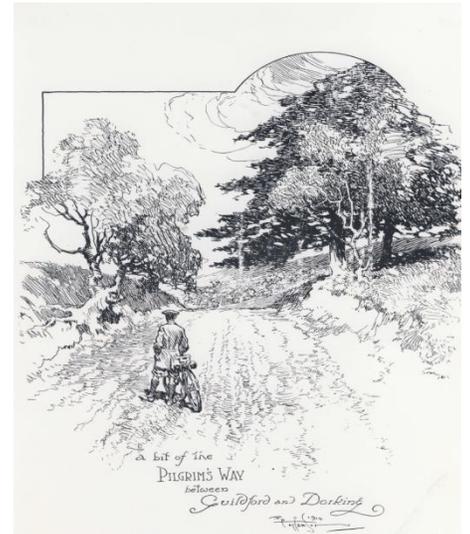




St Stephen's Journey of Faith
Winchester to Canterbury
21 May – 2 June
Pilgrim's AGM Newsletter #2



"When April comes with his sweet, fragrant showers, which pierce the dry ground of March, and bathe every root of every plant in sweet liquid, then people desire to go on pilgrimages."

Geoffrey Chaucer, Canterbury Tales

Thinking about pilgrimage

There are so many reasons for going on pilgrimage. Perhaps now is the time for thinking about what our own reasons are for setting aside this special time with God, whether we're walking the Pilgrim's Way or reflecting on our personal journey of faith in Haslemere.

Perhaps we're facing a difficult decision and want to hear God's voice as we invite him to walk beside us. Or perhaps we are searching for the will of God—or seeking his healing and forgiveness. Or maybe we simply hope to have our faith renewed and refreshed through this time of closeness. Pilgrimage is a spiritual discipline and our reasons for doing it should become our own personal focus for prayer. Who knows what opportunities might arise on the 'journey', be it physical or internal!

The value of pilgrimage with Canon Clare

We are really fortunate to have Canon Clare Edwards from Canterbury Cathedral come to talk to us at St Stephen's on Tuesday, 14 May at 7:45 pm about the value of pilgrimage in all its forms. She is a lively and engaging individual who has walked the Pilgrim's Way herself so can tell us what to expect—even if it is the unexpected! Canon Clare has also been hugely supportive of the St Stephen's pilgrimage and will be guiding us on our prayer walk at Canterbury Cathedral on 2 June. So do come along on the evening of 14 May with a dish of food to share. It's bound to be a very inspirational evening and all are invited!

Thinking about doing a day walk but need a lift share? Check the lists to see who's walking each day!

There is a list of people walking each day of the pilgrimage by our Journey of Faith map on the side of the organ. Please have a look so you can plan who you might be able to share a lift with. And please add your name if it's not on the list and you intend to walk a particular day—or cross it out if you're no longer coming. Don't forget we will have a support vehicle with us each day that can give day walkers a lift back to their car at the starting point. Or you can take public transportation home—it's up to you!

Need help in deciding which days to walk?

Here's a snapshot of what's happening each day, how many miles we're walking and revised level of difficulty (having been pre-tested by our noble band of reconnaissance walkers).

DAY	ROUTE	HIGHLIGHTS	MILES	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION
Tuesday, 21 May	Winchester to Alresford	St Cross Hospital and Wayfarer's Dole Commissioning of pilgrimage at Winchester Cathedral, Headbourne Worthy pilgrim church	9 miles	Easy/Moderate	Old Alresford Place (Christian centre)
Wednesday, 22 May	Alresford to Alton	Beautiful countryside	12 miles	Moderate	Church of St Lawrence, Alton
Thursday, 23 May	Alton to Farnham	Beautiful countryside	13 miles	Moderate	Puttenham Camping Barn
Friday, 24 May	Farnham to Guildford	Runsfold Common nature walk, pilgrim churches at Puttenham, Compton, and Guildford Dinner and fellowship at St Saviour's	11 miles	Moderate	St Saviour's Church, Guildford
Saturday, 25 May	Guildford to Westhumble	Pilgrim's tour of St Martha's Chilworth Tea and prayers with	13 miles	Moderate/Difficult	Tanner's Hatch youth hostel

		Patricia (a lady with a special prayer vision for her area)			
Sunday, 26 May	Westhumble to Merstham	Stepping stones Views from Box Hill Nature reserves Millennium standing stones	10 miles	Moderate/Difficult	Merstham church (TBC)
Monday, 27 May	Merstham to Oxted	Pilgrim church at Chaldon Arthur's Seat Nature reserve	8 miles	Moderate	Oxted or Edenbridge church (TBC)
Tuesday, 28 May	Oxted to Otford	St Botolph pilgrim church Archbishop's palace Swimming!	12 miles	Difficult	Oak Hall Manor (Christian centre)
Wednesday, 29 May	Otford to Cuxton	Early morning prayer and bible study Nature reserve Evening worship in Cuxton church	15 miles	Moderate	Cuxton church and village hall
Thursday, 30 May	Cuxton to Detling	Nature reserves Kit's Coty House Evening worship and dinner with the Priory community	12 miles	Moderate	Aylesford Priory (Christian centre)
Friday, 31 May	Detling to Lenham	Morning Priory tour Beautiful views The Dirty Habit pub Brother Percival	9 miles	Difficult (1 st 4 miles) Easy (last 5 miles)	Palace Farm hostel, Doddington
Saturday, 1 June	Lenham to Chilham	Memorial cross at Lenham Archbishop's palace at Charing	9 or 14 miles (option to stop early)	Moderate (1 st 9 miles) Difficult (last 5 miles)	Benley Farm bunkhouse, Boughton

		Boughton Aluph pilgrim's church King's Wood First view of Canterbury Cathedral Pilgrim party and BBQ			
Sunday, 2 June	Chilham to Canterbury	Nature reserves St Dunstan's church West Gate Canterbury Cathedral prayer walk and celebration service	7 miles	Moderate	HOME!

First and last day timetables

As more people are coming along on these days, here's some advance notice for timings on 21 May to Winchester and 2 June at Canterbury.

21 May

- 8am Leave St. Stephen's Church, Shottermill by car (need volunteer drivers!)
- 9am Arrival at St Cross Hospital for the distribution of 'The Wayfarer's Dole'
- 9.30am 1 mile walk to Winchester Cathedral
- 10.45am Prayers and Blessings to 'commission' our pilgrimage
- 11am Leave Winchester Cathedral to begin pilgrimage walk (or depart for home)

2 June

- 10am (tbc) Buses leave from St Stephen's
- 12:30 Lunch en route
- 2pm Prayer walk, Canterbury Cathedral, led by Canon Clare (tbc)
- 4:30pm Celebration service, Canterbury Cathedral, led by Danny
- 5:30pm Depart cathedral
- 8pm Home

Pilgrimage weaving (from Penny Baker)

I am sure you are now all aware of the pilgrimage walk that is taking place in May. Whilst the walk is a wonderful opportunity for prayer and reflection for those who are able to participate, we are hoping to make a woven hanging for those who cannot.

The weaving will be made up from normal linen warp threads. But the weft threads will be made from strips of coloured fabric. These will be chosen by participants who will be encouraged to write just a few words upon them that will reflect their own journey.

Their journey may well be a physical one or a spiritual one but their words will be woven into the cloth. Perhaps people would like to use fabric that has a particular significance to them, something that was cut from a dress used at a meaningful occasion, or just something they particularly like. We would like the hanging to have predominantly Church colours of red, purple, gold, green and white but nothing within limits will be unacceptable, so long as it is not too bulky. The fabric just needs to take writing, whether it be in coloured or black pen, the writing on it being of vital importance.

Having written their words participants will be asked to weave them into the cloth. After the pilgrimage this cloth will be made into an altar front for the Church, so it will be very special.

The weaving will be taken to various different places from Church to schools to local rest homes, to the Museum and to "Proms in the Park" on Lion Green, so that as many people as possible can contribute and learn about the Pilgrimage and the journey.

The loom is now being made but we would like to ask for donations of cloth to cut into strips. Should anyone have cloth that they are happy to donate I would be very happy to collect it or it could be left at the Church. Please remember though that if you would like to join in and want to use ribbon or your own particular favourite piece of cloth we would be delighted to have it.

The start date is yet to be confirmed but we will keep you informed of our progress.

Many, many thanks,

Penny

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A pilgrimage send-off picnic

This is being planned, courtesy of Emma Andersen and the Sssh group, on Sunday 19 May at the vicarage, immediately following the 10:45 service. Both walkers and stayers are invited! More information shortly.