

Spiritual Life

Prayer and worship is an important part of our life as pilgrims. We stop at many churches along our route: some historic, some modern, some grand, some very humble. Reflecting the denominational composition of the group, our main daily services broadly alternate between RC and Anglican Eucharists, but we are often welcomed to services from other traditions. All pilgrims have the opportunity to share a reflection with the group at one of the prayer stops.

This year our journey consists of 12 walking days, 2 intermediate rest days, a celebration day in Eastbourne, plus a travel day at the end.

Here is an overview of our overnight stops:

9th Reigate
10th Ashstead
11th Weybridge
12th Frimley
13th-14th Farnham
15th Haslemere
16th Midhurst
17th Tangmere
18th-19th Goring by sea
20th Brighton
21st Seaford
22nd-23rd Eastbourne

More details are available on the Website:

www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages

Jubilee
Pilgrimage of Hope

2025

**HORLEY, REIGATE, ASHSTEAD,
WEYBRIDGE, FRIMLEY, FARNHAM,
HASLEMERE, MIDHURST,
TANGMERE, GORING-BY-SEA,
BRIGHTON, SEAFORD, EASTBOURNE**

9th – 24th August 2025

Join us for a day

Follow our progress online at our website:

www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Updated daily!

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 as Christ leading us on our earthly pilgrimage towards the heavenly kingdom.

What we've discovered, year after year, is the amazing personal and community value of going on a pilgrimage, as our medieval forebears did, where the journey, walking, laughing, sharing, praying, singing, etc. is as important as the destination.

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.

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.

This year is our 50th year of pilgrimage and we are making our way from Horley to Eastbourne visiting all the Deaneries in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Why this route?

Back in 1975 our first pilgrimage "beat the bounds" of the Diocese. Rather than simply repeat this route, we have derived a route that visits every one of the 11 Deaneries in the Diocese, giving everyone in the Diocese the chance to join us at some point.

But we're not just visiting Catholic churches—we stop and pray in many churches that we pass, and this year we are attending services of several denominations.

As in 1975, the Pope has declared 2025 a "Holy Year", this time with a particular theme of Hope. We will try to bring hope to those we meet on our journey.

The Diocese covers Surrey and Sussex and contains a mix of urban and rural environments. Our route takes us through the Surrey Hills, the South Downs, the Wealden Greensand and our planners always find attractive routes to access conurbations.

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