

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages

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

On this our 40th pilgrimage we are walking from Liverpool to Carlisle via Preston, Lancaster, Kendal and the heart of the Lake District. The theme that we are reflecting on this year is "Peace—the way of St Francis" which we adopt in the context of the commemoration of the first world war. By the time we celebrate at Carlisle we will have walked about 180 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

Follow our progress online at our website:

www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Updated daily!

THE LIVERPOOL TO CARLISLE PILGRIMAGE

2014

LIVERPOOL – Southport – Preston – Churchtown – LANCASTER – Arnside – Kendal – AMBLESIDE – Chapel Stile – Keswick – Caldbeck – CARLISLE

9th – 24th August 2014

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 physical journey, usually made to some holy place with the intention of making progress on a spiritual journey. The purpose might be to give praise to God, to do penance, to petition God for some favour, or to 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 Liverpool to Carlisle?

Pilgrimage is as much about the journey as the arrival. We are always seeking out areas of the country which are new to us and this is our first pilgrimage through Lancashire and Cumbria. We have found a route to the cathedral in Carlisle which starts from the cathedrals in Liverpool and take us via Preston and Lancaster into the middle of the Lake District. As we walk through the countryside, we stop at churches to pray for the communities that we pass through, and this year we will have a particular focus on war memorials. We stay in school, church or village halls each night, living and growing as a community over a two week period.

Pilgrimage Theme

In recognition of the centenary of the start of the first world war, this year we are focussing on peace and doing that by taking St Francis of Assisi as our guide. We are using writings and prayers from or about both the first world war and the life of St Francis in our prayer stops in local churches along the way.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,

teach us to live in the ways of peace and justice,

to wage peace rather than war, so that we may come

by the power of the Holy Spirit as one family to the kingdom

Of the Father where you live for ever and ever. Amen

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