



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's, Basford

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

September 2026



Give me my scallop shell of quiet,

My staff of faith to walk upon

My scrip of joy, immortal diet,

My bottle of salvation,

My gown of glory, hope's true gave,

And thus, I'll take my pilgrimage

The poem quoted above is the first verse of 'The passionate pilgrim' by Sir Walter Raleigh which is generally thought to be written at the point of his death after being incarcerated in the tower for treason. This verse is often quoted in books on pilgrimages.

So what exactly is a pilgrimage and what does it mean?

I can remember the first pilgrimage I went on with a group from a spirituality course of which I was a part. Our destination was Eyam, the plague village in the Peak District. I was expecting something much more religious, but it seemed more like a day out to me with a bit of religion thrown in. But then, maybe, my whole idea of what constitutes a pilgrimage wasn't quite correct. The destination is

important, the focus of the pilgrimage, but there is a lot to be said about the travelling there, how you travel and who you are travelling with.

Most of the time you will go on a coach with the other pilgrims, or maybe separate cars or even by aeroplane if travelling to places like Lourdes in southern France (Although even to there, brave souls will take the 24 hour journey by coach). But twice I've had the opportunity to walk to the place of pilgrimage, each time to Lindisfarne. The first one was along St Cuthbert's way starting in Melbourne on the Scottish borders where I led the walk with a couple of other pilgrims and my husband as a support vehicle (We had some lovely lunches brought to us and didn't have to carry heavy bags). The journey took a week. The second time was along St Oswald's way starting at Hexham in Northumbria. This time I did it on my own, heavy bag included and this pilgrim route was about twice the distance taking ten days. Both times we met our group at Lindisfarne and walked the pilgrim path along the sands to our destination having to make careful note of the times of the tides as Lindisfarne becomes an island twice a day.

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The advantage of walking the route (If you are able to do it) is that it gives you time to reflect on the purpose of the pilgrimage. You could be carrying people and situations to pray for, maybe (And importantly) for ourselves. We meet others along the way, and it was a great privilege to accompany my two friends along St Cuthbert's way when we could pray together and just rejoice in the beautiful countryside we travelled through.

There has been a spate of interest in different pilgrim routes such as Santiago da Compostella in Northern Spain, perhaps one of the most well-known routes and the North Wales pilgrim route where they have been televised with various celebrities taking part. Apparently, there's a real growth in people following the various pilgrim routes which, even in the UK, there are many. Not necessarily for religious reasons but there seems to be an inbuilt desire in many of us simply to explore, to slow down and to reflect.

So even if physically we are unable to follow pilgrim routes or to visit places of pilgrimage we are all on a pilgrimage throughout our life with the final destination being the vision of our Lord when we finally reach our heavenly home. These earthly pilgrimages simply being a foretaste.

Perhaps Sir Walter Raleigh's poem maybe good to reflect on as we travel together

Blessings for the journey

Janet

Worship Services during September

2 nd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
6 th	14 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
9 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Service of the Word
13 th	15 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
16 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th	16 th after Trinity	10.00am	All Age Worship
23 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th	17 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
30 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Diary Dates for September

3 rd	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
10 th	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
12 th	Saturday	1-4pm	Autumn Fayre
17 th	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
19 th	Saturday	2:00pm	Fashion Show

Early October Dates

1 st	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
8 th	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
10 th	Saturday	6:00pm	Harvest Supper
15 th	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
22 nd	Thursday	7:15pm	House group
29 th	Thursday	7:15pm	House group

House Group:

The House group will be meeting on **Thursdays at 7:15pm** from September. Where we will continue to look at the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, please speak to Janet.

Autumn Fayre:

Our Autumn Fayre is on **Saturday 12th September at 1:00pm**. To prepare for this, if you have any donations of Bottles of wine and spirits, Gift sets, good quality household items, Books/CDs, DVDs, Children's games and toys please bring them into church as soon as possible.