

PILGRIMAGE TO COP 26 ELY DIOCESE

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021



DAY 1: 28 AUGUST

WIGGENHALL ST MARY MAGDALEN TO TILNEY ST LAWRENCE

Seven of us plus Bailey, an indefatigable dog, set off from St Mary Magdalen, seen on our way by the two churchwardens. We walkers were from Caldecote, Gt Stukeley, Hilton and Ely. We were welcomed with balloons and refreshments at St Lawrence.

As one walker later wrote: "We very much enjoyed the walk today, please pass on our thanks to those at the churches where we started and finished. We ... wished to participate in the walk to reflect our support for environmental action to be taken urgently, and for our response to be linked to the church, caring for God's world."



DAY 2: 29 AUGUST

MEETING THE NORFOLK GROUP IN KINGS LYNN



The Norfolk group were an inter-faith group, with Anglicans, Quakers, Muslims and others, who were completing a relay which started in Gt Yarmouth and finished in Kings Lynn. A short inter-faith act of worship included an address by the Bishop of Lynn. On behalf of the Ely group, we greeted them and prayed with them, using words written by the Bishop of Huntingdon. The Norfolk group had carried bottles of sea water from Gt Yarmouth with them, and the right-hand photo shows a member of the Quaker group and Revd Dr Jenny Gage receiving it, symbolising the continuation of the pilgrimage from Norfolk into Ely Diocese and further afield. The Quakers took it with them, because some of them were intending to cycle onto the Midlands, there to join up with the main COP26 pilgrimages to Glasgow.

I am delighted that you are involved in this COP26 Pilgrimage, importantly that you are linking up with others. Thank you getting involved, thank you for taking part!

It is my hope and prayer that you will continue to inspire, nudge and encourage many others to work for a world in which Climate Change is pro-actively taken seriously and for a church in which we rediscover God the Creator who has entrusted us with the whole of creation.

So may God's hand lie on COP26 amidst the many other global problems with which we are beset.

I invite you to join in this prayer:

Creator God,
as you created humankind according to your likeness,
so help us, like you,
to see the goodness and preciousness of creation.
May we see ourselves as part of a greater whole
and remember our duty of care towards the earth.
Grant us to recognize and appreciate
the intricacy and variety of life in all its fulness.
So help us to live
wisely in treating this earth gently,
boldly in making the changes we need to make
and with compassion for the poorest of the world
who are most affected by Climate Change.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 3: 30 AUGUST

WISBECH TO UPWELL ST PETER

Five of us plus Bailey set off on a very gloomy Bank Holiday Monday morning in a slight drizzle – we didn't take any photos! But the weather improved, the walking and the company were good, and our welcome at St Peter's Upwell was warm.



DAY 4: 2 SEPTEMBER

WARBOYS ST MARY MAGDALENE TO RAMSEY ST THOMAS À BECKET

Our best day yet for numbers, with six people from Ramsey joining the three of us and a dog who had done the two previous walks. We were joined by a local farmer at Broughton who ensured that we knew the best way to go, and told us more about the village, the church and the land, before leaving us as we walked on to Wistow. We were grateful for the use of loos in the pub in Broughton and in the church in Wistow, and for parking at the home of one of the ministry team in Warboys. At St Thomas à Becket, we were greeted with a warm welcome, tea and cake– most welcome!



One of the Ramsey contingent put an article about us in the Hunts Post:

Wednesday
September 15, 2021

HUNTS POST 47

Climate Walk



The pilgrimage was to support climate issues. Picture: RICHARD HYDE

A cross-country pilgrimage to draw attention to environmental issues was "very pleasant" one of the participants has said.

The eight-mile walk, from Warboys to Ramsey, had been organised by the Ely Diocese to give support to the COP28 UN climate talks being held in Glasgow in November.

The pilgrimage, from St Thomas a' Becket Church, in Ramsey, was led by the Rev Iain Osborne, and was one of a series taking place all over the country..

Richard Hyde, from Ramsey, who took part in the walk said: "It was really pleasant and the exercise did us good."

"We went from Warboys to Ramsey, stopping at the churches along the route which was eight miles in total using fields and public footpaths without walking on main roads."

He said the walk provided a chance to support climate issues being discussed at the conference.

The local leg was arranged by the Rev Dr Jenny Gage of Ely.

DAY 5: 4 SEPTEMBER

SAWTRY ALL SAINTS TO LITTLE GIDDING

Several people from All Saints saw off an even larger group on the last leg of the pilgrimage. There were four people and a chocolate coloured Labrador from The Ascension, Cambridge, and other walkers, including a very energetic 7 year-old, from Buckden, Cottenham, Ely, Gt Stukeley, Milton, Ramsey, Whittlesford and Yaxley. Our 7 year-old companion was still turning cartwheels at Little Gidding!



We were met by a group of people from the villages around Little Gidding and by the Chaplain of Little Gidding, Canon Fiona Brampton. In the grounds of Little Gidding house and church, we enjoyed food, hot and cold drinks, and worship.

Fiona led us in our worship with a service of worship in preparation for the COP26 Climate Change Conference, using resources from *The Wild Goose Resource Group*, in consultation with the Iona Community's *Common Concern Network for the Environment*. It included an imaginary sequel to the story in Genesis 1-2 in which God creates the world in seven days. This is set as a penitential meditation, starting from God's delight at his creation, but then taking us through God's displeasure at all that we have done to spoil it.

In the period of reflection that followed this, we were challenged to record a personal challenge and a challenge to COP26 on a seed card. These, when planted, should flower. Will the challenges we wrote down also flower?

"Thank you for a brilliant day on Saturday and especially the beautiful service." wrote one participant. His message to the COP26 delegates is: "Please agree a practicable plan that actually reduces atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and ensure it gets implemented."

