



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

hurst virtual pilgrimage to lindisfarne week 3



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

week 3 Begins...

Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers as I continue on this physical journey of 309 miles and we spiritually journey together in prayer to Lindisfarne. I have been very grateful for the prayerful support of those whose holy sites I have visited this week.

At the end of last week I had physically walked to and prayed for all the churches in the Deanery apart from the churches in Droylsden and I had spiritually began the journey to Bishopthorpe and had reached Brotherton. Now a new week begins...I physically finished walking to all the churches in the Ashton deanery by visiting St Andrew's, St Martin's and St Mary's in Droylsden. Spiritually I set off from Brotherton and continued the 17.69 miles to Bishopthorpe, the Archbishop of York's residence and then a further 3.4 miles to York Minster!

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 day fifteen 1st sunday after trinity

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

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.**

14th June – 4.03 miles



In week 1 and 2 I had walked 54.11 miles and my next stop to Bishopthorpe was 17.69 miles away. After the zoom coffee morning I got myself ready and walked to church to pray the pilgrimage prayer and the prayer that former Archbishop Sentamu used on his pilgrimage around the province a few years ago.

I had decided to physically walk to Harsthead Pike today and so set off towards Hurst Cross. Someone beeped their horn loudly at me and shouted to me – I jumped out of my skin and then smiled when I realised it was Fr Simon, from St Christopher's.

I then walked past two of his church schools, St Christopher's and St Damian's and St Christopher's Church. I prayed for the Head teachers at the school, all the teaching and non-teaching staff and the pupils and their families as some of the year groups prepare to go back to school

on 22 June. Prayed also for Fr Simon and the congregation at St Christopher's as they prepare to open one of the churches in the parish soon.



I walked past the new Hindu Temple being built on Lees New Road and prayed for the Hindu community in Hurst and Ashton, for them in their preparations for moving to their new temple when it is ready and for opening up safely for private prayer.



I turned to walk up Lily Lanes and there was a beautiful scent and sight of honeysuckle in the hedgerows and the first proper sight of my destination, Hartshead Pike as I walked up the lane. Turning back I can see St John's spire in the distance. A comfort to see both where I have come from where I am going. Praying for those who feel lost at this time, and disoriented.



The hill gets steeper and the walking slower as I near my destination. It is deceptively warm to as I make the climb. There are plenty of places to stop a short while though and admire the view. It is breath-taking in every sense of the word! Praying I might continue to still make time to walk, pray and stop to contemplate the view when this pilgrimage is over. What do want to continue to do that has helped you through this lockdown? What “holy habits” you have adopted do you hope to continue once we return to a ‘new normal’?



It was worth the climb to reach Hartshead Pike. The view on a clear day is amazing and you can see a fair bit of Angela Rayner's constituency from there. Praying for Angela in her role as our MP and as deputy leader of Labour Party and as a regular volunteer each Saturday night at Oldham Street Angels.



Fantastic views over a lot of the Diocese of Manchester, you can even see over to Bolton! Praying for our diocese at this time of change. Praying also for the Diocesan Clergy Conference that is to be held on digitally 23rd-24th June. It was an easier walk down! Another 4.03 miles done on my way to Bishopthorpe- 13.66 miles



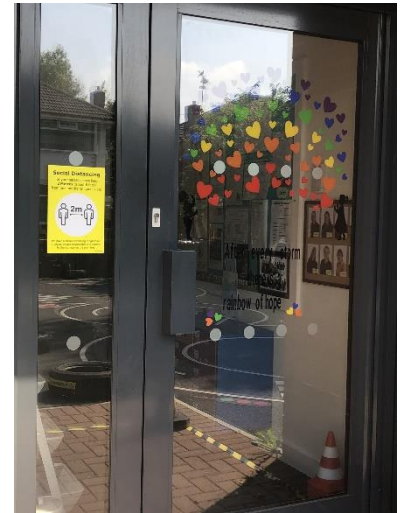
Day sixteen 15th June 4.4 miles evelyn underhill



Today I set out to continue on the spiritual pilgrimage to Bishopthorpe, 13.66 miles away and physically around the churches in Droylsden accompanied by friend and colleague Fr Jack Hemsworth- a companion on the way. I drove to Jack's house and Margaret, his wife waved us off on this leg of the pilgrimage!

The first stop of the day on was to Sunshine Pre-School held in part of St Andrew's Church Droylsden where we met Fr Jack's daughter, Rachel, who runs the group.

We prayed for the pre-school in all their preparations to open, for all the staff and for all the children who attend and their families. Praying that anxieties and fears may be calmed.



We walked around the corner to the front of St Andrew's Droylsden and spent some time at the garden of remembrance. The cross is from the old St Andrew's building. We remembered those who have served and worshipped at St Andrew's over the years. We prayed for the Vicar Revd Jo Farnworth, the PCC and the congregation and for Revd Joy Hulton and the Methodist and URC congregations who also worship in the building. Praying for the church congregations as they prepare to open the church buildings on 4th July. Prayers also for Jo in her role as Ecumenical Officer in the Diocese.



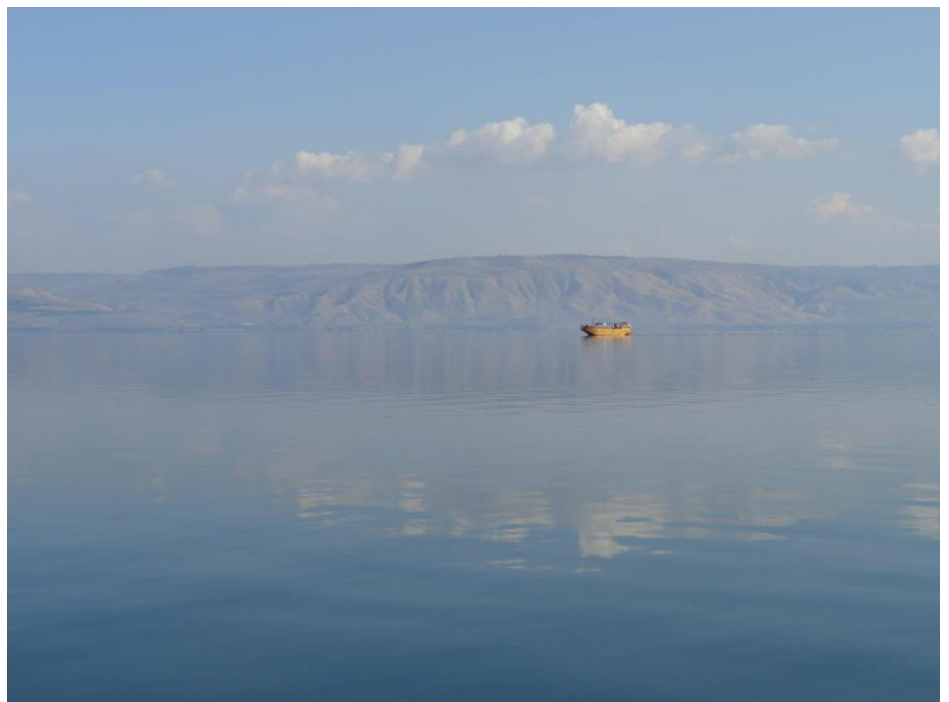
Reminders as we carried on on the pilgrimage, of the sacrifices made by many from our area in wars and conflicts, both long ago and in recent history. Praying for those serving in the armed forces at this time, for those still suffering from serving in past conflicts and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Stunning lillies in a garden as we walked along. They reminded me of our celebration of Easter this year – like no other.

Fr Jack gained an insight into how my mind works making connections in prayer.



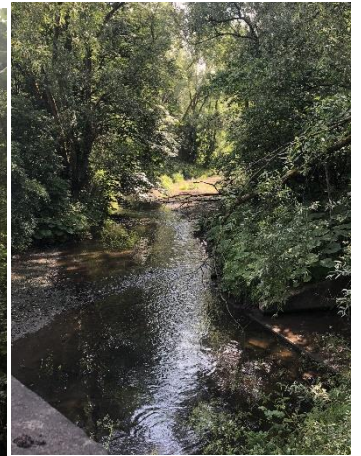
We saw Repton Avenue and I immediately thought of the hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind – the hymn tune is called Repton. I was then transported in my mind to singing that hymn on Lake Galilee on my first Holy Land Pilgrimage – a profound moment of feeling God's presence with me. I remembered in prayer Hani and Victor, guides on those pilgrimages. I also prayed for The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, former Dean of St George's Cathedral who had been consecrated the day before as Bishop Coadjutor of Jerusalem. Prayers also for The Very Revd Richard Sewell who sent us greetings and prayer at Pentecost – the first week of the Pilgrimage.



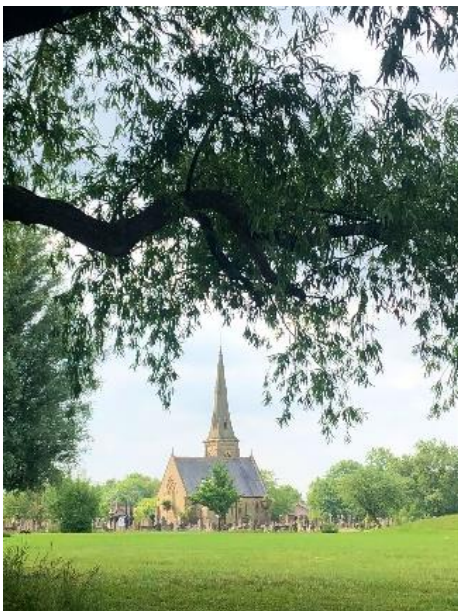
Arrived at Sunny Bank Vale on our pilgrimage. This site was, up until the 1970's, a rubbish tip. The only sign of this now being the posts at regular intervals in the ground that allow the gases from the tip to escape. It is now the most amazing wooded, wet and meadowland. It is an incredible symbol of the earth's renewal and of resurrection. Over the last 9 years The Friends of Sunny Bank Vale have helped to maintain this beautiful site. Praying for them in their care for creation.



Our path was blocked by a fallen tree in the road. Praying for those encountering obstacles on their life journey, for those discerning which path to take and for those afraid to dip their toe in the water or to take the plunge with a new venture.



Arrived at St Martin's Droylsden and prayed for Revd Jo Farnworth, the PCC and the congregation and for the ways they reach out into the community. Prayers also for the work of Greenside Children's centre. Praying too for Jo's funeral ministry and for cemetery staff ensuring funerals are conducted safely. St Martin was a soldier who encountered a naked beggar at the city gates in Amien. He cut his cloak in half to share with the



beggar. That night in a dream the beggar revealed himself to be Christ. After this experience Martin became a "soldier for Christ" and founded a monastery in Gaul and became Bishop of Tours in 371. We prayed that like Martin we might share of our riches with those in greater need.



On the way to St Mary's Droylsden praying for staff in shops opening today. As we reached St Mary's school and church we prayed for the Head, staff and pupils at St Mary's school and for The Revd Sue & The Revd Nancy & the Reader Doreen, who attends our church once a month and the congregation at St Mary's church and for their ministry and outreach into the community.



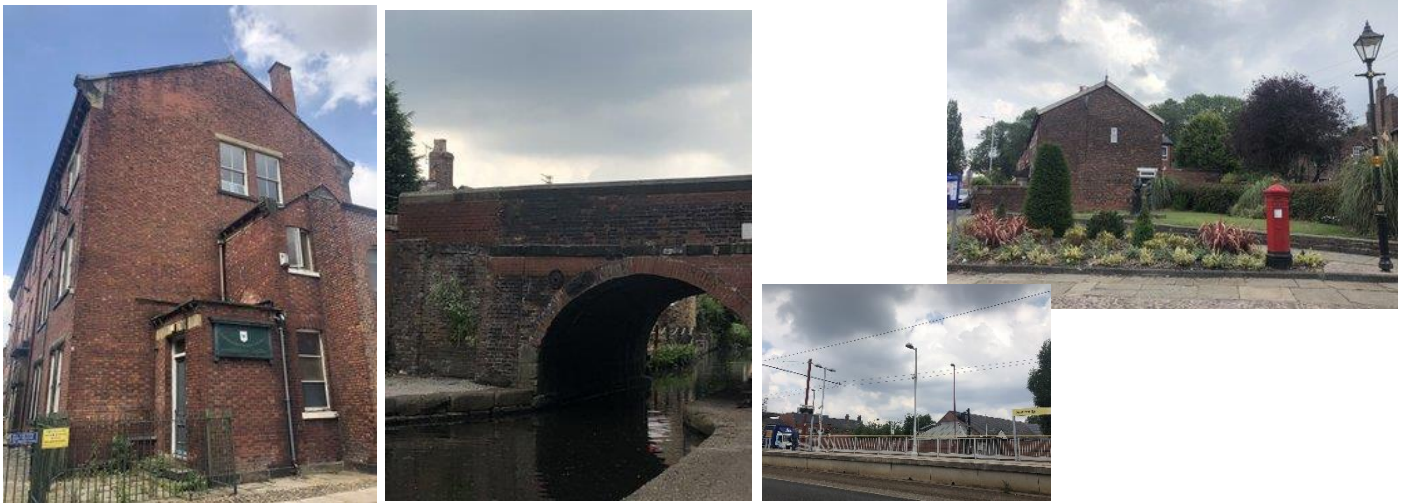
Next stop on the pilgrimage was at the beautiful Fairfield Moravian Village. We prayed for the community living and worshipping there. Seeing the Victorian post box we prayed for Royal Mail staff safely delivering our post at this time. Seeing the blue plaque for Charles Hindley we prayed for all working to improve working conditions today.



We stopped at the church and cemetery in Fairfield Moravian Settlement. Praying for Revd Philip Cooper, the church congregation and the surrounding community. Praying for the ongoing work on the upkeep of the cemetery.



Praying for Fairfield High School for Girls, for the Head, staff and pupils as they prepare to return. Walking out of the village and confronted by modes of transport old and new. Praying for staff of Manchester Metrolink as they continue their service at this time. We then walked along some of the Ashton Canal. Praying for the work of the Canal River Trust



Walking back to the car along Ashton Canal praying that we may hold on to a slower pace of travel through the day that still enables us to stop and reflect as lockdown begins to ease. Thankful for a companion on the journey today, Fr Jack. Another 4.4 miles walked today on the pilgrimage.



On this day the church commemorates Evelyn Underhill. Born in 1875, Evelyn Underhill was in her thirties before she began to explore religion. At first, she wrote on the mystics, most notably in her book *Mysticism*, published in 1911. Her spiritual journey brought her in 1921 back to the Church of England, in which she had been baptised and confirmed. From the mid-1920s, she became highly-regarded as a retreat conductor and an influential spiritual director. Of her many books, *Worship*, published in 1936, embodied her approach to what she saw as the mystery of faith. She died on this day in 1941.



I am finding that as I walk this pilgrimage God is always coming to me in the Sacrament of the Present Moment. I am thankful for this pilgrimage in particular the way it is helping me to live in the present moment and to walk with God and a whole holy of heavenly company!

Go on a walk or sit in your garden and really look around you, drink everything in and thank God for everything you see and that time spent in that Sacrament of the Present Moment.

Day seventeen 16th June 5.51 miles

Richard of Chichester

Today I woke early and looked at my weather app. I realised I had better set off there and then to avoid the downpours later and before PCC on zoom at 10! So at ten to five I left the house and headed towards Hurst Cross not really having a plan of where I would go. The sky was incredibly beautiful and made my eyes look heavenward and then to the hills. The words of Psalm 121, on the psalms ascent, used by pilgrims down the centuries as they approach Jerusalem came to mind.



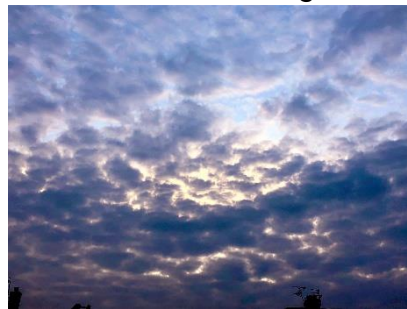
Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills-
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade
at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your
going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.



I was spiritually focused on getting to Bishopthorpe as I walked and I wanted to pray for those people that others had asked me to pray for and so I headed straight down Lees New Road in prayer.

“The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims
his handiwork; One day tells it to another”
Psalm 19



I walked as far as the Oldham sign and to Cockfields Farm. Praying for all the farms along Lees New Road. I turned round and back into Tameside and along a Quiet Lane – Alt Hill Road. Perfect for prayer. The only noise being the constant beautiful soundtrack of a variety of bird song.



Beauty amongst the hedgerows as the birds sing their song
 "The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,
 and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land." Song of Songs 2:12



Comforting to see St John's spire over the fields. Praying for residents on Hartshead Estate and for those living on Alt Hill and for the community there. Praying for cyclists and for their safety and for the maintenance and development of national cycling paths.



But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you...Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? Job 12:7-9



Today is the day that the church remembers Richard of Chichester. He was born in what is now Droitwich in 1197. When Richard became Bishop of Chichester he was seen as a model diocesan bishop: progressing around his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, generally being accessible to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with a proper dignity. You may be familiar with a prayer that is attributed to him.

Thanks be to thee,
 my Lord Jesus Christ,
 for all the benefits thou hast given me,
 for all the pains and insults
 thou hast borne for me.
 O most merciful redeemer,
 friend and brother,
 may I know thee more clearly,
 love thee more dearly,
 and follow thee more nearly,
 day by day. Amen.

Having walked 5.51 miles I am only 3.76 away from Bishopthorpe.

"For each perfect Gift of Thine To our race so freely given, Graces human and Divine,
Flowers of earth, and buds of Heaven: Lord of all to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise!"



Day eighteen 17th June 4.34 miles

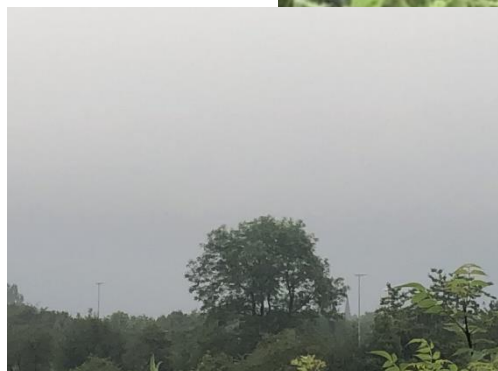
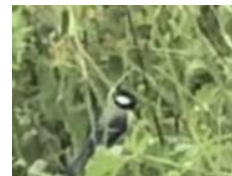
Another early start heading out at 5.30am to avoid the forecast rains. Spiritually on the way to Bishopthorpe, just 3.76 miles away. Praying for former Archbishop John Sentamu in this next stage of his ministry in retirement and for Archbishop Elect Stephen Cottrell as he prepares for his pilgrimage North to become Archbishop of York. A white rose for York.



Hartshead Pike was completely shrouded in the mist. Lord help us to trust in you even when we struggle to see clearly. Be the guide on our path, the gate through which you lead us to new pastures and to life in all its fullness.



The fog has its own beauty and doesn't hide or dampen the choir of birds singing their morning praises. I can just about make out the spire of St John's through the fog, reminiscent of a cloud of incense enveloping church. Nature's morning prayer and praise rising to the heavens



Praying with all the senses as the scent of honeysuckle growing in the hedgerows fills the air. Feeling called to pray by water so I head now to Chadwick Dam and a squirrel clasps his hands in prayer around a cherry-taste and see that the Lord is good!



I walked past Tameside Hospital on the way to Chadwick Dam. Continuing to pray for all staff, patients & chaplains, particularly Revd Canon Jean Hurlston as she recovers from Pneumonia after already having had COVID-19. Finding peace as I'm led to the still water & find refreshment before I physically walk back to Hurst Cross & spiritually walk on to Bishopthorpe.



Another 4.3 miles walked means I've arrived virtually at Bishopthorpe another way waypoint on the pilgrimage to Lindisfarne!

It was wonderful to be welcomed virtually by Archbishop Elect Stephen Cottrell – so thankful for his prayers. Praying for him as he begins his own pilgrimage North following the call of God & the Church. To view Archbishop Elect Stephen Cottrell's message and prayer for us click [here](#). The transcript is below.



“Dear Liz, I am sending you greetings for your virtual pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and particularly for when you arrive virtually at Bishopthorpe, which will be my new home, in a few weeks time. I am sending you this message from Essex, from outside Chelmsford, from my chapel here in Bishops court, as I too prepare to make the pilgrimage north to become the next Archbishop of York. I am going to be praying for you as you walk. Please pray for me and pray for the renewal of the church in our church in our land. Lindisfarne is not just a place of arriving it is a place where in the past people were formed in order to be sent out on mission. Could you make that your prayer for our church in Hurst, in Manchester, in York across this land that we might be formed by God, find new intimacy with God and then be sent out to do his work in the world. May God richly bless you as you travel.” Archbishop Elect Stephen Cottrell.



Please keep Archbishop Elect Stephen in your prayers over these coming weeks as he prepares to move and begin this new phase of his ministry.

Day nineteen 18th June 2.82 miles



A third early start in a row to avoid the rain forecast for later. Spiritually heading now to York and York Minster – 2.82 miles to go. Praying for the Dean and Chapter of York & the whole Minster community. I chose a straight road to walk as I focus on my destination on another foggy day.



The fog seems to be settling more as landmarks become further obscured. Praying for all who are struggling to envisage the future when usual landmarks in their lives have become obscured or taken away in this time of pandemic.



The hedgerows are brimming with new and abundant life. As charged yesterday by Archbishop Elect Stephen Cottrell I am praying for the renewal of the church, that we might be formed by God, find new intimacy with God so we might be sent out to do God's work in the world. Please make this your prayer over the coming weeks of this pilgrimage.



Praying for all walking new paths at this time, all seeking direction. Praying for all offering spiritual direction on our pilgrimage through life. Praying for retreat centres in these financially precarious times. Almost at York Minster!



I've arrived virtually in York and at York Minster after walking 2.82 miles today but 75.2 miles since leaving Hurst at Pentecost! Good to arrive on the 9th anniversary of my priesthood! Giving thanks for the pilgrimage so far and looking forward to all that is to come.



A huge thank you to the Canon Precentor at York Minster The Revd Canon Dr Vicky Johnson for the warm welcome & blessing. Vicky was one of the people I sought advice from before offering the Eucharist for the 1st time when she was still in Manchester Diocese at St Michael's Flixton. It is good to be virtually In York Minster on the 9th anniversary of my priesthood. Deo Gratias!



To listen to the message from the Canon Precentor please click [here](#).

To find out more about York Minster and go on a virtual tour of York Minster and see the beautiful interior you can click [here](#)

st paulinus — first Bishop of York

Paulinus was born in the latter part of the sixth century, probably in Italy, Paulinus was among the second group of monks sent by Pope Gregory to England to assist Augustine in his work. He went with the party that accompanied Ethelburga to Northumbria, where she was to marry the king, Edwin, who subsequently took his wife's Christian faith as his own. Paulinus built the first church in York in about the year 627 and was its first bishop. Paulinus baptised St Hilda when she was 13, who we will meet later on in this pilgrimage! He travelled much north and south of the Humber, building churches and baptising new Christians. He had to flee for his life, however, when Edwin was killed in battle by the pagan king, Penda of Mercia, and Paulinus became Bishop of Rochester. He died on this day in the year 644.



Day twenty 19th June

Today was my rest day and a rest day from walking and recording the pilgrimage. It is also the day that I celebrated my First Mass, 9 years ago at St Anne's Royton and 7 years since I came to St John's as your priest. So much to be thankful for.

Day twenty one 20th June

Another rest from walking today as I write up the pilgrimage! I have walked a total of 75.2 miles since Pentecost and have 233.8 miles to go! My next stop is at Easingwold where the Vicar there trained with me and was ordained on the same day in Manchester Cathedral. Easingwold is 13 miles away.

Another picture of where we are heading. This time a picture of Lindisfarne Castle from Gertrude Jekyll's garden.

