

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MERTON
PARISH PILGRIMAGE



We hope as many as possible of the St Mary's community will want to take part in one way or another in our **Parish Pilgrimage to Winchester** which will run from **Wednesday 12 to Sunday 16 May 2010**. Full details of the walking itinerary and related events are contained in the **Pilgrimage Programme** (available in Church, or see the website www.stmarysmerton.org.uk).

Here are some highlights which we hope will be of particular appeal.

ASCENSION DAY EUCHARIST AND PICNIC AT ST MARTHA-ON-THE-HILL, CHILWORTH, NEAR GUILDFORD

St Martha's Church stands in a wonderful location at the top of a wooded hill at Chilworth, just outside Guildford. The site has been a place of Christian worship since Saxon times. The pilgrimage route passes the church on Ascension Day, **Thursday 13 May**. At **11.30 am** there will be a **Eucharist** followed by a **picnic lunch**. Please come and support the pilgrimage walkers.

There is nearby parking, with a short (but in places quite steep) walk to the Church. After lunch there will be the possibility of a short walk (3 – 5 miles) in the North Downs countryside for those who would like that.

COACH TRIP TO WINCHESTER

The climax of the pilgrimage will be the Cathedral **Sung Eucharist at 11.00 am on Sunday 16 May** at which St Mary's will receive a special welcome, with members of our congregation taking part as servers and readers.

A **coach will leave Merton Park at 8.30 am, getting back at about 7.00 pm** (minimum contribution **£7 per person** for the return trip). After the Eucharist there will be a **hot buffet lunch**, dessert and coffee provided for us in a marquee by the Cathedral refectory (minimum contribution **£12 per person; children and unwaged £5**). [Notes (1) The cost of the coach and lunch is subsidised (actual cost is £10 and £15 respectively) and any contributions over and above the suggested minimum will be gratefully received. (2) Packed lunches brought from home cannot be eaten in the marquee and are not encouraged].

In the afternoon there will be free time to explore the Cathedral and City, and there are just 12 places available for a unique, energetic (and free) **roof tour** involving some climbing. **Choral evensong is at 3.30 pm** and there will be time for tea before the coach leaves.

This promises to be a very special family day. Please come if you possibly can.

SHORTER WALKS

There are a number of opportunities to support the main walking group by joining them on parts of the pilgrimage route (see the Pilgrimage Programme for full details). Here are **three afternoon walks**. All are accessible by train, but if enough people intend to travel by car we should be able to arrange lifts. Route maps and details of train times and when and where to meet will be available nearer the time.

- **Wednesday 12 May** - Horton Country Park, Epsom to Box Hill (about 7.5 miles).
- **Friday 14 May** - Bentley station to Alton (about 8.5 miles).
- **Saturday 15 May** – Alresford to Winchester (about 10 miles). For **steam rail enthusiasts**, this can be combined with a trip on the East Hampshire Railway Watercress Line.

SIGN UP FOR THESE AND THE OTHER PILGRIMAGE EVENTS ON THE LISTS IN THE BELL TOWER. Places for the coach trip will only be secured on payment, which should be made no later than 31 March 2010.

We also need **volunteers with a car to provide support for the walkers** on each of the days of the pilgrimage. If you think you may be able to help, please look at the Pilgrimage Programme for details of what is required and sign the appropriate list in the Bell Tower.

If you have any questions about the programme please feel free to contact any of the members of the planning group:

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