

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 11 walking days, 2 intermediate rest days, a celebration day in Peterborough, plus a travel day at either end.

Here is an overview of our overnight stops:

10th Worcester
11th Inkberrow
12th Henley-in-Arden
13th-14th Warwick
15th Coventry
16th Rugby
17th Husbands Bosworth
18th-19th Market Harborough
20th Hallaton
21st Oakham
22nd Stamford
23rd-24th Peterborough

More details are available on the Website:
www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages

Worcester to Peterborough

Heart of England
Pilgrimage

2024

**WORCESTER, INKBERROW,
HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, WARWICK,
COVENTRY, RUGBY, HUSBANDS
BOSWORTH, MARKET HARBOROUGH
HALLATON, OAKHAM, STAMFORD,
PETERBOROUGH**

10th – 25th August 2024

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 49th year of pilgrimage and we are making our way from Worcester Cathedral to Peterborough Cathedral.

We're walking across the middle of England from Worcester Cathedral in the west to Peterborough Cathedral in the east, via the modern Coventry Cathedral and its bombed predecessor.

Why this route?

Over the years we have visited many of the great cathedrals of England and Wales but not these three. Each is a historical landmark in its own right. Worcester contains the tomb of King John of Magna Carta fame, an early "bill of rights" reconciling the monarchy and the English barons. Coventry, with its bomb-damaged old cathedral and 1960s successor, is a symbol of peace and reconciliation. Peterborough Cathedral is known for its gothic west front, but among the saints interred in the altar is Wilfrid, the Apostle of Sussex, under whose banner our pilgrimage became ecumenical more than 40 years ago. Together, as we walk through the heart of England, we pray for a change of heart for us all, as we strive to bring peace and reconciliation to our world.

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