centre to the car. Thankful for this pilgrimage and the experiences I am having as I walk, become more aware and pray. Thankful for John's company and guidance once again. Praying for John as he prepares to lead the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade Summer Adventure Week Camp in Aberfoyle next week. Prayers for all the leaders and the Brigade members taking part.

We walked 4.64 miles today and spiritually have arrived at St Peter's Monkwearmouth.

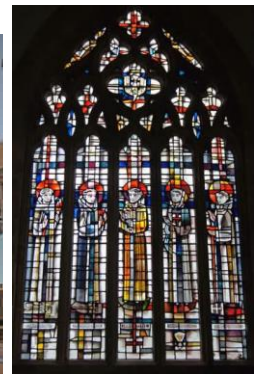


Spiritually we have arrived at St Peter's Monkwearmouth, on our pilgrimage of the heart to Lindisfarne, a site of Christian Worship for over 1300 years and the site of the twin monastery of Wearmouth and Jarrow twin monastery established by St Benedict Biscop in 673AD where The Venerable Bede lived and worked.

St. Peter's, built on land given by King Ecgrith to St. Benedict Biscop in 673 AD, is the earlier of the twin site of Wearmouth-Jarrow monastery to come to life, and in the church can be seen the original carved stone within a reconstruction of the abbot's seat among many artifacts uncovered during the 1960's archaeological excavation conducted by Dame Professor Rosemary Cramp of Durham University.



Outside the present day church are pavements and low walls denoting the positions of the 7th century monastery originals preserved underneath. It is believed that there is still considerable archaeology to be discovered that has, hopefully, not been destroyed by the Viking raids, farming, world wars and industrial activity over the 1,300 years since St. Peter's was created.



Many Northumbrian saints are connected with St. Peter's Church along with the Venerable Bede, namely St. Hild, Abbess of Whitby, whom Bede describes as having entered convent life "on land to the north of the Wear", and the abbots of the twin monastery: St. Benedict Biscop, the patron saint of Sunderland, St. Ceolfrid, St. Eosterwine, St. Sigfrid, and St. Lawrence, to whom a chapel was dedicated at St. Peter's in the time of the abbots.

The Anglo Saxon tower and west wall date to the church's foundation in 674 AD. The Venerable Bede would have walked through that door way as a seven year old novice! Praying for all at St Peter's.



St. Benedict Biscop

Benedict Biscop depicted in The Monthly Chronicle of North-Country Lore and Legend 1888. Benedict Biscop (also referred to in ancient texts as Benet Biscop or Biscop Baducing) is the Patron Saint of Sunderland.



He founded the monastery and library of Wearmouth-Jarrow in the 7th C and so is celebrated in services and activities here each year as well as having a stained-glass window dedicated to him. Benedict Biscop's Feast Day is 12th January each year. Benedict Biscop is the patron saint of painters and musicians.

The Venerable Bede

Born in AD 673, on land that would form part of the monastery estates, Bede was only 7 years old when he was sent to train for orders with the monks at the new monastery of St. Peter's in Wearmouth, Sunderland.

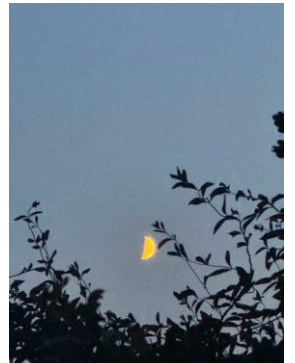
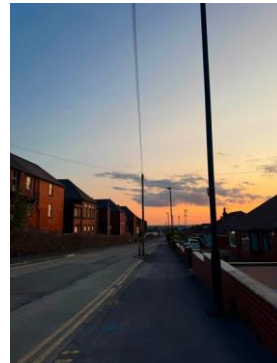
Although he never left the area, his gift for collecting and connecting information gave him a truly unique view of the world. He corresponded with monks at other monasteries across Britain, and even sent the Bishop of London to research the papal archives in Rome on his behalf.

He wrote the seminal 'History of the English Church and People', was the first English person to use the term 'English', two centuries before England would be united, popularised the AD/BC dating system, devised the method we use to calculate when Easter falls and worked out how the moon affects the tides.

As well as the above Venerable Bede is the world's earliest witness of pure Gregorian tradition in England. His works "Musica theoretica" and "De arte Metrica" (Migne, XC) have long been studied and seen as especially valuable by present-day music and choral scholars engaged in the study of the primitive form of the chant.

The tremendous breadth of his works meant he was a true Renaissance man, 700 years before the actual Renaissance itself! However, he was pivotal in moving Britain out of the Dark Ages and, along with other important figures, beginning the civilisation we know and understand today.

As the sun sets on this day, praying for Keir Starmer as he steps down and for Andy Burnham as he takes up office as our new Prime Minister. 1.02 miles walked.



Day fifty two 21st July

6.51 miles

We are on our way to spiritually to St Paul's Jarrow and physically I set off from Uppermill Park today and firstly walked up to St Chad's Uppermill. Praying for all clergy and church officers in the Saddleworth Team Ministry. Praying for an appointment of a Team Rector and praying for Revd Sachin Awale as he prepares to leave his ministry as Team Vicar in the Saddleworth team and take up his new role as Rector of Astley, Tyldsley and Mosley Common.



It is a quite a walk up the hill to St Chad's Uppermill. The church looked beautiful though nestling in the trees. There has been a place of Christian worship on the Parish Church site since 1215 AD, when the first Saddleworth Church was established as a chapel of ease as part of the Rochdale Parish, but in time became the possession of Whalley Abbey. Under the suppression of the churches by Henry VIII, the Abbey had to submit Quick Chapel, as it was then called, to the jurisdiction of Rochdale and more recently in 1866, patronage was transferred to the Bishop of Manchester.

The present church is late Georgian being built between 1830 to 1833; the tower was re-built later circa 1846-7. The interior, which includes the original gallery, has a pleasant warmth to it emanating a surprising light and colour. Many of the internal features were crafted by the architect George Shaw of Uppermill including the reredos, choir stalls, lectern, pulpit and font cover. The interior is also greatly enhanced by many beautiful stained glass windows which tell the tale of the wildness of the weather in this area; most of the stained glass was designed and made in Uppermill. The Great East Window contains a compelling depiction of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper' and there is also a fine example of the work of the Flemish stained glass painter JB Capronnier depicting 'The Adoration of the Magi'. The church's unique heritage is reflected in its Grade 2* listing on the National Heritage List for England and it stands in its own conservation area.

Praying for the Churchwardens, the congregation and community they serve. Praying for the "Seeing is Believing" project seeking to keep the church open for the community in years to come.



Walking back down Church Road, admiring the amazing views.

The peacock and the cockerel were both preening themselves. In Christian art and symbolism, the peacock has been used to represent resurrection and eternal life, drawing on its ancient associations with renewal. The peacock's presence in the biblical text serves as a reminder of the beauty and diversity of God's creation, as well as the blessings bestowed upon those who seek wisdom and righteousness. Its mention in the context of Solomon's reign invites reflection on the responsibilities that accompany wealth and the importance of using one's resources to honour God and serve others. Passing under the Rushcart bridge.

In order to uphold the rush bearing tradition at St Chad Church, a Rushcart must pass under this bridge up Church Road. In fact, the original bridge's height was determined thanks to a kind Local planning officer, Philip Sweet, in 1979 who granted Peter Ashworth's request to construct the structure high enough to ensure a Rushcart's safe passing (and that of the lucky Jockey straddled atop!). Thankful for those who resurrect and maintain traditions that are important in bringing communities together.



As I walk towards Delph the calming sound of running water in the stream accompanies me along the way reminding me of the song based on Psalm 42.

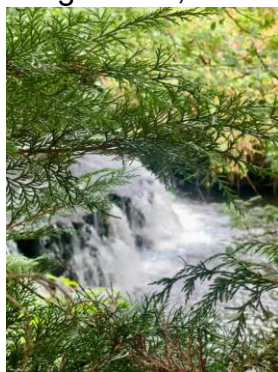
As the deer pants for the water so my soul longs after you;

you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield:

you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Pilgrimage has become more and more popular in recent years, suggesting there is a general longing or searching for something more, even if lots of people might not necessarily describe that searching as a longing for God. This Pilgrimage has been helping me to become more aware of God's presence each day in the ordinary things of life, for which I am thankful.



Arrived in Delph. Praying for clergy, churchwardens and congregation here at St Thomas' Delph. Praying for Laura Tebay too, the ManDio Growing Faith Deanery Enabler for Oldham and Ashton Deanery who has worked Ken St Anne's Royton school and St Luke's Chadderton School and who worships here at St Thomas'. Thankful for her ministry. Praying for all St Delph Methodist Church too.



Retracing my steps back along the same road as I head to Holy Trinity Dobcross.

Praying for all involved with Millgate Arts Centre.

Because I've walked this path a short while ago I find I can settle into a steady rhythm of walking which leads to prayer. Good for body, mind and soul.



Praying for the clergy, churchwardens and congregation at Holy Trinity Dobcross.

Holding all the ministry teams across the Saddleworth Benefice in prayer as they prepare for Revd Sachin's move to pastures new and they await the appointment of a new Team Rector and in time a new Team Vicar.



Walking back into Uppermill reflecting on this day's pilgrimage walk as I look at the reflections in the still water. Still water obviously reflects best and I wonder if I reflect God's love and light better when I have taken time to be still in the presence of the Lord.

I have walked 6.51 miles today and we have reached St Paul's Jarrow! 76.41 miles to Lindisfarne!



We arrived spiritually yesterday at St Paul's Church Jarrow and the remains of the medieval monastery. Praying for The Revd Lesley Jones and the churchwardens and the congregation at St Paul's. St Paul's has a sculpture of St Bede and One of The Risen Christ sculpted by Fenwick Lawson- we saw his work at Durham Cathedral and in Durham too. Fenwick Lawson sadly died earlier this year and his funeral was held at Durham Cathedral.

There are two pilgrimage routes from Jarrow, The Way of Learning from Jarrow to Durham giving thanks for the learning made possible due to Venerable Bede

https://www.thisisdurham.com/.../The_Way_of_Learning...

The other pilgrimage route Bede's Way connects the twin monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow <https://www.britishpilgrimage.org/.../st-pauls-church...>

Parts of the 7th-century church have survived for over 1,300 years and form part of the present church, which is still a place of worship.

The chancel of today's church is partly Anglo-Saxon in date, when it was a free-standing church. It was the smaller of two monastic churches that stood in line. The stone used to build these churches was probably reused from a nearby Roman site.

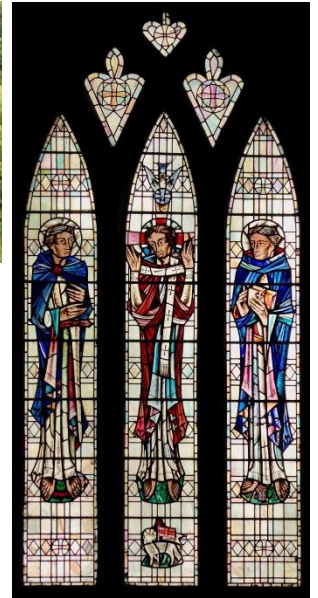
The remains of the larger of the two churches now lie under the nave (not in the care of English Heritage), a rebuilding of the 1860s by George Gilbert Scott.

High in the south wall of the chancel are three small original windows, which once contained fine Anglo-Saxon coloured glass. Fragments of glass recovered during the excavations have been reinstated in the central window.

The churches are joined by a tower which was built in stages between the 9th and the 12th centuries. Inside the church is the original dedication stone, the oldest in England.

All the standing masonry on the site within English Heritage guardianship is Norman or later. The east wall of the west range still stands, preserving a triangular-headed doorway; the north wall of the south range, including the refectory (which was never completed) and a fragment of its east wall survive.

The ground plans of the two 7th-century buildings revealed during the 1960s excavations are marked by stone setts.



Day fifty three 22nd July

4.9 miles

Today the church celebrates Mary Magdalene.

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus' followers. Probably from Magdala by the Sea of Galilee, she is described as having been healed by Jesus before accompanying him during his ministry. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was privileged with the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples. This commission earned her the title 'Apostle to the Apostles' in the early Church. Some of the pictures are from the church in Magdala, the boat is the altar.

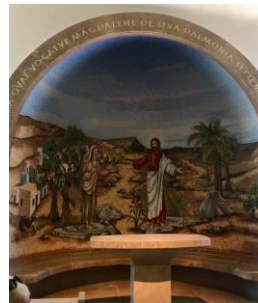
Collect for Mary Magdalene

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Mary Magdalene by Malcolm Guite

Men called you light so as to load you down,
And burden you with their own weight of sin,
A woman forced to cover and contain
Those seven devils sent by Everyman.
But one man set you free and took your part
One man knew and loved you to the core
The broken alabaster of your heart
Revealed to Him alone a hidden door,
Into a garden where the fountain sealed,
Could flow at last for him in healing tears,
Till, in another garden, he revealed
The perfect Love that cast out all your fears,
And quickened you
with love's own sway and swing,
As light and lovely as the news you bring.



Spiritually we are now on the way to Newcastle Cathedral. Today I am walking from St Margaret's Hollinwood to Hollinwood Crematorium and St John's Failsworth.

Fr Tom saw me wandering around his churchyard in my cassock and came out to see what I was up to! He wishes us well with our pilgrimage!

Praying for Fr Tom and all at St Margaret's Hollinwood and the parish they serve!



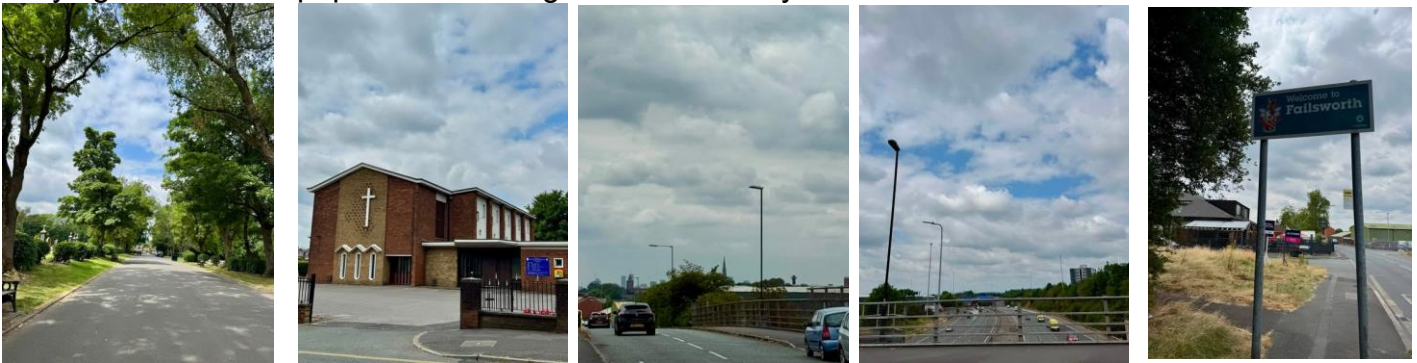
Arrived at Hollinwood Crematorium. At St Matthew's today we were privileged to hold the funeral for 101 year old Eunice, a member of Mothers' Union for over 60 years, and commend her to God. We now gathered at the Crematorium to say our final farewells. Giving thanks for her life and praying for her family and all who mourn her. Praying for Derek and Lee at the Crematorium and giving thanks for the ministry they offer there. Giving thanks too for Lee's care and skill in looking after the flowers and plants around the chapel. They are abundantly beautiful and provide colour, brightness and hope for those going through a dark time.



Walking now from Hollinwood Crematorium towards St John's Failsworth down Roman Road.

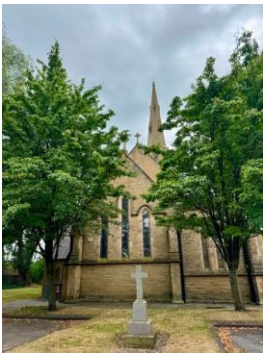
Praying for the other churches in Failsworth, two of which are pictured here.

Praying for staff and pupils at Newbridge Multi Academy Trust.



Arrived at St John's Failsworth. Praying for Revd Aysha St Giles, as she prepares to retire at the end of August, earlier than she had hoped or anticipated. Praying for the Churchwardens and the PCC and congregation as they prepare to say their goodbyes and prepare for an interregnum. Prayers for good endings and new beginnings.

As I leave St John's and walk down Oldham Road praying for the Salvation Army and the Methodist Church and for the work they do in the community.



Walking past Housing Units then back over the motorway and back towards St Margaret's Hollinwood. The painted lady butterfly was resting on a butterfly bush on the side of the road, a symbol of resurrection and hope.

This beautiful prayer by St John Henry Newman is one I often use at a funerals, and we prayed it today. It is often used as an evening prayer.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

I have walked 4.9 miles and spiritually we are only 1.3 miles away from Newcastle Cathedral.

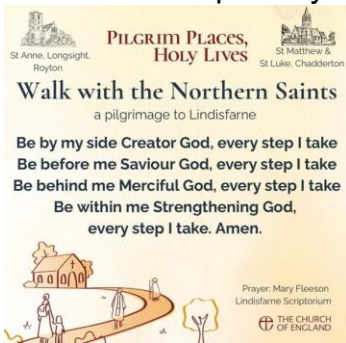


Day fifty four 23RD July

11.75 miles

I set off as the church clock struck 6am at St Anne's Lydgate this morning, to walk around the final 4 churches in the Oldham part of the Oldham Ashton Deanery. A circular route from St Anne's Lydgate to Christchurch Friezland, St Mary's Greenfield and Kilngreen Church Diggle ending back at St Anne's Lydgate. Praying for the Saddleworth clergy team, the churchwardens at St Anne's and the congregation here and the parish they serve.

There was a very light drizzle and mist this morning, meaning the magnificent view you usually see from here was partially obscured.



On of the things I have loved about walking on this pilgrimage is that you see things you wouldn't usually see and you learn so much about the history of the place.

It was wonderful to see that the beginnings of female emancipation began in the field next to St Anne's church where it was recorded that women were given the opportunity to vote in a political

meeting for the first time. It was 100 years later when The Representation of the People Act 1918 gave the right for women over the age of 30 with a property qualification the right to vote and another 10 years before the Equal Franchise Act 1928 achieved for women the same voting rights as men. Giving thanks for those women and men who fought for our right to vote. Praying for the forthcoming Manchester Mayoral Elections, for the candidates and that as many as possible will exercise that hard fought for right to vote.



Walking down towards Christchurch Friezland. Thankful that I am walking down these steep hills! Praying for staff and pupils at Friezland Primary School and for the children and staff who will be attending the holiday club over the next few weeks.

Three sunflowers standing tall and brightening the way. "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow. It's what the sunflowers do." – Helen Keller.



I arrived at Christchurch Friezland. Praying for the Saddleworth team clergy, the churchwardens at Friezland and the congregation and the parish they serve. Praying for Matt Carson, who worships at Christchurch and is the Oldham and Ashton Deanery Eco Champion. Praying for our own churches at St Matthew's and St Anne's as we continue on the Eco Church journey.



Walking from Friezland over to Greenfield.

Colourful plants in pots brightened this dull, drizzly day.

A beautiful white snapdragon growing out of the cracks in the mortar in the wall. Beauty flourishing in the most inhospitable and unlikely places through persistence.

"Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer."

Romans 12:12



As I walked along Chew Valley Road it was still difficult to see the hills which surround Greenfield because of the low lying mist.

Praying for all at Greenfield Methodist Church.

The smile rocks did make me smile when I saw them! When I got home I looked up "Greenfield smile rocks" and discovered local artist Rachel Fish began painting them in lockdown and since then there have been remembrance rocks and valentines rocks amongst others!

Giving thanks for those who use their creativity to bring people together.

Good to see the spire of St Mary's Greenfield up ahead.



I arrived at St Mary's Greenfield. Praying for the Saddleworth team clergy, the churchwardens and the congregation at St Mary's.

Walking back through Greenfield, retracing my steps and saw a whole rack of smiles I'd not seen earlier! When we walk the same path again we often see things differently.

I walked back to the bridleway to go to Uppermill on my way to Kilngreen Church Diggle.



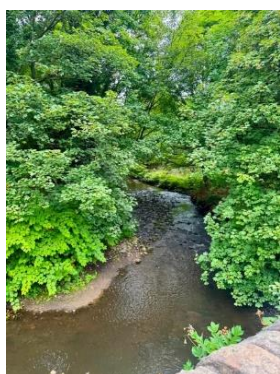
I have never walked along the bridleway before and wasn't sure what it would be like underfoot (I only had my sandals on!) or where I would end up so I was a little apprehensive. Praying for all setting off on new and unexplored paths in life, those starting new jobs, starting new schools or university or those embarking on retirement.

I arrived in Uppermill near the Parish centre. Praying for the administrator for the Saddleworth team and for those who tend to the community garden.



I walked through Uppermill towards the Limekiln Cafe and walked down to the canal. I thought I could walk to Diggle along the towpath but wasn't sure, so I asked a dog walker if I could get to Kilngreen Church along the canal. Richard, and Bob the cocker spaniel then accompanied me some of the way towards Diggle and gave me clear instructions of how to get to the church! One of the joys of pilgrimage is the people you meet along the way and the companionship of those who walk alongside you for a while. It was really good to walk with Richard and Bob for a while. Richard worships at St Chad's Uppermill and is part of the ministry team for the family services there. Praying for all involved in children's and family worship and ministry across the Saddleworth Benefice.

Praying too for the staff and pupils at St Chad's primary school who had their end of term service at St Chad's church today. Bob was very proud of his big branch! Thanks to Richard and Bob for their help and companionship today.



Continuing down the canal towpath towards Diggle. A family of ducks swam past. The ducklings were keeping very close to their mum for protection. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." Psalm 91:4



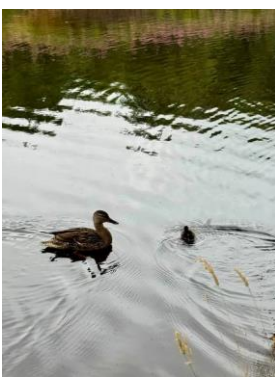
I arrived at Kilngreen Church Diggle, praying for the Saddleworth clergy team, the churchwardens and congregation and the community they serve. Praying for those who tend the community garden.



It is 25 years since the Huddersfield Narrow Canal was re-opened. Giving thanks for all who worked so hard to make that possible. Praying for Friends of Stanedge, Huddersfield Canal Society and Canal & River Trust.



I had walked along this part of the canal once already but I walked on the opposite towpath. It looked different walking the other way and I reached a lock near Uppermill and couldn't work out how to go further on. It looked like the towpath and come to an end. I turned round and looked for a path to come off the towpath and on to the road. I walked quite a way back until I met another dog walker and asked her. She couldn't understand why I hadn't just walked straight on! I retraced my steps again and when I reached the point o thought was blocked realised there were steps down to the next part of the tow path! I don't know how I couldn't see them! It added at least a mile on to my journey! Praying for those struggling to see a way forward, or for those struggling to see what is right in front of them!



Walking towards the Saddleworth viaduct, under a number of tunnels. I love the reflections the mouths of the tunnels make and the way that it frames what lies ahead. On this pilgrimage I use photography to tell a story and as a focus for prayer. When I take a photo it can help me focus on something more clearly, or it can help me reflect on why I have framed a photograph in a certain way- thinking about what I have included and what I have deliberately left out of the frame. The art of photography can help to lead me into prayer or help me reflect on a prayer time later. Have you ever tried to use photography as a way to help you pray?



Walking along a part of the canal I am familiar with from walking here with my children when they were little. Many happy memories of walking with them and my friend and her children during the summer holidays and walking across the stepping stones to the park.

Praying for all parents and carers during these summer holidays, for those struggling to think of what to do with their children, those worried about finances and the strain the holidays might put them under. Walking by the statue of Ammon Wrigley, poet and historian. Praying for all poets. Prayers for Malcolm Guite, Tom Branfoot- Manchester Cathedral's Writer in Residence and Rachel Mann, former Archdeacon of Salford, and writer and poet in her retirement.



Walking back through Greenfield and I made a mistake listening to my map on my phone and walked back down to Friezland. It meant I saw Christchurch in the sunshine instead of the drizzly mist though! I realised too that I would have to walk back up the very steep hill back to Lydgate! I had been so relieved earlier that I was walking down it!

Earlier on this pilgrimage we have used Psalm 121 in our prayer- one of the Psalms of Ascent. One of the 15 psalms recited by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem. As we near the final stages of this pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, and we go up the East coast of England and I physically go up this hill today we can reflect on another of the Psalms of Ascent in our prayer.

Psalm 122

I rejoiced with those who said to me

"Let us go to the house of the Lord.

"Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.

That is where the tribes go up—

the tribes of the Lord—

to praise the name of the Lord

according to the statute given to Israel.

There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May those who love you be secure.

May there be peace within your walls



and security within your citadels.”
 For the sake of my family and friends,
 I will say, “Peace be within you.
 ” For the sake of the
 house of the Lord our God,
 I will seek your prosperity.

I arrived back at St Anne's Lydgate just as
 the children from St Anne's school were
 leaving their end of year service in church.

Praying for staff and pupils at St Anne's at the end of this school year.

The view was much clearer now than it had been first thing this morning. It was worth the climb back
 up that hill! The wildflowers were so beautiful in the churchyard.

On a lane close to the church, I spotted some Lego buildings, including a Lego church! I have walked
 11.75 miles today, meaning we have reached Newcastle Cathedral and are now well on our way to St
 Cuthbert's Bedlington.



We have arrived at
 Newcastle
 Cathedral on our
 pilgrimage map.
 Praying for the
 Dean, The Very
 Revd Lee Batson,
 the Canon for
 Mission, The
 Reverend Canon

Zoe Heming and the Canon for Worship & Congregational Life, The Reverend Canon Ruth Hulse and
 all the Cathedral Chapter and the worshipping community. Praying for the Cathedral community and
 the Newcastle Diocese LGBTQ+ Chaplaincy who throughout July have been working together to
 provide hospitality and support for those preparing for and attending Newcastle Pride this weekend-
 25th and 26th July. Praying for Lead Chaplain Revd Emma Duff and Volunteer Chaplains David
 Casati and Izzy McDonald-Booth who available to support LGBTQI+ people and their loved ones.



Day fifty five 24th July

3.75 miles

Today is my rest day but the pilgrimage continues. We are now on the way to St Cuthbert Bedlington spiritually but today Winnie and I went to Dunham Massey Ice Cream Farm to look at the sunflowers and the Maize Maze.

During the day young sunflowers plants track the sun from east to west, then in the night they turn east again to wait for the rising sun. They follow the light of the sun. Adult sunflowers settle down and just face East. On this pilgrimage I have loved it when I have been able to walk into the rising or setting sun and face the light, like the sunflowers. Like the young sunflowers, following the light of the sun, may we turn to, and follow, the light of the Son each day of our lives.

"Be like the sunflower that follows every movement of the sun, and keep your eyes always turned towards our good God." St Julie Billiart



"The Sunflowers" Mary Oliver

Come with me
into the field of sunflowers.
Their faces are burnished disks,
their dry spines
creak like ship masts,
their green leaves,
so heavy and many,
fill all day with the sticky
sugars of the sun.
Come with me
to visit the sunflowers,
they are shy

but want to be friends;
they have wonderful stories
of when they were young –
the important weather,
the wandering crows.
Don't be afraid
to ask them questions!
Their bright faces,
which follow the sun,
will listen, and all
those rows of seeds –
each one a new life!

hope for a deeper acquaintance;
each of them, though it stands



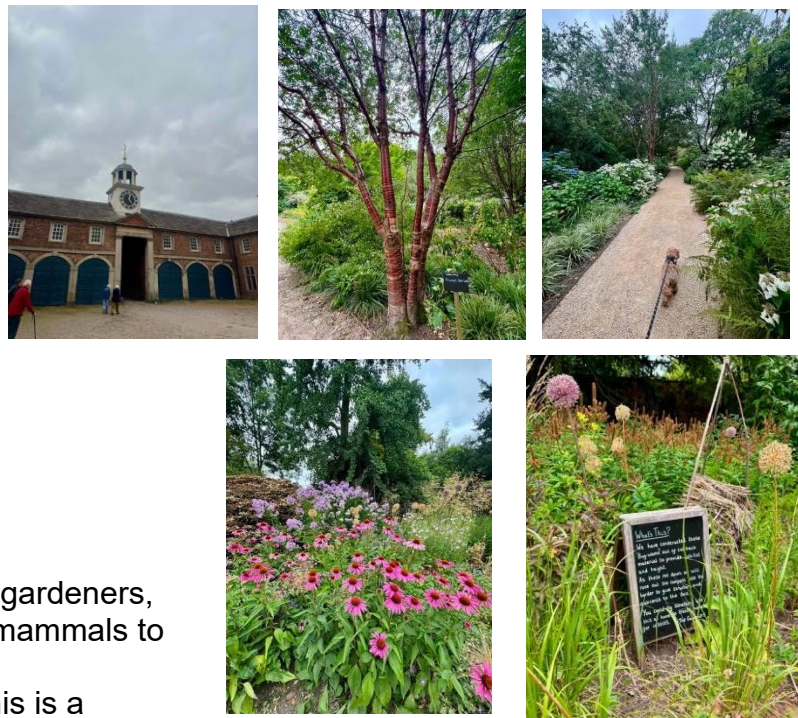
in a crowd of many,
like a separate universe,
is lonely, the long work
of turning their lives
into a celebration
is not easy. Come

and let us talk with those modest faces,
the simple garments of leaves,
the coarse roots in the earth
so uprightly burning.



Winnie and I then went to one of our favourite places to visit, whatever the season, Dunham Massey. I love the mahogany red bark on this Tibetan Cherry tree which shines in the sun, and looks just as beautiful in the winter. The "bug wams" in the beautiful border of cornflowers and alliums, is something we could perhaps construct in the church grounds, as part of our commitment to being "Eco Churches" creating habitats for insects and nutrients for the soil. The gardeners at Dunham Massey invite us to try this at home too.

Everlasting God, whose Spirit broods
everlastingly over the lands and the waters,
and endows them with form and colour:
give us, we pray, the mind and heart
to rejoice in the majesty of creation.
Teach us to be responsible
stewards of this world
and to seek the common good,
that through your blessing all may flourish,
and creation sing your praise
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Prayer by the Rt Revd Robert Atwell,
Former Bishop of Exeter
and former Chair of the Liturgical Commission



Some more advice from the Dunham Massey gardeners,
about leaving water out for insects and small mammals to
rehydrate in the warm weather.

The rose garden looked magnificent today. This is a
favourite place to sit and contemplate and pray.
This space reminds me, in how it makes me feel,
rather than how it looks,
of Gertrude Jekyll's garden on Lindisfarne.
Another place I can
"waste time gracefully" in prayer.

The words of Dorothy Frances Gurney,
which I first became aware of in the garden
of Whalley Abbey when I saw them carved
into a stone in the garden there,
always come to mind.

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."

Is there a place where you particularly feel close to God's heart?





As I have been walking on this pilgrimage, I have found that I have been able to still my mind and my spirit more easily and it has refreshed my prayer life.

Sometimes as I walk I recite a Bible verse or prayer over and over. Try using the words from Psalm 46:10 as a prayer, repeat the words and over time remove a word or words until you are left with the word be. Each phrase can help us to reflect more deeply and in a different way about relationship with God.

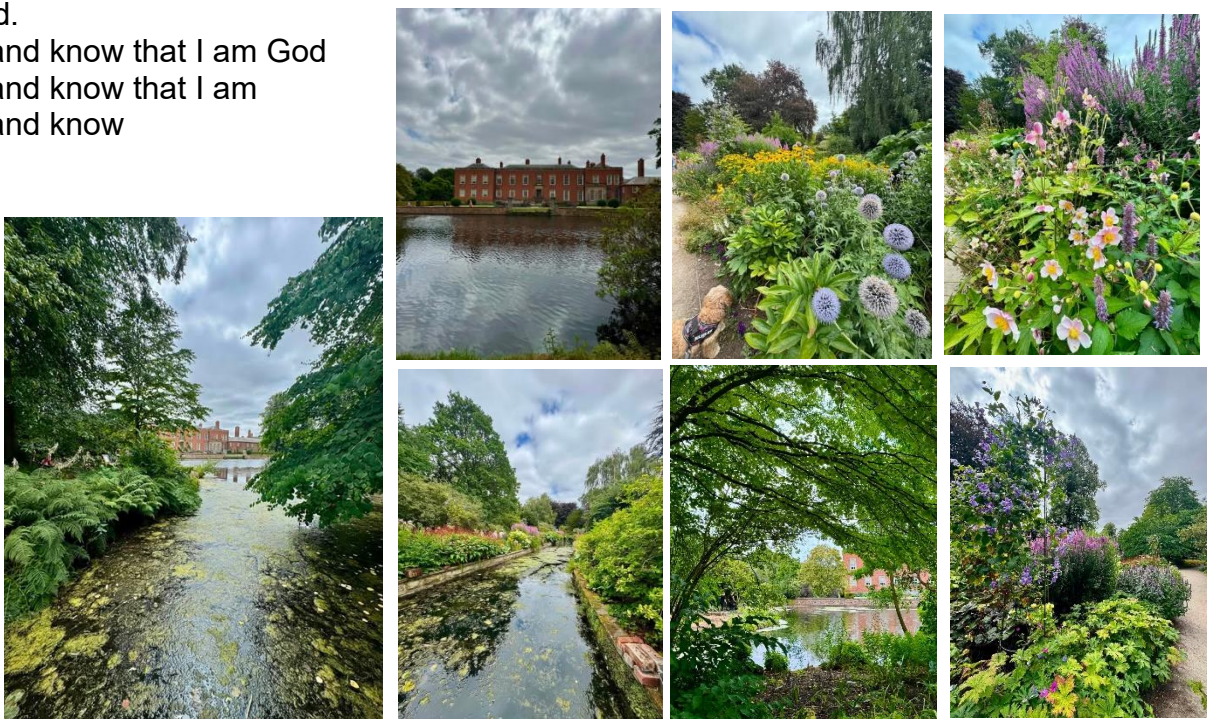
Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

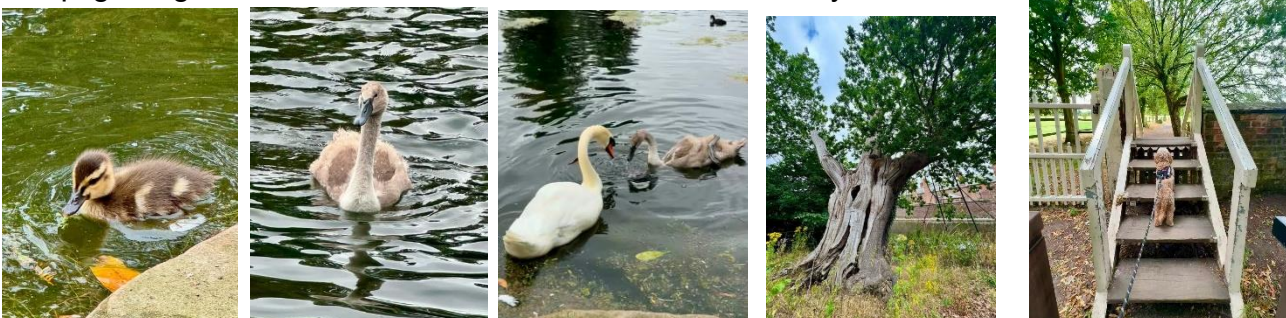
Be still

Be



The ducklings and the cygnet were drawing quite a crowd by the lake. The mothers were very There are images of God as a mother caring for his children in the Bible. "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

"How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings" Luke 13:34 Winnie loved exploring, always wanting to see more. We can perhaps learn from her! The old oak tree stands a symbol stability and constancy. Thankful for this time to be. Today Winnie and I walked 3.5 miles. We have now reached St Cuthbert's Bedlington and our next stop on this pilgrimage of the heart to Lindisfarne is Alnmouth Friary.



We have arrived at St Cuthbert's Bedlington. Praying for Revd Helen Young, licensed just 2 weeks ago as Vicar of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn.

St Cuthbert's Church in Bedlington can be dated back to the 10th Century and was built on the site of an earlier church. The remains of St. Cuthbert rested here in 1069, when they were temporarily removed from Durham Cathedral for sanctuary following the Norman Conquest. The first recorded incumbent of St Cuthbert's was Eilaf, who is thought to have been one of the seven monks who left Holy Island in 875 carrying Cuthbert's body. We are 22.06 miles away from our next stop which is Alnmouth Friary.



Day fifty six 25th July 3.4 miles

Walking through Royton to Low Crompton Road to get some flowers.

On this day when the church celebrates St James the Apostle, praying for those church communities dedicated to St James. Praying for Fr Lewis and all at St James, Barry Street and Fr Paul and all at St James Thornham and St East Crompton- all churches we have visited and prayed for on this pilgrimage. Walking through Royton to Low Crompton Road to get some flowers. On this day when the church celebrates St James the Apostle, praying for those church communities dedicated to St James. Praying for Fr Lewis and all at St James, Barry Street and Fr Paul and all at St James Thornham and St East Crompton- all churches we have visited and prayed for on this pilgrimage.

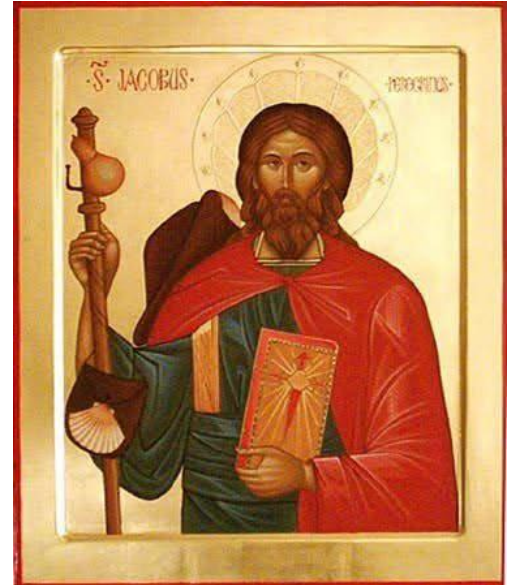


St James the Apostle

James, often called 'the Great, was a Galilean fisherman who, with his brother John, was one of the first apostles called by Jesus to follow him. The two brothers were with Jesus at his Transfiguration and with him again in the garden of Gethsemane. They annoyed the other followers of Jesus by asking to sit one on his left and the other on his right when he came into his glory and they were present for the appearances of Christ after the resurrection. James was put to death by the sword on the order of Herod Agrippa, who hoped in vain that, by disposing of the Christian leaders, he could stem the flow of those hearing the good news and becoming followers in the Way. James' martyrdom is believed to have taken place in the year 44

Collect for St James

Merciful God,
whose holy apostle Saint James,
leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling
of your Son Jesus Christ
and followed him even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions
of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen



The legend

According to ancient legend, the Iberian Peninsula formed part of the lands where the Apostle Saint James preached Christianity. After he was beheaded in 44 AD, tradition says that his disciples took the body of the saint by boat to Galicia, one of the Spanish lands he preached in.

The difficult times during the early years of Christianity and the fact that most of the northern part of the peninsula was sparsely populated would have meant that the exact location of the burial site would have fallen into oblivion. However, around the year 820 remains were found which were attributed by the ecclesiastic and civil authorities to be those of Saint James the Greater. This event, which took place in remote Galician woodland, would give rise to the founding of the present day city of Santiago de Compostela.



Santiago became the attractive goal of a pilgrimage that would, over the centuries, lead pilgrims from all walks of life and via the most diverse itineraries, to the tomb of the only apostle of Jesus, along with Saint Peter in Rome, who is buried on European soil.

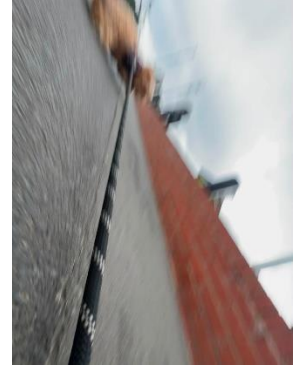
This iconic shell symbol represents the different routes of the Camino de Santiago coming together in one place, the city of Santiago de Compostela. It is also used as a waymarker along the routes to

show walkers and pilgrims that they are on the right path (the shell serving as an arrow), helping everyone who walks the route stay on the right path.

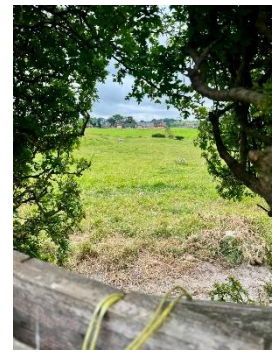


When I arrive on Lindisfarne at the end of my pilgrimage you walk past the Belvue Guesthouse. The owner of the property has walked 700 miles along the Camino on different routes in the last few years and has placed the shell there as a link to their own journey and that of the many thousands who walk as pilgrims to Lindisfarne - including me!

Walking back the same route from the florist. Praying for St Matthew's and St Anne's as we prepare to meet tomorrow for our Sunday Eucharist. St Anne's will be celebrating their Patronal Festival as 26 July is the Feast of St Anne and Joachim, Jesus' Grandma and Grandad. Praying for all in our congregations. As I neared home, and after I have walked almost 40 miles this week, I tripped on a hole in the pavement outside Co-op Royton and went full length. I apparently took a picture as I went down! Thankfully I held on to Winnie but the flowers went flying! My left wrist and my knees came worse off.



It's the first fall in 272.14 miles- so I've not done too bad I suppose! There have been places I've been more likely to fall though than outside the Co-op! 39.37 miles walked this week. If I'd not fallen I would have been tempted to round it up to 40, but I won't! We are still on the way to Alnmouth Friary.



I have walked 272.14 miles in the last 8 weeks, and we have 52.86 miles to go before we reach Lindisfarne. I will be walking and sharing pictures, prayers and reflections for another 2 weeks until 9 August. I then, will hopefully, just have a few miles left to walk to Lindisfarne by the 9th August.

Between 10th August and 29th August there will be pilgrim prayers shared on social media, Saints days will be remembered and reminders of how to sponsor the pilgrimage will be shared too.

On 30th August, the day before St Aidan's Day, at St Matthew's and St Anne's we will celebrate St Aidan in our Sunday morning Eucharist and share prayers of thanksgiving for the pilgrimage.

Then on St Aidan's Day, on the 31st August, I will walk the last few miles of the pilgrimage and finish the pilgrimage at St Aidan's Church, Sudden, Rochdale where prayers will be said as we finish our pilgrimage of the heart to Lindisfarne. On Sunday 30th August I will let people know what time I expect to set off to St Aidan's and give a rough estimated time of arrival so that if some people wish they may like to walk the last few miles of the pilgrimage with me (approximately 5 miles) or may wait to greet me at St Aidan's.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement thus far, it has helped to spur me on when I have struggled to find the energy and motivation to continue!

With love and prayers Revd Liz

The Pilgrim Posts at Sunset.

