

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO England's Nazareth

Information for Schools, Churches and Community Groups



INTRODUCTION

Founded by the Lady Richeldis in 1061, destroyed by Henry VIII in 1538, restored in 1922 by Father Hope Patten, the Anglican Vicar of Walsingham- the Shrine has had an eventful history across nearly a thousand years.

This medieval place of pilgrimage, which rivalled Canterbury as a destination, was visited by thousands of pilgrims from across Britain and Europe.

It became known as 'England's Nazareth' because of the nature of the vision which the Lady Richeldis experienced.

Today, after 350 years reformation neglect, the past 95 years have witnessed the dramatic restoration of pilgrimage to Walsingham.



SANDFORD
AWARD



2018-2023
QUALITY MARK FOR
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The Walsingham Story

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 workmen 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, or being sorry to God. This place is now the site of the Slipper Chapel (the Roman Catholic National Shrine).

In 1536 King Henry VIII, who had made pilgrimages here, dissolved the monasteries (destroyed them). 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 St 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. In 1938 that church was enlarged to form the Anglican Shrine, more or less as we know it today.



Visiting

The Department is dedicated to providing opportunities to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through curriculum based programmes with a special emphasis on Christian faith; we have recently been awarded our second Sandford Award for excellence in heritage education.

The Sandford Award Administrator wrote to the Department as follows:

"I am delighted to inform you that The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has won another Sandford Award. Congratulations! Our judge, Jenny Newhouse was very impressed by the learning programmes on offer at the site and felt that they were worthy of commendation by the scheme."

We offer a number of educational programmes to suit various age groups; most of these last a whole day (usually 10.00am to 3.00pm, but timings can be adapted to suit your needs). Whatever else may be provided, our programmes always include the theme of pilgrimage and a visit to the Shrine Church.

Residential visits offer far greater scope for planning an unhurried programme and we can tailor-make a package to suit the needs of your students.

In this brochure you will find a selection of themed, guided visits. All are adaptable for SEN, parish and community groups. The programmes are carefully planned to enhance and supplement your teaching across the curriculum. They are linked to the National Curriculum and Local Agreed Syllabi for RE/Nonstatutory National Framework for RE, for example:

RE / RS: Pilgrimage, Christianity, Places of Worship, Symbolism, Beliefs and Practices, Festivals, Religious and Moral Stories, Rituals, Moral and Ethical Issues.

Art: Religious Art, Icons, Sculpture.

History: Medieval times, Tudors.

Spiritual and Social Development: Lots of opportunities for discussion and reflection.

A visit to Walsingham can also help your pupils meet the agreed local SACRE and SMSC learning objectives. It can also help support the use of the RE teaching resource '*Understanding Christianity*'.



Primary Programmes



To be a Pilgrim

KS1/KS2 RE/History Focus

Discover why Pilgrims have visited Walsingham for nearly 1000 years!

Dress as a medieval pilgrim (depending on numbers) whilst finding out about the history of Walsingham and explore the grounds of the original Abbey. Hear how it was sadly destroyed in 1538 by Henry VIII.

Whilst visiting the Abbey, collect items in your Pilgrim bag that Pilgrims would have had and used many years ago.

In the afternoon, we jump forwards in time to 1931 and hear how the present-day Shrine was established by Father Alfred Hope Patten. We tour the Shrine and discover why Pilgrims still visit this special place today and what they actually do here! Find out how the items collected in the morning are still used in the modern day Shrine. Light the candle, collected at the Abbey, in the special Holy House and fill the bottle with water from the Holy Well. Finally, take part in a short service of 'Sprinkling' with other Pilgrims.

Walsingham Church Trail

KS2 RE Focus

Take a wander around the village of Walsingham and discover 3 very different churches belonging to different Christian denominations. Visit the Methodist, Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches and find out how they are the same and yet very different!

Consider the differences in beliefs, architecture and styles of worship. Find out about how the Eucharist is celebrated in different ways.

In the afternoon, explore the Anglican Shrine Church, which is different again! Whilst touring the Shrine, find out why pilgrims visit Walsingham and what they do there. Light a candle in the Holy House and take part in a short service of 'Sprinkling' with other Pilgrims.



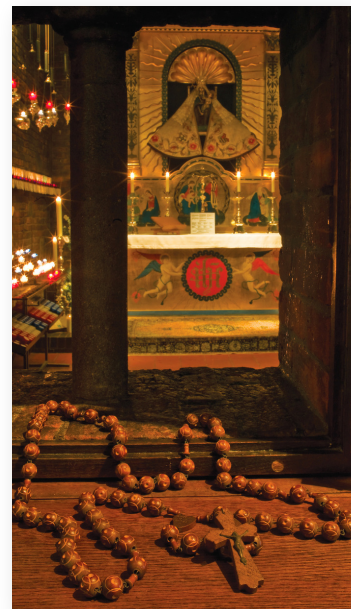
Primary Programmes

Being a Christian

KS1/KS2 RE Focus

Explore how and why Christians worship. Discover the meaning behind Christian symbols used in a place of worship. Investigate how feelings and beliefs are expressed through symbolic actions, colours and clothes. Explore the artwork in the Shrine Church, including icons in the Russian Orthodox Chapel and consider what artists are trying to portray and how Christians use these images in their prayer and worship. Handle a variety of artefacts and objects that are used in prayer, whilst listening to a variety of different styles of music that are used for prayer and worship.

In the afternoon, discover why Christians go on pilgrimage and what happens on a pilgrimage to Walsingham. Why is Walsingham such a special place? Why is it called England's Nazareth? Why is Mary so special here? Spend time in the Holy House and light a candle. Join together with Pilgrims to experience a short service of 'Sprinkling' with water from the Holy Well.



Other Options

We are able to adapt any of our programmes to suit your exact requirements. We are also able to provide a number of other activities or discussions. For example:

- Children's Stations of the Cross
- Making a Pilgrim Badge
- Meet a Nun
- Meet a Priest
- Creative prayer activities
- Easter Experience Day
- Christmas Experience Day
- Tudor life (including dressing up and optional Tudor Banquet)

Please contact us, if you have specific requirements and we will work together to create a bespoke programme.



Secondary Programmes

Pilgrimage Experience

KS3/KS4/KS5 RE/RS/HISTORY Focus

Begin your journey at the Roman Catholic National Shrine and visit the Slipper Chapel. This is where medieval pilgrims said prayers before walking the last mile to the Shrine, barefoot! Then walk the 'Holy Mile' into the village (barefoot optional!).

Then explore the ruins of the original Abbey, learning about pilgrimage in medieval times and how it links to pilgrimage today.

In the afternoon, discover the modern Shrine with the restored Holy House and see how pilgrimage forms part of the modern Christian way of life. There is time for personal reflection and an opportunity to light a candle in the Holy House.

Finally, take part in a short service of 'Sprinkling' with other Pilgrims.



One Church, One Faith

KS3/KS4/KS5 RE/RS Focus

An opportunity to visit four churches from different Christian denominations in one day! Take a tour around the village and visit the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches. Discover the similarities and differences in emphases, worship and fixtures and fittings. All very different, but still Christian!

In the afternoon, explore the Anglican Shrine Church, which is different again! Compare and contrast the Churches seen in the morning with the Anglican Shrine Church. Whilst touring the Shrine, find out why pilgrims visit Walsingham and what they do there. Learn why Walsingham is so special to Christians.

There is opportunity for personal reflection and to light a candle in the special Holy House. End the day by taking part in a short service of 'Sprinkling' with regular Pilgrims.



Secondary Programmes

Exploring Christianity

KS3/KS4/KS5 RE/RS/Art/Music Focus

Explore how and why Christians worship. Discover the meaning behind Christian symbols used in a place of worship. Investigate how feelings and beliefs are expressed through symbolic actions, colours and clothes. Explore the artwork in the Shrine Church, including icons in the Russian Orthodox Chapel and consider what artists are trying to portray and how Christians use these images in their prayer and worship. Handle a variety of artefacts and objects that are used in prayer, whilst listening to a variety of different styles of music that are used for worship.

In the afternoon, discover why Christians go on pilgrimage and what happens on a pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Why is Walsingham such a special place?

Why is it called

England's Nazareth?

Spend time reflecting in the Holy House and light a candle.

Join together with Pilgrims to experience a short service of 'Sprinkling' with water from the Holy Well.



Other Options

We are able to adapt any of our programmes to suit your exact requirements.

We are also able to provide a number of other activities or discussions for Secondary Schools and Collages.

For example:

- Vocation
- Key Moral and Ethical Issues
- Talk/Discussion with a Priest
- Talk/Discussion with a nun
- Mass
- Take part in Stations of the Cross
- Global Issues
- Values and commitments in faith-based living.

If you have other specific requirements, please get in touch, so that we can provide a bespoke programme.



Residential Visits

Residential visits offer far greater scope for planning an unhurried programme and we can tailor-make a package to suit the needs of your students. We can combine any of our programmes and you can then take the opportunity to add in some of our optional activities or discussions.

Groups are also welcome to take part in our regular pilgrimage services, which will give them a much deeper understanding and depth of experience.

Accommodation is available from 1st February each year until early December. Rooms are warm and comfortable with a variety of single, twin and triple rooms. Towels and bed linen are provided.

Meals are provided in the Refectory and packed lunches can also be ordered if you decide to explore the local area or visit the beach! There are a range of places to visit around Walsingham, including centres which offer Outdoor and Adventurous activities.



Pilgrim Hall Sleepovers

The Pilgrim Hall is available for Schools, Sunday Schools, Choir Clubs, Youth Groups, Servers, Uniformed Organisations etc and is a wonderful way of bonding your group and experiencing pilgrimage on a budget!

You will need to provide your own bedding and towels etc, but are welcome to have your meals in the Refectory.

The Pilgrim Hall has its own small kitchenette with a fridge and microwave and 2 showers.



General Information

Lunches and Refreshments

Upon booking, you will be allocated a room for your use during the day. Any lunches, coats etc. can be left there as the room will be locked when not in use. You are welcome to eat packed lunches in there or weather permitting you can picnic on our beautiful gardens. Rubbish sacks and bins will be provided for your use. You are also welcome to order meals or packed lunches from our refectory. These must be booked in advance.

On the ground floor of the Refectory complex is the Norton Café. Light meals/sandwiches and refreshments may be purchased here. We would ask however, that you contact us in advance if a large number of pupils/students wish to purchase food during the lunch break.

Behaviour

The Shrine is a peaceful and quiet place of prayer and worship. We therefore ask you to explain to your pupils in advance of your visit that quiet, respectful behaviour is appreciated. There will often be pilgrims and other members of the public at the Shrine. Groups are welcome to enjoy the gardens at lunch time, but we would ask that there is no running around.

Toilets

Toilets are located next to the main reception area and next to the Norton Café, on the ground floor. There are disabled facilities in both areas. These are open to the general public so adult supervision is required at all times.

Shrine Shop

The Shrine Shop is in Common Place almost opposite the entrance to the Abbey grounds. It is generally open during the day and groups are welcome to visit. We do ask that only 8 students, with at least one adult go into the shop at one time, due to its size. This ratio should also be applied to other shops in the village.

Risk Assessment

As part of the booking process, we will send you our risk assessment advice. This will hopefully aid you in undertaking your own risk assessment. We encourage visits to The Shrine in advance and we will be happy to arrange a date and time for you to be shown round by a member of the Schools department.

Sprinkling

The Sprinkling at the Well service takes place at the Saxon well in the church and is an important part of pilgrimage. The priest will explain about the service and then lead a prayer before inviting pilgrims to go to the well. Pilgrims receive the water in three ways: a sip to drink, the sign of the cross on the forehead and poured into their hands. It represents the gift of life, a reminder of baptism and the constant generosity of God's love. It is a non-sacramental service, but gives the pupils a 'hands-on' experience of pilgrimage and is very popular with schools. Receiving the water however, is not compulsory and any pupils or students who do not wish to take part are invited to watch.

Booking

Advance booking is essential for any of our programmes or if you are coming on a self-guided visit.

Email us for the current price list or it is available on our website.

Call or email us to discuss your requirements, make a provisional booking or if you have any further questions:

Tel: 01328 824205

Email: schools@olw-shrine.org.uk



A booking form will then be sent to you via email. Please complete this within 2 weeks and return to the Schools department.



Once we have received your completed booking form and deposit you will be sent the following:

- a confirmation letter
- a teachers guide
- an invoice
- a personalised visit itinerary
- map and directions for drivers
- risk assessment advice
- the story of Walsingham to share with your pupils/students
- residential bookings will receive extra information with details of accommodation etc.

We request full payment in advance of your visit. Invoices will be sent by the Shrine Finance Department.

Please inform us of any changes if your group size increases or decreases. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a refund for children who do not attend on the day of the visit.

Our Commitment to you

A professional service: Members of the Schools Department are all fully qualified teachers, all of whom have enhanced DBS checks.

Learning: We aim to present information in an interesting, engaging and friendly manner suitably adapted for each individual age group.

Preparation/Risk Assessment: We will provide information to assist you with your own risk assessment and welcome pre-visits to The Shrine.

Content: Content and resources will be inline with curriculum and syllabus developments.

Safe Learning Environment: We provide your group with a lockable room to store lunches, bags and coats.

Partnership: We will aim to suit your particular needs wherever possible. We welcome feedback as we are always striving to improve what we offer. A feedback form will be sent after your visit.



For further information about The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham please visit our website
www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

or follow us on Facebook and Twitter
Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (Anglican)



Email: **schoolseolw-shrine.org.uk**

Tel: **01328 824205**