

Holy Island - Lindisfarne

Home of St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert and the destination of Northern Cross. Like us, it is an island and not an island, temporarily connected to the mainland, just as we on our pilgrimage, temporarily join the Christian communities where we stay. Its loneliness and isolation answer our need for simplicity and personal space, yet remind us of our need for friendship and human contact.

All the legs meet and cross the sands together on Good Friday morning (when the tide is out) to reach a place where Christians have lived and prayed for more than 1600 years – give or take the odd Viking massacre.

Northern Cross culminates here. When they join, the legs become one community sharing experience and fellowship from the week. In our Easter observances and celebrations we fulfil our spiritual needs and show our gratitude to the people of Holy Island as they unite with us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

Information

Chaucer's pilgrims were a mixed bunch. So are we! Male and female; young and old, from 7 to 70 and above, walk with us.

The pilgrimage takes place each year in the week before Easter - most groups meet on the evening of the Friday or Saturday before Good Friday. It finishes on Easter Sunday.

If you don't feel you'll be able to make the whole week but only part you can still come - just contact us to arrange it.

Contact Details

The organisers of Northern Cross are elected each year, but you can write to: Northern Cross, c/o Mike Blood, 43 Brynlea Terrace, Barrow Bridge, Bolton, Lancashire. BL1 7NB. U.K.

northerncross@freenetname.co.uk

Please check the website for up to date details:

www.northerncross.co.uk

northern CROSS



*A Christian Easter
Pilgrimage to Holy
Island – Lindisfarne,
Northumberland*

www.northerncross.co.uk

experience the fellowship



What is it all about?



Every year, Easter sees the occasion of the annual Northern Cross pilgrimage to Holy Island. Pilgrims from all areas of Christian life and from all over the world walk to Holy Island at Easter to witness and celebrate Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

Various pilgrim groups (known as legs) set out from places in Scotland or the north of England and walk for six or seven days to reach Holy Island off the coast of Northumberland. Also known as Lindisfarne, this was the birthplace of Christianity in the north of England. Each leg carries a large wooden cross.

All the legs meet on Good Friday morning and cross the sands to the island. As Northern Cross, we celebrate Easter with the community on Holy Island.

Walking is only part of the story. Other parts are prayer, the growing spirit of community within each leg and meeting the parishes along our routes. The experience is hard - but simple, intense and joyful. We learn to know ourselves, our fellow pilgrims and those who help us on our way. We enjoy hospitality from the communities where we stay. We express our artistic and musical talents in both social events and shared worship.



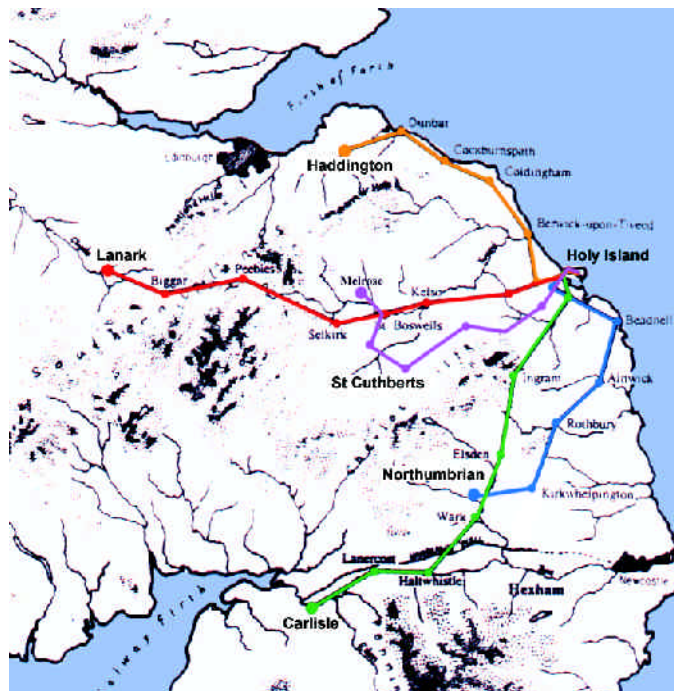
Who comes and what does it cost?

The cost is about £110 per person. This varies slightly with each leg depending on catering, accommodation etc. Nobody should be prevented from experiencing Northern Cross due to lack of money. We have a concession system for the unwaged, low-waged and families. Please contact us for further details.

All food and accommodation, both during the week and for the weekend on Holy Island, is included in the cost.

The Routes

Each route involves a substantial walk through wild and beautiful countryside. We often worship and share meals with the parishes through which we pass. Overnight we usually stay in church or village halls. After a day's walking (up to 20 miles), sleep comes quickly. All legs have support cars to carry rucksacks and footsore pilgrims. After crossing the sands on Good Friday morning, we stay in a hostel on Holy Island, leaving after lunch on Easter Sunday.



St Cuthbert's Leg meet in Melrose on the Friday evening before Palm Sunday, and follow St Cuthbert's Way for almost 60 miles as it winds through the Scottish borders. This is a walking retreat with a lot of time in prayer, meditation and song, and is suitable for adults seeking time in prayer and pilgrimage away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Northumbrian Leg meets in Bellingham on the evening before Palm Sunday. The route covers moorland and forest, pleasant river valleys and exhilarating coastline, stopping at friendly towns. Weather permitting, it will reach the top of the Simonside Hills. Highlights include Alnwick Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle, and St. Cuthbert's Cave.

Lanark Leg meets on the Friday evening before Palm Sunday. The route crosses the Southern Uplands and descends the lovely River Tweed. Find time for quiet reflection while sharing thoughts and prayers during this substantial and beautiful walk. Highlights are Melrose Abbey, the Three Brethren hills, crossing the river Till by tractor, Flodden Field, Wallace Monument, and Smailholm Tower.

Haddington Leg is for those who prefer a slower pace or those with children (usually 7 years upward). The average day is 12 miles, and suitable for people with varying physical abilities. Meeting the evening before Palm Sunday, they follow the coastal plain. Highlights are Hailes Castle, Muir Park, Coldingham Priory, Eyemouth fishing port, and Berwick Town.

Carlisle Leg meets on the Friday evening before Palm Sunday. This is a journey of spirituality and beauty, beginning with walking through the loveliest areas of the Northumberland National Park and along the spectacular Hadrian's Wall. Highlights include Holywell, Hadrian's Wall and Chillingham.

