



GAUDETE
LEAPING FOR JOY!

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
THIS SUMMER!**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
YOUTH PILGRIMAGE**

MONDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026



Make a difference this summer at the 2026 Youth Pilgrimage!

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is looking for volunteers (18 years+) to assist with the 2026 Youth Pilgrimage as part of the Ministry Team or Crew

The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage is a large event for 11-17 year olds and we have a number of volunteer positions available to support our team and the young people attending.

Volunteering at the Youth Pilgrimage is extremely rewarding and can provide valuable experience in young people's ministry and working with young people in general. Plus it's great fun and a chance to meet new people and make life long friends. We hope that you will gain personally from this event, in your own life's pilgrimage of faith, and that it will be a worthwhile experience to enhance your professional development.

Find out more and apply

You can find out more about the youth pilgrimage and view photos from last year's event by visiting our website or by scanning the QR code.



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/youngpilgrims/the-youth-pilgrimage/

Available Roles

We have 2 different roles that you can apply for.

- **Ministry Team** (needed from Sunday 26th July to Saturday 8th August)
- **Crew** (needed from Sunday 2nd to Saturday 8th August)

Ministry Team

As part of the ministry team, you will take an active part in preparing lively, stimulating worship for our Young Pilgrims. You will be needed the week before the pilgrimage starts to prepare and the during the week itself. The team gets everything ready for worship, takes part in drama, ensures the logistical side of the event is running smoothly, assists with workshops, sets things up, takes things down, chats to our young people, helps in the Hub tent, assists with the Bible studies, offers pastoral support to groups, drinks gallons of coffee- you name it, you'll be doing it!

CREW

Being part of the crew is busy but highly rewarding. You will have a range of duties and also help to keep the site and all those on it safe and happy. Working alongside our event managers- PH Productions and the Shrine staff- you will help to ensure the safety and well being of our young pilgrims. Responsibilities include welcoming pilgrims onto the site, assisting during the Holy Mile procession and processions to the Shrine, touring the site to see that all is well, talking to and keeping an eye out for young people in need and anything else that might need doing!





More about the ministry team

You will need to arrive in Walsingham, ready to take part in a week of preparation, on the afternoon of Sunday 26th July 2026 and you may stay until lunch on Saturday 8th August. During the preparation week, you will be provided with accommodation and all meals on the Shrine site. Although you will be camping on the field during the pilgrimage week itself, your room will be available for you to leave any belongings and have a shower etc.

The two weeks will be busy and although you will be given some time off, be prepared to work long hours and during the evenings.

Ministry team members will work together throughout the preparation week to get everything ready for the pilgrimage. There are lots of basic 'behind the scenes' tasks to be done such as preparing and transporting equipment, planning social events, creating videos, preparing sketches, posters etc. and you will be asked to assist with these. There may well be props to make/paint, scenery and costumes to prepare.

There is also time to get to know each other and socialise!

The team will take an active part in preparing a variety of lively, stimulating worship opportunities for our young people. These might include music, prayer, drama and dance.

Any skills and talents you can offer the team will be useful. However, we are not looking for the perfect person! We will support and encourage you to share ideas so that you gain the utmost from your time on the ministry team.

You may wish to bring anything that you might find useful e.g any prayer books or other resources such as musical instruments etc. A laptop will also be very handy if you have one (brought at your own risk).

More about the crew

You will need to arrive in Walsingham on Sunday 2nd August 2026 ready for a briefing with the Chief Steward and Shrine Pilgrimage leaders at 4pm in the Team Mess Tent and you will be able to leave on Saturday 8th August. You will have a choice either of camping with your own group or of pitching your tent in the area reserved for our crew. There are showers on the camp site, which will be available for your use. You will need to confirm any dietary requirements you may have and your T Shirt size on your application form.

You will be briefed on what to do in case of an emergency and will have an up-front role with the pilgrims. Depending on your particular responsibilities, it may not always be possible to attend every part of the pilgrimage, though we will ensure that you can get to as much as possible.

During the week, you will work closely with members of PH Productions, the company who offer logistical support to the pilgrimage, the Shrine staff and the Hub manager. They will offer all the necessary training at the beginning of the week. Members of the clergy and other members of the Shrine staff will also be on hand to offer pastoral support if you need it.



General Information

What we provide

We will provide all meals and travel expenses (please keep receipts and any taxis need to authorised by the Shrine beforehand) for the duration of the pilgrimage. If you are part of the Ministry Team you will stay in the Shrine's accommodation during the preparation week. Both Crew and Ministry Team camp on the Youth Pilgrimage field for the event itself so you will need to bring your own tent, sleeping bag etc. Or these can be hired from Campeazy. You will also be provided with 2 pilgrimage T-Shirts so that you are easily identifiable to our Young Pilgrims. There will be experienced people on hand to offer you help and also pastoral support if needed.

Prayer

The foundation of our work is based on prayer. The Youth Pilgrimage will be a total flop and a complete waste of time without Prayer!

We expect all our volunteers to attend Morning Prayer with the rest of the staff each day. We also expect you to attend Mass and the other services that take place, unless you have been directed to do otherwise.

Being ready

It is important that as members of the Youth Pilgrimage team, we enjoy each other's company and get to meet new people. However, it is also important that we are well rested and ready for the busy day ahead. Be prepared for an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable time, but also for long and busy days. No ridiculously late nights!

As the Youth Pilgrimage is for young people, there is to be no alcohol on site and we request that members of both the stewarding and ministry team do not consume alcohol at all during the Youth Pilgrimage week (on or off the site). This is in order to set a good example to our young pilgrims and also in case there is an emergency that you need to assist with.

What you will need

You will need to send us a copy of an enhanced DBS disclosure certificate that has been issued to you in the last two years. If you do not have one, the Shrine can easily arrange for this to be done.

You will be camping during the pilgrimage week so will need:

- Practical, casual clothing. Personal belongings etc to survive the week with us.
- A small tent with ground sheet.
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat, airbed etc.
- Powerful torch (e.g. Maglite)
- Comfortable footwear and boots or wellies
- Toiletries and towel. There are showers on the site.
- A waterproof jacket
- A fold up camping chair may be useful



Interested?

How to apply

If you are 18 or over and interested in volunteering at the 2026 Youth Pilgrimage, your next step is to complete an application form (see link at the bottom of the page). There will be a chance for you to explain why you would like to take part and any particular skills that you have. Please ensure that you fill in the form as thoroughly as possible.

The deadline for applications for volunteers is Friday 15th May 2026. Priority will be given to those people who have not been on one of the teams before.

You will need to have an enhanced DBS disclosure certificate for the Shrine that has been issued to you in the last two years. If you have volunteered for the Youth Pilgrimage before you may already have one, if not the Shrine will arrange for this to be done.

References

On the application form, you will be asked to provide the name and contact details for your priest/minister where you worship. We will then contact them to provide us with a reference.

You will also be asked to provide details of two further referees for the Ministry Team and one further referee for Crew. They will need to have known you for more than two years and be able to comment on your character/personality and any experience of working in a team/with young people/children.

Apply ONLINE

Complete the application form online by visiting:

www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/volunteer

If you have any questions please get in touch with Caroline Ward, Director of Engagement and Education: schools@olw-shrine.org.uk

