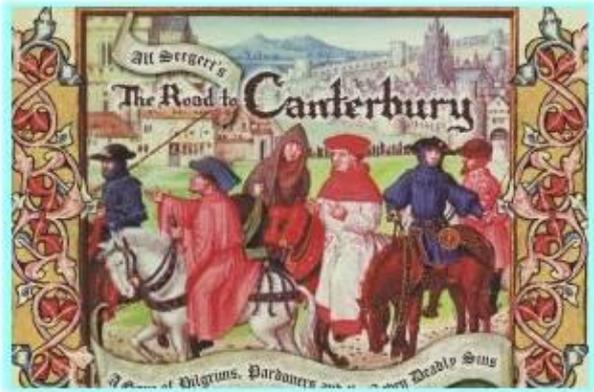




# Walk Handbook<sup>1</sup>



Introduction. Christians have often journeyed together to spiritually important places as part of deepening their faith. Today's gathering of Fareham Anglicans was prompted by Bishop Christopher's call for a year of pilgrimage, using Titchfield Abbey as a

central place of spiritual significance in our Deanery.

The main aim of today is to create an opportunity to come together in the amazing surroundings of Titchfield Abbey, beyond our own church walls, for fun, a picnic, games and through time together hopefully to catch a vision of a bigger God, a bigger hope, a bigger purpose for all our lives.

We hope this booklet will help you enjoy the journey there and provide something for you to keep and ponder afterwards.

Praying while walking is a simple yet wonderful way to bring transformation to our local communities by asking God to make himself known. And as you travel from the stability and comfort of your own place of worship, perhaps through the parishes of others, to a place and time where you are not in control, you can ponder your own spiritual direction; pray for those with whom you travel, and for those who live and work along your way.



We pray that as you travel to the Abbey from your own churches you will be able to use the background and thoughts below to think and pray about our own faith and mission today. You may like to think about some of the following reflections and make notes in the spaces.

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<sup>1</sup>Thoughts in this Handbook have come from the Church of England website "Thy Kingdom Come" [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) ; Revd Dr Ruth Tuschling, Spirituality Adviser to Portsmouth Diocese; "In the Steps of St Wilfrid: The Meon Valley Pilgrimage Trail" available in Meon Valley Churches.

## Prayer Walk through your area:

Think about the place where you live. What are the needs in your local community? What are the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities there?



Derek had yet to learn that you don't need to close your eyes when you prayer walk...

As you walk and pray, let your senses guide you: what do you see, smell, hear and touch? What comes to mind? Memories, bible verses, any other ideas? Jot these down and turn these into prayer.

Choose whether to pray silently or out loud. The point of prayer walking isn't about being seen praying; it's about seeing and praying.

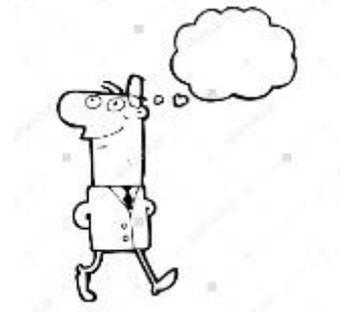


If you are stuck for something to pray as you walk, just try repeating the phrase "Your Kingdom come, your will be done.": this is an excellent start to praying as you walk.

Keep praying for your community after today! Ask God how he might like you to take this forward. You could take one of the ideas in this booklet and use it regularly, or you may follow a thought that has struck you. You may invite others to join you too. As you keep praying, keep asking for God's blessing, praying for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done in your area.

## While praying for yourself ask:

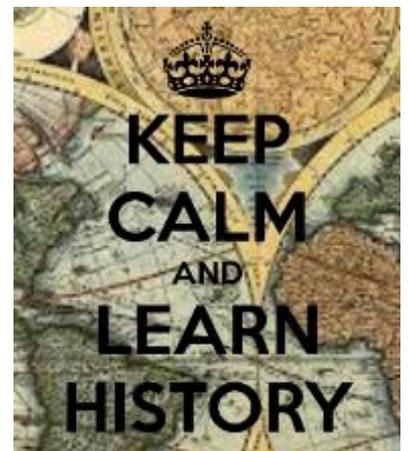
1. Where have I come from and where am I going?
2. Where do I feel a sense of wonder and joy? Can I see God there?
3. What burdens am I carrying that I don't need?
4. Is there anything I would like to be different about my life after today? Who might help?



## Our local Christian heritage

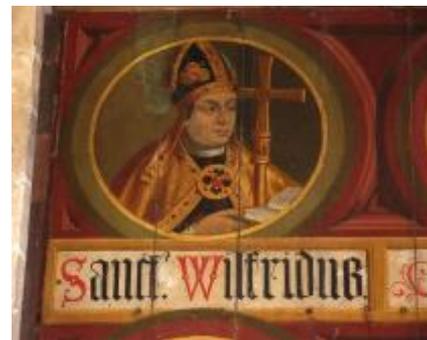


Early Christian history in our area is obscure, but it may have arrived as early as 44 AD with the Romans; there's plenty of evidence of their presence at Portchester! When the Romans left in 411 Christianity was well established. About this time it appeared and



grew in the north in a different form through the Celtic church, resulting in two different expressions of the faith thriving in our islands, Celtic in the north and Roman in the south. ***How do we deal with different understandings of Christianity from our own today?***

A Celtic Christian trained in Rome, Wilfrid, was instrumental in bringing the Roman form to the fore at the Synod of Whitby in 664. Following this, and after many other adventures, Wilfrid arrived in our area. It was one of the last in the British Isles to be evangelised, and one tradition



has it that Wilfrid pioneered the Gospel among the Meon tribes in the 680's, founding several churches still in existence today, among them St Peter's Titchfield, the oldest church in Hampshire. Another story has it that St Birinus, traditionally the founder of Ss Peter & Paul church, travelled among the Meonwarra people and converted them. ***What are the un-evangelised areas in our locality today? How will we pioneer new ways to reach out to them together?***



Christianity continued to spread. Monasteries kept the faith and learning alive during the Dark Ages, but the church as a whole was in need of strengthening and reformation by the time of Kings Edgar and Alfred in the 900's. ***Where does our faith need strengthening today?***

Following the 1066 Norman invasion, Christianity flourished and many monasteries and churches were built, including St Mary's, Portchester, St Edmund's and Titchfield Abbey in 1231. The



Abbey owned much land and had great influence in our area, sending out priests to take services in local churches. Despite climate change, the deprivations of the Black Death, rumours of Islam advancing

unchecked and wars nearer home, the church provided a security, stability and structure to life. ***Where and how might we build new Christian communities and influence our societies for Christ? How might we offer the stability of knowing Jesus to others?***

The church grew richer and lax in practice. But the 1500s brought drastic change through the Protestant Reformation. The bible was printed and read in English so everyone could understand the Gospel. Church decorations were removed, a new prayer book introduced and doctrines re-evaluated. Even Titchfield Abbey was dissolved in 1537. ***What might need to disappear or change in our worship and life-style so the Gospel can be understood clearly by more people?***



Despite the renewal of faith during the Reformation, church attendance plummeted during the 1600s – 1700s, Enlightenment and church doctrines were challenged by the new Rationalism. Again the church grew lax but the Wesley brothers led a renewal, starting the Methodist movement; many were threatened or offended by the obvious faith of such ‘enthusiasts’. ***Are we offended or threatened by those who practice their Christian faith differently to ourselves? How may we grow in grace towards them?***



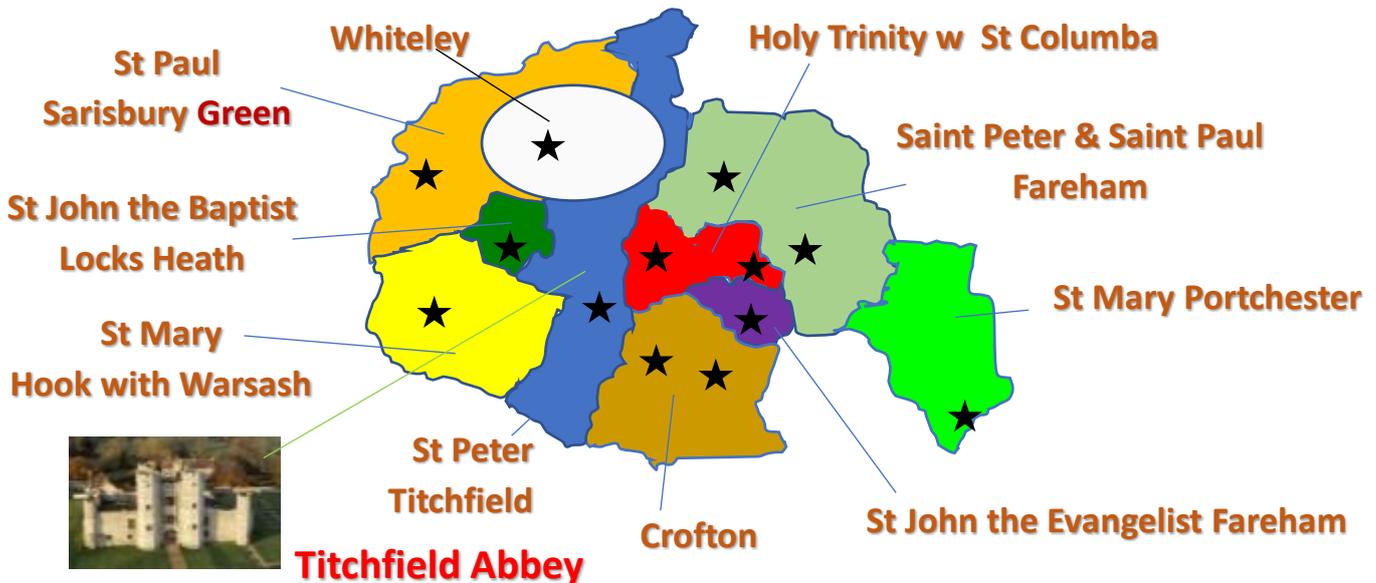


In the 1800's Holy Trinity, St Francis, Holy Rood, St Paul's, St Mary's Warsash, the St Columba 'tin tabernacle' and St John's Locks Heath were built as missional responses to

growing populations. The new St Columba and St John's Fareham were built for similar reasons in the 1960s. Whiteley church was established in the 1980s to serve that new community. ***How will our Deanery and parishes respond to the growing numbers coming to live among us? How can we continue to make Christ known?***



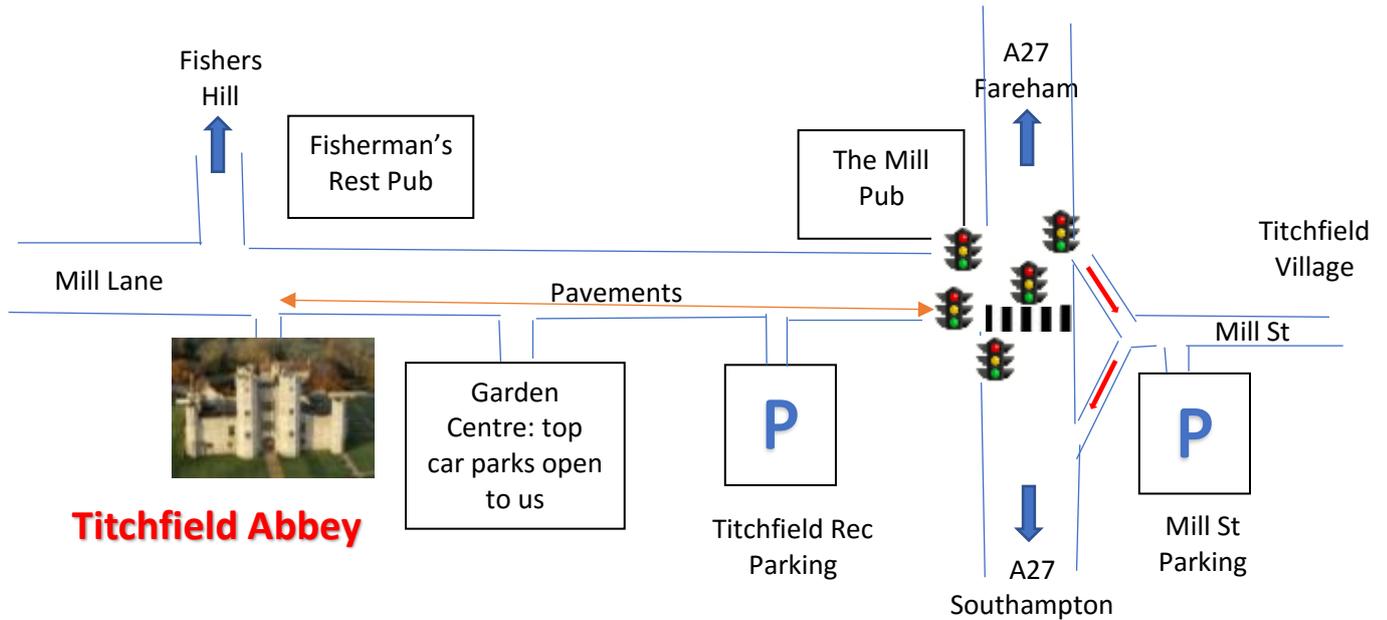
**Where Are We From? Know your Neighbour!**  
**Fareham Deanery Parishes and Churches**



**Useful Numbers:**

Organisers Mike Terry: 07979 815026;  
 Sally Davenport: 07500 775926

## Sketch map of the area.



## Timetable for the Afternoon

12 Noon	Site open for setting up
1.00pm	Open for Pilgrims! Shuttle bus service available from Titchfield Rec car park.
2.00 -3.00pm	Children's Entertainer
3.00pm	Gather to worship
3.30pm	Picnic and games
5.00pm	We finish! <i>(we'd love it if anyone can stay and help clear up)</i>
6.00pm	Site closed

### Don't forget:

- **Bring your own tea-time picnic**
  - **Rugs, folding chairs,**
- **Suntan cream and hats, umbrellas!**
  - **Wet-weather venue:**

***Parish Rooms, by Titchfield Village War Memorial***