



INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS



SANDFORD
AWARD



2018-2023
QUALITY MARK FOR
HERITAGE EDUCATION



Welcome

Thank you for booking one of our school visit programmes. We look forward to welcoming you all to the Shrine.

This booklet aims to offer you advice and information to aid your planning and for the visit itself. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to read it carefully.

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BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We would be grateful if you could take the time to cover the basic outline of the story of Lady Richeldis and her visions before you come on your visit. You can find this at the back of this guide on our website. On the website, there is also a Pilgrims and Pilgrimages Information booklet which contains the story and other background information, which you may find helpful when teaching about Pilgrimage.

It will be useful to brief your classes about what will be expected from them during their visit:

- engage in discussion
- observe, question and think carefully about everything they see and experience
- move around the site/village quickly, sensibly and respectfully

Your classes will need to know that the Shrine is a peaceful place of prayer and worship, so quiet, respectful behaviour is appreciated. There will often be Pilgrims and other members of the public present at the Shrine.

Likewise, appropriate behaviour is also important if your visit includes other places of worship and at the Abbey grounds.

Smaller Groups

Depending on the number of pupils/students, we will often split them into smaller groups, who will then rotate around activities/venues. You will be notified about this when we plan your visit with you. Each group will be led by a member of the Schools Department, but we will need at least one member of staff, in each group. It would be helpful to plan this in advance, so everyone know what group they are in. This will save time on the day.

Arrival

Along with this booklet you will have received a map giving instructions about where the coach driver can drop you off. Please read this carefully and ask to disembark outside the Shrine in Knight Street. As mentioned in your confirmation letter, it would be very useful if you could phone us, when you are about 5 minutes away, so we can ensure there is someone there to meet you in Knights Street.



Office: 01328 824205
Mobile: 07747 152288

ON THE DAY

Packed Lunches, bags, coats etc

Please bring lunches and other items into the room you have been allocated. These can be left in the room, which will be locked when not in use.

At lunchtime you will be invited to eat in your classroom or picnic in the gardens. Plastic rubbish sacks will be provided. We would be grateful if you could ensure that the tables and floors are left clean and tidy after you have eaten.

First Aid

There are first aid kits around the Shrine, but you are strongly advised to bring your own. There are staff trained in First Aid on site, but we cannot guarantee there will be one present at all times. Therefore we strongly advise that there is someone in your group trained in First Aid in case an incident should occur. If an incident does occur, however small, please inform your group leader, who can ensure that it is recorded appropriately. There is a Doctors surgery in Walsingham (limited opening time) and in nearby Fakenham. The nearest A and E department is at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Kings Lynn.



Outdoor Altar area

Please ensure your group avoids the outdoor Altar area. This is easy to recognise- it is the large tent like structure in the gardens. This is however the area to gather if the fire alarm sounds.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure mobile phones are on silent or off whilst in places of worship, unless in case of emergency.

Photography

You are welcome to take photographs during your visit. We do ask though to be sensitive to other people visiting and not to photograph people who are praying.

Etiquette

Please do not allow your pupils to chew gum, eat or drink while visiting the places of worship. You may eat snacks etc in the Shrine gardens and in the allocated rooms.

It is tradition in Christian churches for men and boys to remove their hats/caps on entering (unless there is a medical or religious reason). Please remind your group about this.

Lavatories

Toilet facilities are situated next to the main reception area and next to the Norton Cafe, on the ground floor. There are disabled facilities in both places.

Please supervise lavatory visits at all times as they are used by members of the public. Ensure you have both male and female adults with you for this purpose.

Behaviour and Supervision

The Shrine is first and foremost a place of prayer and worship. There will be Pilgrims and other members of the public visiting the Shrine during your visit. Therefore quiet and respectful behaviour is appreciated. Please discuss this with your group beforehand and support our staff throughout your visit.

School staff and accompanying adults remain responsible for the welfare and behaviour of your group at all times. Although unlikely, our staff have the right to suspend a visit or ask school staff to remove a pupil/student if they are behaving inappropriately.

This extends to all areas of the Shrine, including the gardens, when visiting other places of worship and the Abbey grounds. They are welcome to enjoy the gardens during their free time, but we request that there is no running around. There is a recreation ground a short walk away in Wells Road should you have spare time.

Refectory and Cafe

Lunches, packed lunches and drinks can only be provided from our refectory when pre-booked as part of your visit programme.

On the ground floor of the Refectory building there is the Norton Cafe. Light meals/sandwiches and other refreshments may be purchased there. Please contact us in advance if a large number of students/pupils wish to purchase food, so as to avoid long queues.



Shrine Shop

The Shrine Shop is in Common Place almost opposite the entrance to the Abbey grounds. School groups are more than welcome to visit. We do ask that only 8 pupils, with at least one adult, go into the shop at a time due to its size. Please also allow this ratio if visiting other shops in the village.



Special Needs

If you haven't already done so on the booking form, please inform us if you have anyone in your group in a wheelchair or any other disability. We can then ensure appropriate resources or access routes are tailored to their needs. The Shrine site and Abbey Grounds are accessible for wheelchair users. There are a few steps to tackle at the Methodist and Orthodox churches.

Problems during the day

If at any stage you are concerned about anything, please speak to the teacher leading your group or the Schools and Young Pilgrims Officer. Any concerns of a safeguarding nature should be reported verbally straight away and recorded in writing as soon as possible. Our named person Venetia Davies will then follow the Diocese of Norwich's safeguarding procedures. Venetia can be contacted via reception.

RISK ASSESSMENT ADVICE

The grid below is to assist you with your planning. It is expected that group leaders will have carried out the required risk assessments, prior to their visit. Please refer to your own school, county or diocesan guidelines. We highly recommend that the member of staff organising your visit makes a preparation visit to the Shrine in order to carry out their own risk assessment.

Fire Safety

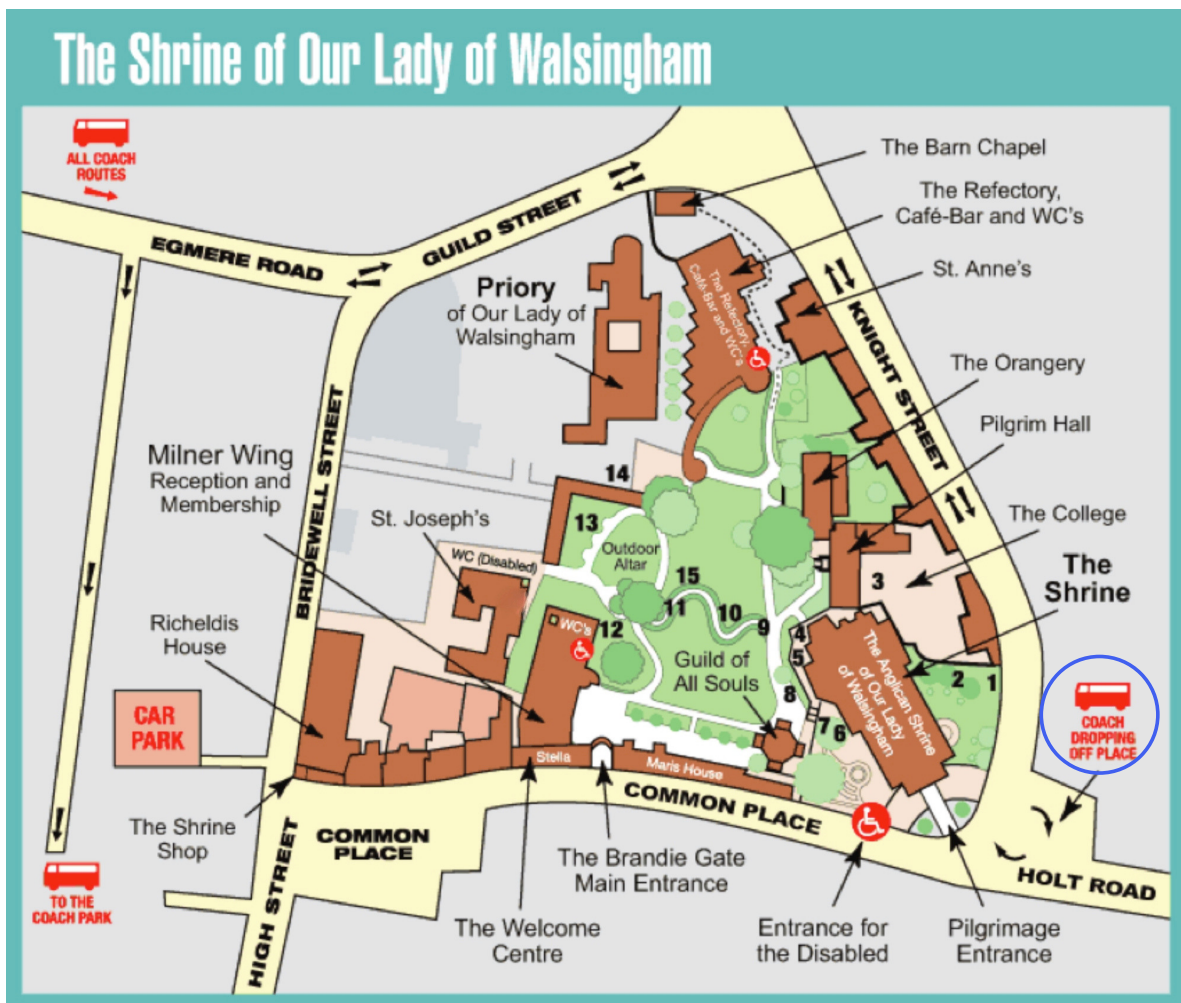
The main assembly point if a fire alarm sounds or a fire is discovered is by the outside altar (Altar of the Mysteries of light). This is located on the main lawn opposite the Pilgrim Hall.

Location	Activity	Risks	Procedures and controls
Knights Street	Arrival and departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> going into the road narrow footpath outside the Shrine 	Ask driver to park adjacent to wall outside the Shrine (Knights Street.) Disembark in single file. Adult supervision. Line up children on forecourt, where it is spacious and safe.
Shrine Gardens	Walking around the site Picnic Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uneven surfaces- paths and grass allergic reaction to plants, pollen etc public area trips and falls quad bikes mobility scooters and wheelchairs public areas/unknown adults (inc. toilets) 	Children and young people should walk at all times. Brief children and young people about looking out for the quad bike and mobility scooters- if spotted remind them immediately. Teachers to give verbal advice and supervise beginning and end of lines. Remind and advise about stranger danger. Adult supervision at all times. Hold handrails. The Shrine is self contained within a walled garden. No vehicles allowed in grounds expect gardener's quad bike and trailer or those with disabilities.
Shrine Church and Holy House	Visiting the Shrine Church Tour Lighting candles in the Holy House Sprinkling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slips, trips and falls steps down to Shrine church polished floor tiles well steps drinking well water candles in the Shrine church 	Walking at all times in Shrine church. Use handrails and single file on staircases, staff to supervise. Clear instructions for lighting candles. Ensure hair is tied back, brief group on taking care with sleeves or reaching over candle stands. Candle is placed before being lit carefully with the taper. One child only at a stand, with an adult. Well water checked regularly by North Norfolk District Council. Water containers cleaned and refilled daily. Well area enclosed behind locked metal gates. Only opened during Sprinkling service. Hold handrail when going both up and down the steps to the well. Warn and remind children of the risks of moving around near lit candles.
Walking around the village and the Holy Mile	Walking from one site to another Walking the Holy Mile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no footpath on short route to Common Place, entrance to Abbey grounds and to High Street narrow footpath in High Street 	Single file to Abbey Grounds, walking close to the wall. Staff to position themselves in road when crossing with group. Fluorescent waistcoats available. Walking at all times. Teachers to give verbal advice and supervision needed at front and back of line. Leader to check corner by Orthodox Church before allowing groups to proceed.
Abbey Grounds	Walking around the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uneven surface- pathways and grass well area trips, slips and falls public area 	Walking at all times. Well area is covered with metal grids. Remind group not to stand on the grids. Verbal reminders and adults to supervise beginning and ends of lines. Use of handrails where available.
Methodist Church	Tour of Methodist church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> falling from balcony 	Children to go up to balcony in groups. Remind them not to lean over the edge. Adult supervision at all times.
Pilgrim Hall and Orangery	Lunchtime Hanging up coats Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs- falls, trapped fingers Tripping over bags Slips, trips and falls 	Verbal advice on sensible use of tables and chairs. Chairs stacked neatly and safely against wall when not in use. No running allowed. Bags and coats rung up on pegs. Hazard signs if floor is wet and warn to keep away or take care.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

Unfortunately, coaches are NOT allowed down the village high street as it is far too narrow. Coach companies doing this risk a fine as it is a restricted route via East Barsham and Houghton St Giles. Please make sure the coach company is aware of this and drivers turn off onto the B1105. You will then come in around the back of the village from the Wells Road (B1105), by turning right where it is signposted for Walsingham Farm Shop.

Follow the road into the village, turn right at the war memorial onto Knights street and then drive to the junction. Coaches should then make a right turn at the junction and pull up outside the Shrine so that children do not have to cross the road.



If your visit begins at the [Roman Catholic Shrine](#), please give the driver the postcode NR22 6AL to drop the group off in the car park. The coach can then approach the village but turn up Blind Dickes Lane to the coach park and can either park there if empty, or can continue to Egmere Road and Knights Street to the Shrine. Again, do not drive down the High Street.

THE STORY OF WALSINGHAM

In the year 1061, in the reign of St Edward the Confessor, a widow of the lord of the manor of Walsingham Parva, called Lady Richeldis, had a vision of the Virgin Mary.

The Virgin Mary appeared to Richeldis and took her in spirit to Nazareth and showed her the house where the Angel Gabriel had appeared to her.

Richeldis was told to take note of the measurements of the Holy House and to build a reproduction of it in Walsingham (hence the name 'England's Nazareth' which was given to Walsingham). Richeldis saw the vision three times.

It proved difficult for workman to build the wooden house and Richeldis spent all night in prayer.

The next morning it was discovered the chapel was completed and it was believed that Our Lady, with the assistance of the holy angels, had removed the House to the spot which she herself had chosen, by which a spring of water was found.

This is the Walsingham legend.

Walsingham quickly became a centre of pilgrimage and was the most popular pilgrimage site in Britain. In the 14th century Augustinian Canons built a Priory to look after the pilgrims and they encased the Holy House in a chapel of stone to protect it.

Many kings and queens came to pray at the Shrine, the first being Richard Coeur de Lion. Pilgrims often took off their shoes to walk the last mile to the Shrine barefoot as a sign of penitence. This place is now the site of the Slipper Chapel (the Roman Catholic National Shrine).



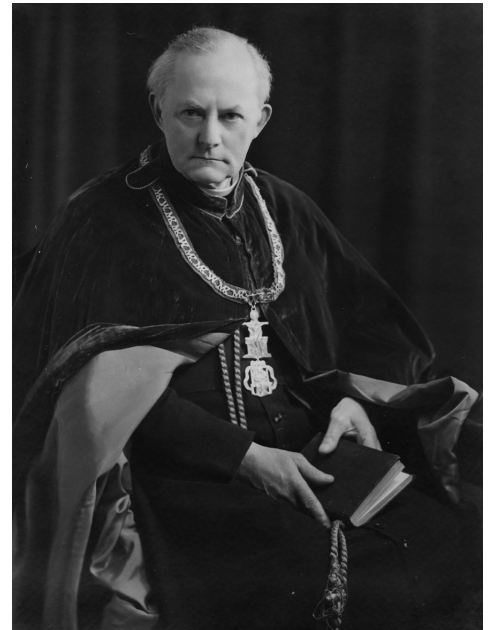
THE STORY OF WALSINGHAM



In 1536 King Henry VIII, who had made pilgrimages here, dissolved the monasteries. In 1538 his Commissioners came to Walsingham to break up the holy buildings and seize any valuable goods and the Shrine was destroyed. They burnt the statue of Mary with the infant Jesus on her knee which was above the altar.

In 1921 Father Alfred Hope Patten became the Vicar of S Mary's Church in Walsingham. He wanted to revive pilgrimage to the village so he had a statue carved from wood of Mary with Jesus. It was copied from the original Priory seal now in the British Museum.

This statue was put in a side chapel in St Mary's Church.



Father Patten set about raising money to build a new shrine. He purchased some land in the village opposite the Priory and plans were drawn up for a church to be built with a Holy House inside it. The church was designed so that it would resemble the original shrine, although it was made of stone not wood.

A well was discovered when building started and is part of the new church.

In 1931 the statue was taken from St Mary's Church and placed above the Altar in the new Holy House. Pilgrims were invited to light candles in it as a sign of their prayers.



AFTER YOUR VISIT

Evaluation Forms

After your visit, you will be sent an evaluation form to complete. We would be most grateful if you would kindly take the time to complete it.

We welcome your feedback on all aspects of your visit as this helps us to develop our services and facilities.

Do share with us any ideas you may have have about how things might be improved or any ideas you have about new content and areas of the curriculum you would like to see covered.



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

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Tel: 01328 824205 or 07747 152288

