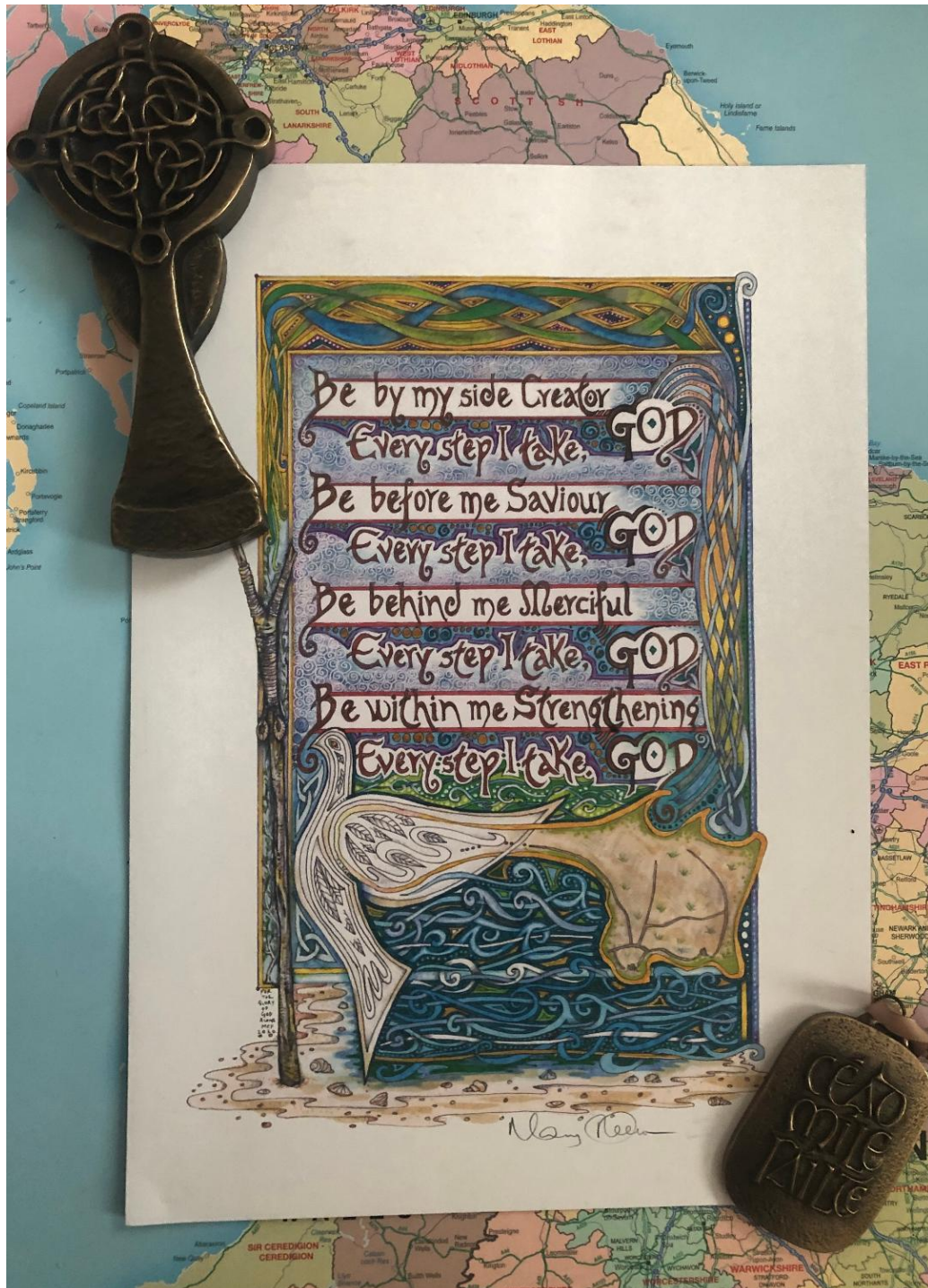




"We exist to receive and share the love of God"

hurst virtual pilgrimage to lindisfarne

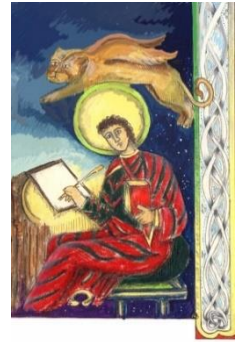


**pentecost to st aidan's day
31st may-31st august 2020**

Introduction

Revd Liz writes...

On Monday 25th May the church celebrated the Venerable Bede, who wrote the most complete History of Christian England up to the year 729. He was born in Northumbria in 670 and at the age of 7 he was given to the monastery of St Peter and St Paul at Wearmouth. He then moved to Jarrow where he lived as a monk for the rest of his life. After I said Morning Prayer on Monday remembering St Bede I set out on a walk to pray. As I walked up the hill to Harsthead Pike from Knott Hill Reservoir an idea emerged in my head almost fully formed!



I have been worrying about how church will be when we return and how people are being spiritually fed without us not being able to gather for the Eucharist as we love to do and I have been worrying about how church will be able to pay our way without our usual fundraising efforts. I have been offering these worries to God in prayer.

The idea of a sponsored walk combined with a Virtual Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, a place I love and have a deep spiritual connection with, seemed to be an answer to prayer for some of those worries at least.

Sponsored Walk

I will physically walk 300 miles around the area between Pentecost, 31 May and St Aidan's Day, 31 August and this walk and challenge will be sponsored for the work of St John the Evangelist Hurst. To sponsor you can donate on our Easyfundraising [Donate Now](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheechurst/donate/) page. Either click the hyper link or go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheechurst/donate/> If you give this way and are a UK Taxpayer we would be grateful if you would Gift Aid your donation. This is easy to do with just a few more clicks of the mouse! If you would prefer to give another way contact Janet Matley on 07528 386771 or matley21@btinternet.com to discuss other ways to give.

Virtual Pilgrimage

Where does the virtual pilgrimage come in I hear you cry?! I have planned a walking route to Lindisfarne calling at various holy sites along the way – this route is 309 miles long. I will plot on the map each mile I physically walk around this area and spiritually I, and hope we all as a church, will in prayer, enter on a Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, a real journey of the heart.

Hopefully at each stopping off point I will be welcomed “virtually” by the people who take care of the holy sites and we can learn stories of each place and any saints that may be associated with it. We can learn together and pray together! There is a pilgrimage prayer which can be used every day by all of us and for all of us as we seek to walk closely with God in our pilgrimage through life. The prayer is written by Mary Fleeson an artist who lives on Lindisfarne. Her illuminated prayer is on the cover of this booklet and you can view more of her work at www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk.

Alison Peacock, Head of Serving Communities and Mission Planning Officer in The Diocese of Manchester has kindly provided us with a digital map with all the places I will visit marked on,



Revd Liz's
Sponsored Walk
& Virtual
Pilgrimage to
Lindisfarne

Pentecost
Sun 31 May -
St Aidan's Day
Mon 31 Aug

To raise funds for
St John the
Evangelist, Hurst

including a link to the website and the distance in km as the crow flies to the next stopping off point. Follow the pilgrimage on the digital map! <https://arcg.is/z88X8>

There will be a weekly Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage sent out via e-mail and you can follow the pilgrimage on Facebook and Twitter – please like and share!

Join us on this journey of the heart to Lindisfarne, support us financially if you are able and please pray for our church as we make this pilgrimage and for me as I take on this physical challenge and walk this spiritual road.

Prayers and blessings Revd Liz

the burst virtual pilgrimage itinerary

Depart	Arrive	Miles
St John's Hurst	St John's Roughtown	2.8
St John's Roughtown	St Chad's Uppemill	3.5
St Chad's Uppemill	Huddersfield Parish Church	15
Huddersfield Parish Church	CR Mirfield	4
CR Mirfield	Wakefield Cathedral	10
Wakefield Cathedral	St Helen's Hemsworth	8.5
St Helen's Hemsworth	Bishopsthorpe	28
Bishopsthorpe	York Minster	3.4
York Minster	Easingwold	13
Easingwold	Stanbrook Abbey	9.3
Stanbrook Abbey	Ampleforth Abbey	4.6
Ampleforth Abbey	St Hilda's Ampleforth	1.1
St Hilda's Ampleforth	St Mary's Lastingham	15
St Mary's Lastingham	St Hilda's Priory	21
St Hilda's Priory	Whitby Abbey	1.7
ST HILD'S WAY		
Whitby Abbey	St Mary's Whitby	0
St Mary's Whitby	St Hilda's Whitby	0.7
St Hilda's Whitby	Sandsend	2.3
Sandsend	Runswick Bay	4.6
Runswick Bay	Staithes	4
Staithes	Skinningrove	4.9
Skinningrove	Huntcliffe Roman Station	3.3
Huntcliffe Roman Station	Saltburn	0.2
Saltburn	Transporter Bridge	13
Transporter Bridge	Greatham Creek	4.2
Greatham Creek	Seaton Carew	6.7
Seaton Carew	St Hilda's Hartlepool	4.7
St Hilda's Hartlepool	St Aidan's Hartlepool	3.4
St Aidan's Hartlepool	Durham Cathedral	18
Durham Cathedral	St Peter's Monkwearmouth	14
St Peter's Monkwearmouth	St Paul's Jarrow	7.5
St Paul's Jarrow	Newcastle Cathedral	6.7
Newcastle Cathedral	St Cuthbert's Bedlington	13
St Cuthbert's Bedlington	Alnmouth Friary	23
Alnmouth Friary	Holy Trinity Embleton	9
Holy Trinity Embleton	St Aidan's Bamburgh	9.2
St Aidan's Bamburgh	Lindisfarne	16
		309.3

pilgrimage

As Christians we are all on a pilgrimage through life, with a starting point of faith and baptism, and the kingdom of heaven as our final destination. At Baptism we often pray for the candidate as he or she joins the 'pilgrim people of God.' The introduction of the Baptism service states, "Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love."

Every pilgrimage we embark on is in response to God's love for us and so is always a journey of the heart.

Mary Fleeson in the background to the artwork *Be By My Side* which features our Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage Prayer writes,

"Pilgrimage encompasses two distinct and yet complementary concepts, the physical journey to a spiritually significant place and the journey of the heart and mind as they move nearer to God. In the first case we make a choice to travel somewhere because we believe that the journey will be beneficial to our spiritual and emotional growth and that being at the destination will bring us closer to God's blessing and a deeper understanding of our Creator. The journey of the heart and mind is a different process, we are all set on this pilgrimage, not by choice but because we live."

It has been said that a genuine Pilgrimage is a microcosm of Christian life. It begins with an act of faith and commitment. It progresses through many challenges and tribulations, trials and joys as the faith journey continues. Eventually it arrives at its destination, the place of blessing, the gate of heaven itself.

This is why I feel this Pilgrimage is important for our Church as we journey through these difficult times of Coronavirus and lockdown. The Pilgrimage will, I hope, give us as a Church, a focus as we navigate these strange and often bewildering times. It will be a way of walking together in this time when we cannot physically worship in our church. My hope is that it will be beneficial to our spiritual and emotional growth and that at the end of our Pilgrimage together we will be blessed with a deeper understanding of our relationship with God, we will know ourselves more as God made us to be and we will discern his presence with us more and more in ourselves in others, and in any circumstance we find ourselves in as we continue our pilgrimage through life.

So in response to God's love for us, let us make a commitment to walk together in faith, sharing the journey with all its challenges and tribulations, trials and joys so we might arrive at Lindisfarne a place of great blessing to Christians throughout the ages and today.

May we walk on the paths of the saints before us and may they be companions on our pilgrimage.

Every blessing and buon camino!

Revd Liz



hurst virtual pilgrimage prayer

Pilgrimage Prayer



Be by my side Creator God,
Every step I take,
Be before me Saviour God,
Every step I take,
Be behind me Merciful God,
Every step I take,
Be within me Strengthening God
Every step I take.

Prayer- Mary Fleeson www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk

Bishop David's Blessing

A Blessing from Bishop David - Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



May the Lord
Who is the beginning and end of every journey
Bless, preserve and keep you
Along each step of the way.
May his holy comfort protect you,
His Holy Wisdom guide you,
His holy prompting steer you,
Till you reach your journey's end.
Amen.

Canon Daniel Burton's Blessing

A Celtic blessing from Canon Daniel Burton - Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



May the road rise to meet you
may the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the Lord bless
your going out and coming in
from this day forward and forever more. Amen.

Blessings from Bishop Mark Davies and Dean Richard Sewell

[Revd Liz's](#) Introduction to the Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage

[The Right Revd Mark Davies](#) Blessing for Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage

[The Very Revd Richard Sewell](#), Dean of St George's College Jerusalem.

Day one 31 may – pentecost 12.6 miles

I am quite nervous as I begin this Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage and walk of 309 miles but also excited as the journey begins. 12.6 miles is the longest Whit Walk I've even been on! It has been a great encouragement to receive blessings, prayers and even advice from Bishop David, Bishop Mark, The Very Reverend Richard Sewell, Canon Daniel Burton and many others on twitter including Wakefield Cathedral, a place of pilgrimage on the way to Lindisfarne. I have felt called to embark on this pilgrimage and I am excited for all that may unfold on the journey.

After offering the Pentecost Eucharist in church alone and then receiving good wishes from those on the after service zoom coffee morning and then praying the Pilgrimage prayer, I was surprised but delighted to be waved off by a number of folk from St John's - socially distant of course! There is a video [here](#)!



I set off with water and rosary beads in hand and prayed the rosary for the first part of the walk through the parish. The rhythm of the prayer and the rhythm of the walking mirrored each other, kept my focus on God and helped me to anchor the walk in prayer.

I reached the Junction Inn at the bottom of Gorsey Lane. Across and to the left lay the Parish of Mossley and to the right St George's Stalybridge. Thankful for the friendship of both the vicars of those parishes Revd David Warner and Revd Penny Warner, and for their prayerful support. Thankful also for the support of the [Society of Catholic Priests](#) (SCP) of which we are members, and Penny as the Rector of the Manchester Chapter. Please pray for the priests of SCP and the communities they serve.



Another member of SCP Canon Daniel Burton sent me an adapted version of the traditional Celtic blessing. The road certainly rose to meet me as I walked up Luzley Road and the big hill between Hurst and Mossley, the wind was welcome and the sun shone warm upon my face! I was taken back in prayer as I walked to the first Pilgrimage to the Holy Land I went on in 2011 when I had shared the Eucharist on the Mount of

Beatitudes overlooking the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Bishop Chris, the former Bishop of Bolton, preached and he talked about God as warmth and light and I could feel God surrounding me as I sat on that hillside, just as I could now, walking up the hill to Mossley.



Through reflecting on the words of Daniel's prayer I was also taken back to Jerusalem and the church, St Peter in Gallicantu where I preached on my last pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2017. Over the door are the words from Psalm 121 "May the Lord watch over your going out and your coming in." Pilgrimages and prayers from my past were surfacing and mingling with and enriching this pilgrimage. It can be good to revisit times of prayer that have been particularly meaningful or significant for us, even if they are from years ago, and bring them into our prayer today – they may still have much to reveal to us.

It was such a beautiful and hot day and the views over the city of Manchester were stunning. I stopped to catch my breath and to look over the city and prayed for our Diocese as it enters a time of much change with the new Deanery Plans. I realised that my second stop of the day and pilgrimage was at St Chad's Uppermill. Under the new plans we would be in the same deanery. I prayed for Bishops David, Mark and Mark, Archdeacons David, Karen and Jean, Assistant Archdeacon Karen, Helen Platts, The Diocesan Board of Education & Deborah Smith, and the Diocesan Board of Finance & Philip Blinkhorn and all who work at Church House providing us with support. Please hold them in prayer too.



As you begin to descend the hill there are beautiful views of the Parish of Mossley. I prayed for Fr David Warner and Fr Ian Brocklehurst and their ministry in lockdown and for their exciting Summer-12 Challenge to raise money for their churches. I prayed it would bring the church community together and bear much fruit. Please remember the parish in your prayers too.



I passed St George's and on to St John the Baptist for the first stop of the Pilgrimage, being met on the way by Susan Booth who wished me well on my journey onward! I was greeted enthusiastically at St John's by Buddy! Fr David and Mthr Penny gave me water and tea and scones – which were most welcome! Rest and refreshment on any journey including a pilgrimage, and encouragement from friends is important. I was thankful for hospitality and fun! Later as I continued to walk I gave thanks for all the ways St John's provides hospitality and fun to our community, such as our fairs, Wednesday Welcome, Crafty Characters and Crafty Kids, Thursday Club, Aerobics, Friends of St John Coffee mornings amongst others and prayed that ministry of hospitality and welcome would continue once we can return to our church building, even if it has to be in some other way. Here is a video of Fr David's [blessing](#)



2.8 miles....

Thankful for a fairly flat walk now as I walked over the border to Yorkshire and Saddleworth. The beauty of God's creation was breathtaking.



The spire of Christchurch Friezland was the first sign of a church in Saddleworth. As I continued through the different villages I prayed for Revd Canon Sharon Jones Rector of Saddleworth and the team of clergy and readers there. Please pray for them.



"The sheep may safely graze" on the hillside...The words of Psalm 23 obviously came to mind. I stopped to pray for those whose funerals I have conducted, their families and friends and for funeral directors, crematorium and cemetery staff. I prayed for all those known to our congregation who have died and all their family and friends. Who will you pray for?

Uppermill and Huddersfield the next two stops on the pilgrimage clearly signposted – good to know I'm heading in the right direction! The lock chamber reminded me of Margaret Silf's book [Landmarks](#), a pivotal book in my journey. "The lock chamber is not a prison but a place of transformation where God's inflowing grace might raise me to where I must be to journey on and explore."



Pause at statue of poet Ammon Wrigley. Prayer for all poets, all those who capture in words thought and feelings and whole worlds which can uplift, inspire, challenge and comfort and often articulate for us when we find we have no words to say. Prayer for Malcolm Guite whose poetry has accompanied us this lockdown and Rachel Mann, a priest in the Manchester diocese and former cathedral poet and Andrew Rudd Manchester Cathedral poet.

A welcome rest, cuppa and blessing as I arrived at St Chad's Uppermill with Revd Canon Sharon Jones. Thankful for all 3 as I physically began the 6.3 miles return journey home but spiritually carried on the pilgrimage to Lindisfarne via the next stopping off point – Huddersfield Parish Church.



On the journey back home on the first stage of the pilgrimage there was time for reflection on all I had seen and prayed about. I saw foxgloves growing out of the wall. Beauty and persistence flourishing in the most inhospitable and unlikely places. Welcome sight of home and time for rest and refreshment time to reflect and get ready for the next stage of the pilgrimage.



12.6 miles walked and virtually reached Marsden!

Day two 1 June

A rest from walking. Made time to reflect, pray and journal and update social media.

Day three 2 June 6 miles

Prospect of another warm day so I began my walk and carried on the pilgrimage at 7.40am as it was cooler. I physically headed for Chadwick Dam and spiritually left Marsden and continued on the way to Huddersfield.

The dam looked ethereal in the early morning sunlight.



I walked past a family of geese whose gosling looked to still be half asleep! I prayed for our schools and the families still on half term all preparing to go back next week. I prayed for those families worried about sending their children into school and for all teachers and teaching assistants and other school staff who have been in school often without much of a break since lockdown began. As I write this up on Saturday 6th June it has been decided that it will now be 22 June at the earliest before schools open for other pupils. Please do keep our children, the head teachers and all teaching and non- teaching staff in your prayers at this uncertain and unsettling time.



“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin, yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.” Mt 6:28



Reflections in the still water. How will I reflect God's love today? Where will I see reflections of God's love and in whom?



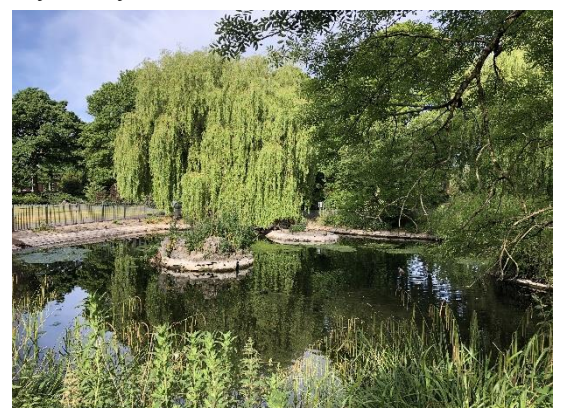
Birds in flight...
“Come Holy Ghost
our souls inspire and
lighten with celestial
fire, thou the
anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy
sevenfold gifts

impart.”Praying for all to be ordained deacon and priest this year; for those who are having to wait until at least Michaelmas for their ordinations; for all living with uncertainty; for all starting curacies without first being ordained.



May this moment right now radiate peace, like a pebble thrown in still water, may by being in your presence spread your love to those around me and throughout the remainder of the day. Amen.

Prayer by Mary Fleeson



Every word or action has the potential to create ripples for good or evil, of anger or kindness. What ripples will I cause today? How can I create ripples of love and kindness? Lord help me think before I throw a pebble into the pool of life.



Bees surrounding these beautiful flowers. I'm reminded of the Easter song of praise – the Exsultet. "But now we know your praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honour, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious." Spend some time reflecting on this past Holy Week and Easter. One like no other. The Paschal candle was extinguished at Pentecost and now we are in Ordinary Time. How will that be different? How will we mark that season in these extraordinary times?

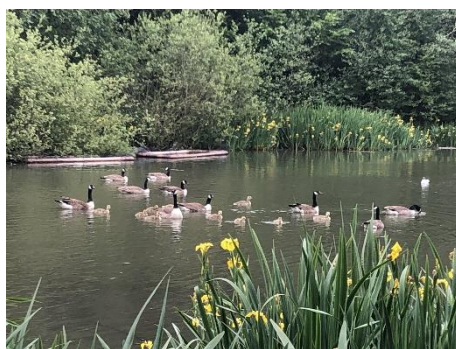


Prayer for those wrestling with discernment, those who can't see the wood for the trees. Pray for a sense of direction as we make this journey of the heart inwards as you follow the journey outward and onward. 6 miles walked. 2.7 till we reach Huddersfield Parish Church.

Day four 3 June 2.7 miles

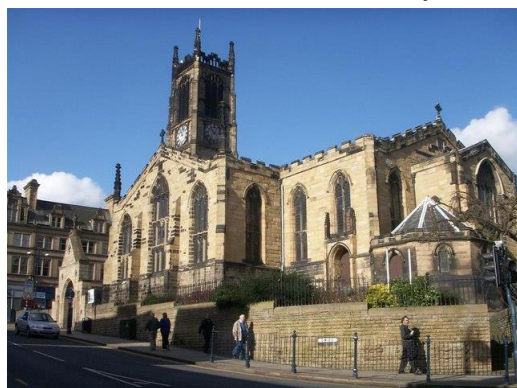


Each day I walk I begin with the pilgrimage prayer and Bishop David's blessing. I walked to Chadwick Dam again today. Cold and raining, it looks like a different place than yesterday. I walked past an entrance to the hospital and prayed. Pray for all patients being cared for at this time; for doctors, nurses and other clinical and auxiliary staff as they put their health and lives at risk caring for others.



No still waters today! The geese were all eagerly heading in one direction on the choppy water today. They looked like they were on a mission. As I turned the corner I realised the reason. A small boy with a bag of bread! (see Mt 14:13-21 or Mk 6:31-44 or Luke 8:12-17 or John 6:1-14. Again memories of the Holy Land and being the Church of the multiplication at Tagbha- expecting to preside at the Eucharist there to be told we weren't booked in! Not many places will allow a woman to preside on the Pilgrimage route in the Holy Land so that was my only chance to preside at one of the holy sites. Praying now for us all eager to share the Eucharist together once more.

2.7 miles walked today and I've reached stage 4 of the pilgrimage and my first virtual stop! As I walked I prayed for the Vicar Revd Canon Rachel Firth and her team at Huddersfield Parish Church, St Peter's the church in the heart of the town. Praying for their ministry in this lockdown time. Please pray especially for Rachel as she was licensed to this new role just two months ago during



lockdown on zoom! If you would like to find out more about

Huddersfield Parish church click on the [website](#).

Click [here](#) for Revd Canon Rachel Firth's welcome to Huddersfield Parish Church and her prayer of blessing for the continuing pilgrimage. Thank you so much to Rachel for her welcome to us. We hope to visit for real in the future!

The next stop on our pilgrimage is to the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield just 4 miles away.

Day five 4 June 0 miles

A rest from walking today. The Tameside Reporter have written an [article](#) about the Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage.

Day six 5 June 4.57 miles



Today I walked to Mossley on a rather different Whit Friday. Quite a crowd of bovine friends gathered to see me off on today's leg of Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage. Physically walking over the big hill to Mossley again, with an amazing view of Manchester, but spiritually on the way to the [Community of the Resurrection](#), Mirfield. As I walked I prayed for the Brothers of the community and for the students at the College of the Resurrection. Also praying for those who have trained Mirfield in the past, many of whom have walked with me on my journey and inspired and encouraged me including Fr Alan Butler, my parish priest who died on the Monday of Holy Week last year and The Venerable David Sharples, our new Archdeacon of Rochdale and The Right Reverend Mark Davies, the Bishop of Middleton.



Beauty by the roadside. A stunning white foxglove growing out from a stone wall. Persistence in prayer. Seeds sown wildly and often without knowledge can blossom and grow and bear fruit in the most unexpected places.



Prayers for Mossley Parish as they prepare to celebrate Whit Friday in quite a different way this year. It would have been wet and windy but it would have joyous and glorious too! This time next year... I arrived early and placed a flower from all of us at St John's in the cross in the square as an act of witness.



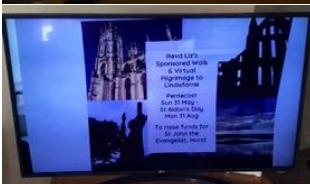
Seeing a thistle reminded me of my son and son-in-law Danny and Craig living in Edinburgh. Praying for them and my Scottish family and all who miss being with their loved ones at this time.



Arrived at Mirfield! Thank you to Fr Oswin and all the Brothers at C R Mirfield for the wonderful virtual welcome, prayers and blessings. It is good to be here!



Blessed to have been able to join in the regular online live streamed weekday midday prayers and Eucharist at 12 noon and 12.15pm where I was welcomed before the Eucharist began and prayed for at the Eucharist by Fr Oswin. Looking forward to visiting again for real!



A Blessing from CR Mirfield on Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



We praise and thank you God of the journey
for our sister who has come on pilgrimage
to to this house of prayer
and is to continue her journey from here.
Remain with her on this holy pilgrimage
and guide her way in accordance with your will.
We entrust her into your loving care,
knowing that you are always
the faithful traveller and companion on the way
and will bring her to the holy island in safety. Amen

A Blessing from CR Mirfield on Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



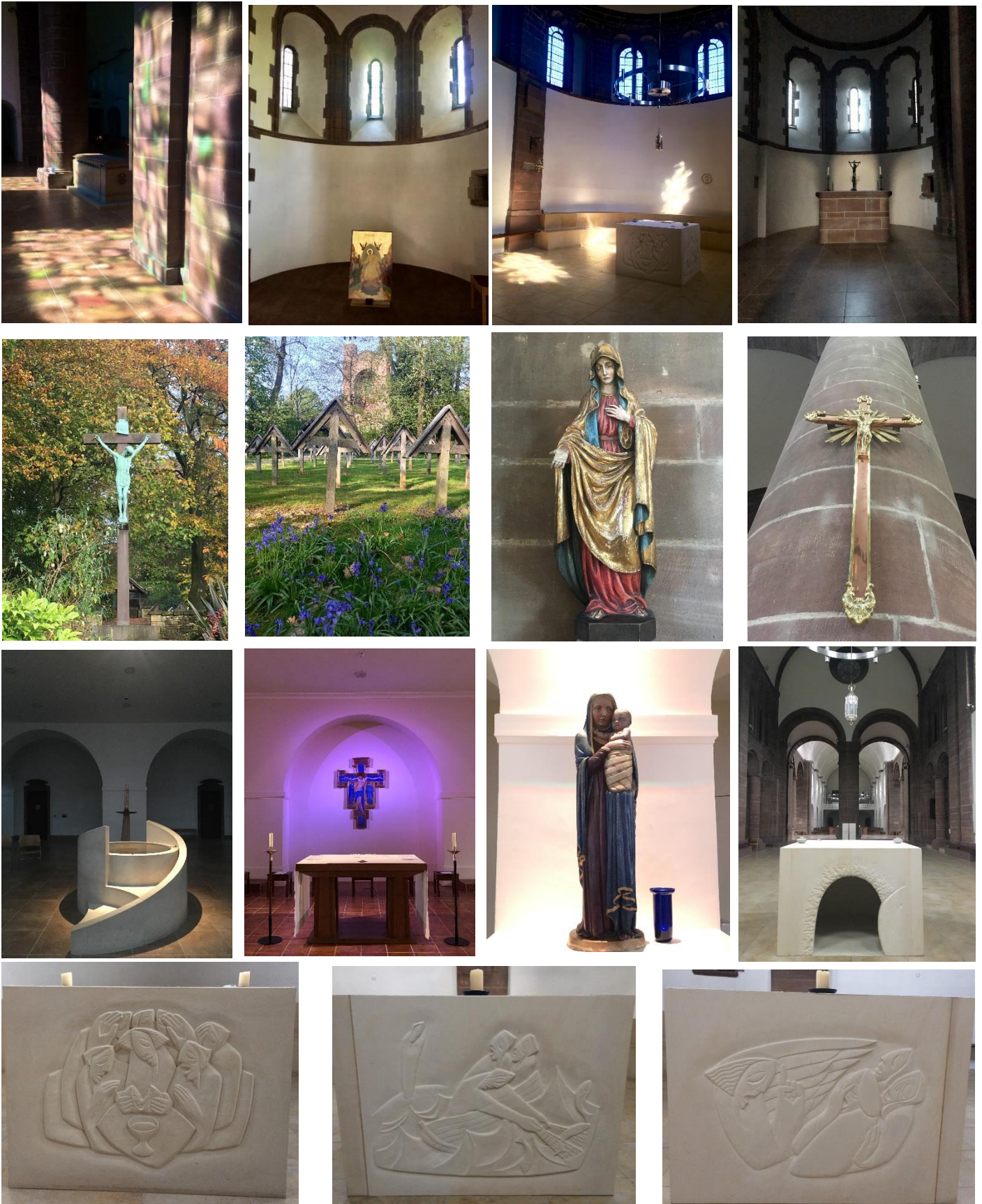
Now may the God of peace,
who bought back from the dead our Lord Jesus
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do his will,
working among us that which is pleasing
in his sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A Blessing from CR Mirfield on Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, help the afflicted;
honour everyone; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and all the parish of St John
and remain with you always. Amen.

MORE PICTURES FROM MIRFIELD



When Fr Oswin first responded to my request to greet me on the Pilgrimage virtually he said "May Cuthbert walk with you." A beautiful image that one of my favourite saints might be accompanying me on my journey to the Island on which he lived and died.

Fr Oswin also sent me a message on the morning of the first day of the pilgrimage. "I hope ' a church that walks serene, because it bears the force of love'" (St Oscar Romero).

The picture on the front of this booklet is by Mary Fleeson and has the words of the Pilgrimage prayer which is used each time I set out on this pilgrimage. It includes a simple map of Lindisfarne, a stylised dove representing the Holy Spirit, a shoreline and a Pilgrim Staff.

The Cross is one I bought online the day after I started the pilgrimage from the Wild Goose Studio in Ireland. It is a Celtic cross of Endings and Beginnings. The chalice symbol on the cross signifies life's source, where change is of the essence. And so through life. When there is acceptance of change, of the circle of endings and beginnings, then the unexpected has a chance.

It came with a free gift with a traditional Gaelic greeting Céad míle fáilte which literally means a hundred thousand welcomes. It indicates the respect for the significance of a welcome as the threshold to new experiences and peoples. It also reveals the Celt's expansive nature.

I will carry the cross and the welcome plaque with me in future as I walk this pilgrimage.

I am so grateful for the welcome I have received from Revd David and Revd Penny Warner, Revd Canon Sharon Jones, Revd Canon Rachel Firth and Fr Oswin and the Brothers at CR Mirfield. Please pray for them over the coming week. Pray also for all who sent us a blessing, Bishop Mark, Bishop David, Canon Daniel Burton

The next stopping off point is Wakefield Cathedral which is 9.43 miles away. I have walked 25.87 miles – only 283.43 to go!

Please use this booklet as a source for prayer and reflection during this week and please pray for me as I will pray for you as we journey together on this pilgrimage of the heart to Lindisfarne.

