

# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 107

February 2014

***Dear Pilgrims,***

2014 is going to be another exciting year for our pilgrimage, and I hope you can jump on board for the ride! This is one of those years where we go where we have never been before; at no point does our route cross one of our previous pilgrimage routes. The last time that this was the case was when we walked from Gloucester to Chester in 2004. This year's route is almost a continuation of that route, and it too starts and ends in cathedral cities: Liverpool to Carlisle. Liverpool of course has two cathedrals for us to visit, both constructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Anglican Cathedral Church of the Risen Christ is the largest cathedral in Britain by volume. The Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King was planned to be larger still, but only the crypt was completed to the original Lutyens design, and then the above-ground part took on the less ambitious but still striking form we see today. By contrast the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Carlisle is the second-smallest of England's ancient cathedrals, built in the twelfth century.

Our walking route from Liverpool to Carlisle takes in some interesting terrain known as the Lake District. Don't panic, we don't go over the tops of any mountains! We will have some days with a sustained ascent followed by a sustained descent as we traverse a pass, but overall the daily distances and ascents that we will tackle this year are similar to other pilgrimages. Our rest days this year are in Lancaster and Ambleside. Preston, Kendal and Keswick also feature in our nightly stops, as you will see from the application forms and posters which you received with this newsletter. PLEASE PRINT OUT A POSTER OR TWO, TO DISPLAY IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES. The cost of the pilgrimage will be only five pounds more expensive than last year at £180. We are able to set this bargain price, despite increased costs, as the successful 2013 pilgrimage left our bank balance in a healthy state. I am expecting the pilgrimage to be popular this year, so get your applications in fast! The number of pilgrims will be capped at 60. On one night we will be staying in the unprecedented luxury of Keswick Youth Hostel. Pilgrims booking part of the way will be charged a supplement if their stay includes that night.

I can't take any credit for this route myself. Geoff and Jack and Bruce and others have been working on it for a couple of years, and Bruce went on to take up the mantle of chief hall booker with great success: all the halls are already confirmed. Route planning activity has also started. Bruce and Hazel and Sue and Fred have already been up in the Lakes twice since last August. My role is just to let them get on with it! My thanks to them and all who have helped the planning get off to a tremendous start this year.

We've had it in the back of our minds for a while that 2014 would be the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and so there will be an element of remembrance in this year's theme. Let me know if you would like us to remember your relatives who died in the conflict. But pilgrims by definition must be more focussed on the journey that lies ahead. Responding to the choice of the name Francis by the new Pope, we are turning to St Francis to guide us in the ways of peace, and we pray that our pilgrimage might in some way contribute to a more peaceful future. Bill Ward is leading the theme team. Please think of ideas for prayers stops and let us know about them.

One thing that you will notice on the application form is that Clare Gamble has taken over from Monica McLauchlan as Bookings Secretary. Monica stepped down in the summer after around 15 years of serving us all in this post, and was presented with a special gift at the end of the Walsingham Pilgrimage. She is now passing her accumulated wisdom onto Clare. Thank you, Monica!

This year's pilgrimage will potentially attract a great deal of interest – but only if people find out about it, so I am looking out for a volunteer to be our Publicity Officer, which is a post which hasn't been filled for many years. Or if being The Publicity Officer sounds a bit daunting, but you would like to help out with some publicity, perhaps specialising in a particular type of organisation that you have contacts with, let me know, so I can coordinate it. Another specific job that needs filling is a PAT tester to carry out the annual checks on the urn and the toaster. Also we need volunteers to prepare materials and man the stand that we will have at the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Festival on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 at St Wilfred's School, Crawley.

Those are the only jobs that I can think of that need filling for 2014, but in general the pilgrimage is always looking out for more volunteers, whether on the committee or in other roles. Please consider coming along to the committee meetings to find out what goes on; nobody will force you to take up a job. Also please have a think about whether you can identify any candidates for the following roles which may be hard to fill in future years – these are the sorts of roles which would/could go to people from outside the current pilgrimage family: van drivers, drinks car drivers, caterers; RC, Anglican and Free Church chaplains.

At that stand on June 29<sup>th</sup> we will be hoping to attract new pilgrims: it will be too late for this year, but we will be looking to kick off an injection of new blood for the 2015 pilgrimage when we will be walking within the boundaries of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the diocese and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our pilgrimage. The 2015 pilgrimage will take place on the usual dates in August, but additionally Patrick Reeve has taken on the task of organising a potential additional activity (mini pilgrimage?) for the days leading up to official diocesan celebration which is to take place in the AMEX Stadium (the Brighton and Hove Albion football ground at Falmer) on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. We hope to attract young people in particular.

Best wishes, **John**

#### **PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE 2013-2014**

Here is a list of the holders of the principal posts on the planning team:

COORDINATOR: John Chenery	DEPUTY COORDINATOR: Ceri Potts
CHIEF HALL BOOKER: Bruce Matheson	CHIEF ROUTE PLANNER: Sue Adilz
DEPUTY CHIEF ROUTE PLANNER: Kevin Parry	TREASURER: Nick Lamb
BOOKINGS SECRETARY: Clare Gamble	THEME: Bill Ward
COMMS OFFICER: Aidan Simons	CHURCH LIAISON: Ann Lavelle & Roger Keyes

#### **FUND TO SUPPORT YOUNG PILGRIMS**

An anonymous pilgrim has made a generation donation and stipulated that it be used to encourage young pilgrims, and assist those who would be unable to come on the pilgrimage without it. This fund could for instance be used to subsidise the pilgrimage fee, or to purchase necessary equipment e.g. walking boots, sleeping bag. If you know where we could spend this money in a manner consistent with the donor's intentions, let the Pilgrimage Coordinator know [coord@thepilgrims.org.uk](mailto:coord@thepilgrims.org.uk)

#### **Monica Russell MBE RIP**

Another pilgrim has just followed the eternal arrows through the pearly gates. Monica Russell, mother of John (the van) and Mary (now Streater), has passed away. Monica has sadly been suffering from Alzheimer's for a number of years and this in many ways is probably a merciful release. Monica was a pilgrim for many years ... at least from the very early 1980s. She served on the pilgrimage committee for a number of years too and I am sure many of you have happy memories of her.

Mary writes that her funeral (a Requiem Mass) *will be at St Michaels in Lewes at 12 noon on Friday 14 February. It would be lovely to see as many pilgrims there as possible, so please spread the word - all will be welcome to join our commemoration and celebration of the life of a very special woman - Monica.*

## **Message to Route Planners from the Chief Route Planner:**

The accommodation is booked; if you are down to plan a day, please can you confirm that you can do it, and preferably by just after Easter, ahead of the next committee meeting (April 27). If you signed up at the Reunion, you will be leading the days signed for. Thank you in advance for your efforts; happy planning!

Day 2 Blundellsands to Southport –  
Ann & Henriette

Day 3 Southport to Preston - Nick

Day 4 Preston to Churchtown – Stuart & Jack

Day 5 Churchtown to Lancaster - Simon

Day 7 Lancaster to Arnside - Francis

Day 8 Arnside to Kendal - Maurice

Day 9 Kendal to Ambleside - Louise

Day 11 Ambleside to Chapel Stile –

Aidan & Bridget

Day 12 Chapel Stile to Keswick – Jonny & Andy

Day 13 Keswick to Caldbeck – Bruce & Kevin

Day 14 Caldbeck to Carlisle - Isaac

### ***The Route:***

After last year's sometimes lumpy, long-distance paths, this year's walk presents a challenge of a different sort. Our first week's walk is relatively flat and crosses Lancashire, with a rest day in its county town of Lancaster. Our second week's walk traverses the Lake District, a popular tourist area, likely to be very busy in summer. My advice is book early to secure a place; walkers are common in these parts. Unlike Wainwright, we will not be aiming to climb to the top of each fell, rather to meander through them by the shortest and most amenable route possible, given the constraints of the terrain and our accommodation. We have a rest day in Ambleside. It promises to be a rich and varied route.

### ***Day 13 a foretaste....***

Bruce, Fred & I set out on a crisp January morning to walk Bruce's day. We did this over New Year when the rivers were swollen and roads flooded. We went to Keswick on such a wet day that everyone bought new rain gear as they felt their knees and feet becoming sodden with water. In the end, thanks to a dry day, and good equipment I traversed our route from Keswick to Caldbeck over boulders and streams without getting wet.

We began by climbing Latrigg, the small hill behind Keswick & where it is recommended to test one's new boots. At the car park beyond we watched a party of men disappear into the mist (up Skiddaw), but we headed straight up the valley. We stopped in the rain for coffee outside Skiddaw YHA, our proposed (sandwich) lunch stop; it was shut. There, looking back, we admired the mass of Blencathra, whose summit was shrouded in cloud, and in the far distance caught a glimpse of Helvellyn, snow covered.

We headed down the valley to a sheep pen in a hollow, ideal for an open air prayer stop (bring your brolly); down the valley further to a sharp bend left, where the road meets and a family with small children were beginning to climb the hill – some as young as 5 or 6. Telling stories all the way up, they were going to the shepherds' hut on the top to have a party. Now if they can get up the hill so can you. Past the mine works, up the beck, we eventually reached the hut with the birthday crowd. "Stay another 5 minutes and you can have some cake" they offered, but we headed north.

From the summit of High Pike our destination was visible – Carlisle – with Scotland on the horizon and the Pennines to the East. A late evening sun glinted on the Solway Firth. It was magic. "It's flat all the way from Caldbeck", commented Fred. Everything below looked flat from 658 metres (2150 ft). We sheltered briefly from a howling wind behind a stone wall then began our descent. 14 miles in and the new boots were beginning to rub. I applied some animal wool; no blisters though. The descent was long and hard on the knees, but in Caldbeck we were met by Hazel and Doreen, who guided us past the hall to the coffee shop where we consumed a well-earned tea and cake before falling asleep in the car on the way back to our accommodation.

It was a fantastic walk and one to look forward to in the summer. **Sue**

## **Pilgrimage Reunion Report**

The Pilgrimage Reunion in Farnham, organised by Ceri was a great success. For me it was a Pilgrimage first: walking with my 9 year old niece all day. She achieved the full 13 miles, egged on by the prospect of Alice Holt in the afternoon.

The day started with setting off prayers at St Joan's in Farnham and a brief prayer stop at St Andrew's in Farnham. What a beautiful historic market town! The walk meandered through town and across neighbouring fields, up lanes, over stiles past horses and eventually turned in the direction of Bentley, crossing the A31 and River Wey, past a field of charging bullocks. The weather was overcast and a bit wet.

At lunch in the Jolly Farmer in Blacknest we were joined by one or two pilgrims just dropped in to say hello and it was good to see them. (Hello Gillian, Monica and Julian!)

After lunch, it poured. We donned waterproofs and marched towards the promised Alice Holt playground, glad of pink boots and oversize leggings. At the woodpecker, my niece climbed the tree; an artificial redwood with hollow trunk. Then other pilgrims caught up and it was time to go. The next church was closed, so we prayed outside, in the cold, in the rain.

Then came the long march into Farnham, up and down, through suburb and street, where was the hall, along the end of this road surely? Eventually my sister recognised where we were and announced that the hall was round the corner, and so it was!

It had been a long day; coats were hung up to dry next to the communion gowns that were, thankfully, wrapped in plastic. We had tea and cake, prepared by the ever smiling Alison, who later cooked supper.

Meanwhile Aidan and gang had arrived with a large television and set up a slide show of pilgrim pictures from the summer. We went to Mass; had a jolly evening, with a bit of ballet and beer that ended quite early, except for the stifled giggles of a 9 year old that could be heard long after lights out.

On Sunday morning we awoke early to attend 8.00 Holy Communion at St Andrews. It was a bright sunny day and the buildings of Farnham were shown at their best. After breakfast, we cleaned the hall, thanked Ceri and Alison for a lovely weekend and Michael & Jonny for leading the walk, then departed.

See you again next summer!

**Sue**

## **Prayer Requests**

- Tineke has written that her brother-in-law Bas has been diagnosed with cancer again. *This time there is no cure. Not a happy end. Could you please include him in your prayers? I have a lot of trust in other people praying.*
- Monica McLauchlan, who has secondary breast cancer, is coping with the side effects of chemotherapy - a sensation of a freezer pack within her body making it hard to know when warm enough!! Reddened & sore feet prone to blisters & making it feel as though walking on cobbles. Also sore, red hands with loss of sensation in finger tips, all eased with lots of moisturising creams. So no shaking hands or having hugs. Frequent use of 4 letter words - ooh, argh, & ouch!! The chemo is working but a long way to go.
- Lesley Brennan writes: *My Dad sadly passed away on 12th December aged nearly 88 years. Please could Pilgrims remember him, Ron Hill, in their prayers.*

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