

NEWSLETTER

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Editor's Note

We have delayed the autumn newsletter in order to share posters and application forms for the Jubilee Celebration Pilgrimage (3rd-5th July 2015) and the Arundel Pilgrimage (August 15th -30th 2015) as plans for both are well advanced.

Diary Dates for 2015 (further details below)

- 40 Year Pilgrimage Reunion, Farnham, 10th – 12th April 2015
- Festival 50 Jubilee Celebration Pilgrimage, Arundel to Amex Stadium, 3rd – 5th July 2015
- The Arundel Pilgrimage, Chertsey to Arundel, 15th – 30th August 2015

Dear Pilgrims,

This is the first time that I write to you after having taken up the role of coordinator. Two years ago as John was taking on the task, he and Louise could jointly account for 50 years of pilgrimage experience. In contrast I recognise myself as a relative newcomer having first joined the pilgrimage in 2008 (Evesham – Salisbury). What I have found and love in the Pilgrimage (in addition to the beautiful countryside through which we walk) is the spirituality, fellowship and strong Christian community that develop as we worship and journey together. This is something very special which is worth promoting, protecting and praying for. For this reason although to take the coordinator role is quite daunting it is also a great privilege, particularly with such a strong, experienced team in place.

I would like to thank John again for being such an able and dedicated coordinator for the pilgrimage and for leading it so well over the last two years; first to Walsingham and then this year to Carlisle. In addition to two very good pilgrimages behind the scenes we have up to date planning timelines, risk management policies and template documents. John, thank you! The Pilgrimage is a feat of organisation and thanks are due to everyone who has been prepared to take on one of the necessary roles – halls, route, bookings, theme, church-liaison, equipment, catering, driving, chaplaincy, finance, communication and others.

The 2014 Pilgrimage began in Liverpool, a city famed for its two magnificent cathedrals, the Anglican Cathedral with its huge nave and the Roman Catholic one with its iconic crown shape and beautiful stained glass. This was the first time the pilgrimage has ventured into the North West of England. It was a groundbreaking trek from Liverpool, Blundellsands to Carlisle through the Lake District: Liverpool-Southport-Preston-Churchtown-Lancaster-Arncliffe-Kendal-Ambleside-Chapel Stile-Keswick-Caldbeck-Carlisle.

The pilgrimage did not start gently this year with a 17-mile walk on the first walking day followed by 23.5 miles between Southport and Preston on the second walking day. Highlights of this section of the walk included the Ladyewell Shrine near Preston and the rural Catholic church of St Elizabeth and St Thomas, Upper Thurnham dating from the 1800s. The first rest day was spent in the university town of Lancaster and the second rest day was spent relaxing in Ambleside by the shore of Lake Windermere. Once in the Lake District the terrain was more mountainous with stunning scenery but significant ascents and descents between Chapel Stile, Keswick and Caldbeck.

The pilgrimage was more challenging than in previous years being far from base, with some long or hilly and wet days and some unusual halls. These challenges had been anticipated. One challenge which had not been anticipated was that the van was stopped by the police on the M6 and found to be perilously close to the legal weight limit before any pilgrim luggage was added. This meant additional driving until a second van could be sourced. However the pilgrimage went well and ended in good spirits. We walked 180 miles in 11 walking days, reached heights above 2000ft and about 50 pilgrims celebrated the pilgrimage's arrival by attending

evensong in the Anglican cathedral of Carlisle with almost as many enjoying the guided tour of the cathedral on the celebration day.

So what next? 2015 will be a big year both for the Pilgrimage and for the Arundel & Brighton Diocese in which the Pilgrimage has its roots. I was in Arundel recently and I happened across a book 'The A+B Story – the First Twenty Five Years'. The volume tells of the creation of a new diocese covering Sussex and Surrey (outside Greater London). It talks of the practical arrangements for dividing administration, clergy and finances from the former Southwark diocese and the joyful enthusiasm and sense of expectation of the time both locally and internationally (the 2nd Vatican Council concluded in the same year). In this volume the late Bill Haynes wrote about how the idea for a Walking Pilgrimage was conceived at the Diocesan Vocations Committee in 1974 as something 'like Youthgather but on a much larger scale' and how on Easter Monday 1975 a group of 35 pilgrims walked 240 miles around the perimeter of A&B Diocese. The pilgrimage was a success and a second and then subsequent annual pilgrimages were planned. The first ecumenical pilgrimage was made in 1981 when the A&B diocese and the Anglican diocese of Chichester walked together to honour St Wilfrid of Sussex. In the intervening years the Pilgrimage has walked all over the country, continuing in the ecumenical tradition; to Winchester, Chichester, Lincoln, Lindisfarne and Bath to name but a few.

We plan to mark this big anniversary year with an extra reunion in April (10th -12th), based in Farnham from where our first pilgrimages were planned. Patrick has written about the additional Jubilee Celebration Pilgrimage in July (3rd-5th) and both Howard and Patrick write about the developing plans for the August Pilgrimage (15th -30th). The intended route has changed since discussions at the AGM in order to facilitate shorter walking days. We will start in Chertsey and finish in Arundel with rest days in Crawley and Brighton.

As we reflect on the A&B Diocese's 50th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the Walking Pilgrimage and look to the future we can ponder some questions:

How we can make a journey as an act of prayer? How we can invite others to be part of this joyful community of faith and life? How we can build bonds of respect and trust with those of other faith traditions or of none? How we can witness to God's love for us and our love for the Lord Jesus Christ who said "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."? (Luke 4:18-19, Jerusalem Bible)

Ceri 19 October 2014, Feast of St Philip Howard (co-patron of A&B Diocese)

Pilgrimage Visit to St Michaels' Blundellsands, makes local press

An article about our visit appeared in the Crosby edition of The Champion on 13 August 2014 and is available online at <http://issuu.com/championnewspapers/docs/c3314/3?e=0>

Youthgather 28th September 2014

On Sunday 28th September the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton had its annual sponsored walk event for the young. This event is normally organised by the diocesan youth leader but the new leader does not take up his post until December. I was asked if I could help out especially in the area of sorting out the route and the Marshalls.

I am happy to say that good old pilgrimage route planning and way marking skills were found to be exceptionally useful to the team planning this year and the responses from youth on the feedback sheets shows we scored top marks. Becky and I front marked putting up A3 sized laminated arrows and John Chenery kindly back marked on the day cutting the cable ties (and his finger) with a pen knife.

There has been a secondary benefit to all of this in that it has raised the profile of our walking pilgrimages right at the centre of the Diocese! They have promised to splatter our pilgrimage posters all over the place. (See Jubilee Pilgrimages)

Patrick Reeve

40 Year Reunion, 10th – 12th April 2015

To commemorate 40 years of our pilgrimages, a special reunion will be held in Farnham 10th – 12th April 2015 (the anniversary of our return to Arundel after beating the bounds of the Diocese in 1975).

The reunion is open to all pilgrims, new, old or just interested., and we will endeavour to cater for those who can no longer walk but would like to relive their pilgrimage experiences.

Final details and application forms will be available in the new year; meanwhile, save the date.

Festival 50 Jubilee Celebration Pilgrimage 3rd – 5th July 2015

I have been working closely with the planners for next year's Diocesan jubilee celebrations or as it is now called Festival 50. They are very keen on our plans to organise a pilgrimage from Arundel to the Amex Stadium near Falmer, Friday 3rd July to Sunday 5th July. The halls are already booked and they both have showers!!! One even has a swimming pool! This promises to be an exceptional event. Get the poster to your priest and local school. We want as many churches, schools and organisations to be represented at Arundel and that includes us as pilgrims. I have been advised that we may have a link up with the red shirts from the Lourdes pilgrimage coming on the pilgrimage as well.

Patrick Reeve

The Arundel Pilgrimage 15th – 30th August 2015

A Message from the Chief Route Planner

We are celebrating the fiftieth jubilee of the diocese of Arundel and Brighton and the fortieth anniversary of our ecumenical walking pilgrimage with a spectacular two week walk through the diocese from north to south calling in to as many deaneries as we can manage.

Currently we are in the planning stage but we will be starting in Chertsey on Saturday 15 August and we will arrive at our cathedral in Arundel on Saturday 29 August. We anticipate exceptional days of rest and recuperation in Crawley and Brighton and we already know we have splendid accommodation at St John's Seminary, Womersley and in Upper Beeding. Patrick Reeve is our accommodation officer this year and he is working extremely hard to finalise the overnight locations.

This year we will not be taking on marathon hiking days, as we want to make sure we have enough time to visit, contemplate and pray in holy places and on route without too much fatigue. We will therefore keep the overnight sites a reasonable distance apart to allow the route day planners plenty of scope to use their skill and initiative to formulate remarkable jaunts.

As we are on home ground this year we anticipate that many more local people may join us for days and half days. This means that while the day planners will need to find us suitable hostelry for our lunches they will also need particularly to examine alternative forms of transports, not just for tired pilgrims needing a rest, but also for returning visitors to their start point.

If you would like to volunteer to be involved in planning a day out do let me know by telling me your name and contact details. The undertaking involves carrying out research, exploring the possibilities, walking the route and reporting all your findings to me to co-ordinate the whole trip by the spring. You would then have the privilege of leading the day on the pilgrimage. Comprehensive and effective guidance will be available to help you with this planning. Many days are already allocated, but there may be opportunities to team up to plan a day.

Howard Park, Chief Route Planner, 01372 722352, h.park1@ntlworld.com

Arundel Pilgrimage - Hall progress update and route.

At the pilgrimage AGM meeting one of the overriding requests was to reduce the mileage between halls and Howard's article spells out some of the benefits of this.

Our Diocese is full of exceptional religious treasures and trying to find a route which could give us the maximum opportunity to visit these and keep the mileage down and have places where we can sleep up to 100 pilgrims is a quite a unique challenge.

I have also been trying to get the halls booked as early as possible so that we can have our posters and application forms out and ready for late November. This is so that it is in people's minds as they sit down over Christmas and book their summer holidays. Also, as Howard says, being local may mean a lot more people joining for shorter periods. We already have nine halls booked or awaiting final confirmation with just 4 halls left to find.

So start spreading the word. Put up the posters when you get them! You can tell possible future pilgrims that we will be walking through some really beautiful areas of Surrey and Sussex. We will start at a monastery ruin from the 7th century, pass through a monastery following the ancient Benedictine rule with a past pilgrim there as a monk and also go through an exciting ecumenical lay and religious community. We will also be sleeping in a seminary... I've heard they don't let you out for 5 years and then you become a priest... oops! Maybe I don't need to book the halls after the stop at the Seminary?

Patrick Reeve



The Manchester Reunion Report

The Pilgrimage Reunion in Mossley this November was an extraordinary weekend. Ann L had gone to great lengths to ensure all our needs were catered for, finding the hall, organising the walk, preparing tea and coffee, porridge, cake and soup to feed us, as well as meeting those who came by train at the station to show them the way up hill to the hall. Fred & I arrived in the dark by car, so it was not until the following morning that the size of the hills and scale of the landscape became apparent, Mossley itself nestling in a valley in this dramatic landscape above and to the east of Manchester.

Saturday began with prayers at the shrine in the St Joseph's church garden and the sad news that Roger is unwell. We said prayers for him and other pilgrims known to be suffering ill health at our first prayer stop: the white cross on top of the hill. Then it was on to the folly, from where the panorama of Manchester and the Lancashire & Cheshire plains lay before us in the glorious sunshine of a warm November morning.

Ann took us up and down in a figure-of-eight walk of around 15 miles past a reservoir and up to a memorial cross near the outcrop of rock known locally as "pots & pans", where, in a howling wind, Ceri led us in prayer. We lost Peter W, as he waited below and eventually returned to the hall where we found him waiting for us with the tea brewed. A great day was completed with Mass for the good Catholics and a Chinese meal for all. Much discussion was had about next year in amongst the general chat.

The following morning, Peter left early and the good Anglicans went to Holy Communion at nearby St George's, and learnt more about the planning and erection of the white cross on the hill. John & Louise went home while those remaining were taken on a splendid tour of Manchester city centre by Ann, who enlightened us with local knowledge on every corner. We visited the Football Museum (where Co-ordinator Ceri revealed her true colours), caught the end of choral worship in the cathedral and visited the second oldest, post-reformation, Roman Catholic church in Britain: The Little Gem. At the statue in an adjacent square, pilgrims listened to Abraham Lincoln's speech about the Mancunian men's contribution to the abolition of slavery on Fred's i-phone, then we had lunch in the Art Gallery.

A good time was had by all and it only remains to say a big THANK YOU to Ann and to recommend Manchester as a destination for a future pilgrimage. *Sue*

Photos from the reunion are available on the website, www.thepilgrims.org.uk/2014/reunion.php

Call for Prayer Support

Would you be interested in praying for the success of the pilgrimage and for members of the pilgrim community on a regular basis?

There are a number of pilgrims who are unwell at this time. In particular Monica McLauchlan has asked for our prayers as she embarks on chemotherapy for secondary cancer and Roger Keyes has asked for our prayers as he embarks on treatment for an incurable brain tumour. We ask for the Lord's comfort and protection at this time.

Would you be interested in meeting as a small group to pray for all these and other pilgrim and pilgrimage concerns? Alternatively would you have the skill to build a (virtual) community of intercessors in prayer? If the answer is yes, please contact coord@pilgrims.org.uk or any of the committee.

While you are here, take a minute to pray...

Let the peace of God surround you as you sit or kneel quietly. Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away from you. You are God's child. He loves you and cares for you – He is here with you now – and always. Speak to Him slowly and thoughtfully – give yourself time for Him to bring things to mind.

Lord, thank you for your presence here, for the promise of peace, for the beauty of the world, for the kindness of people, for all those whom I love, and who love me, for your love towards me (and especially for...), for the Cross of Christ and the power of the Spirit. Help me to show my gratitude in deeds as well as words.

Lord, I am sorry for the times when I have been hasty or unkind (especially to...) when I have thought or acted selfishly, when I have failed to forgive or ask forgiveness, when I have forgotten your presence and taken your love for granted. I thank you for your promise to forgive all those who turn back to you.

Lord, I am troubled: I am anxious and distressed (especially about...). Help me to trust your love, for you carry our sorrows. Teach me to act and speak in the way that you want. Give me the wisdom to know when not to interfere. Calm my fears, for all things are in your hands.

Lord, I pray for my family, my friends, my neighbours at home and at work, those I like and those I dislike, those who are ill, those who are troubled or who mourn, the oppressed, those involved in disaster or war. Bless them Father, in their various troubles and show me how I may help.

O heavenly Father, your will for me (and for all people) is my eternal happiness now and forever. I thank you for the blessings you have given me and ask for strength to walk in the way you lead me. Help me to remember the love of Jesus shown on the Cross and to accept the new life and love and freedom which he offers to me. Amen

Prayer from the Parish of St Kentigern, Caldbeck

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Calling all music loving pilgrims... ..

St Peter's Choir, Walton-on-the-Hill, which comprises around 30 children and 7 adults, (including me) has produced a CD with the following: Once in Royal David's City (harmony Mann), Silent Night (arr Chilcott), The Lord bless you and Keep you & Clare Benediction (Rutter), Bread of the World (arr Bullard) and Listen (arr Archer), on sale for £6 each or 2 for £10 + pp. Cheques payable to "St Peter's PCC"; all proceeds are going towards the church roof! The CD has been produced by Choir master Phil www.ontopboxhill.co.uk. If you would like one, please contact me.

Sue Adilz

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