

PILGRIMAGE SITES



Patteson memorial

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ST JAMES AND ST ANNE *Alfington*

BACKGROUND:

The community of Alfington is where Patteson came to help the then Curate in 1853, who was suffering with ill health, and from here he was ordained. Following his ordination having served here for two years, Patteson was called to go with Bishop Selwyn to New Zealand and so to Melanesia. The Alfington parishioners were angry at losing Patteson, blaming Bishop Selwyn. 'He may be - no doubt he is - a very good man,' said the school mistress, 'I only wish he kept his hands off Alfington.' She would be amazed and maybe mollified to know that the sacrifice by Alfington means that right up to today this tiny village is remembered across the world throughout Melanesia in story and drama, and is a site of pilgrimage and reverence for all who visit from Melanesia.

TO SEE:



The dramatic **plaque on the back wall** put up in Patteson's memory, by his family.

Next to it the wooden frieze of the body of Patteson following his murder. Originally in the chapel of the Melanesian Brotherhood in the Solomon Islands, it was given to the people of Alfington, in thanksgiving for them giving Patteson to their nation. Poignantly it is made from wood from the island of Nukapu, where he was killed.

The model of a traditional Melanesian canoe (brought back from the Solomon Islands). Often in their worship today, the bible is brought into the church on such a canoe (scaled up) - as a reminder that the Gospel was originally brought to them by canoe.

Photos of St Barnabas, Norfolk Island, where Patteson established a school to teach and mentor Melanesian young people.



TO DO:

Step back in time by standing in the pulpit, with its quirky eagle and imagine that first Sunday that Patteson preached from here, after his ordination as deacon, evidently it wasn't a particularly good sermon – way above most of his listeners! The text he chose though, spoke prophetically of his life, 'We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake'. 2 Cor. 4v.5

Now stand by the altar – Patteson felt that to preside at Communion was such a privilege, as he looked out at the congregation of his day.

Now go to the porch where after this first occasion after his ordination, he stood with his Father and Sisters all in tears so moved were they.



TO PRAY:

In the porch, pick up a length of the wool from the basket, taken from the fleece of Alfington sheep. Now go out to the back of the churchyard, to the end of the boundary hedge between the old and new churchyard, where you will find a tree dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 150th anniversary of Patteson's death (Sept 2021). Stand by the tree and when ready tie your wool to the tree as you identify with, and honour all who have given their life in the service of others.

TO WALK ON:

The route now takes you into Ottery St Mary. Again a route so familiar to Patteson, where his mother lived and his relatives still do.



DISTANCE

2.2 miles /
3.5 km

TIME



45 minutes

DIRECTIONS

STAGE 2

Alfington to Ottery St Mary



OS: SY 11332 98009

Latitude/Longitude:

50°46'29"N , 003°15'32"W

What3Words:

depths.vent.flinches

Address:

St James & St Anne, Church Lane,
Alfington, Devon, EX11 1PE

OS: SY 09853 95584

Latitude/Longitude:

50°45'10"N , 003°16'45"W

What3Words:

unsettled.foiled.masts

Address:

St Mary's, The College,
Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1DQ



Directions

Walk back along Church Lane and turn right at the junction with Mill Lane onto a narrow permissive path. Follow the path around the edge of the field until it emerges onto a main road and then turn right.

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

Follow the road through Alfington and take the first bridleway named Pitham Lane on the right.

At the end of the bridleway turn left onto Gosford Road. Pass Otter Nurseries and Joshua's Harvest Store, where you can purchase refreshments and find toilet facilities.

At the end of Gosford Road turn right onto Alfington Road, walking on the pavement after Butts Road. Walk up the hill, following the road around to the right to the church.

[CLICK HERE FOR DIGITAL VERSION](#)

START

St James and St Anne



St Mary's Parish Church

END

