

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Pilgrims

“Why do you go on Pilgrimage?”

A Parishioner asked me “Why do you go on Pilgrimage?” – not an unreasonable question to ask the Co-ordinator! I mentioned the walking, the company, the spiritual input, the whole experience, but was left with a nagging doubt that this was an incomplete answer. On reflection, the reason I go on Pilgrimage is for the people; for the relationships that develop and are renewed each year through our walk with God. So whether you are new to Pilgrimage this year or a “seasoned” pilgrim, welcome! I hope you will be challenged and refreshed by the Lincoln Pilgrimage, as our theme, “Renewal – faith on the move” suggests.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage passes through some very different areas this summer. Starting in the prosperous city of Chester, we walk through agricultural and industrial areas of Cheshire. Our first rest day is in the “silk” town of Macclesfield. We climb into the Peak District, staying in the picturesque Derbyshire towns of Buxton, Bakewell and Matlock. Our second rest day is in Chesterfield, home of the famous Monday Market (since 1165) and crooked spire church. We walk through ex-mining country and Sherwood Forest emerging at Southwell with its beautiful Minster. We cross the River Trent and approach Lincoln across flat farmland, our destination, Lincoln Minster visible on a distant hill.

We met with extraordinary generosity from people in the towns visited, and this has been echoed by other Pilgrims who have been route planning and church visiting. Parishioners wanted to know everything about the Pilgrimage and how they could help. Many went to considerable lengths to assist us with accommodation. We met clergy from various denominations and school proprietors; in common, they all asked us to pray for their communities. They shared blessings or concerns, history and vision. All were involved in offering support and facilities for the benefit of their wider communities; it was an encouragement to see. It will be a pleasure to meet and pray with them as we pass through their communities this summer.

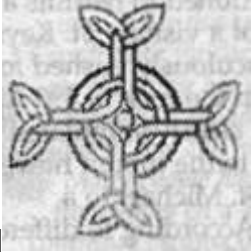
On a more practical note, whilst many halls this year offer plenty of space, the washing facilities are limited. Expect to make good use of local leisure centres! Keep luggage small and light; aim for 15 kilos (33lb). You have to carry and load it onto the van. Better 2 small bags than a large one that nobody can lift (see equipment list). Consider carrying a plastic bag for your breakfast equipment and another for your toothbrush/toothpaste, so that the bulk of luggage can be packed before breakfast. Bring musical instruments; label possessions clearly.

The pilgrimage is a tough journey, sustained through care, prayer and a spirit of community. If you are unable to join us for the whole walk, do come for a day (no charge). Our daily progress can be viewed on the website www.thepilgrims.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you all in August – try to fit in a few practice walks before then. At present we are still seeking someone to drive Frances (our cook) to the supermarket from Chester to Macclesfield, and from Buxton to Chesterfield. If you can help in this respect, please contact me. Sue Adilz Pilgrimage Co-ordinator

Sue

A prayer on the road

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,



I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I know myself.
And the fact that I think I'm following your will
Does not mean I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
Does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will try to trust you always
Though I may seem lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me
And you never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton 1915-1968

Pilgrimage shop

This year Monica will again be opening the pilgrimage shop, at the night stops along the way, which will be stocking a selection of Prayer cards, along with books on prayer etc. all chosen to fit with this years theme.

Pilgrim News



Pictured are Milly Young and Ray Gold who were married on 15 June at the Church of St Andrew and St Mary the Virgin, Fletching, Sussex.

A number of Milly's pilgrim friends attended and Pat Donachie read a passage from 'Listen Pilgrim' during the service. Milly's daughter, Rebecca, also did a reading and Ray's daughter, Helen, sang 'Panis Angelicus'. The happy couple invited friends for an al fresco lunch on the following day, which was under the guiding hand of our own Frances Dean. Now back from their honeymoon in Venice we send them our best wishes for a long and happy life together.

Keith Donachie