

walk with the northern saints - a pilgrimage to lín dísfarne



tríntý sunday to st aídán's day
31st may-31st august 2026
week 10

week 9

In Week 9 I walked around Royton and Chadderton, and I went to my old church St John the Evangelist Hurst and Holy Trinity Bardsley, around Rochdale and RHS Bridgewater

Spiritually we journeyed to Alnmouth Friary and then to Holy Trinity Embleton. Our next stop is St Aidan's Bamburgh.

week 10

This last week we journeyed spiritually to St Aidan's Bamburgh and to The Holy Island of Lindisfarne! We have arrived!

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.

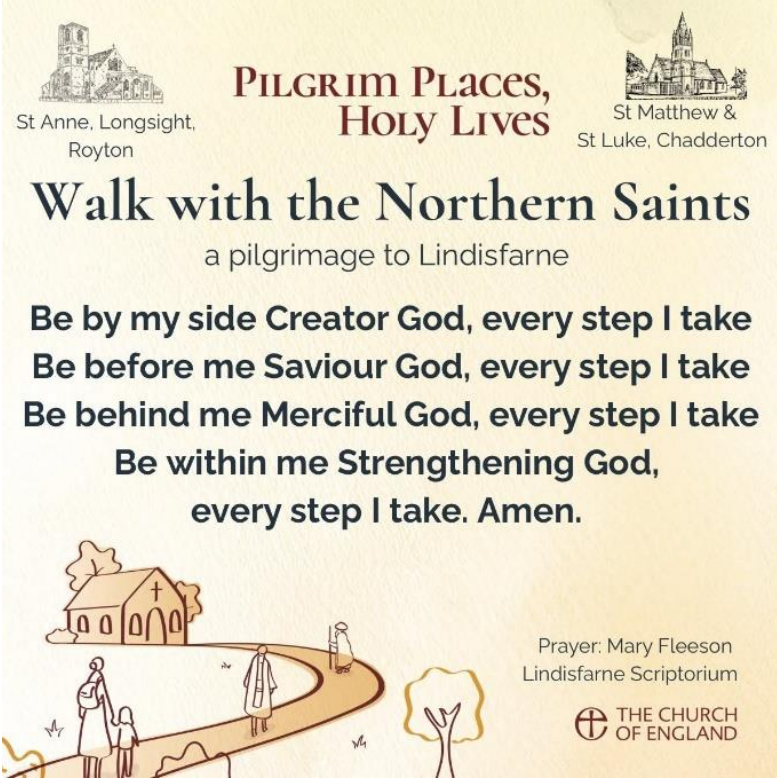
To sponsor Revd Liz and donate to **St Matthew and St Luke Chadderton and Dr Kershaw's Hospice** via our secure portal please click [here](#).

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



The poster features a light beige background with a central title and prayer text. At the top left is a small illustration of a church labeled 'St Anne, Longsight, Royton'. At the top right is a small illustration of a church labeled 'St Matthew & St Luke, Chadderton'. The main title 'PILGRIM PLACES, HOLY LIVES' is in a serif font. Below it, 'Walk with the Northern Saints' is in a larger serif font, followed by 'a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne' in a smaller sans-serif font. The prayer text is in a bold sans-serif font. At the bottom left is a simple line drawing of a church with a cross on its roof, and a path leads from it towards the right. At the bottom right is the text 'Prayer: Mary Fleeson Lindisfarne Scriptorium' and the logo of 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'.

St Anne, Longsight, Royton

PILGRIM PLACES, HOLY LIVES

St Matthew & St Luke, Chadderton

Walk with the Northern Saints
a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

**Be by my side Creator God, every step I take
Be before me Saviour God, every step I take
Be behind me Merciful God, every step I take
Be within me Strengthening God,
every step I take. Amen.**

Prayer: Mary Fleeson
Lindisfarne Scriptorium

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

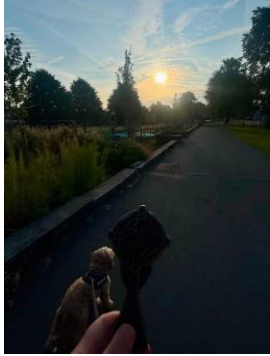
Day sixty four 2nd august trinity 9 3.54 miles

The sun was shining brightly this morning and there were crosses in the sky!

The third verse of our second hymn this morning at both churches comes to mind:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk,
Till trav'ling days are done.



It struck me that most of today's walk to St Matthew's from St Anne's can be through public footpaths and wooded areas- we are blessed with so much natural beauty so close by.

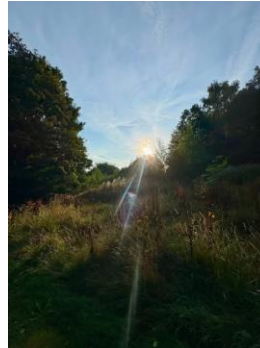
Praying for the congregation at St Matthew's as we prepare to worship together this morning. Praying for those in our congregation who are ill at this time.



The light was beautiful this morning. We emerged from the public footpath onto Stretbridge then we walked up through the Life for a Life Memorial Forrest at Mill Brow. Praying for Susan who was laid to rest yesterday at St Matthew's and for her family.

I love the path of light on the fourth picture and the way the light catches the tree trunk. There are a number of Northern Saints pilgrimage routes around Durham. One pilgrimage route is called The Way of Light- it is from Heavenfield to Durham Cathedral. Revd James Shelton, the Director of the Cuthbert Centre for Pilgrimage and Prayer at Durham Cathedral, is holding a retreat later this month, where participants will embark on this pilgrimage.

He said: "This new journey creates space for people to slow down, walk together, and encounter God in new ways." I pray our pilgrimage will achieve the same.

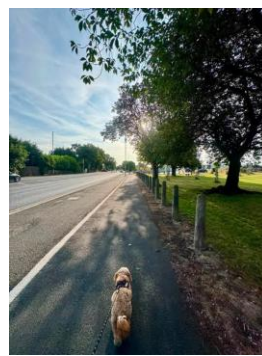


We arrived at St Matthew's which looked beautiful in the early morning sunshine.
The Song of Creation from Morning Prayer

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord you heavens:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all people on earth:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
O people of God bless the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.
The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65



Walking back to St Anne's and praying for Holly and Beatrix to be baptised at St Anne's this afternoon. Beatrix and her mum and dad, Michelle and Peter and Beatrix worship with us on Wednesday evening and I had the privilege of marrying Michelle and Peter a few years ago. Praying for their family. I have walked 3.54 miles today and we are spiritually on our way to St Aidan's Bamburgh just 3.87 miles away.



day sixty five

3RD august

miles

Winnie was glad she was included in today's pilgrimage walk! We set off on Pit Lane, near St James Thornham School, as the sun was just breaking through the clouds. The honeysuckle was out in abundance. The tree in the middle of the field looked beautiful. I'm reminded of the Gospel on Sunday, "Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches'" Matthew 13:31-32



I am thankful for this pilgrimage. If I had not undertaken this I probably wouldn't have come out for a walk at lunchtime. I hope the habit of walking regularly, and using the time to pray and contemplate will stay with me when the pilgrimage is over.

I love the lines from T S Eliot's Little Gidding,
"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."
I pray that at the end of this pilgrimage,
I will return from it with my eyes and ears
and heart opened to God's call in my life
and in the lives of my churches. pilgrimage might
transform how I live and
work and pray. I pray that those who have
followed this journey on social media
and in prayer, might too have a greater
awareness of God in all things and
perhaps a broader definition of what prayer is.



We reached the end of Pit Lane and walked down into High Crompton.

The honeysuckle here at the side of the road is already festooned with the bright red berries.

As I walked near the park I bumped into my fellow pilgrim Lynda, from St Anne's, who undertook to walk 200 miles- she has already "arrived" at Lindisfarne (the direct route distance to Lindisfarne). She has personally raised an incredible £500. Giving thanks for her commitment and tenacity!

Winnie posed in the park on the stone which was always said to be a meteorite when I was a child! Apparently, there is a rock in Alexandra Park in Oldham which people similarity were told was a meteorite too! It's interesting how stories are passed down in communities.



We walked through the park and Winnie knocked on for Grandma and Grandad but she was disappointed to find they weren't in. Someone the other day commented that Winnie always seems to know where she is going. She did today- she eeaids where she was and dragged me over to their house!

Walked down to Thornham Road with the fantastic views over Manchester. Each time I have walked this way I have looked at St Anne's church and last time I thought I saw it. I don't think I did really though because I have realised today, that I have been looking in the wrong place- it's been right in front of me all the time!

I am reminded of a story Anthony de Mello, an Indian Jesuit priest, tells of a little fish searching for this magical, beautiful, adventurous place he has heard about called the ocean. He kept swimming trying to find it, searching and searching but to no avail. He became increasingly frustrated because he couldn't find The Ocean anywhere he looked. The little fish finally mustered up enough courage to

approach an older and bigger fish to ask for help. "Excuse me sir", said the little fish. "You are older than I, so can you tell me where to find this thing called The Ocean?" "Why little fish", said the older fish, "The Ocean is where you and I are and what you are swimming in right now; it is all around you." "Oh no", said the little fish who was deeply disappointed, "this is the water and there's nothing special about it at all. What I am looking for is The Ocean!" So the little fish swam away to search elsewhere..



Walking back to the car. School ties on the railings. Praying for all those moving to new schools in September- pupils and staff. Praying too for all those starting their school journey, including my granddaughter!

We have walked 2.54 miles meaning we are 1.33 miles away from St Aidan's Bamburgh.



Day sixty six

4th august

5.85 miles

St Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars



Jean-Baptist Marie Vianney was born in Dardilly near Lyons in 1786, the son of a farmer, and he spent much of his childhood working as a shepherd on his father's farm. He had little formal education but, at the age of twenty, he began studying for the priesthood which he found extremely difficult. Despite his poor academic performance, he was ordained in 1815, mainly because of his devotion and holiness. He served as assistant priest at Ecully and, in 1818, was appointed curé, or parish priest, of the remote, unimportant village of Ars-en-Dombes. From this backwater, his fame was to spread world-wide. His skills in preaching and spiritual counsel earned him a reputation as a discerning and wise priest. His visiting penitents soon numbered three hundred a day. He would preach at eleven o'clock each morning and then spend up to sixteen hours in the confessional, drawing pilgrims from across all of Europe. A Franciscan tertiary who reflected the spirituality of Francis, his compassion and understanding of human weakness often brought him to tears. His love of God and his people ensured that he remained in Ars the rest of his life, despite a call to the religious life and many offers of promotion in the Church. He died on this day in the year 1859. He is the patron saint of Parish Priests.

I set off on my physical walk around Alexandra Park in Oldham and spiritually we journey on towards St Aidan's Bamburgh.

Lots of people "getting their steps" in, and families enjoying the park. You can imagine Victorians and Edwardians promenading in their "Sunday Best" along the wide avenues.

This bronze statue is of John Platt MP who was the owner of Platt Brothers, the largest textile engineering company in the world. He was also responsible for building the School of Science and Art on Union Street next to the Lyceum. His figure is supported by four female figures representing Science, Art, Engineering and Manufacturing.

The statue of Emma the flower girl looks beautiful with the flowers growing from her basket.

The park was built to give the people of Oldham employment during the cotton famine, the land was sold for the Park to be built by The Revd John Thomas Cocker of Shaw and Crompton on the condition that unemployed Oldham cotton workers were employed to build it. The park stands today as a permanent monument to the resilience, dignity, and anti-slavery principles of Oldham's Victorian working class. Giving thanks for this place, and for all it has meant to people, those who built it and those who use it, over the years.

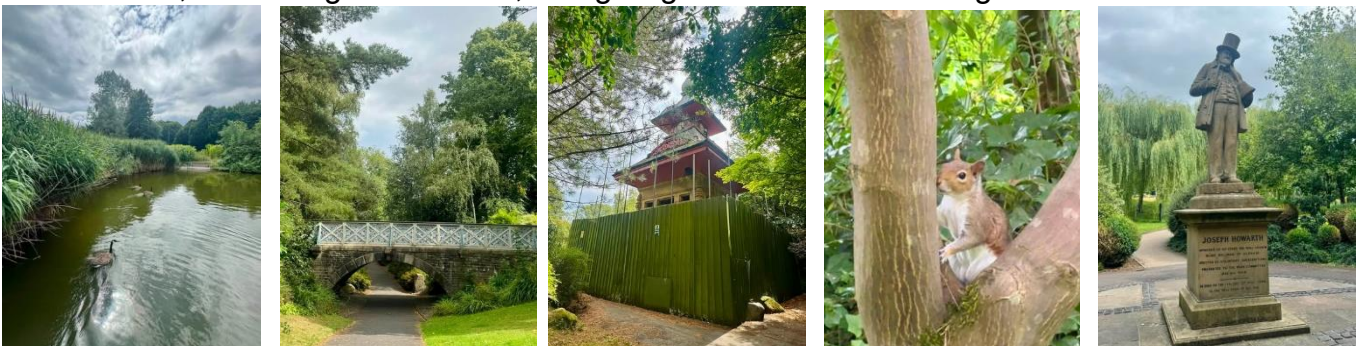


A heron sat in the middle of the lake, in quiet contemplation. I took his lead and stood in contemplation for a while too. "He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul" Psalm 23:2b



There is work being done on the observatory. I was glad Winnie wasn't walking today when I saw the squirrel! The Joseph Howarth statue is the only statue in England where a figure wears a top hat! Joseph Howarth was born in 1786 and worked as the bellman for Oldham from 1820 until 1860. A bellman collected letters for the mail coach by walking the streets ringing a bell. He was a local preacher and recited Bible verses from memory. Joseph was blind from birth and he was the very first Oldhamer to be honoured with a statue.

Praying for people with a visual impairment. Praying for David Southworth, church warden at St John's Hurst, who is registered blind, and giving thanks for all he brings to the life of that church.



Walking through the park, down through the trees at Donnelly's Hollow and past the new Northern Roots complex, which is opening on 19th September. It is set to become the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park. We will be able to visit the Welcome Building, café, shop, Urban Farm and outdoor play and explore 160 acres of wild green space.

Praying for all working on the project and preparing for its opening.



I walked down a path I remember from walking this pilgrimage in 2020. The path will lead me to Park Bridge, where I was a few days ago, when I walked around Hurst and Bardsley.

Today the church celebrates Jean-Baptiste Vkanmey, the Curé d'Ars, the patron saint of parish priests.

Praying for priests who have walked with me on my pilgrimage through life before I was ordained. Remembering and giving thanks for Fr Harry Edwards, Fr Alan Butler, Revd Lindsay Owens, Revd Pam Butler and Fr Philip Miller, especially.



When I reached Park Bridge a group of walkers were taking a timed selfie, and I narrowly avoided photo bombing them!

One of the joys of pilgrimage is the people you meet along the way. They are a walking group called T'Others. They were part of a bigger group which split - hence the name!

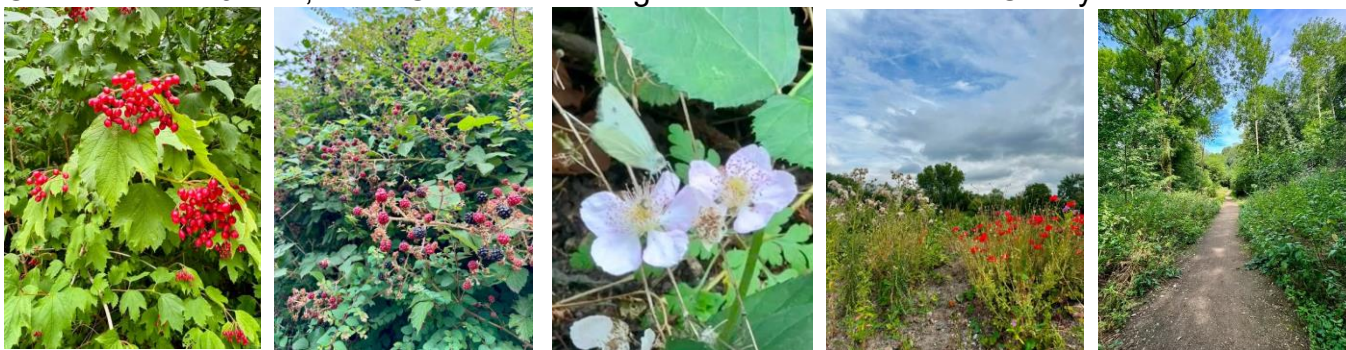
It was good to meet and talk with them and find out one had been to St Matthew's Carol Service last year!

Praying for T'Others as they walk together and giving thanks for the fellowship they share as a group.



Walking back along the path to Alexandra Park. Continuing to pray for priests on this day that the church commemorates Jean-Baptiste Vianney. Praying for priests who were important in my early

years as a priest, particularly remembering Revd James Read, The Venerable David Sharples, Revd Canon Andrea Jones, Revd Canon Kate Burgess and The Most Revd Cherry Vann .



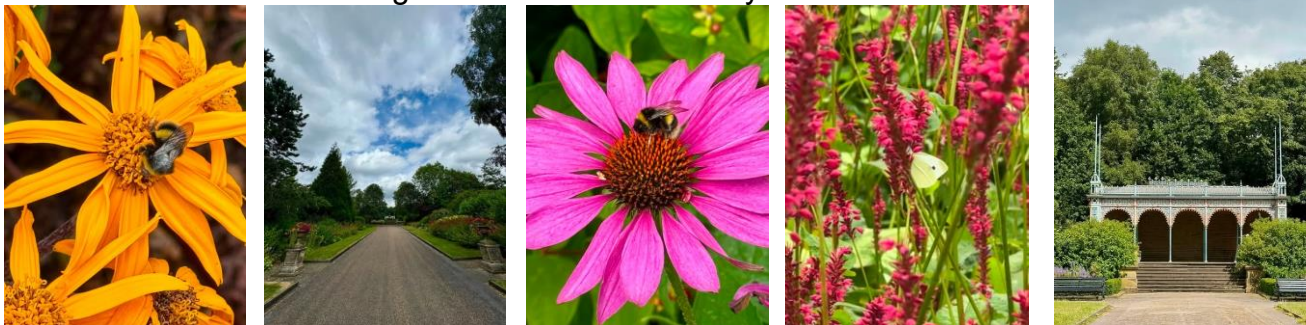
Continuing to pray for priests on this day that the church commemorates Jean-Baptiste Vianney. Praying for priests in our mission community, Fr Lewis, Fr Stephen and Fr Alex. Praying too for Revd Roger Reece, Revd Richard Hawkins, Revd Sue Morgan, Revd Morley Morgan and Revd Ray Morris who worship at our two churches and lead us in worship too.



Continuing to pray for priests on this day that the church commemorates Jean-Baptiste Vianney. Praying for Bishop David, Bishop Mark, Bishop Matthew, Archdeacon Karen Smeeton and Archdeacon Karen Best and Archdeacon Rachel as she begins her retirement.



Continuing to pray for priests on this day that the church commemorates Jean-Baptiste Vianney. Praying for my sister and brother priests in The Society of Catholic Priests, giving thanks for their friendship, fellowship and wisdom! I have walked 4.85 miles today meaning we spiritually we have reached St Aidan's Bamburgh and we are on our way to Lindisfarne!



We have arrived at St Aidan's Bamburgh! A place of worship was founded on this site by St Aidan himself in 635- it has been a place of Christian Worship for almost 1400 years! The site of Aidan's death here is marked with a simple shrine. You can also visit the crypt and find out more about the Bamburgh Bones project <https://bamburghbones.org>
 Praying for the Vicar The Revd Canon Louise Taylor-Kenyon, the associate priest The Revd Phyl Carruthers and the congregation at St Aidan's and the community they serve.
 Our next stop is Lindisfarne!



Beautiful light as sun was setting tonight, after the rain. The refrain for the Psalm Compline tonight is "Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in." and the psalm prayer is: This is Jesus, our companion, when we are driven to despair, help us, through the friends and strangers we encounter on our path, to know you as our refuge, our way, our truth and our life. Amen.
 1 mile walked, 11.48 miles to go.



Day sixty seven

5th august

2.11 miles

St Oswald

He was born into the Northumbrian royal family around 605 but spent much of his youth in exile after his father, King Æthelfrith, was killed. Oswald fled to the monastery kingdom of Iona in Scotland, where he was raised among Irish monks and converted to Christianity.

Years later, Oswald returned to reclaim his kingdom from the pagan ruler Cadwallon ap Cadfan. Before the decisive Battle of Heavenfield, Oswald raised a wooden cross and prayed with his soldiers for Christ's help. Despite being heavily outnumbered, his army won the battle, and Oswald became king.

As ruler, Oswald dedicated himself to restoring Christianity throughout Northumbria. He invited Saint Aidan from Iona to preach to the English people and personally translated Aidan's sermons when needed.

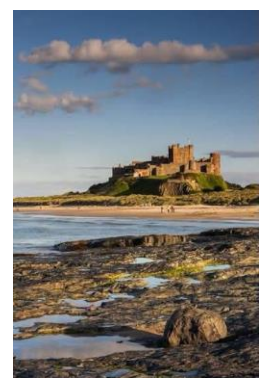
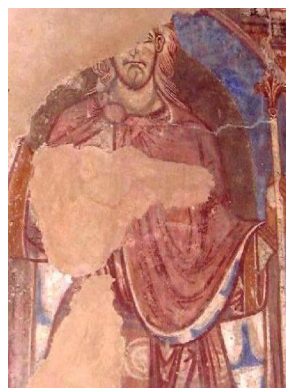
Oswald became known for humility, mercy, and generosity to the poor. According to Bede, during a Paschal feast he gave away food and silver from the royal table to the hungry. Saint Aidan blessed Oswald's right hand afterward, praying that it would never decay.

On this day in 642, Oswald was killed in battle at Maserfield while defending his people against the pagan king Penda of Mercia. Tradition says his final words were prayers for the souls of his soldiers, which is why the phrase "God have mercy on their souls" became associated with him.

After his death, miracles were reported at the place where he fell. Bede records healings connected to the soil soaked with his blood, and Oswald's relics became widely venerated across England and Europe. His incorrupt arm was especially famous.

Saint Oswald is honoured as a martyr, passion-bearer, and ideal Christian king: courageous in battle, humble in spirit, devoted to the Church, and faithful unto death.

St Cuthbert whose shrine is in the Feretory in Durham Cathedral is often pictured in art holding St Oswald's head. In 1104 when Cuthbert's shrine was transferred to Durham Cathedral, Cuthbert's body was found to be incorrupt and with it was St Oswald's head, which had been placed with Cuthbert's body for safety. The stone statue is of St Cuthbert, holding St Oswald's head. Oswald's base was at Bamburgh Castle. We went past Bamburgh Castle on our way to St Aidan's Church yesterday!



An early start from St Matthew's this morning as we spiritually make our way from Bamburgh to Lindisfarne. The bees have loved these flowers all summer! It's been like a bee buffet! As I pass North Chadderton school praying for all waiting for A-Level and GCSE and other examination results in the next couple weeks, as they wait to see which path they will take.



Walking up by Healds Green, and past what is believed to be one of Chadderton's oldest surviving buildings, dating from 1789, the Institute and past the old Methodist chapel. This area was where those from Chadderton making their way to St Peter's Field Manchester met to make their way to the peaceful political demonstration which became the Petwrlloo Massacre. We have discovered more of the history of this event at various point on this pilgrimage. Praying for Chadderton Historical Society who are meeting this evening in Shaw.



I continued walking over the motorway, not knowing where this path was taking me- but I though I could always retrace my steps if I needed to! Praying for Vicky McQuarrie as she is ordained as a Deacon today in Manchester Cathedral, by Bishop David. Praying too for Revd Peter Bennett her training incumbent and the people of Salford, All Saints, amongst whom she will serve.



Beautiful honeysuckle, as I walked and heard the sound of the motorway increasing once more. It's hard to believe it's so close, it is such a lovely place to walk. Praying for Abby Latham-Holt as she is ordained Priest today in Manchester Cathedral by Bishop David. Praying too for Revd Ian Fleming and people of Bury, Roche Valley Benefice where she is currently on placement. I was surprised (as I have often been on this pilgrimage) when I reached the end of the road and realised I was on Streetbridge and I had walked a circular route! Reflecting on times in my life when I have been surprised where paths I have taken have led me.



Walking back to church up through the memorial forest again, and taking a different path to see where I end up this time! I came out on Birch Avenue! Walking back down to Church. Praying for all the groups who usually meet at St Matthew's, that are having a break over the summer including Toddlers, Luncheon Club, Sewing Class and choir. I have walked 2.11 miles this morning, which excitingly means I am now in single figures! Only 9.37 miles to go!!



Day sixty eight the transfiguration

6th august

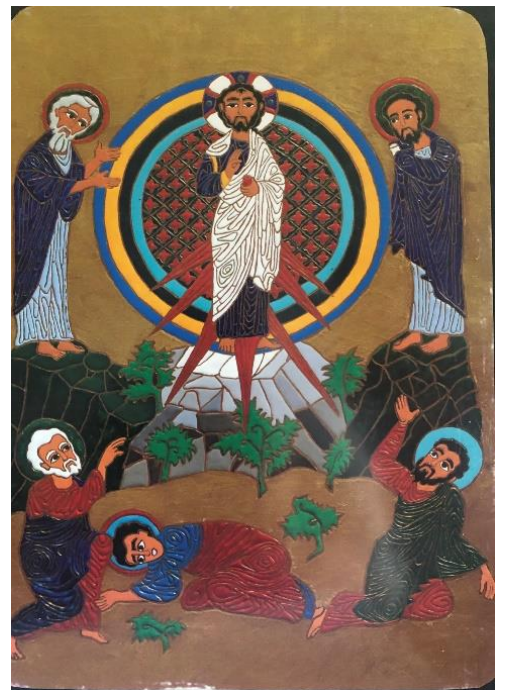
5.87 miles

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mount is told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and Peter refers to it in his Second Epistle. Each time, it is made clear that that is not only the messenger but also the message: God's salvation is for all and Christ is that Saviour. The testimony of the law and the prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah and the event also pre-figures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory

Transfiguration by Malcolm Guite

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

This sonnet is drawn from the collection
Sounding the Seasons, published by Canterbury Press



Father in heaven,
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



My penultimate day of walking, as I make the spiritual journey to Lindisfarne, 9.37 miles away.
On this day that the church celebrates the Transfiguration of our Lord, the sun was shining brightly
through the clouds. Good to pause at **Dr Kershaw's Hospice**, praying for patients, staff and
volunteers.

This pilgrimage has primarily been a way of engaging others in prayer and reflection, encouraging
people in their own prayer life, and enabling people to engage with pilgrimage but it has also been a
way for us to raise money for St Matthew's and St Anne's and Dr Kershaw's Hospice. Each church is
giving 50% of all donations to the pilgrimage to Dr Kershaw's a place so important in our community,
a place filled with light, hope and love.

Please consider donating to either church and Dr Kershaw's Hospice. 325 miles is a long way!!

To donate to St Matthew & Luke Chadderton and Dr Kershaw's Hospice

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q7PC8SY3>

To donate to St Anne's, Royton and Dr Kershaw's Hospice

<https://givealittle.co/c/WalkwiththeNorthernSaints>



Walking back round to Shaw Road, past the Lion mill. The sun is still trying to break through the
clouds. There is one point on Shaw Road where both St Anne's Royton and Holy Trinity Shaw are
both visible and I like to look from one to the other- a place where I serve as a priest and the place
where I confirmed my faith as an 11 years old. The 11 year old me would have no idea that was a
possibility never mind it would happen.

I am in a reflective mood as near the end of this pilgrimage, reflecting not only over this pilgrimage but
on my pilgrimage through life with God.

O God, you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels,
and to the spirits of Bede, Paulinus, Cedd, Hilda, Caedmon, Oswald, Cuthbert and Aidan
and all the saints:

Grant us, during our earthly pilgrimage, to abide in their fellowship,
and in our heavenly country to become partakers of their joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Walking past Holy Trinity Church, praying for Fr Paul, Fr Dean, Fr Matt and Mthr Dorothy and the congregation here . Giving thanks for my confirmation here 44 years ago. A significant milestone on my pilgrimage with God.

Lord Jesus, I give You my heart and my life.

Fill me with Your Spirit ,and make me strong to follow You in faith, hope, and love.

May my life give glory to God and bring others to know Your truth. Amen.

I continued to walk to Crompton cemetery where my Grandma Hilda and Grandad Bill and Uncle Ian and my Great Grandma and Great Grandad are buried. I was very close to my Grandma and Grandad and they are significant companions on my pilgrimage. Giving thanks for them and the love we all shared as a family.



I walked up the hill to High Crompton and called for my dad to open up St Mary's church for me so I could stand at the font where my pilgrimage with God began 55 years ago.

The same place my Great Grandma, Grandma, Mum, Children and Granddaughter were baptised and began their pilgrimages through life with God too.

I have also have had the privilege of conducting a baptism at this font and presiding at a Eucharist at this altar here too.

Praying for Revd Helen Tyler who will be licensed as the Vicar here and at St James Thornham on 3 September. Praying too for the congregation here at my "home" church, giving thanks for their love and support over the years.

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,
may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever





I planned to walk down Low Crompton Road but found myself walking uptowards the Puckersley looking at the Manchester skyline, part of it drenched in sunshine. For a couple of minute a rainbow appeared too. It made me feel quite emotional - it felt like a blessing on the pilgrimage. I walked back down the hill to the top of Low Crompton Road. If I'd not gone the "wrong way" I would have missed seeing the rainbow.

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." Genesis 9:13-15

A Jewish blessing upon seeing a rainbow.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who remembers the covenant, and is faithful to His covenant, and keeps His promise.



Walking along Low Crompton Road down into Royton. Some beautiful flowers to take for free outside Millers Floral Design- thankful for this beautiful blessing. I took a picture of the horses and the white one came down to say hello! Praying for Margaret Rochford, Sue Ogden and Ann Crossley at St Matthew's and Sylvia Taylor and Babs Shulkind at St Anne's who make our churches look beautiful with flowers.





I walked through Royton Park as I walked back through Royton. The memorial benches for Alison Howe and Lisa Lees. Praying for Alison and Lisa and their families. A glimpse of St Paul's Church, Royton through the buildings. Prayers for Fr Lewis, on his birthday, and the congregation there. Happy Birthday Fr Lewis! It started raining as I got back to St Anne's- made it back just in time!

I walked 5.87 miles today, only 3.5 miles to go. We are half a mile away from the start of the causeway!

I went for my hair cut, late morning and started doing the social media post for the pilgrimage whilst I was there. Look who I saw walking by! I have walked on average 4.7 miles per day during this pilgrimage and Rochard had walked in average 5 miles a day since the beginning of this year. Virtually he is just south of Rome!



Day sixty nine

7th august

14.29miles

Winnie wanted to see me off on this day when I will be walking spiritually over the causeway to my beloved Lindisfarne. Thankful for Winnie's companionship on much of this pilgrimage.

We arrived at St Chad's Rochdale to meet with the pilgrims undertaking the On New Roads Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage will be making 70 stops beginning at the Friary in Alnmouth on 18 July and finishing at the Friary at Plaistow Friary on 2 October. 2026 marks 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. I am joining this leg of the pilgrimage, from St Chad's Rochdale to Manchester Cathedral.

Be by my side Creator God
every step I take
Be before me Saviour God
every step I take
Be behind me Merciful God
every step I take
Be within me Strengthening God
every step I take. Amen.



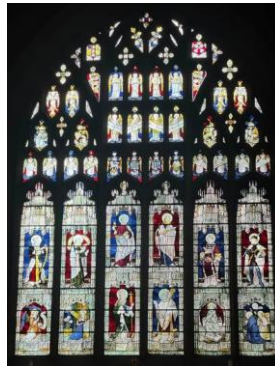


We began with Morning Prayer inside St Chad's Church. Good to be sat next to my training incumbent James to say Morning Prayer- it was like the old days!

The rouses gallery in St Chad's reminds me of the one in St Anne's- lots of men and one woman at the end- Revd Anne Gilbert, now the Area Dean of Rochdale. Both of us from St Mary's High Crompton.

Praying for the churchwardens and congregation at St Chad's during their interregnum.

It was good to set off as a group, to Manchester Cathedral physically on this Pilgrimage of Peace and to Lindisfarne spiritually on Walk with the Northern Saints Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne.



Amy-Claire led us to the canal towpath. I have discovered so many beautiful places to walk on this pilgrimage, many of them along canal towpaths .

I love to see the reflections in the still water that can't make ordinary things seem more beautiful

Lots of geese on our pilgrimage today .

Yesterday I walked to the place where my pilgrimage with God began, the font at St Mary's High Crompton and I paused at Holy Trinity Shaw the place of my confirmation. I have been thinking of people, place and experiences that first awakened my awareness of God. Perhaps make time to do that over the next few days.

Lord, help me remember where your love first touched my life. May I walk today with gratitude for the journey so far. Amen.



We had to briefly walk off the canal towpath and get back on again by the big BMW garage that often has a big Christmas Crib in its window throughout December. Good to be back to the peace of the canal. On the <https://www.spiritoffrancis.com> website there is a 10 day virtual pilgrimage. This

reflection is from that pilgrimage resource following in from the prayer on the last post. When St Francis was approaching death he wanted to return to the chapel where he first felt called to live simply and follow Christ.

Pilgrimage is often imagined as travelling somewhere new. Yet sometimes the deepest journeys involve returning to the places, memories, and moments that first awakened our hearts. Francis reminds us that spiritual growth is not always about moving on; sometimes it is about rediscovering the grace that first called us. Giving thanks for the ways this pilgrimage has enabled this for me.



There was an abundance of Blackberries everywhere we walked today and Br Felix sampled one along the way! A great joy of making a pilgrimage with others is the conversations you share as you walk along with your fellow pilgrims. You walk together for a while, then drop back and walk alone for a time then walk alongside another pilgrim and so it goes on. The rhythm of the walking lends itself to mediation and contemplation. It's good to sometimes share a observation with someone as you walk- rather than a few hours later as I've been doing with you on this pilgrimage.

Good to walk and talk a while with Br Hugh, who is walking for 3 weeks kn this pilgrimage.

Francis understood that discipleship was never a solitary achievement. We become who we are through friendship, encouragement, challenge, forgiveness, and love. Pilgrimage may sometimes feel lonely, but none of us walks entirely alone.

We are carried by countless relationships, both past and present. Over the last few days I have been giving thanks for those who have been with me on my pilgrimage through life.

Give thanks in your prayer for 3 people who have accompanied you through life.

Thank you, Lord, for all who have walked with me. Bless them with your peace. Amen



We came across a Sustrans "Portrait Bench" made of laser-cut mild steel, featuring silhouettes of local figures on the National Cycle Network. The bench depicts Harriet Ellis world champion wondsirfer) , Dame Gracie Fields, and Lynne Coxell (inspirational headteacher.)

Walking through beautiful scenery, with company if wanted and solitude if needed brings such peace. Seeing a calf rolling around in the grass with such obvious joy brought joy!

This pilgrimage walk is bringing peace, joy and hope. So thankful for this day and the 68 days before it. I am so near to my destination now, and it will of course be wonderful when I reach that point, but the pilgrimage through life continues- may all I have experienced in these days, uphold me, encourage me and bring me life as I journey on. Amen.



I have walked 325 miles!!! We have arrived spiritually at Lindisfarne! It was so good to share that moment with fellow pilgrims! I can't quite believe we have reached Lindisfarne in 69 days. More about Lindisfarne tomorrow and in the coming days. Giving thanks for the journey behind me and the road still ahead. Into your hands, loving God, I place my life, my journey, my hopes, and my future. May I walk in your peace today and always. Amen. We journey on...



We move on from Lindisfarne- or rather the canal near the roundabout at Slattocks and continue on the pilgrimage towards Manchester Cathedral.

=Incredible power and movement of the water, then such stillness the water is like a mirror - such incredible reflections. The last couple of months have been a time of much movement and at times powering through to get things done. I'm looking forward to a time of rest and stillness after Sunday, and time to reflect on what this pilgrimage has meant and where it leads.



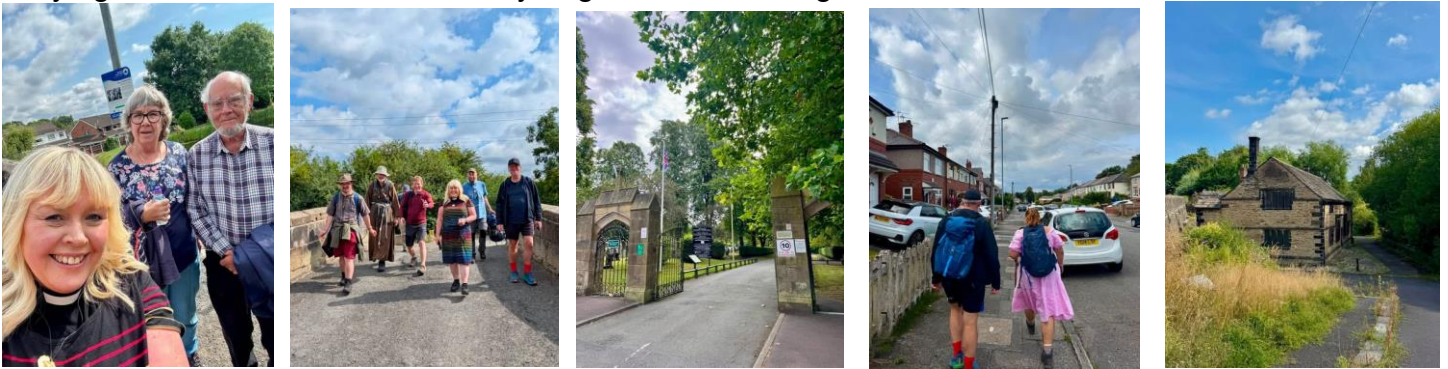
The tunnel with its reflection looked like an eye. This pilgrimage has encouraged me to look more at what is around me, to see God in his creation and to see God in others.

Good to catch up with James as we walk this pilgrimage together. Giving thank for James as my training incumbent and for the 3 years of ministry we shared together and all I learned from him.



Over this pilgrimage I have met many people who I haven't seen for years but who have been part of my journey. Today I bumped into Ian and Dorothy who go to St Leonard's Middleton- I met them when I was on placement there during my training. It was lovely to catch up with them and talk about pilgrimage experiences in the Holy Land and Fatima.

We walked past the Old Grammar School, that I had been to whilst on placement at St Leonard's. Praying for all at St Leonard's as they begin a time interregnum.

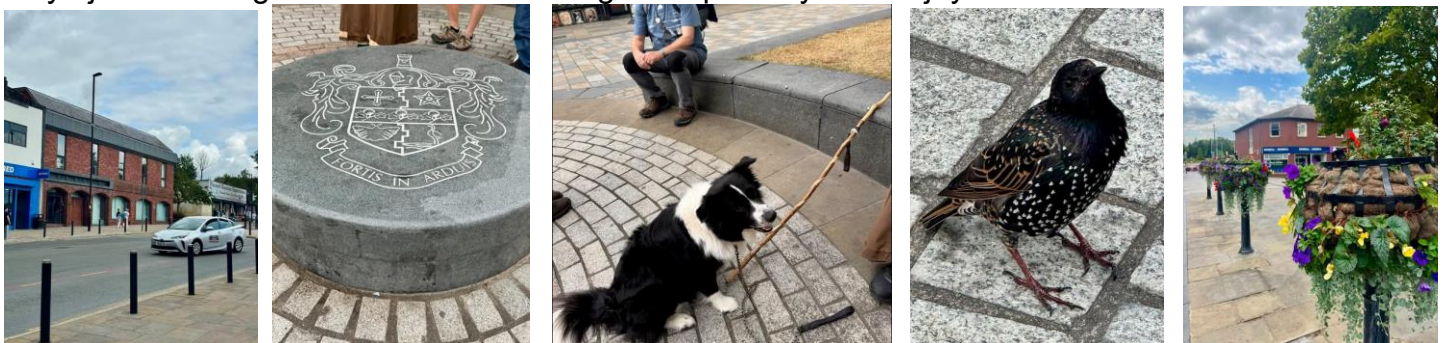


We walked past the old Barclays Bank building in Middleton- my first full time place of employment after my A-Levels. Jessie the dog joined us and was very interested in Amy-Claire's pilgrim staff! The blackbirds gathered around Andy as he ate a sandwich- they reminded me of Winnie begging for something to eat off my plate! They looked up hopefully and expectantly!

This reflection and prayer from the Spirit of Francis website

Throughout his life he saw the natural world as a family of praise: Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Fire, Sister Water. Creation was never merely scenery but a companion in worship. As we walk today, we are invited to notice again the beauty, fragility, and sacredness of the world around us.

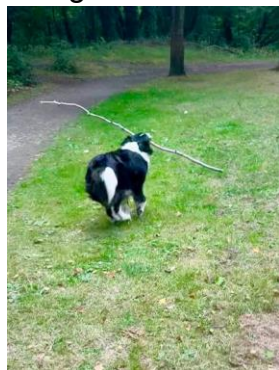
May I join the song of creation and learn again to praise you with joy. Amen.



Another place on this pilgrimage I have discovered that I had no clue existed is Alkington Woods. A beautiful walk by the River Irk and by Alkington Hall. Jessie was very proud of her big stick! We were heading towards All Saints Rhodes for lunch, on a much more scenic route than I had anticipated! The day was getting warmer and it was lovely to walk in the cool of these beautiful woods and by the river.

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay

green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8



The water was so still and mirror like before it fell over the edge, then it foamed and frothed and it didn't reflect anything

Praying for all who feel like they are on the edge, those struggling with their mental health. Praying for the work of MIND and Papyrus and Men's Sheds. Thankful for companionship as we arrive at All Saints Rhodes.



A stop for lunch and a welcome cup of tea!

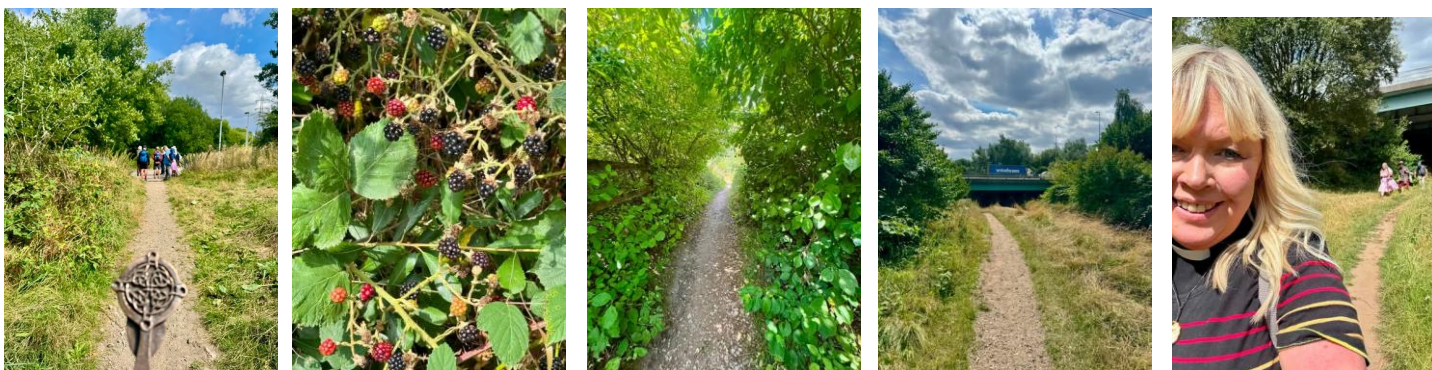
Thankful for the hospitality of All Saints Rhodes. Praying for Revd Jenni Beaumont, Revd Jane Hyde and the congregation at All Saints Rhodes and the community they serve .



An abundance of blackberries along the side of the path.

The sound of the motorway almost sounds like a river from a distance until we get closer then it is the unmistakable hum of traffic. I have noticed this before as I have walked on this pilgrimage.

It feels good to be walking together with others today as I finish walking on this pilgrimage to Lindisfarne. I only discovered this Fra Susan pilgrimage as we arrived virtually at Alnmouth Friary. Thankful I have been able to join this pilgrimage for a day as i arrive at Lindisfarne.

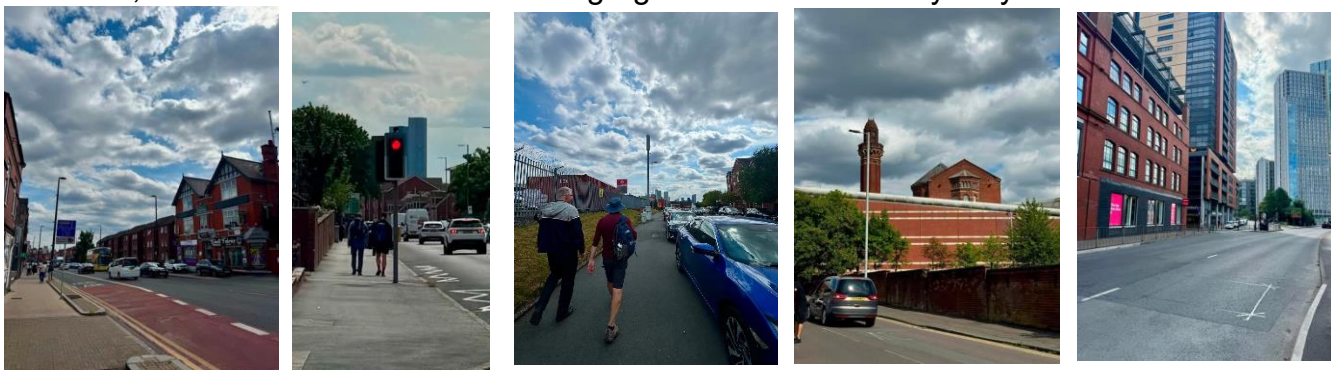


We leave the scenic riverside walk and set off the rest of the way on the roads to Manchester Cathedral.

As we walked 2 young men asked what we were doing and a lovely conversation began between them and one of our group, asking about their lives and explaining about the pilgrimage. A sharing of stories along the road. Jesus, St Cuthbert and St Aidan got alongside people as they walked along the road and listened to stories of people's lives and shared the gospel. How might we as individuals and as churches get alongside people and share the Good News of Christ?



Walking the last bit into Manchester to the Cathedral. Praying for The Very Revd Rogers Govender, Revd Canon Grace Thomas, Revd Canon Dr Ian Jorysz, Revd Kenson Li and the Venerable Karen Smeeton, the Cathedral staff and the congregation and community they serve.



Yesterday I walked to the church where I was baptised and the church where I was confirmed and today I walked to Manchester Cathedral where I was ordained. All way markers on my pilgrimage through life with God. I felt called to visit all three holy sites, pilgrim places as we finished our pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, our Walk with the Northern Saints and give thanks to God for his call and for his faithfulness. I knelt before the altar in prayer to give thanks for bringing me safely to this holy place, both physically and virtually, and for the blessings of this pilgrimage. Thankful to have joined the Cathedral community for evening prayer on this day when we have finally reached our destination of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

On this day of many blessings and looking back on the many blessings I have received on this Pilgrimage, I share this reflection and prayer from the Spirit of Francis website.

Blessing is one of the simplest and most powerful gifts we can offer. A blessing does not solve problems or remove suffering. Instead, it reminds people that they are seen, valued, and held within God's love. Francis teaches us that every stage of life offers opportunities to encourage others. I pray this pilgrimage may have been an encouragement for others. May your blessing flow through me, Lord, bringing hope and peace wherever | go. Amen. I have walked a total of 14.29 miles today and so have reached Lindisfarne after 3.5 miles and had a good walk around it! (10.79 miles)



Giving thanks for the hospitality and welcome from my Franciscan sisters and brothers today on this pilgrimage. Praying for them as journey on over the next days and weeks. Praying for Amy- Claire who will be walking nearly all of the 80 days of pilgrimage, apart from when she is at the Greenbelt Festival. I raised a glass at the end of this pilgrimage to all who have walked with me, physically and spiritually, and to all who have encouraged me along the way. There will be posts about St Aidan, St Cuthbert, Lindisfarne and pilgrimage over the next few days. On 30 August you are welcome to celebrate St Aidan with us at St Matthew's at 9am and St Anne's at 11am and to give thanks for this pilgrimage. On St Aidan's Day, 31 August I will walk over to St Aidan's Sudden as we say our final prayers of this pilgrimage. You are welcome to walk with Revd Liz- time to be confirmed on 30th August.



Day seventy 8th august 0 miles

Yesterday we reached Lindisfarne on our pilgrimage of the heart, after walking 335.79 miles since 31 May 2026.

We have been journeying towards this holy place, this "Cradle of Christianity", the island given to St Aidan by St Oswald, the King, for the last 70 days, it is good that we have finally arrived.

I am going to share some pictures from my previous pilgrimage in 2020 when I walked across the pilgrim posts to the Island.

As you walk across the sands along the pilgrim posts you are very conscious that you are treading where other pilgrims in the past, throughout history have trod. The footsteps in the sand of a pilgrim just ahead of me emphasise that.

Giving thanks for those whose footsteps I know I have followed on my pilgrimage through life.



Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

I got stuck in the sand. I was praying that God would hold me with his powerful hand!

I pray that this pilgrimage may continue to feed us in the weeks and months to come.



We have arrived at St Mary the Virgin, Holy Island.

Praying for the Revd Canon Dr Sarah Hills and the church wardens and congregation of this beautiful holy place. Praying for their mission to the people of the island and their ministry of welcome to the thousands of visitors each year.

Over the next couple of weeks we will have more reflections and prayers about Lindisfarne and the Northern Saints. Follow along! A final newsletter will come out after the final walk on St Aidan's Day.



st cuthbert

Cuthbert was probably born in the Scottish lowlands around the year 640 -around the time that Aidan was called to Bamburgh to help with the evangelization of Northumbria. At the age of eight he was playing with some friends when a 3 year old child became distressed. Cuthbert asked what was wrong and the child said "O holy priest and bishop, Cuthbert, these sort of games are not becoming of one of such a high calling." Cuthbert stored these words in his memory and later took them as a prophecy for his future.



Cuthbert was learning that when he prayed strange coincidences happened and more and more Cuthbert was learning to pray to the Lord who sent his angels to care for those in need and who delivered the poor out of their troubles. The words from Hebrew's often came to Cuthbert's mind. "Forget not to show your love to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angel's unawares." He wondered what strange guises angels might wear if this were true and felt he needed to take great care of each individual, for in each one there was a chance of meeting with God.

The great turning point in Cuthbert's life came when he was 16. It was the end of August and the dark nights were returning. Cuthbert was still in the hill country of what are now the borders of England and Scotland, accompanied by a group of shepherds. Cuthbert was on watch while his companions slept. During this time he prayed, conversing with God through the long watches of the night. Suddenly he saw movement in the sky, a stream of light cut into the darkness. He then saw a most

wonderful sight. Angels descended and ascended, taking with them to his heavenly home a soul of exceeding brightness. Cuthbert gave thanks to God for what he had seen.

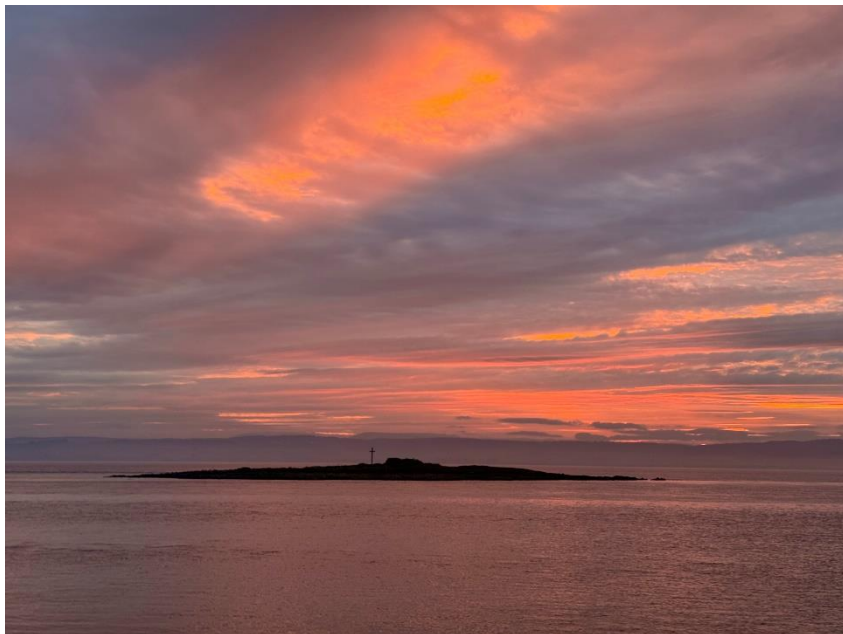
Meanwhile the visions began to fade. Thinking he might need witnesses to share this event, he woke the shepherds and asked them to search the sky for angels. The next day they heard the news that Aidan the holy man of Lindisfarne had died at Bamburgh and was taken to heaven. Their lives had touched each other and Cuthbert was sure it was for a purpose. He felt his life was linked with Aidan's and he knew that God was calling him. If Aidan had been alive, he would have gone to Lindisfarne, instead he went to Melrose and the prior Boisil saw something in the young Cuthbert, he recognised his potential as a leader and took him under his wing. Together they studied the Gospel of John and Boisil gave Cuthbert a deep love for that Gospel.

Cuthbert spent Boisil's last days with him discussing John's Gospel and when Boisil died Cuthbert became the Prior of Melrose Abbey, whilst still in his twenties. Boisil had told Cuthbert he would become a Bishop, Cuthbert did not like the idea and would have preferred to have lived his life in service of God as a hermit. Cuthbert spent his time teaching and in spiritual direction – his great delight was to go out in mission. He went into communities and told them stories from the Gospels and preached to them. He carried with him a small altar of oak with five crosses on it – one on each corner and one in the middle, depicting the wounds of Christ and if he visited a community with a Christian presence he would celebrate the Eucharist.

Cuthbert would disappear at night and one night one of the monks followed him. Cuthbert had gone into the waters of the North Sea up to his neck in order to pray and praise God with his arms outstretched singing to the sound of the waves. At day break, he went to the shore to kneel and pray again. While he knelt on the sands he two otters ran out of the sea and rubbed themselves against his legs and feet as if to dry them. Cuthbert blessed the creatures and they returned to the sea. Cuthbert forgave the monk when he realised he had been spying on him but he told him not to tell anyone of what he had seen until after his death. The monk kept his promise.

The Synod of Whitby in 664 had far reaching consequences and after Eata was appointed Abbot of Lindisfarne he called on Cuthbert to be the Prior and to reconcile the differences that still divided the community over Celtic and Roman practices. The brethren were often overawed by the love and devotion that Cuthbert showed as he celebrated the Mass, and it was noticed that he could not celebrate the holy mysteries without tears in his eyes. When Cuthbert heard confessions it was often he who was reduced to tears. He was known as a healer and a man of God and people came to the Island to seek his advice or simply to be with this holy man.

Cuthbert continued with his night vigils, he didn't need much sleep, and he would seek out a quiet place on the North of the Island or he would choose Hobthrush Island, not far from the monastery and cut off from Lindisfarne for about 6 hours each tide. He would drive away drowsiness by singing the psalms. In 676 Cuthbert was given permission to go to Greater Farne, not far from Bamburgh, but a proper Island, totally cut off from the sea. He now enjoyed the friendship of the birds and cultivating a small garden. People still sought him out on the Island and came to him for advice. In 684 another Synod was held and a new Bishop was needed and Cuthbert was the person everyone thought of. Cuthbert did not want to move but after much pleading he consented to leave the Farne Islands with tears flowing down his face and he was made Bishop of Lindisfarne after spending the winter of 684-5 on the Farne Islands in prayer as preparation for his consecration.



On Easter Day 685 in York Cuthbert's consecration took place. He remained an indefatigable traveller and preacher, walking all over his diocese, and spending time as a hermit on Farne Island in between. After only a year however, he felt his end coming and resigned his office, dying on Farne in the company of a few of his monks on 20th March 687.



Cuthbert had wanted to be buried on the Farne Islands but the monks took him back to Lindisfarne and buried him in the church. Miracles were recorded by those visiting the tomb and after 11 years the monks decided to dig up his mortal remains, wash the bones and put them on display so that they might be seen and venerated. When the sarcophagus was open, to everyone's surprise Cuthbert's body was found to be intact and looked as if he was sleeping. Cuthbert's shrine became the most visited and richest in Europe. After a Viking invasion in 793 the monks decided to leave Lindisfarne and to take Cuthbert's body, along with Oswald's head and Aidan's relics, to a safer place. Over the next few years, the monks travelled all over the North of England evading capture until times became more settled, when they made their home in Chester-le-Street. In 995 after another Viking uprising they were on the move once more and after getting stuck in some mud in Chester-le-Street one of the monks heard a voice say "Take the body of the Saint to Dunholm". They built a wooden church there as a shrine for Cuthbert's remains. By 999 the Saxon church was ready and on 11 August 1093 the foundation stones of

the present Cathedral were laid. By 1104 the building was sufficiently complete for Cuthbert's coffin to be translated into the apse. Immediately before this the monks inspected Cuthbert's body and saw that it remained incorrupt. After the Reformation the relics were buried under the original site of the shrine.



We remember Cuthbert on the day he died, 20th March but as this day always falls in Lent many keep 4th September, the day of his translation into the cathedral, as his main festival. The Sculpture on the previous page is called The Journey and it is by Fenwick Lawson as is the Cuthbert sculpture (below) which is set in ruins of Lindisfarne Priory. The window of St Cuthbert is in St Mary the Virgin, Holy Island.



Our next and final Pilgrimage newsletter will be out after St Aidan's Day and will feature will sSt har. e more of St Aidan's story.

I want to thank everyone for their encouragement as I have been walking on this pilgrimage. The comments and likes on Facebook, the conversations about the pilgrimage in church have really spurred me on, - particularly on days when I haven't felt like walking, or it has felt like another thing to do. It has helped my spiritual life and I hope that the prayers and reflections and the sense of being on this pilgrimage with me, even if only virtually has helped you too.

With thanks and love and prayers.

Revd Liz

