



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

hurst virtual pilgrimage to lindisfarne week 2



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

week 1

Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers as I set out on this physical journey of 309 miles and we are spiritually journeying together in prayer to Lindisfarne.

It was encouraging to receive blessings from Bishop David and Bishop Mark, from Revd Canon Daniel Burton and from The Very Revd Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem as we began this virtual pilgrimage together.

I have also been very grateful for the prayerful support of those whose holy sites I have visited, both physically and virtually. The first week I travelled from St John the Evangelist Hurst to St John the Baptist Mossley with Revd David and Revd Penny Warner and St Chad's Uppermill with Revd Canon Sharon Jones – both physical visits. From then on the visits to churches and other holy sites on the Pilgrimage were and will be virtual. My first virtual stop was with Revd Canon Rachel Firth at Huddersfield Parish Church, then it was a relatively short walk of 4 miles to arrive at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. It was so good to be welcomed there by the brothers and to be able to join with them in worship online as I "arrived".

week 2 Begins...

Now a new week begins... As I was walking and praying physically on my way to Mossley and spiritually on my way to CR Mirfield last Friday I had the idea of adding another layer to the Pilgrimage. As I walk from place to place I am praying for the next place I am visiting as well as my prayer being sparked by what I see on my physical walk. I have decided that some of the time my physical walks will be to, first of all, churches in our deanery of Ashton, and then to the churches that will make up the new bigger deanery next year which includes churches in the current deaneries of Oldham East and Oldham West. I will have to drive to some of the places and then walk to 2 or three churches in that area and back again. As I walk I will then pray for those churches too. As you will see this week I made a start on this by walking to the churches of The Good Shepherd, St George's Stalybridge, Christ Church Ashton, St Lawrence's Denton, St Anne's Haughton, St Mary's Haughton Green, St Stephen's Audenshaw, St Hilda's Audenshaw, Christ Church Denton and St George's Dane Bank.

I hope that you will continue to walk with me on this spiritual pilgrimage and that you will make use of this booklet in your prayer over the coming week.

hurst virtual pilgrimage prayer

Hurst Virtual 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

Day eight 7th June – trinity sunday 6.38 miles

In week 1 I had walked 25.87 miles and my next stop to Wakefield Cathedral was 9.43 miles away. I had decided I would like to walk to a church dedicated to the Holy Trinity on Trinity Sunday and so physically walked to the five churches which make up the Parish of the Good Shepherd which includes Holy Trinity Ashton, alongside St James Ashton, St Michael and All Angels, Ashton Parish church, St Peter's Ashton and St Gabriel's Ashton. I was thankful for cooler weather and that the rain had stopped when I started my 2 and a half hour walk.

It was a colourful start to week 2, day 8, as spiritually I set out to Wakefield Cathedral and physically set out to St James Ashton – the first church in the Parish of the Good Shepherd I was visiting. Praying for the clergy and congregation at Wakefield Cathedral and Revd Roger Farnworth, Revd Benjamin Brady and Revd Pat Lodge. The flowers were all in gardens or on the side of the road on the way. Beauty everywhere if we take time to gaze at what is around us.



I arrived at **St James** and was greeted with more beauty surrounding the church. I walked around the grounds and prayed for the congregation at St James, the District Church Council (DCC) the clergy, and Hurst Knoll St James school, where I am a governor and St James, Ashton. Praying for the heads, the staff and the pupils and their families in these uncertain and quickly changing times.



I walked the short distance to **St Michael and All Angels** in the centre of Ashton. A dramatic sky above St Michael's when I arrived. Praying for the congregation the DCC and Parochial School, the Head, the teaching and non-teaching staff and all the pupils and their families. Prayers for all at Albion URC over the roundabout.



Walking through Ashton and this starling was boldly marching through the streets! We were being urged to stay safe in the windows en-route to Holy Trinity Ashton. I couldn't see the queue at IKEA as I walked by! Prayers for Fr Simon and all at St Anne's Ashton.



I arrived at the third church in The Good Shepherd Team – **Holy Trinity Church & Community Centre**. <https://htccc.org/> Giving thanks for recent funding to enable amazing work to continue in the community centre in that community. Prayers for Hasna Khan and all at the Centre, for the congregation and for the Head & all staff, pupils and parents at Holy Trinity School.



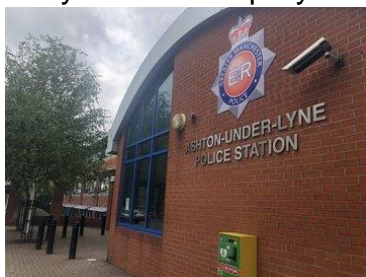
A sign of where I'm heading spiritually next on the Pilgrimage – Wakefield Cathedral. Walking by a dual carriageway on the way to my next physical stop St Peter's Ashton and there are beautiful roses and other flowers by the roadside in Ashton which, if I had been in the car, I would never have noticed. I'm thankful for slower pace of walking and the chance to see and notice more around me. Ponder on, and give thanks for, the blessings that this time of lockdown has brought to you. Have there been any? What would you like to carry on doing "when life returns to a "new normal"?"



The fourth church is **St Peter's Ashton**. The rose window is beautiful from inside. I took this photo on Christmas Day when I presided there. Prayers for the DCC and congregation and for the Head and teaching and non-teaching staff at St Peter's Ashton where our musical director Mark Derbyshire works some of the time and is affectionately known as Mr D!



Continuing to walk through Ashton on the pilgrimage. Praying for GMP Ashton for the officers and the support staff and for all who strive to keep us safe. Praying for all working in the Magistrates Court and all seeking to uphold justice. Walking past the health centre praying for NHS staff working in such difficult conditions. Passing by Ashton's historic market-prayers for all providing us with food and other essentials at this time. As you walk on your daily walk what do or will you pray for? Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you in your prayer, to take notice of everything around you. What are you called to pray for? Where will you see God in your life?



Interesting sculptures along the way as I continue to pray for the clergy of the Good Shepherd and in particular Roger Farnworth with responsibility for 5 churches and all the challenges that poses. The family sculpture opposite the market is quite Trinitarian! Praying for all artists who help us to see the world in different ways and challenge our view point and our point of view



Walking up the hill from Ashton towards the fifth and final church in the Good Shepherd Team, St Gabriel's Ashton. Passing by Hurst Methodist Church. Praying for Karen Hilsden and our friends there in the congregation.

Praying for staff and students at Ashton Sixth Form College and for Jean Hurlston their chaplain.

A beautiful "Thank you NHS" Tree decorated with hearts

from people in the community near St Gabriel's Church.



I arrived at the fifth and final church of the day **St Gabriel's**. Prayers for the DCC and congregation and for their Place of Welcome. Beautiful flower beds teeming with bees – an oasis for a weary traveller.



More beauty and bees on the way back home. Another 6.38 miles walked- 32.25 in total and only another 3.05 miles and I'll be at Wakefield Cathedral! A tenth of the way to Lindisfarne! Time now to reflect on the journey and the prayer and rest those weary legs!



Day nine 8th June 3.55 miles and 3.83 miles

I woke early and checked the weather – a new routine to my day! I set off at 7.15am and headed towards St George Stalybridge knowing I was only just over 3 miles from Wakefield Cathedral on my spiritual pilgrimage. Praying for the Dean of Wakefield, The Very Revd Simon Cowling, the Canon Precentor, The Revd Canon Leah Vasey and The Revd Canon Derek Walmsley Diocesan Director or Ordinands and for the cathedral community. Praying also for The Revd Penny Warner at Stalybridge.



I walked by the hospital and prayed for staff, patients and the hospital chaplains: Mohammed Seedat, Neil Crane, The Revd Canon Jean Hurlston, Fr Jack Hemsworth, Sr Collette Iles, Pradip Upadhyay and all the chaplaincy volunteers. Praying as I walked for all with interrupted treatments and cancelled operations.

Mother goose kept a careful eye on me as I walked by Stamford Park. Praying for all going the extra mile to protect their families at this time, particularly NHS staff and care workers making sacrifices to keep their families safe.



More new flowers are coming into bud every day. The words of the hymn "New Every Morning is the Love" ran through my head as I walked on.



First sight of the church up another big hill! Praying for all finding life an uphill struggle at this time.



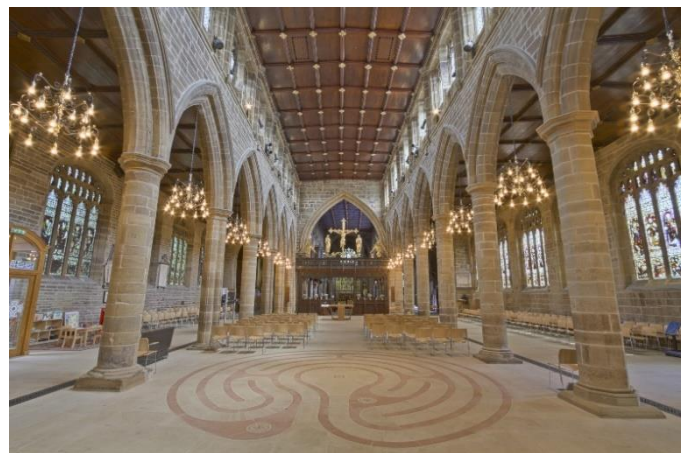
I arrived physically at **St George's Stalybridge** and praying for Revd Penny Warner in her first few weeks of being the Vicar there and for the congregation and parish she is serving. Praying for Mthr Penny in her role as Rector of the Manchester Chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests.



Having walked along the road to Stalybridge I decided to walk back via Chadwick Dam. There is something soothing, refreshing and freeing about praying by water. My thoughts drifted to end of the pilgrimage at Lindisfarne and being surrounded by the sea. I was spurred on by that thought and the thought I was nearly at the next stop of the spiritual part of the pilgrimage, Wakefield Cathedral.



As I arrived home I had walked another 3.55 miles and virtually arrived at **Wakefield Cathedral**. I was welcomed warmly to Wakefield Cathedral by The Very Revd Simon Cowling, the Dean of Wakefield as we journey on to Lindisfarne. You can watch the welcome [here](#). The website is [here](#)



The Dean mentioned St Paulinus Way in his welcome, find out more [here](#). It is a 65 mile pilgrimage route from Todmorden to York. More about St Paulinus when we reach York!

The labyrinth at Wakefield Cathedral was installed as part of Project 2013 and has been a part of their regular worship ever since. It is made from stone quarried from Holmfirth. There is a video [here](#) that you can also find on the cathedral website

Walking the labyrinth

The labyrinth is a path of prayer. It is a spiritual aid that can help us find our way. Walking the labyrinth can still our minds, ground our bodies, reduce stress and open our hearts. We can use our experience of walking the labyrinth as a metaphor for our own lives or focus on a particular issue or situation.

We can approach walking the labyrinth in three stages:

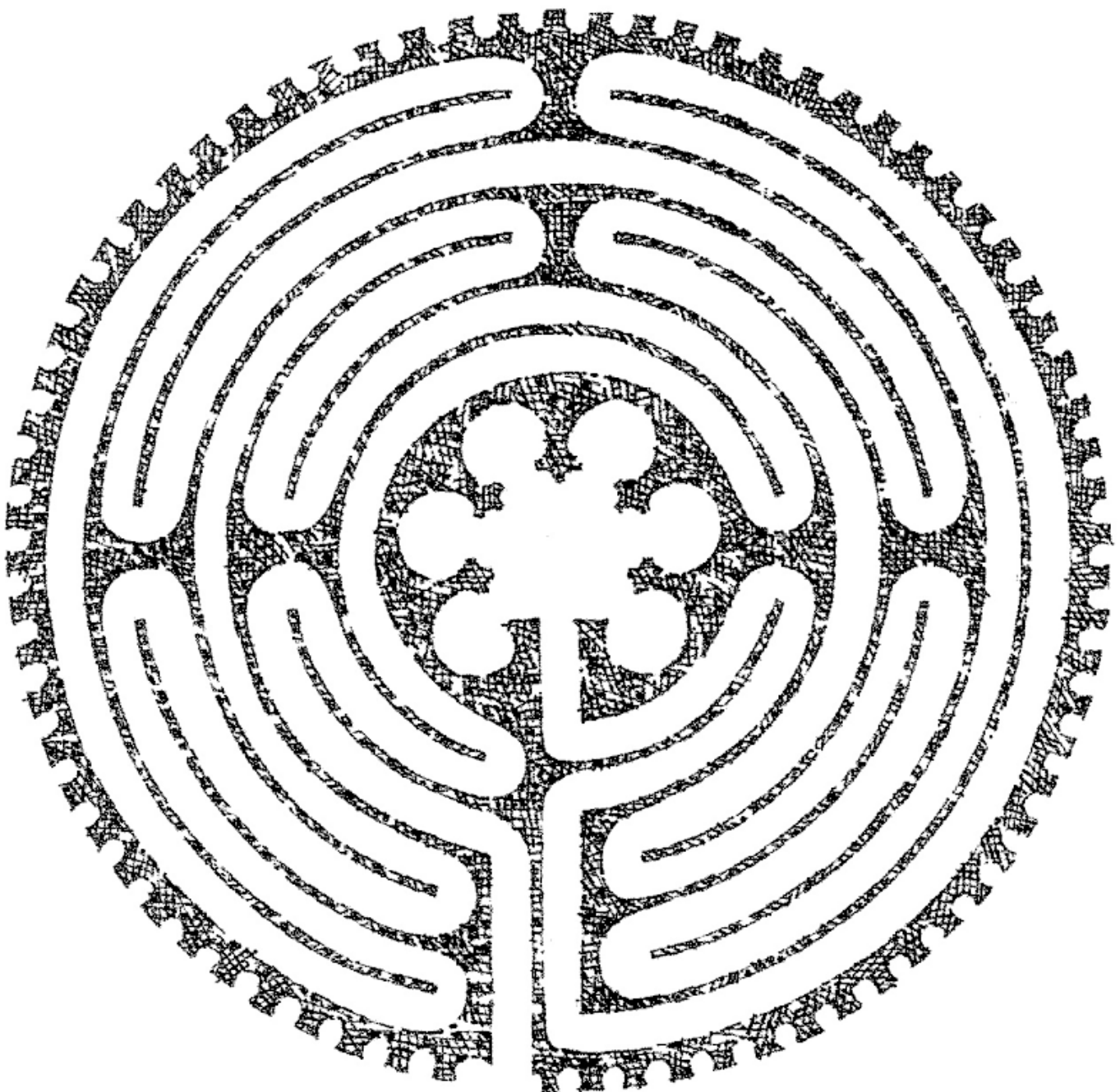
The inward journey to the centre as a time of letting go and releasing (purgation)

The time in the middle as a time of stillness, reflection and receptivity (illumination)

The outward journey as a time of returning to the outside world - taking back what we have learnt and received (union)

We can't walk the labyrinth now but we can use the one below and trace a path with our finger. To prepare, sit quietly and take some time to reflect. Focus on your breathing. Do you have a question you wish to think about? Do you feel a need to slow down and take time out?

As you move around the labyrinth, allow yourself to find the pace you naturally want to go. May God go with you.



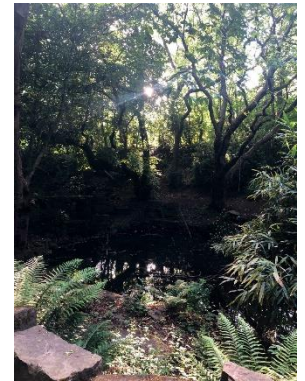
Later on Monday evening I went for a second walk over Chadwick Dam and to Stamford Park. I used that time to reflect on my prayer from earlier. Thankful for places of beauty so close by that I am ashamed to say I didn't know about until lockdown.

It is so important to take time to reflect on our prayer times. We might go off and make a cuppa, or something mundane like go and put some washing in, but then come back and perhaps write down in a note book a word or phrase that has come to us. We might write down how we were left feeling and reflect about where those feelings were coming from. Reflecting on our prayer times can help us to see where God is at work and can help us to see patterns in our prayer and discern meaning.

I spent time watching the squirrels and waiting patiently to capture a good picture. Prayer is often about watching and waiting and we can find it difficult. Praying for patience as we watch and wait.



Almost home and the dazzling light broke through the dark clouds. Only 4.13 miles away from next stop on the pilgrimage at St Helen's Hemsworth. Praying for Fr Robert Hart and the congregation. Fr Robert told us on Twitter that he has the virtual kettle on!



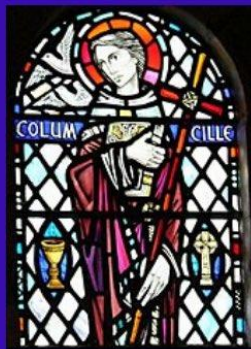
Day ten 9th June st columba 4.18 miles

St Columba Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



**Almighty God,
who filled the heart of Columba
with the joy of the Holy Spirit and with deep love
for those in his care:
may your pilgrim people follow him,
strong in faith, sustained by hope,
and one in the love that binds us to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

St Columba Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



**See that you be at peace
Among yourselves
And love one another,
Follow the example of the wise and the good,
And God will comfort you,
Both in this world
and in the world which is to come.**

On the day the church remembers Columba I set out very early. I physically set out to Christ Church Ashton and spiritually to St Helen's Hemsworth.

I walked past the Old Ball Inn, site of a riot in 1862 where PC William Jump was shot and later died of his wounds on 26 June 1862. He was the first policeman to be killed on active duty and he lies in our churchyard. Praying for Greater Manchester Police, the Hurst Team and all who keep us safe in our communities.

I arrived at Christ Church Ashton. Prayers for Revd Dr David Jacks, Revd Alan Hills and the congregation there and all who would usually meet in their church.

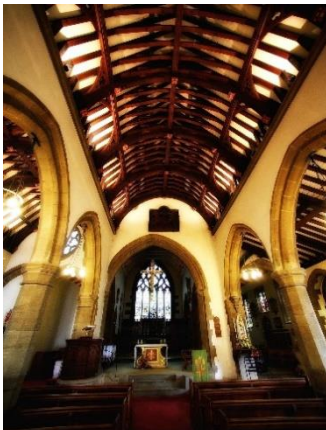


Praying for schools in the parish, Canon Burrows, Canon Johnson and Waterloo Primary, for the Head teachers and all their staff as they prepare for opening more widely very soon and praying for pupils and their families in these uncertain times.



Physically back home after another 4.18 miles and spiritually I've arrived at **St Helen's Hemsworth** and received a welcome and a virtual cuppa from Fr Robert Hart. Praying for Fr Robert and the congregation there and for the ways they reach out into the community. St Helen's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) Hemsworth is the parish that Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Middleton was at before he came to Manchester Diocese as Archdeacon of Rochdale. At their Patronal festival Fr Robert was driven around the town giving blessings with a relic of St Helen. For more pictures the festival go to their Facebook page.

St Helen was the Emperor Constantine's mother and on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land is said to have discovered the true cross and the site of Jesus's Crucifixion and burial. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre in 335.



A message from Fr Robert Hart, St Helen's Hemsworth Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage



**On her pilgrimage to the Holy Land,
S Helen, the Patron of Hemsworth
found the cross and tomb
of the Crucified and Risen Christ.
May she pray for you,
that on your pilgrimage way
you may be drawn closer to Christ
in his passion and glory.**

st columba



Born in Ireland in about the year 521, Columba was trained as a monk by St Finnian and then founded several monasteries himself, including probably that of Kells, before leaving Ireland to settle on Iona, off the coast of Scotland. He was accompanied by twelve companions and the number grew as the monastic life became more established and well-known. Columba seems to have been an austere and, at times, harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a heathen land. He converted kings and built churches, Iona becoming a starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, when his health had failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in the year 597.

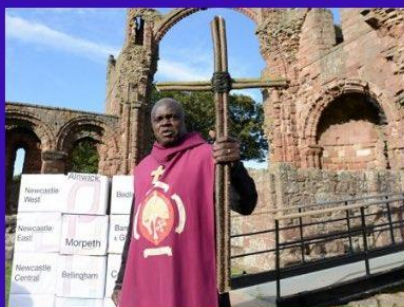
Aidan was sent from Columba's monastery on Iona to Lindisfarne where he was the founder and the first Bishop of the island monastery.

Day eleven 10th June 4.28 miles

Today I woke early and was ready to leave the by house by 6.30pm setting off spiritually from St Helen's Hemsworth to Bishopthorpe, the home of the Archbishop of York some 28 miles away. I got to the door and realised it was raining! I checked the weather app and decided to set off a little later and so got on with some work. Archbishop Sentamu went on a pilgrimage around the Northern Province a few years ago and his office sent me this prayer for our pilgrimage as we moved towards York.

Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage

Prayer for setting out each day on Pilgrimage from Archbishop Sentamu



**God of Our Pilgrimage,
Thank You for Your Friendship.
Be the Fire Leading Us.
Be the Star Guiding Us.
Be the Good Shepherd Calling Us.
May the Holy Spirit, Strengthen Us
For All that Lies Ahead.
May Your Holy Angels, Surrounding Us:
Watch, Defend, and Protect Us
Against All Evil. Amen.**

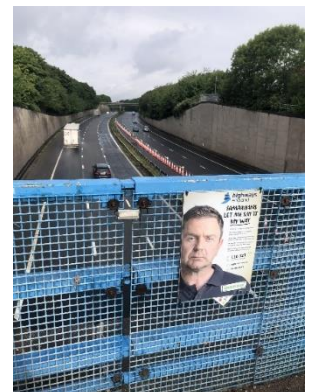
I set off in the car at 8.15am to drive St Lawrence's Church Denton from where I would physically visit St Anne's Haughton and St Mary the Virgin Haughton Green whilst heading towards Bishopthorpe on our spiritual pilgrimage.

On arriving at St Leonard's I walked around the church yard and prayed for Fr Jules Mambu and Revd Sheila Cant and the congregation of St Lawrence's and their ministry with children and young people and their work with the heritage of the building and the area.



I then headed off with Google maps directing which way I should walk to St Anne's Haughton praying for the former Archbishop, John Sentamu and his wife Margaret on the way. I'd not walked far though when I almost turned back. I was tired, cold and my legs were hurting and I didn't feel I would reach my destination. I remembered Fr Oswin's words, "May Cuthbert walk with you". I was conscious I was walking with Cuthbert, with St Helen and St Paulinus and a great cloud of witnesses and the words from Hebrews came to "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us". Well I wasn't going to be running anywhere, but encouraged and strengthened by the thought I wasn't walking alone, I carried on.

I arrived at St Anne's Haughton and was greeted by the words "The Lord Shall Give Thee Rest". It made me smile! I walked around the church grounds and held the congregation, Fr Jules & Revd Sheila in prayer. I prayed for St Anne's School for the Head & all the staff and pupils.



Walking back over the motorway bridge outside St Anne's I stopped for a while, once I'd walked off the bridge, to remember in prayer those known to me who have died by suicide. I prayed for families and friends grieving, for all struggling at this time and for the work of The Samaritans, PAPYRUS and The Anthony Seddon Fund. I became quite upset as I stood at the bridge and wondered again about retracing my steps but I carried on.

The walk today seemed full of surprises! The route to St Mary's Haughton Green took me through beautiful countryside, through trees and over a river. Thankful for beautiful green spaces so close to busy roads & town. My spirits were lifted by the sounds and sights of nature all around me. I prayed for those without access to outdoor green spaces.





Back on the roads and I immediately faced climbing another very steep hill! It was good to come across the Haughton Green Heritage Trail though once I reached the top to see what might be possible with our ongoing heritage project at St John's. I prayed for our Heritage and Building project as I walked on.



I reached Haughton Green and that community space. Praying for the day when we might gather together again in community spaces to rejoice and to remember. The sign at the foot of the beacon says "The light of hope emerges from the darkness of war". Praying for light in the darkness of this pandemic.

I soon arrived at St Mary the Virgin Haughton Green and walked around the grounds. Praying for Revd Mark Glew and the congregation and Eric Bynon who worships here and is lay chair of Ashton Deanery. Praying for the volunteers and those who use the food bank at St Mary's. Praying a venue for the food pantry might be found in Hurst.



Walking back to St Lawrence's I stopped a while at the wildlife garden at St John Fisher RC church. I received a lovely welcome from the gardening volunteers. It was a beautiful oasis of flowers and wildlife. Praying for the priest, Fr Peter Kinsella & for the congregations here & at St Mary's Denton. Again thankful for beauty around us.



It had been good to follow some of the Haughton Green Heritage Trail. I stopped at bandstand and prayed for musicians unable to work at this time and for local MP Andrew Gwynne. A sign for Chelmsford Walk made me think of Archbishop Elect Bishop Stephen Cottrell as he too makes his way to Bishopthorpe to take up residence there. Praying for Bishop Stephen and his wife Rebecca as they prepare to move. I arrived back at St Lawrence's having walked 4.28 miles with another 23.78 miles to go before Bishopthorpe.



Day twelve 11th June corpus christi

Today I rested from walking and offered the Eucharist for and on behalf of the parish on this feast day and spent time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. I also attended a chapter meeting and a school governor meeting. Praying for all navigating opening up schools and church buildings.

Day thirteen 12th June St Barnabas 6.02 miles

St Barnabas Day is 11th June but as we celebrated Corpus Christi that day we kept St Barnabas today. Barnabas means "son of encouragement" and I am thankful today for all who have given me encouragement on this pilgrimage and throughout my life.

Today is my rest day so I was going to have a slow start to the day and walk later on but then I looked at the weather forecast and decided to get up right away and avoid the rain! I arrived at St Stephen's Audenshaw at 6.45am and walked around the church yard carrying my cross of endings and beginnings and I prayed for Revd Roger Dixon and the congregation there. I prayed for St Stephen's school, the Head, the teaching and non-teaching staff and the pupils and their families. I feel when I carry the cross when I walk it is like carrying a pilgrim's staff and I gain strength from it. Do you have an object that you hold when praying? A holding cross or rosaries or even a pebble or shell? Holding on to something when we pray can sometimes help us to still ourselves and focus.



I continue spiritually to Bishopthorpe praying for Bishop Sentamu and Archbishop Elect Stephen and physically begin to walk to St Hilda's Audenshaw and walk past Guide Bridge train station and a bus stop. Prayers for all working on public transport allowing those without transport to return to work.

Walking by Guide Bridge medical practice and by a number of care homes en route. Praying for all working for the NHS and those working in care homes giving thanks for their dedication & service. Praying for those separated from loved ones in care homes & hospital.



Walking on past Little Giggles Day Nursery praying for the staff, children & families. On past a funeral directors, praying for all funeral directors, crematorium and cemetery staff in these difficult times. I arrived at St Hilda's Audenshaw and prayed for Fr John Kershaw and the congregation at St Hilda's and the community they serve.



I nearly turned back again when I reached St Hilda's. It was half an hour away to Christ Church Denton and again I was feeling weary and my legs were aching. I'm not sure if it was Barnabas or Cuthbert who encouraged me but I carried on!



On the way praying for the Head, staff and pupils at Denton Community College, for Carmel Christian centre and the work they do with Christians Against

Poverty and the work they do with those in debt. Another bridge over the M60. I stop and pray again for all who have died by suicide-their family and friends and for organisations who support them. Praying especially for my friends who still reach out to help others despite of, or maybe because of, their own pain.

A long walk now through numerous industrial estates and over the motorway again on way to St George's Dane Bank. Still so much beauty amongst the stark industrial units. Praying for businesses at this time keeping staff safe and finding new ways of working

Arrived at Christ Church Denton where it was great to see prayer notices on a tree! Praying for the Vicar Revd Miles Howarth fellow member of the Society of Catholic Priests, the Reader June Partington and the congregation. Praying for their outreach into the community and work with local GP's.

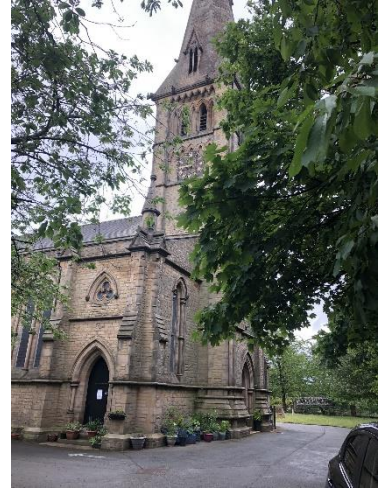


Walking back to St Stephen's Audenshaw. Praying for all who have had to postpone weddings this year. Prayers for Guide Bridge Theatre in these uncertain times. Giving thanks for their volunteers and for the way in which the arts bring communities together.



It was a long walk back to St Stephen's and yet because I now know the way, it's not as daunting nor does it feel as long a journey as it did going. Prayers for all setting out on a new path and not knowing where it will lead, especially ordinands whose ordinations have been delayed.

Another 6.02 miles walked making a total of 28.24 miles this week and a running total of 54.11 miles. I have arrived somewhere near Brotherton and I am 17.69 miles away from Bishopthorpe.



I'm looking forward to week 3! We're "only" 254.89 miles away from Lindisfarne! This picture below was taken on 20th January 2020. It can be inspiring to hold onto a vision of where we are heading.

