

St Mary the Virgin, Merton
Parish pilgrimage to Winchester
Pilgrimage programme



There are a number of ways you can participate in our Parish Pilgrimage which will begin on Wednesday 12 May and culminate in the Sung Eucharist at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 16 May:

- you can join the small group who will be walking the 75 mile route over four days, either for the entire journey or for one or more complete days;
- you can be part of a group doing one of the shorter walks we will be organising to link with the main route;
- you can come to the Ascension Day Eucharist followed by picnic lunch on Thursday 13 May at St Martha's Church near Guildford;
- you can volunteer to be part of the support group for the walkers;
- you can join the coach party to Winchester on Sunday 16 May.

The information below about the route of the pilgrimage is designed to help you decide what will be the best way for you to take part in this exciting venture which we are undertaking together as a Church community. In the Bell Tower there is a tick list for each day to enable you to indicate which elements of the Pilgrimage you are interested in participating in. The questions you will need to answer to complete the lists are set out below. To help with our planning, please sign up as soon as possible, in particular if you think you may need overnight accommodation or want to book places on the coach and lunch on Sunday.

Accommodation costs stated are indicative only and do not include food unless otherwise indicated. The stated cost of the coach and lunch on Sunday is subsidised (the actual cost is £10 for the coach and £15 for the lunch) and any contributions over and above the suggested minimum will be gratefully received. We want this pilgrimage to be accessible to all and no one should be deterred by cost considerations. Special concessions can be made if needed: speak to the Vicar confidentially.

If you have any questions about the programme please feel free to contact any of the members of the planning group whose details are at the end.

Overview of the day	Shorter walks and other events	Support required	Tick list questions
Wednesday 12 May			
Eucharist at St Mary's at 7.30 am. 20 mile walk to Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel near Dorking (hoping to arrive c.1730), via Horton Country Park (where we will have a picnic lunch) and Box Hill. Overnight at the Youth Hostel (approximate cost £20) where we will cook a simple supper.	<p>1 Morning walk from St Mary's to Horton Country Park car park (10 miles) where we will have a short picnic lunch. Return to Wimbledon possible by train from Epsom (adding an extra mile) with a frequent service.</p> <p>2 Afternoon walk from Horton Country Park car park (leaving 1315) to Box Hill (c.7.5 miles). The beginning and end of this walk are easily accessible by train (Epsom and Boxhill and Westhumble stations respectively, adding an extra 1.5 miles).</p>	Someone with a car to bring provisions and overnight kit to a point near the Youth Hostel (which is not directly accessible by car) for supper in the evening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk whole day. • Stay overnight in Youth Hostel. • Morning walk only. • Afternoon walk only. • Happy to use my car (indicate number of spare places). • Happy to travel by train. • Available to help with support.
Thursday 13 May – Ascension Day			
Walk of 15.5 miles from the Youth Hostel to Puttenham just off the Hog's Back, via St Martha's Hill and Guildford. Arrive at Puttenham c.1700 and overnight at the camping	1 Ascension Day Eucharist at 1130 at St Martha's Church, Chilworth, near Guildford followed by picnic. Note there is a fairly short (but in places quite steep) walk from the car park to the	<p>1 Cars to bring parishioners (and food!) to St Martha's.</p> <p>2 During the day, someone with a car to collect overnight kit from Tanners Hatch and bring with provisions for the next day to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk whole day. • Stay overnight in camping barn. • Attend Eucharist and picnic.

<p>barn there (approximate cost £15). Supper in the local pub.</p>	<p>Church.</p> <p>2 Short walks possible after lunch: c.3 miles to Guildford station for trains back to Wimbledon, or circular walk of c.5 miles back to the car park near St Martha's.</p>	<p>Puttenham.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afternoon walk. • Happy to use my car (indicate number of spare places). • Happy to travel by train. • Available to help with support.
<p>Friday 14 May</p>			
<p>0730 morning prayer in Puttenham Church. Walk of 18.5 miles from Puttenham to Alton via Farnham. We will have a picnic lunch at East Green, a few miles west of Farnham just off the A31. We plan to arrive at Alton about 1700 where we will have supper and stay the night in accommodation to be confirmed, but probably pub or small hotel (approximate cost including breakfast £40).</p>	<p>1 Join the main walk at Farnham mid-morning and walk 12 miles to Alton. Both Farnham and Alton are accessible by train. (If coming by train, this will mean taking the 1000 train from Clapham Junction to Farnham. Otherwise a car can be left at Farnham and you can get the train back there from Alton).</p> <p>2 A shorter alternative is to join the main walk at lunchtime at East Green, having taken the train to Bentley station (which leaves Clapham Junction at 1100). Then walk with the main group to Alton - a total of c.8.5 miles. Again, you can get the train back to London, or to Bentley if a car has been left there.</p>	<p>Someone with a car to collect overnight kit from Puttenham and bring with provisions for the next day to East Green at lunchtime and/or to Alton in the evening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk whole day. • Stay overnight in Alton. • 12 mile walk (Farnham to Alton). • 8.5 mile walk (Bentley to Alton). • Happy to use my car (indicate number of spare places). • Happy to travel by train. • Available to help with support.

Saturday 15 May			
<p>A long day: nearly 22 miles from Alton to Winchester. Pub lunch at Bishop's Sutton just east of Alresford, again just off the A31. Arrive in Winchester about 1815. Supper and overnight there in accommodation to be confirmed, but probably pub or small hotel (approximate cost including breakfast £40).</p>	<p>[Public transport is more limited on this stretch of the walk and depends on the Watercress steam railway which runs from Alton to Alresford. If there are enough walkers with cars, it may be possible to organise shuttles between the two ends of the suggested half day walks.]</p>	<p>1 Cars to enable us to shuttle day and half day walkers between the start and end points of the walks.</p> <p>2 During the day, someone with a car to collect overnight kit from Alton and bring to Winchester.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk whole day. • Stay overnight in Winchester. • Morning walk only. • Afternoon walk only. • Happy to use my car (indicate number of spare places). • Happy to travel by train. • Available to help with support.
	<p>1 Those who would like to join the main party for the first part of the day from Alton to Alresford (c. 12 miles) will have to come down to Alton on Friday and stay overnight for the 0800 start (unless they want to drive down early on Saturday or get the 0619 train from Clapham Junction). The last train from Alresford to meet a connection for London at Alton leaves at 1543.</p>		
	<p>2 Others can join the main group by taking the train to Alresford and either walking the short distance to Bishop's Sutton for lunch (total walk to Winchester c.12.5 miles) or waiting for the main group to pass them at Alresford after lunch (total walk to Winchester c.10 miles).</p>		

Sunday 16 May			
<p>A coach will leave St Mary's at 0830, scheduled to arrive at Winchester at 1000 for the Sung Eucharist in the cathedral at 1100 (minimum contribution £7 per person for the return trip). Hot buffet lunch, dessert and coffee in marquee provided by the Cathedral refectory (minimum contribution £12 per person; children and unwaged £5). [Note: packed lunches brought from home cannot be eaten in the marquee and are not encouraged]. Return by coach at 1715 arriving back at St Mary's at c.1900.</p>	<p>1 There are 12 places available for an energetic free tour of the roof of the cathedral (involving some climbing) at 1400.</p> <p>2 Self guided tours of cathedral outside service times.</p> <p>3 Choral Evensong at 1530.</p> <p>4 Refectory available for tea.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will travel there and back by coach (indicate number of places). • Will travel to Winchester by car (indicate number of spare places). • Will join the buffet lunch. • Interested in the roof tour.

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