

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton annually organises an Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage where up to a hundred pilgrims each year rediscover the rewards of undertaking the old way of journeying to a holy shrine.

On this our 34th pilgrimage we are walking from Evesham through Chipping Camden, Winchcombe, Northleach and Cirencester where we have a rest day. Then we walk through Malmesbury, Wootton Bassett, Chippenham and Devizes where we enjoy a second rest day. The last three days take us to Pewsey, Amesbury and Salisbury for Evensong and Prayer in the Cathedral and after a day exploring Salisbury a final great Pilgrimage Celebration. By then we will have walked about 167 miles. As far as possible we follow footpaths, bridleways, tracks and lanes and learn to appreciate the beauty of our land that is a welcome distraction from sore feet and aching legs.

To know more or receive details of future pilgrimages write to:

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages, The Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RD

Or visit our website: www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages

THE SALISBURY PILGRIMAGE 2008

*Evesham – Chipping Camden – Winchcombe –
Northleach
Cirencester – Malmesbury – Wootton Bassett –
Chippenham - Devizes – Pewsey
Amesbury – Salisbury
August 16th – 31st*

Details: www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Join us for a day

Who are these people?

A group of Christians making a walking pilgrimage.

What is a pilgrimage?

A journey, usually made to some holy place with the intention of benefiting spiritually. The purpose might be to gain grace, to do penance, petition God for some favour, give praise to God, ask the intercession of a Saint.

Whose bright idea is this, anyway?

The general answer is that no one knows. Certainly the Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. These pilgrimages were likened to the long trek from slavery in Egypt to Sion, the Promised Land. They can be seen as an anticipation of Christ's journey to Jerusalem for our salvation and so Christ leading us on our earthly pilgrimage towards the heavenly kingdom.

And this pilgrimage?

It is part of our life journey. Geoffrey Chaucer in his Canterbury Tales sums up the proper attitude for making a pilgrimage:

*“Christes lore and his Apostles twelve
he taught, but first he followed it himselfe.”*

So by our example of Christian living we are trying to show what the teaching of Christ and his Christian Church actually means today.

Why Evesham to Salisbury?

It's quite simple really. We follow a two year pattern. One year connected to our home Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in Surrey and Sussex and the other year further afield. Twenty five years ago we walked to Evesham. It was suggested that we should repeat that this year from Salisbury, but when we realised that Salisbury Cathedral was celebrating the 750th anniversary of its Consecration we reversed the order and so we have- Evesham to Salisbury. As we walk through the countryside, we stop at churches to pray for the communities that we pass through. We stay in school, church or village halls each night, living and growing as a community over a two week period.

Pilgrimage Theme

In the past we have contemplated the life of a Saint in our prayer stops in local churches along the way. In recent Pilgrimages, we have introduced a theme for our prayers and meditations. This year as we are starting at the ruins of a Medieval Monastery that was dedicated to Our Lady and we are heading to a Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption, it was decided to use the great prayer of the Magnificat as the basis for our prayer and reflection over the two weeks of the Pilgrimage.