

## REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Throughout the pilgrimage of St Boniface Way flow the interconnected themes of prayer, work and study. St Boniface would have been familiar with these as they formed the rhythms of his life as a Benedictine monk.

The first stages of the route focus on prayer, but of course this is a thread that will weave through the whole pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage is an opportunity to travel lightly, to walk free of daily routines, to meet people, to make friends, to enjoy and celebrate God's creation. An opportunity, too, in the travelling, the conversations and the silences to reflect on the journey of our lives, and on our journey homewards to God.



God of our pilgrimage,

You have given us a desire to take the questing way  
and set out on our journey.

Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, that whatever we  
encounter as we travel, we may seek to glorify you by the  
way we live.

Amen.

Eternal God,

Give us the courage to set off on pilgrimage.

May we travel unhindered by worldly possessions, simply  
trusting in you for all that we need.

Sometimes our hearts will be heavy as we plod along and our  
feet will ache and feel dirty.

Other times we will rejoice as the sun shines  
on the path stretching before us.

May we ponder the truth, that the pilgrim's journey is never  
finished till they reach home.

Amen.

(from Pilgrim Prayers, Jenny Child © Canterbury Cathedral)

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# St Boniface Way

wander and wonder

## STAGE 1

Church of the Holy Cross, CREDITON  
to St Swithun's Church, SHOBROOKE



May God the Father who created you,  
guide your footsteps.

May God the Son who redeemed you,  
share your journey.

May God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you,  
lead you on life's pilgrimage.

# STAGE 1

## Crediton to Shobrooke



After visiting Holy Cross Church, leave the grounds through the south gate onto Union Street and turn left, then bear left in 140m into East Street.

*If you look across the road at the T junction, you will see the blue plaque marking the birthplace of St Boniface.*

Turn left onto Mill Street and in 200m, follow the road as it bends to the right. At a small roundabout, turn right into Commercial Road. Keep the rugby ground on your left and then turn left (signposted to the sports centre). Keep straight on this path to pass the children's playground, tennis courts and football ground.

At the end of the path, you will see a gated field. Go through the gate and continue straight across the field to reach a narrow footbridge.

Cross the bridge and enter the next field, continuing straight across to find another small gate (next to a tree). This gate will take you out onto the road.

*Be aware that there may well be cattle or other livestock in these fields.*

When you reach the road, turn left and continue along the road, keeping Shobrooke Park on your right.

*There is no footpath on this road, so take care and walk in single file.*

After about 300m, near a small car park, you will see a public footpath signposted on the right. Go through the gate into the field.

*Again, you may find sheep in this field, so care and attention needed with dogs.*

Through this gate, the footpath heads in three directions – take the middle path, directly ahead of the gate and follow it to the banks of the lake. Keeping the lake on your left, follow the bank around the lake.

After the first group of trees, bear right and you will see a gate and public footpath signposted to the right.

Turn right and continue past the cricket pitch (on your right).

Before the next gate, turn left and take the path through the majestic avenue of lime trees.

*This is one of the hardest stretches of the walk, but do turn around and admire the sensational views over the lake to the woods behind and Dartmoor in the distance.*

When you reach the top of the parkland, after half a mile, look to your right and you will see a small gate. Go through the gate and you will then cross a road junction.

*Take care when crossing this junction.*

Ahead you will see the signpost to Shobrooke Church. The road slopes gently down, and you will see the church on your right.

