



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

# **hurst virtual pilgrimage to līnḁisfarne week 7**



**pentecost to st aīdan's day  
31<sup>st</sup> may-31<sup>st</sup> august 2020**

## **week 7 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 Holy Trinity Waterhead, St Barnabas, St Thomas' Moorside, Holy Trinity Shaw, St James East Crompton, Sr Saviours East Crompton, St Marys High Crompton, Christ Church Friezland, St Anne's Lydgate, St Mary's Greenfield, Kiln Green Mission Church, Holy Trinity Dobcross, St Thomas' Delph and Christ Church Denshaw – all in the Oldham East Deanery - .and spiritually I arrived St Hilda's Priory after walking 21.02 miles this week and 139.2 mile since Pentecost.

As the new week begins...I spiritually I set off walking towards Whitby Abbey 1.29 miles walk away. 21.62 walked this week I have walked a total of 160.82 miles. I have now begin walking the St Hild Way.

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](http://www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk)

## **day forty three 12<sup>th</sup> july 2.62 miles**

I had said to the Sisters at St Hilda's Priory that I would be virtually resting with them for a couple of days. On Sunday I received an e-mail from Sr Jocelyn saying they had enjoyed my virtual stay and invited me to prayer and lunch! So my virtual visit to St Hilda's Priory ended with midday prayer in their beautiful new chapel and then with gammon, vegetables and black forest gateaux with Sr Jocelyn and the other Sisters! A huge thank you to the Sisters for their wonderful hospitality!

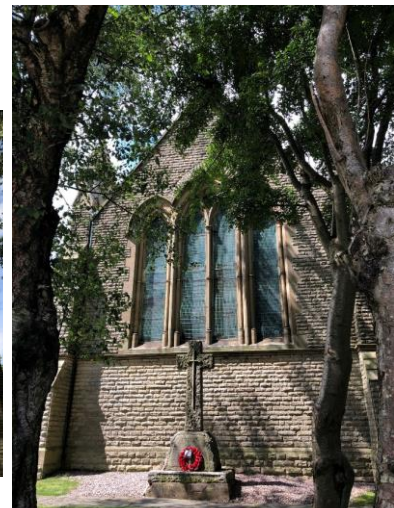


Fr Jack has a connection with the Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete – they have some Sisters in Ghana and Fr Jack has visited them there! You can find out more about the Sisters on their website [www.ohpwhitby.org.uk](http://www.ohpwhitby.org.uk)



Spiritually I set off the short distance to Whitby Abbey and physically I began at my home church of St Mary High Crompton and set off to the other church in the Benefice, St James Thornham.

Thankful for virtual hospitality of the Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete - keeping the Sisters in my prayer. I walk past High Crompton Conservative Club-a place of many family and community celebrations and past the end of the street where I used to live. Prayers of thanksgiving for how this place has formed me.



The smell of Sunday Dinners fills the air on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage. Praying for all in hospitality industry. Horses at their own watering hole-reminds me of the hymn "As the deer pants for water... I long to worship you." So thankful we could gather to worship today at St John's for the first time in weeks- joyful!



Praying for the Head, staff & pupils at Thornham St James primary school and for the work of Oldham Athletic Community Trust with pupils across the borough. Praying for Revd Adrian Burdon and all at Fir Lane, Gravel Hole and St Andrew's Methodist Churches.





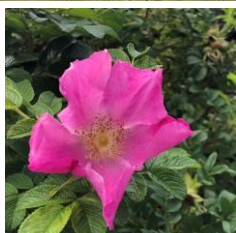
Arrived at St James Thornham. Praying for Roy Evans, churchwarden and all the congregation there as they journey together through this crisis and an interregnum. Praying for them as they seek to appoint a priest to the Benefice



Walking down Pit Lane there is a fantastic view towards Rochdale. This rocky path I'm walking down has the most abundant, fruitful and fragrant hedgerow running down either side filled with brambles and honeysuckle. Praying we at St John's may respond to God's word as fruitfully.



Thankful for the time of reflection & prayer that walking the #HurstVirtualPilgrimage has given me these past few weeks. Waking through these familiar places of childhood reminds me of all who have walked this way with me throughout my life before. Giving thanks for their wisdom and companionship. Who are you thankful for from your childhood? Whose wisdom do you still recall? Give thanks for them in your prayer.





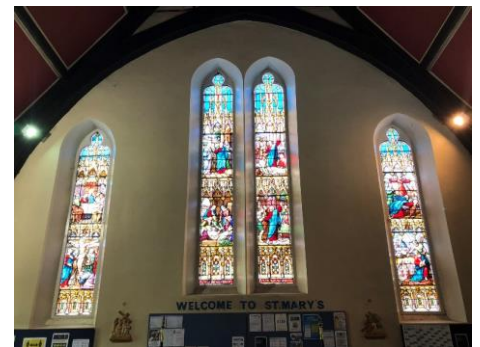
Praying for all in hair salons working hard to create Covid secure environments enabling them to open safely. Giving thanks for all who work to keep our parks & open spaces beautiful- they've been such important meeting places at this time and so important for the physical and mental health of so many.



Arrived back at St Mary High Crompton and see Patricia, Irene and Lesley who've known me since I was born and are members of my St Mary Church family. Giving thanks for all at St Mary's who nurtured me, supported me and loved me. St Mary's was open for private prayer. Good to spend time here in prayer.



Praying for Susanne Morris the Churchwarden, Revd Dorothy, OLM, the PCC and congregation during this time of interregnum and as they discern how they might open for worship over the coming weeks. Praying for them as they seek to appoint a priest to the Benefice.



St Mary's, like St John's was built by the local mill owner. He was called Joseph Clegg, his brother was John. The East Window is quite unusual as it tells the story of Joseph, he of the technicolour Dream Coat fame! The West Window has scenes from the life of St John the Evangelist. Joseph and John chose quite spectacular ways to be remembered! Prayed here with a thankful heart for the seeds of faith which were sown, nurtured and allowed to flower here in my home church.

I have walked another 2.62 miles which means I have reached Whitby Abbey and St Mary's Church. I've walked and climbed enough hills on this pilgrimage to have climbed the 199 steps up to the Abbey a few times! In this place where the Synod of Whitby was held praying for peace and reconciliation in the church today.



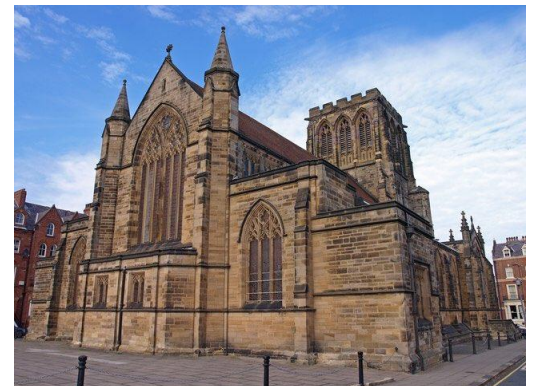


Arrived at St Mary's Whitby and been welcomed by Fr Michael Gobbett and "Church Maid" and Reader Diane Davies. Praying for Fr Michael, Diane and the congregation here and for their ministry of hospitality. Thank you for the warm welcome! You can view Fr Michael's welcome to St Mary's Whitby [here](#).



We were welcomed at St Hilda's Whitby on the West Cliff by Fr Michael Gobbett and Will Ellis, recently a licensed as a lay minister due to his ordination to the

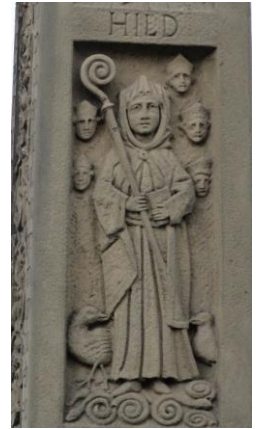
Diaconate being delayed because of COVID. Praying for Fr Michael and the congregation there and for Will as he awaits his ordination as Deacon later in the year. Grateful for their prayer as we continue on this pilgrimage. Fr Michael's welcome to St Hilda's is [here](#).





## St Hilda

Bede describes Hilda as a woman of great energy, who was a skilled administrator and teacher. She gained such a reputation for wisdom that even kings and princes sought her advice, but she also had a concern for ordinary folk like Caedmon. He was a cowherd at the monastery, who was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God. Hilda recognised his gift and encouraged him to develop it. Although Hilda must have had a strong character, she inspired affection. As Bede writes, "All who knew her, called her mother, because of her outstanding devotion and grace."

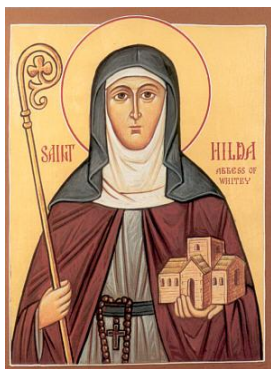


St Hilda is generally depicted with a pastoral staff and carrying an abbey church. Often, there are ammonites at her feet.

Legend tells of a plague of snakes which St. Hilda turned to stone supposedly explaining the presence of ammonite fossils on the shore at Whitby.

## St Hilda's Life History

It is not known where Hilda was born, but we learn from Bede that her birth took place in the year 614. She was the second daughter of Hereric, great nephew of King Edwin of Northumbria, and his wife Breguswith. Her elder sister Hereswith, married the King of East Anglia. Hilda's noble status is important in understanding her, but it did not mean she had an easy life.



When she was still an infant, her father was murdered by poisoning while in exile at the court of the British King of Elmet, (in what is now West Yorkshire). It is generally assumed that she was brought up at King Edwin's court in Northumbria.

In 627 King Edwin took the momentous step of accepting the Christian faith. He was baptised on Easter Day 12 April, in a small wooden church, hastily constructed for the occasion, near the site of the present York Minster. The ceremony was performed by the monk-bishop Paulinus, who had come from Rome with Augustine. He accompanied Ethelburga, a Christian princess, when she came North from Kent to marry King Edwin. As Queen, she continued to practise her Christianity and, no doubt, influenced her husband's thinking.

Hilda was among the nobles and courtiers who were baptised with Edwin. This means that as a girl she must have been aware of the traditions of the Church in Rome and of the existence of monastic life.

From 627 to 647 there is nothing documented about Hilda. It seems likely that when King Edwin was killed in battle in 633 she went to live with her sister at the East Anglian court. Bede resumes her story at a point where she is about to join her widowed sister at a convent in France. She decided instead to answer the call of Bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne to return to Northumbria to live as a nun. This was the turning point in her life.

The exact place where Hilda began her life as a nun is not known, except that it was on the North bank of the River Wear. Here with a few companions, she learned the traditions of Celtic monasticism which Aidan brought from Iona. After a year, Aidan appointed Hilda second Abbess of Hartlepool. No trace remains of this abbey, but the monastic cemetery has been found near the present St. Hilda's Church. In 657 Hilda became the founding abbess of a new monastery at Whitby (then known as Streonshalh); she remained there until her death in 680.

Hilda suffered from fever for the last six years of her life, but she continued to work until her death on 17th November 680, at what was then the advanced age of sixty-six. In her last year she set up another monastery, fourteen miles from Whitby, at Hackness. On her deathbed, as Bede reports, she urged her community "to preserve the gospel peace amongst themselves and towards all others," then, "in the words of our Lord, she passed from death to life". The place of her burial is unknown.



Day forty four 13<sup>th</sup> July 0 miles

Day forty five 14<sup>th</sup> July 6.87 miles

I began at 6.15am today at St Matthew's Church Chadderton. Praying for The Revd David Penny and all who lead the offices online each day and the congregation there. Spiritually I am now walking the Way of St Hild to Hartlepool from Whitby– chronologically it makes more sense to walk from Hartlepool to Whitby – but as we are walking up to Lindisfarne we are walking Whitby to Hartlepool.

This is the church where Revd Lindsay Owens was before she came to Hurst and the place where I first met Lindsay when I used to go to sewing classes here when the children were very young.



Praying for The Head, staff and pupils at St Matthews C of E Primary School, North Chadderton School and St Matthews playgroup as they come to the end of the school year. There is education from Early Years right through to Sixth form all in a short space on one road!



Walking down to Mills Hill past Chadderton Hall Park. Praying for all who've kept our parks and open spaces beautiful places to be during lockdown. Praying for those in the building trade beginning to start working again. Praying for all at Mills Hill Baptist Church.





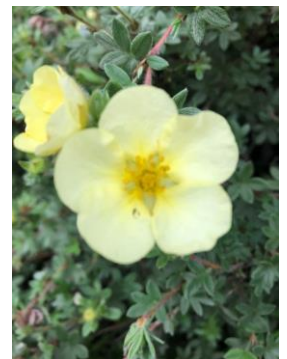
It was a fragrant walk, with the smells of brewing filling the air as I neared and walked by Sarsons Vinegar and JW Lees brewery! Praying for all businesses adapting production and delivery methods to keep staff and customers safe. Praying for all who work in these factories and have enabled production to continue.



I arrived at St Gabriel's Middleton Junction on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage. Praying for Fr Stephen Smith and the congregation and all the groups that meet here and the charities the church supports throughout the year.



Walking down Broadgate through Oldham Business park. A long stretch of road with business units either side and yet there is still beauty by the roadside bringing colour to an otherwise dull morning. Thankful for the beauty all around us. Where have you seen beauty in an unexpected place recently?



Why not go for an Awareness Walk? It doesn't have to be a long walk – it can even be just down your street and back. According to one of the Apocryphal Gospels, Jesus is reputed to have said: "Lift the stone and you will find me. Cleave the wood and I am there." God is hidden within the ordinariness of our daily life and work, but we need our eyes opened to see and become aware of God's presence As you walk take good strong breaths of fresh air. Resist hurry. Slow down to an easy stroll.

**Look** Become aware of the sky, clouds, light and shadow... See colours, shades, tints... Look at patterns – shape, height, depth, thickness... Notice trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses... Be aware of shapes of buildings – roof, tiles, chimneys... Notice stillness and movement – birds, insects, animals...

**Touch** Feel the sun's warmth, the cool breeze, cold air, wet rain... Feel texture – sharp, rough, smooth, prickly... Touch grass, stone, bark, petal, leaf... Touch the earth, feel water; walk with bare feet.

**Smell** Smell scents – flowers, herbs, pine needles, grass, earth... Other smells – of industry, smoke, concrete, tarmac, animals, rubbish, fumes...



**Listen** Shut your eyes and become all ears... Listen to water, birds, insects, animals, cars, people... Hear far off sounds, near sounds... Listen to your own breathing and heartbeat...

**Taste** Taste water... Chew on a piece of grass... When you come to your next meal, savour every mouthful.

Don't try to think, just BE! Let thoughts, however good, drop away for the present. Focus on one thing that particularly draws you, become aware of it, look more closely...

**"Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy."** Abraham Heschel

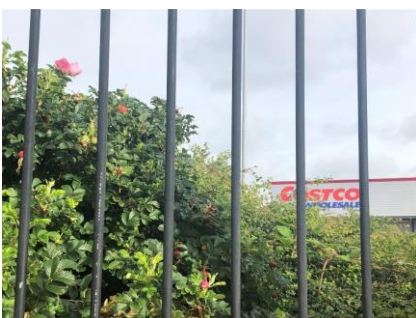
The monotony of this long, long road is punctuated with a warning of ducks crossing ahead! Sadly none appeared! Praying for all coach travel companies coping with restrictions on numbers they can accommodate and the fall in bookings. On this dull, cool day it suddenly feels warmer and more hopeful as the sun makes an appearance!



Walking past Chadderton Police Station on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage. Praying for Greater Manchester Police and particularly those who work from Chadderton Police Station. I walk over the M60 once more on this pilgrimage. Praying for the work of The Samaritans and PAPYRUS I Reached St George's Chadderton-praying for Revd Dave Leaf & the congregation here.



Walking down a noisy, busy Broadway to Chadderton town centre on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage Praying for all who use the Chadderton Over 60's Centre. Grateful my map took me down some side streets away from the noise and traffic. Praying for those unable to enjoy quiet and green space because of where they live or because they are unable to go outside because they are shielding.





Walking through streets named after areas in the Lake District when I come across Carnforth Ave. Praying for my Godmother who lives in Carnforth and for the Sisters at Hyning Monastery. Praying for the Head, staff and pupils at St Luke's C of E Primary school as they near the end of term.



Walking through Chadderton town centre. Praying for the local shops and businesses. I then arrive at St Mark's Chadderton. Praying for Fr Stephen Smith and the congregation here.



Walking back to St Matthew's Church Chadderton - a walk of 6.87 miles which means I've virtually walked through Sandsend and reached Runswick Bay a place where ammonites - symbols of St Hilda may be found. Good to be on The Way of St Hild - even if only virtually!



**The Way of St Hild.** The Way of St Hild was launched on 8 March, just before lockdown began on International Women's Day. There is a report of the launch on the Order of the Holy Paraclete website which you can read [here](#). The Venerable Michael Sadgrove, a former Dean of Durham Cathedral and the person who preached at The Venerable John Petty's funeral preached at St Hilda's Hartlepool on the day of the launch then travelled with others, by sea to Whitby. The excellent sermon is [here](#) – please read it to help put into context so many of the places I will visit on this pilgrimage and the Saints we have met and will meet. If you have an i-phone you can download The Way of St Hild app so you find out more about St Hilda and some of the places on the way.



I love the line in Michael's sermon about Hilda, "Bishop Aidan 'loved her heartily for her innate wisdom and her devotion to the service of God'".



**Day forty six 15<sup>th</sup> July 0 miles**

**Day forty seven 16<sup>th</sup> July 6.43 miles**

I set off at just gone 6 this morning physically at St John the Evangelist Failsworth and spiritually still on The Way of St Hild on the way to Staithes. Praying for Revd Aysha St Giles and the congregation there and as they open for worship again.



Walking down Oldham Road past the beautiful old police station. Praying for Greater Manchester Police. Praying for Major Annette Allen and Major Michael Allen and all at The Salvation Army in Failsworth and for Revd Sharon Read and the congregation at Hope Methodist church.



Walking past Housing Units and crossing over the M60 yet again on this pilgrimage. I feel quite light headed walking over bridges so walk quickly over and pray for the work of The Samaritans and PAPHYRUS. Praying for all families grieving the loss of loved one who has died by suicide.



Arrived at St Margaret's Hollinwood. Praying for Fr Tom Davis SSC and the congregation there. Praying also for St Margaret's Primary School - the Head, staff and pupils as they prepare to finish for the summer. Praying for rest.





Praying for staff at Hollinwood Crematorium and for funeral directors on Praying for Fr Michael Job and the congregation at Holy Family Church Limeside and for the Head, staff and pupils at Holy Family RC school as they prepare to finish for the summer.



Crossing the M60 once again. Walking past Newbridge School. Praying for the Head, staff and pupils. Within minutes of the motorway there are beautiful flowers and open space and fields as I walk towards Woodhouses Mission Church part of the Parish of Bardsley – one of our neighbouring parishes.



Walking through Woodhouses village and praying for the community here. Praying for the Head, staff and pupils at Woodhouses Primary School as they prepare to finish for the summer. Praying for Revd Tony Grant & the congregation at The Church of the Good Shepherd Woodhouses, Bardsley Parish.



Walking towards Holy Family Failsworth. Beautiful flowers brighten the dull morning. The cat, the olive tree and the palm tree remind me of pilgrimages to the Holy Land. I've not got enough pictures of cats on this pilgrimage though to make a calendar like I did when I went to the Holy Land!





Arrived at The Church of The Holy Family Failsworth Praying for Fr Paul Hutchins and the congregation here. Beautiful artwork on the doors! Praying for Fr Michael Job and the congregation at the RC Church of St Mary The Immaculate Conception Failsworth.



Making my way back to St John's Failsworth via Failsworth Pole. A statue of Ben Brierley a journalist, writer and poet who wrote in Lancashire dialect and whose fictional village in one of his books is where Daisy Nook is named after. Praying for Head, staff& pupils at St John's school as they break up for the summer.



Glad to be back at St John's Failsworth - weary now! The roses in the garden are spectacular and the sky is mirroring their colour. I am half way though the 13 week pilgrimage and after walking 6.43 miles today have walked over half way too-155.12 miles! It is good to reach such a milestone!



**Day forty eight 17<sup>th</sup> July 1.84 and 3.86 miles**

I set off at 5.45am from Christ Church Chadderton on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage today. Spiritually still walking The Way of St Hild. Praying for Revd John Simmons and Revd Tom Hollingsbee and the congregation there and their work in the community. Prayers for Tom as he moves to Knutsford in the next few weeks.





Praying for staff and children at Panda Pre-school which meets in Christ Church Church hall. Praying for the Head, staff & pupils at Freehold Community Primary Academy that they might be refreshed by their summer break. Praying for the staff at Manchester Metrolink as they work with restrictions and work to keep passengers safe.



Praying for all groups who usually use the Crossley Community Centre. Praying for The Head, Staff and pupils at Christ Church School as they break for summer and for Revd John Simmons, Revd Tom Hollingsbee and the congregation at St Saviours Church Chadderton.



Prayers for Revd Ian Heath, the leadership team and congregation at South Chadderton Methodist Church. Walking back to Christ Church Chadderton across Butler Green. It was good to see the tower and spire as I walk back up the hill. It is reminiscent of the one at St Thomas's Moorside that I visited last week. The walk is split into two today as I realised I only had two more Chadderton Churches to visit and three more Oldham churches to complete visiting all the churches in Oldham West and Oldham East. First walk 1.84 miles.

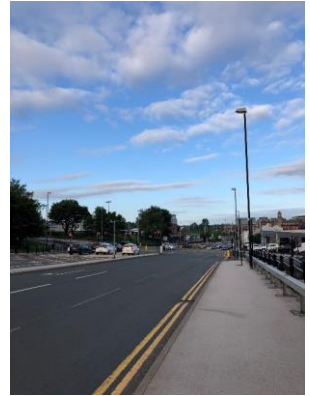


A short drive from Chadderton to Oldham. Walk 2 for today on #HurstVirtualPilgrimage started at St James's Church Barry Street, Oldham. Praying for Fr Graham and the congregation there.





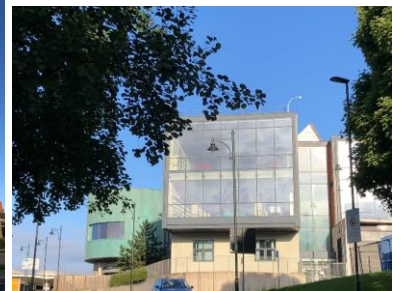
Walking down Huddersfield Road and you can see The Blue Coat School Oldham up on the hill. Praying for all staff and pupils as they begin their summer holiday. Praying for time of rest and refreshment. Creative floral display at this busy road junction which you can appreciate much more when walking instead of driving past in the car.



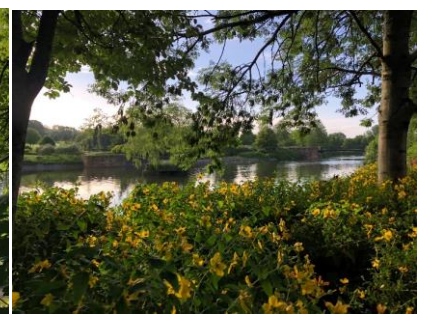
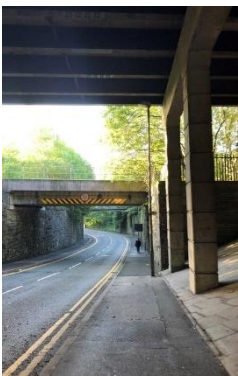
Walking through Oldham Mumps and the clouds are clearing revealing a brilliant blue sky. When is a zebra crossing not a zebra crossing? When it's in Oldham and it's an Oldham owl one! The symbol of the town. Oldham Parish Church ahead. Praying for Fr Derek Palmer, The Revd Canon Jean Hurlston and all at St Mary's and St Peter's.



Walking up Union Street then down Rhodes Bank. Walked past Marshall Pumps where my mum worked all her working life from age 15. Praying for all staff at Oldham Libraries, Gallery Oldham and staff and students at University Campus Oldham.

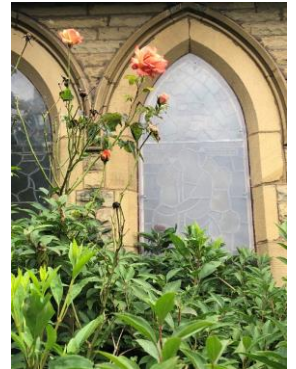


Walking down from Oldham into Glodwick. Praying for the Head, staff & pupils at Greenhill Academy as they break for the summer. The boating lake at Alexandra Park is like a mirror it's so still and clear today. Lord may I achieve such stillness so I may reflect You more. Amen.





Good advice on the roadside as I walk towards St Paul's Oldham. Praying for Revd Nick Andrewes and the congregation at St Paul's as they prepare to open for worship for the first time this week. Praying for Nick too in his role as Area Dean of Oldham West.



Walking from St Paul's Oldham to St Thomas's Werneth. Praying for the Head, staff and pupils at St Thomas's Werneth as they break for summer. Praying for Revd Nick Andrewes and the congregation at St Thomas Church Werneth.



Praying for all the Muslim communities in Oldham as some gather for Friday prayers. Beautiful wild flowers on the way. Praying for Fr Phil Sumner & the congregation at Our Lady and St Patrick RC church. Prayers for the staff & Students at Oldham Sixth Form College. 3.86 miles walked on this 2nd walk. A total of 5.7miles today.

160.82 miles walked- over half way to Lindisfarne the end of Week 7. I've now walked around and prayed for every church in the Ashton, Oldham East and Oldham West Deaneries which will make up the new Deanery we will be part of from June 2021.

**Day forty nine 18<sup>th</sup> July 0 miles**

### The Way of St Hild

There are 12 way points on the Way of St Hild. We set off at Whitby Abbey which We visited St Hilda's Church on Sunday, which is Waypoint 11. Sandsend, Runswick Bay, Staithes, Skinningrove, and Huntcliffe Roman Station are Waypoints 10 through to 6. We are yards away from Saltburn and then we will be on our way to Waypoint 4 the Transporter Bridge. The Enjoy Tees Valley Website explains a little more about each waypoint [here](#).

**Day forty nine 18<sup>th</sup> July 0 miles**

We began this Pilgrimage at Pentecost – 50 days after Easter and tomorrow is day 50 of this pilgrimage – 100 days since Easter! Another 43 days to walk!

This week I am going to visit my son Danny and his husband Craig in Edinburgh. Not forgetting Colin the Cockapoo of course! I am still going to be walking and praying whilst I am there – Danny is working all week. So next week there will be new places to see and discover and I am excited to see where I will be led on this pilgrimage!

Please continue to pray for me as I will be praying for you. Revd Liz



In 43 days we will be here...!

