

General Notes for Peak Pilgrimage walkers

Below are brief notes for walkers on the Peak Pilgrimage.

There are 14 places available on the minibus for the return trip to Macclesfield on any of the three days at a cost of £5 per person per day. If you would like to book one of those places then let me know. The minibus will also be available throughout the day to transport pilgrims who don't wish to walk the full distance. If travelling in your own car then please let me know where you plan to meet us. The minibus can ferry drivers back to their parked cars at the end of the day.

If you would like a copy of the guide book which includes full details of the walk, the villages and the churches as well as space for the pilgrims' stamps and verses then these are available from me at £6 each.

Let me know if you wish to join us for a meal together on Saturday 7th at Chris Wightman's place at 7.00 for 7.30. The cost will be £5 per person but please bring your own drink.

Several experienced walkers will have detailed maps and route notes including a back-marker who will happily accompany the slowest walkers.

Day 1 : Thursday 5th July

The minibus will collect people from a few locations and leave Macclesfield at 9:30 to arrive at Ilam Hall National Trust car park about 10:30. If travelling in your own car the NT car park is free to members (but don't forget to bring your NT card) and £5 per day to others. There is some limited parking available in the village. There are cafés and pubs on the walk but bring a packed lunch if you prefer.

Assemble at the Church Of The Holy Cross in Ilam Park just in front of Ilam Hall by 10:45 for a short act of worship before setting off.

Follow Route Notes to Milldale (3½ miles, +600ft, 1¼ hours). Those wishing to do a shorter walk take the minibus to Milldale.

At Milldale there are toilets, Polly's Cottage refreshment stop and a free car park.

Meet at Milldale Chapel about 12:45 for a short act of worship.

Follow Route Notes to St Peter's, Alstonefield (¾mile, +350ft, 15 mins). Those wishing to do a shorter walk take the minibus to St Peter's, Alstonefield where we meet about 1:15 for a short act of worship then walk into Alstonefield village (200 yards). The Green in front of The George would be a good place for lunch. There is a free car park and toilets in Alstonefield.

Leaving Alstonefield at about 2:00 follow Route Notes to Hartington. There is a steep descent into Dove Dale – those wishing to avoid this take the minibus to join Dove Dale at a more convenient point. This section along Dove Dale and Wolfscote Dale to Hartington is delightful - 4½ miles, 2½ hours by this gentler route.

Meet at St Giles, Hartington at about 4:30 for a short act of worship. This is the last church of the day so people may wish to finish here. There are pubs, cafés, toilets, cheese shop, duck pond, etc in Hartington. Purists walk on to Parsley Hay (4¼ miles, 1¾hrs). The minibus will take drivers back to cars in Ilam.

Day 2 : Friday 6th July

The minibus will leave Macclesfield at 9:30 to arrive at Parsley Hay about 10:10. If travelling in your own car the car park at Parsley Hay is £4.50/day. There are cafés and pubs on the walk but bring a packed lunch if you prefer.

Follow Route Notes to St Leonard's, Monyash (4½ miles, 2 hours). Those wishing to do a shorter walk take the minibus to St Leonard's, Monyash where we meet about 12:15 for a short act of worship. There is a tea shop and a pub in Monyash.

Leaving Monyash at about 12:30 follow Route Notes to St Anne's, Over Haddon (4 miles, 1½ hours). The route along Lathkill Dale is beautiful and the minibus will be parked by the footbridge at Over Hadden to transport weary pilgrims up the hill to St Anne's. Meet at St Anne's, Over Haddon about 2:00 for a short act of worship. There is the Garden Tea Room and a pub in Over Haddon. Over Haddon would be a good place for lunch.

Leaving Over Haddon at about 3.00 follow Route Notes to All Saints, Bakewell (2 miles, 1 hour). Those wishing to do a shorter walk take the minibus to All Saints, Bakewell where we meet at 4:00 for a short act of worship. There are pubs, cafés, shops of all sorts in Bakewell. The minibus will take drivers back to cars in Parsley Hay.

It is proposed that those who wish to may get together for a pub meal on the way home at about 6.00.

Day 3 : Saturday 7th July

The minibus will leave Macclesfield at 9:30 to arrive at Bakewell Bridge car park, Bakewell about 10:15. If travelling in your own car the car park at Bakewell Bridge is £5/day. There are cafés and pubs on the walk but bring a packed lunch if you prefer. Meet at the Coombs Road entrance to the Bakewell Bridge car park.

Leaving at about 10:30 follow Route Notes to St Peter's, Edensor (3 miles, 1½ hours). It's quite a steep and rocky climb up through Manners Wood so those wishing to do a shorter walk may take the minibus to Edensor where there is a tea shop. Meet at St Peter's, Edensor about 12:00 for a short act of worship.

The following two sections of the walk through Chatsworth, along the Derwent valley via St Anne's, Baslow, to All Saints, Curbar, are delightful (5 miles, 2 hours, easy walking).

Leaving Edensor about 12.:15 follow Route Notes to St Anne's, Baslow. Those wishing to do a shorter walk take the minibus to Baslow – however the following two sections of the walk through Chatsworth, along the Derwent valley via St Anne's, Baslow, to All Saints, Curbar, are delightful (5 miles in total, 2 hours, easy walking).

Short acts of worship in St Anne's, Baslow, at about 1:15 (there is a pub just before the church) and in All Saints, Curbar at about 3:00 (there is a pub opposite the church).

Follow Route Notes along the river Derwent to St Martin's, Stoney Middleton (2 miles, 1 hour). There is a fairly steep section at Knouchley Farm. There is a pub in Stoney Middleton. Short act of worship in St Martin's, Stoney Middleton, at about 2:30.

Follow Route Notes for the final section to St Lawrence's, Eyam (1 mile, ½hour). Final act of worship at about 4:00. There are pubs and cafés in Eyam. The minibus will take drivers back to cars in Bakewell.

Meal together in Macclesfield that evening.