

Peace Pilgrimage

Saturday

21st October saw the culmination of several months intensive



planning and preparation. The idea of a Walk For Peace was first mooted at a joint meeting with the URC Minister, Mary Taylor who is the minister in charge of Crookham United Reformed Church North Northumberland; (Peace Church) and several members of the Diocesan Spirituality group, including Kathryn Turner. Initially a Prayer Walk was suggested, but this soon mutated into the idea of an Ecumenical Interfaith Pilgrimage/Peace Walk, the route to run from the Peace Church in Crookham to the Battle of Flodden Memorial at Branxton. Although the Walk had no connection with the Battle of Flodden it was thought that the memory of the terrible slaughter which had taken place was a suitable and poignant reminder of the futility of warfare.


Permission was sought and most readily given by Mr. George Farr, over whose land we were hoping to walk since the public road to the Memorial is narrow and twisting. Mary Taylor opened the Pilgrimage in the URC Church with a very brief history of the Peace Church and encouraged all participants to wander in the Peace Garden and to examine the Time Line there. We wished to combine the Walk with praying for Peace, and so several stops were planned along the route as Prayer Stations. One stop was at a local farm situated on the route at which we remembered and prayed for all those who till and toil on the land, not just locally but worldwide. We thanked God for the beauty and wonder of Creation, and ended this prayer stop with a Hindu prayer for Peace. At the small cross-roads at Branxton we prayed for, and blessed the four points of the compass and their significance; North where the cold winds come from, East where the sun rises to bring warmth to the earth, South where warm winds and summer migrants come from and West where the sun ends

its daily journey across the heavens; a Buddhist Prayer for Peace ended this prayer stop. At the



Flodden Memorial we considered the now peaceful countryside of both nations while the Northumbrian Piper played a lament for all those killed in all wars. Various Faiths had provided Prayers for Peace from their Traditions, Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Shinto, Zoroastrian, Baha'i and Jewish, which were then said and so the Pilgrimage ended.

A shuttle transport service was available for those who wished transport back to Crookham, where copious amounts of coffee, tea and cake were readily available. The weather responded to our prayers and in spite (or perhaps to spite) the awful weather forecast for that morning we were blessed with a rain free, but cool and windy day.

Our sincere thanks to Mary Taylor, to Fr. David Tanner (now known to his friends as "Pathfinder" Tanner) for leading the Pilgrimage, to the ladies at Crookham Village Hall for the splendid cakes and coffee, to Claire Walton for all her very hard work and effort, organising, printing, advice, obtaining signage and to keeping everyone involved on their toes. To George Farr for permission to walk over his land, and to ALL who helped in whatever way to make it such a successful day. 

Deacon Jude Newton



Advent 2017: Be Prepared!



The Advent resources are now ready and raring to go! Please contact Karen if you would like to receive a CD of the resources. You will also find them available to download from the diocesan website.

www.rcdhn.org.uk

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'A Pastoral Day' With Bill Huebsch

Over one hundred people from across the diocese attended a stimulating and thought provoking day with Bill Huebsch, a renowned pastoral theologian and a wonderful communicator. His central theme for the day was that of Accompaniment and its importance in our growing understanding of the mission of the Church to-day. Accompaniment or "walking alongside" or "keeping company" with others in the many experiences, circumstances, joys and fragility of life and offering love, compassion and support has been a constant message from Pope Francis and Bill constantly referred to this message throughout his presentation.


This pastoral day was very timely, following our three year exploration and consultation process-Forward Together in Hope during which we have constantly

been challenged to reflect on what it means to be a disciple – to try wherever we can to live and act in the way of Jesus. Bill reinforced this challenge/invitation by helping us to reflect on how we welcome people into our churches and communities; how inclusive we are; how we reach out to those who are on the fringes but who may be longing for some kind of connection; how we withhold judgments and listen to the situations in which so many people have to live and indeed survive. All of this gave us much to think about personally and in our church structures.

Bill then helped us reflect on the opportunities we have to welcome; accompany; support those parents who want their child to be baptised. How do we make this a great celebration and an invitation to reflect on what this means—in terms of Faith and Commitment. In our parishes and Partnerships there are so many wonderful people who might be willing to accompany these parents and children. In a similar

way, Bill offered examples of programmes for children and their parents for preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion inviting us to think of ways we might accompany these people at these important turning points in their lives.

Finally, Bill posed that ultimate question of the formation of conscience and how we listen for God's voice and promptings in our discernment and decision making. It is in our conscience that church teaching meets our own human experience and calls for gentle, wise and skilled accompaniment. This is so important with regard to Marriage/divorce and re/marriage and the reception of the Sacraments. Bill encouraged us to read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA—THE JOY OF LOVE*.

Overall this was a day which we will remember in gratitude and hope as we all continue in our personal and shared Journey in faith and on-going conversion.  Mrs Chris Smith

Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

St Antony's Priory

Saturday 11th November:

Be still and know -

**A day of Meditation and Music:
10.30am - 4:00pm**

Led by Ruth Grant, Lynn Nausner and Deborah Thorne. Ruth and Lynn, team members from St Antony's, will lead the normal morning meditation sessions at 10am and 11.30am. Deborah will use music as a way in to meditation in the afternoon. Deborah follows a Celtic spiritual path, also drawing inspiration from earth based spirituality and mystic traditions worldwide.

Saturday 9th December:

Together in Meditation

10am and 11.30am

Two separate hours of Meditation rooted in the Christian tradition. Come to either or both.

*For more information contact Paul Golightly
(0)191 384 3747
info@stantonypriory.co.uk*

Minsteracres

Walking Retreat

**11 November 2017,
10:00am - 5:00pm**

Enjoy a walk of seven to ten miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres, with time for prayer, reflection and sharing of the beauty of creation. You will need suitable walking boots and warm, weatherproof clothing. Please bring a packed lunch.

Quiet Day

**22 November 2017
10:00am - 4:00pm**

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquility at Minsteracres. Coffee and tea are provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

This retreat is led by Rosarie Spence RSM.

*More Information from
Minsteracres Retreat Centre
01434 673248 | info@minsteracres.org*

Centre for Prayer and Mission

Prayer Shawl Ministry



We meet every **second Thursday of the month** at 1.30pm – 3.30pm to pray together and knit/crochet shawls for sick people, vests and hats for the Fish and Chip Babies, hats for seamen, scarves and mitts for the homeless, pullovers for the street boys in Nairobi and anything else that is needed. All is done in the context of prayer and ministry. Held at Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham. Newcomers always welcome.

*For further information or to book
please contact Sr Michael on
0191 5813249
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com*