

PATTESON'S WAY

PILGRIMAGE ROUTE



This pilgrimage route was created by the Melanesian Mission and the Diocese of Exeter to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson, first Bishop of Melanesia.

It was officially opened by the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, on 18th September 2021.



INTRODUCTION TO THIS PILGRIMAGE






To be a pilgrim is to take a journey with a purpose:
→ *by engaging your heart, body, and soul,*
→ *by allowing this to be a journey of discovery.*

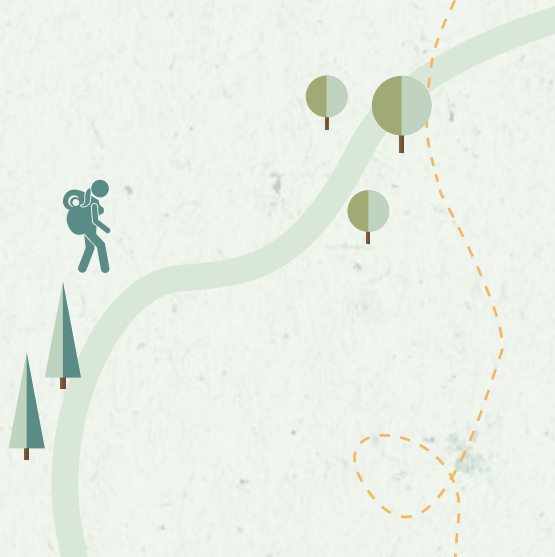
THIS PILGRIMAGE, ANY PILGRIMAGE, HAS A SACRED INTENTION.

For Patteson's Way it's an invitation to wander and wonder, as you journey with the story of one man's life and legacy as your companion; experiencing the same sites and views that were the background to his life.

And as you walk, and reflect, on the ground Patteson trod, the hope of each of us who are pilgrims, is to deepen our own spirituality; allowing the divine influence behind both the story and countryside to impact on us.

WE INVITE YOU THEN TO WALK IN A DIFFERENT WAY:

-  To allow time to share with others if you are walking as a group, but also to spend some time walking in silence....
-  To allow yourself quietness to contemplate, to see things, to hear things, to be present to life in a different kind of way....
-  To walk the whole route in one day, or to walk the route in stages....





PILGRIM SAFETY & PREPARATION

STAY SAFE AND PREPARE FOR YOUR WALK.

This route takes you across fields, over stiles, by streams, along footpaths and country roads. Some paths may be muddy. Do check in advance when the churches will be open, if you want to go inside.

www.otterystmary.org.uk/otter-vale-mission-community

You will find more information about this pilgrimage, including downloadable maps and this booklet at:

www.mmuk.net/pattesonsway

Please take responsibility for your own safety and respect the countryside.



PILGRIMAGE SITES



1

ST ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD

beside the Patteson Family grave

BACKGROUND:

From the Lytch Gate walk to the back of the churchyard near a wooded door in the stone wall. You are standing beside the Patteson Family vault. Next to the churchyard you can glimpse Feniton Court, the family home (now a private house).

There in the garden, Bishop Selwyn, then Bishop of New Zealand, asked Patteson to come with him to be a missionary, and to leave his family and all that was familiar.

Back in the house, his father, now widowed, point blank refused to let his son go, only later selflessly changing his mind, giving his blessing on one condition, 'that he (Patteson) never felt he needed to come back!'

TO SEE:

Look at the family grave, with its terse record of the Patteson family.

(JP – Sir John Patteson, Bishop Patteson's father: EP – Elizabeth Patteson, Sir John's first wife: FDP – Frances Duke Patteson, Bishop Patteson's mother: JCP – John Coleridge Patteson: JEP – Joanna Elizabeth Patteson, Bishop Patteson's stepsister. His other sister, Fanny and his brother James, died elsewhere). He would have been deeply conscious of the effect that leaving to go to the other side of the world, would have had on his family. And none of them were to see him again – his mutilated body was buried at sea in the Solomons.

Here, in the family vault until the early 1900s, the matting Patteson's body was wrapped in immediately after his death was buried in a wooden cask. It is now found in the Cathedral in the capital of the Solomon Islands.





TO PRAY:

This is a live link today. The ground you will tread on is seen as holy ground by Melanesians – the place where a founder and inspirer of their church came from and loved. Therefore before you go, do as he would have wished, pray for the peoples of Melanesia....

Almighty God, wherever we walk, we walk with you beside us.

Whenever we walk, we walk with those who also walk with you.

So, with each of our steps, bless the peoples of Melanesia

who John Coleridge Patteson travelled so many miles to walk with:

And, as with Patteson, may our Pilgrimage this day

draw us closer to the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

TO DO:

Look past the southern edge of Feniton Court. Straight in front of you is Melanesia, 9500 miles away... Patteson's final destination.

Imagine how he might have felt – how you would feel leaving all that gives you outward security

TO WALK ON:



Patteson started his long journey from here in 1854, parting from his family at the door of the house. Walking alone through the wooden door in front of you and having found a primrose to lay on his mother's grave where you stand, he then took a coach to London and then a ship to the other side of the world. Imagine him that day as you walk out of Feniton.

For us our journey will take us to explore the places and people who got Patteson to step out that day and so to understand and learn from this man, whose influence helped transform one of the most dangerous areas in the world so that it became known as the Happy Islands.

You are invited as you set out to find a wildflower or grass, maybe even a primrose and place it on the grave and so start your pilgrim route.

Ironically on your way to Alfrington you will pass near the site of the Battle of Fenny Bridges in 1549, when 300 were killed and following the battle a further 900 unarmed prisoners were slaughtered. Ironic because it was a battle fought by Cornish and Devon men who were loyal to the traditional Catholic theology and practice and against the imposition of the Edward VI's prayer book, which amongst other things, wanted to ban pilgrimages!

So reflect on how religion can be used for such great good and in its name such cruelty and division can be promoted or excused.

DISTANCE

↔
1.5 miles /
2.4 km

TIME

35 minutes

DIRECTIONS**STAGE 1**

Feniton to Albington



OS: SY 10862 99417

Latitude/Longitude:

50°47'15"N , 003°15'57"W

What3Words:

edgy.salutes.severe

Address:

St Andrew's, Church Lane,
Feniton, Devon, EX14 3BY

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

**Directions**

From the churchyard walk down Church Lane and turn left at the end. On the opposite side of the road take the footpath up the hill.

At the top of the hill follow the footpath left over open fields. Continue following the path as it takes a right turn, eventually to a T junction and turn left.

Take care as there may be animals in the fields.

Follow the path around the edge of the field, across three stiles and down some steep steps to the road.

Look across the road to the memorial to the Battle of Fenny Bridges.

At the bottom of the steps turn right and follow the road to the T-Junction.

There is not a footpath all the way along this road, so take care and walk in single file.

At the junction turn left. Walk over the bridge and then right onto a bridleway. Then turn almost immediately right onto a footpath. This path takes you across some fields and emerges onto Mill Lane. At the next junction turn right onto Church Lane. Follow this to the church.

[CLICK HERE FOR DIGITAL VERSION](#)

St Andrew's Church

START

Castle Hill

Fenny Bridges

Oakfield Farm

END

*St James
and St Anne*

Alfington

River Otter

60

80

100

Greatclose Farm

Colhayes

River

B31

A30

Vine Water

A30

A30

SUNNYS LANE

ALFINGTON

ALFINGTON

ALFINGTON

ALFINGTON

PILGRIMAGE SITES



Patteson memorial

2

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](#)

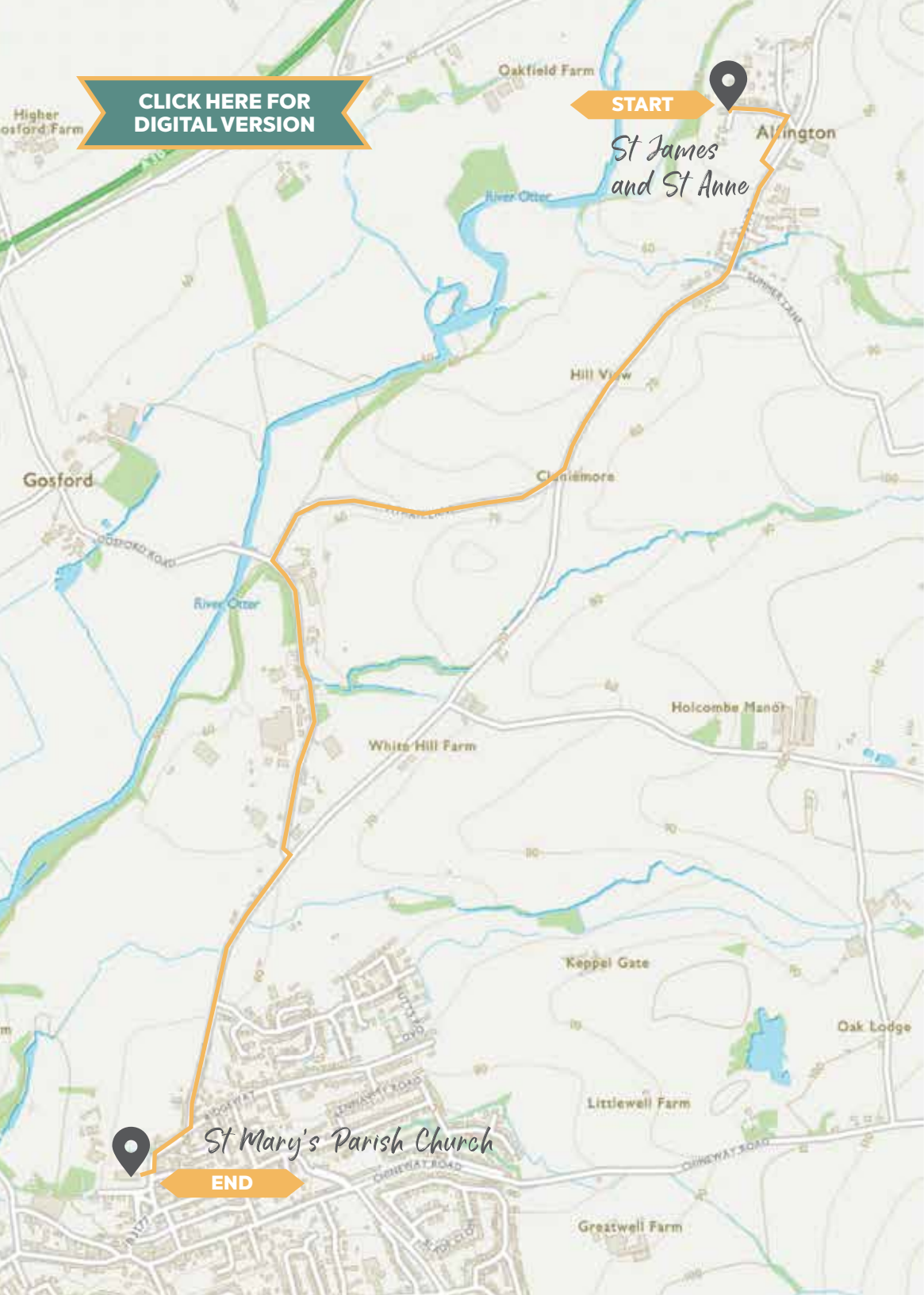
START

St James and St Anne



St Mary's Parish Church

END



PILGRIMAGE SITES



St Stephen's Chapel

3

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Ottery St Mary

BACKGROUND:

This magnificent church was a familiar and cherished place for Patteson, and here he preached from its high pulpit. His mother's vast family home of Chanter's House (then Heath's Court), where she was brought up, stands in the lee of the church to the west. To the north of the churchyard you can see the Manor House where Patteson lived with his uncle while he went to the local 'Kings School' until he was 11 when he became a student at Eton.

(Please note that these are private houses)

TO SEE:



At the west end of the Dorset Aisle, facing the Chanter's House, is the Apostle's Window, designed in memory of Frances, Patteson's mother. She died when Patteson was still a schoolboy.

Give yourself time to properly explore the church, with its deep history of those who, mainly because of their privilege, have etched their own faith and times on its design and memorials – much of its Victorian renovation funded by the Coleridge side of Patteson's family.

Short histories of the church are available in an assortment of different languages. There is even one translated into Melanesian Pidgin – the language which all the islanders share!



TO DO:

Go to the side chapel on the South East end of the church – St Stephen's Chapel. There you will see a frontal inspired by the connection with Patteson and Melanesia. It is sited in St Stephens Chapel, so that next to the martyrdom of Stephen, Patteson is remembered, and more recently seven brothers of the Melanesian Brotherhood, (a religious community whose founder was inspired by Patteson). In 2003 these Brothers gave their lives in their efforts to bring peace during the civil unrest in the Solomon Islands.



TO PRAY:

Almighty God, by whose grace so many who have gone before us in the Way, kindled by a burning and a shining light in their service of others.

May the same spirit of vulnerability and love burn in us, that we may ever walk before you, in openness and joy to the end of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

TO WALK ON:

As you walk through the Devon town of Ottery, and come to the Land of Canaan, you will walk beside the poem written by Patteson's great uncle, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, carved in stone. Though remembered primarily for his poetry, a large proportion of his writings were about the nature of God and living the Christian life. So as you walk on, here are some of his words to mull on...

"Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a life and a living process".

Coleridge might have been describing his great nephew's life...



DISTANCE

↔
2.2 miles /
3.5 km

TIME

45 minutes

DIRECTIONS**STAGE 3***Ottery St Mary to Patteson's Cross*

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, East Devon, EX11 1DQ

OS: SY 09568 97645

Latitude/Longitude:

50°46'17"N , 003°17'02"W

What3Words:

vocals.ears.poorly

Address:

Patteson's Cross, B3177, Gosford,
Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX14 3AZ

*Directions*

From the church walk down the hill and turn right onto a narrow passageway, Saddler's Lane. At the end turn right and walk past Sainsbury's Supermarket.

At the T-Junction cross the road into the Land of Canaan park – walking past Coleridge's poetry stones.

At the far side of the Land of Canaan, you can glimpse on the other side of the valley the present site of the King's School, where Patteson was a pupil. Today one of the four pupil school houses is called Patteson.

At the leat (artificial stream) turn right taking the footpath out to Canaan Way road. At the road turn left.

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

Follow this road across the river bridges, and just before the entrance to Cadhay House, take the footpath on the right across the fields.

Take care as there may be animals in the fields. These fields can become very wet.

Follow the footpath over a wooden bridge until you reach Gosford Lane. Turn right and follow the road to a T-Junction. Turn left onto Gosford Road and walk to the memorial.

There are no footpaths along these roads, so take care and walk in single file.

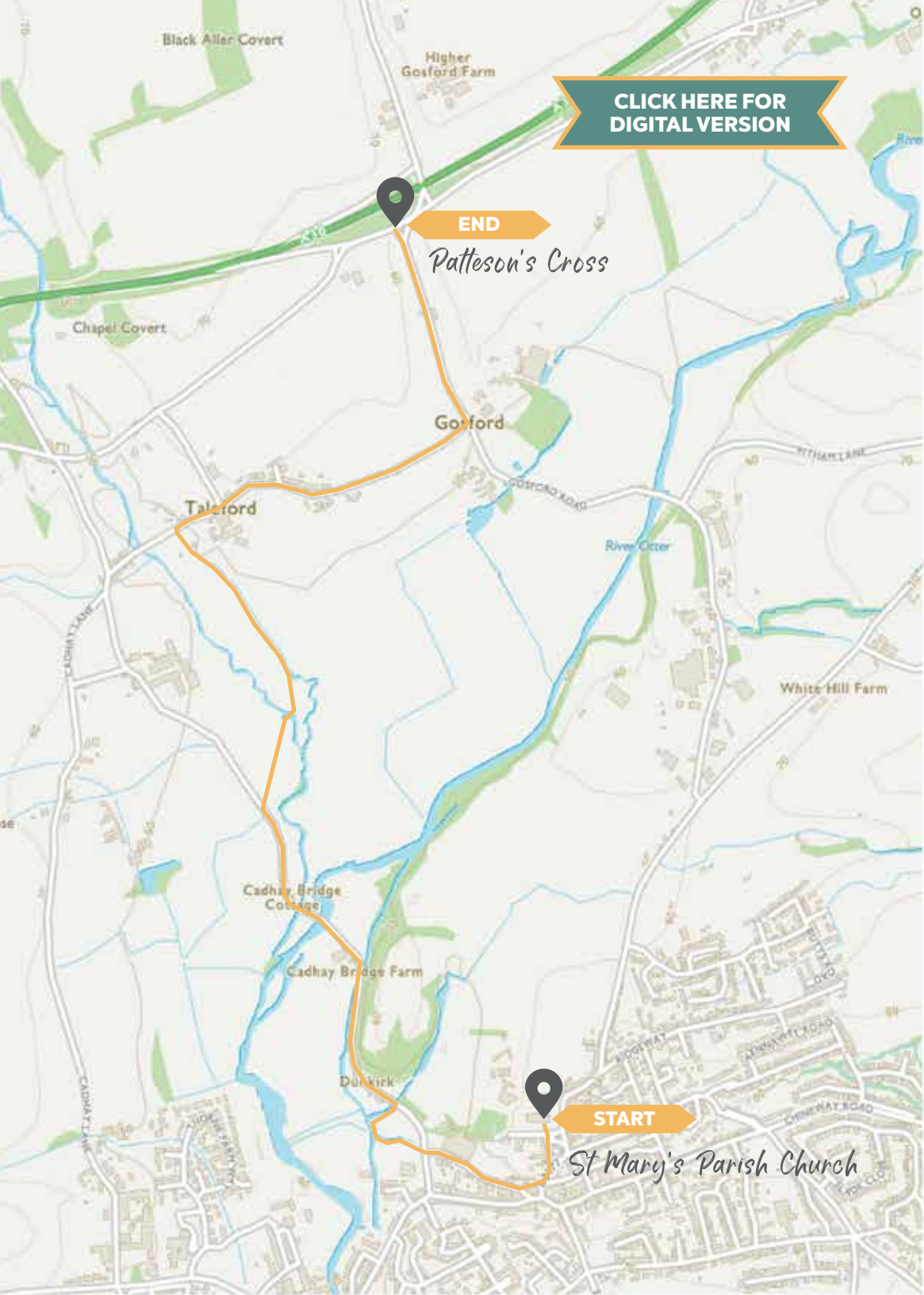
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END

Patterson's Cross

START

St Mary's Parish Church



PATTESON'S CROSS

Though re-sited from its original position, it was erected as a public witness, deliberately next to the then main road.

The monument was refurbished in 2016 and the following year rededicated by the Melanesian Bishop of Temotu, the diocese which includes the island of Nukapu where Patteson died. At the rededication the Bishop of Temotu said:

"Bishop Patteson is very important to the people of Melanesia and we give thanks for his ministry, bringing the people of Devon and Melanesia closer together."

Paradoxically, that very island remembered here is likely to be submerged because of climate change, a phenomenon which the island can bear no blame for. Many Melanesians still feel it may be God's judgement on them for the killing of Bishop Patteson. Perhaps we are the ones who need to ask forgiveness and to mend our ways?

BACKGROUND:


Patteson's murder on Nukapu with two of his colleagues was thought to be a revenge attack, after five young men from the island were kidnapped by 'Blackbirders', slavers recruiting for the Queensland or Fiji Plantations. His death resulted in such an outcry around the world that the Blackbirders' trade was stopped. Then within two years after Patteson's death, this monument was erected in 1873. It was designed by William Butterfield, the famous Victorian church architect, who designed not only Alfington Church, but much of the Victorian reordering of Ottery church. Butterfield also happened to be a personal friend of Patteson.

TO SEE

Read the main inscription. Note the sparse yet emotion-laden language, written as it was less than two years after this death. Here we are also asked to remember Joseph Atkin, a fellow priest from New Zealand and Stephen Taroaniara, who Patteson hoped would become the first ordained Solomon Islander – both who died from tetanus from the poison on the arrows fired at them at Nukapu.

Note also how the sign admits to how Europeans had been the cause of 'wrongs' which provoked this attack.





Each of the four sides of the monument speak of an aspect of his life: this southern side points towards Ottery St Mary, where he went to school, which is perhaps why the selected scripture was from Ps 119 v.9...

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way - even by ruling himself after thy word.”

Now face the side on the left that faces Exeter. This side faces the place and Cathedral where Patteson was ordained and where the carving on the front of the pulpit is of Patteson’s body wrapped in the matting - intriguingly the composition is very similar to the wooden frieze in Alfington Church. The scripture this side is taken from the mouth of Job (16.22) speaking of the brevity of our life upon the earth and could again poignantly be a commentary on Patteson himself,

“When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return”.

Face the north side of the monument that faces Feniton, his home village. Here you will see words presumably chosen by his uncle, Sir John Coleridge, later to become Lord Chief Justice, who paid for the monument. The words from scripture are from the prophet Nahum (1v.3) “The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind. And the clouds are the dust of his feet” ...part of a passage that speaks of the judgment of God that awaits for the ‘guilty’. Who are the guilty here? Is this referring to the ‘savage men’ who killed him or the ‘Europeans’, whose actions provoked such an extreme reaction. Or are we now the guilty - as our degradation of the planet directly effects places such as Melanesia?

Face the side that faces east in the direction of Honiton, the direction Patteson left, for his long journey. The scripture carved on this side (Prov.4.18) comes from a section of the book of Proverbs that encourages a young man to seek wisdom, ‘though it cost all you have’ Prov. 4.7. It says, “The path of the just is as the shining light that shines more and more unto the perfect day”.

TO PRAY:

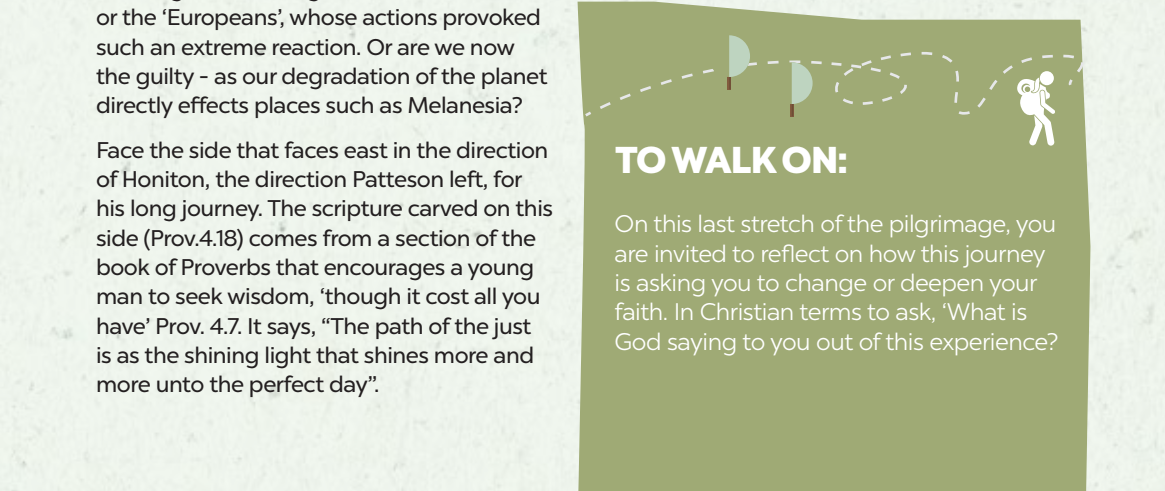
Return to the front of the Monument and you will find a prayer already for you and any who would turn aside and learn something of this inspirational life.

Stand for a moment, listening to the hurry of traffic and of life going on around you. Remember here Patteson and his companions, remember the islanders of Nukapu. And if you wish and if you can, pray the prayer Sir John Coleridge has left us to pray:



*Lord Jesus,
grant that we may live to thee
like him,
and stand in our lot
with him
before thy throne,
at the end of the days.
Amen*

TO WALK ON:



On this last stretch of the pilgrimage, you are invited to reflect on how this journey is asking you to change or deepen your faith. In Christian terms to ask, ‘What is God saying to you out of this experience?’

DISTANCE

1.9 miles /
3 km

TIME



45 minutes

DIRECTIONS

STAGE 4

Patteson's Cross to Feniton



OS: SY 09568 97645

Latitude/Longitude:

50°46'17"N , 003°17'02"W

What3Words:

vocals.ears.poorly

Address:

Patteson's Cross, B3177, Gosford,
Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX14 3AZ

OS: SY 10862 99417

Latitude/Longitude:

50°47'15"N , 003°15'57"W

What3Words:

edgy.salutes.severe

Address:

St Andrew's, Church Lane,
Feniton, Devon, EX14 3BY



Directions

From the memorial turn right and follow the main road towards Honiton.

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

Cross the road, taking the footpath bridge over the A30. After the bridge follow the footpath up the hill and across open fields.

Continue along this footpath, across two stiles onto Green Lane. Turn right and head along the road. At the next junction, turn right into Feniton Village. Turn left into Church Lane and back to the church.

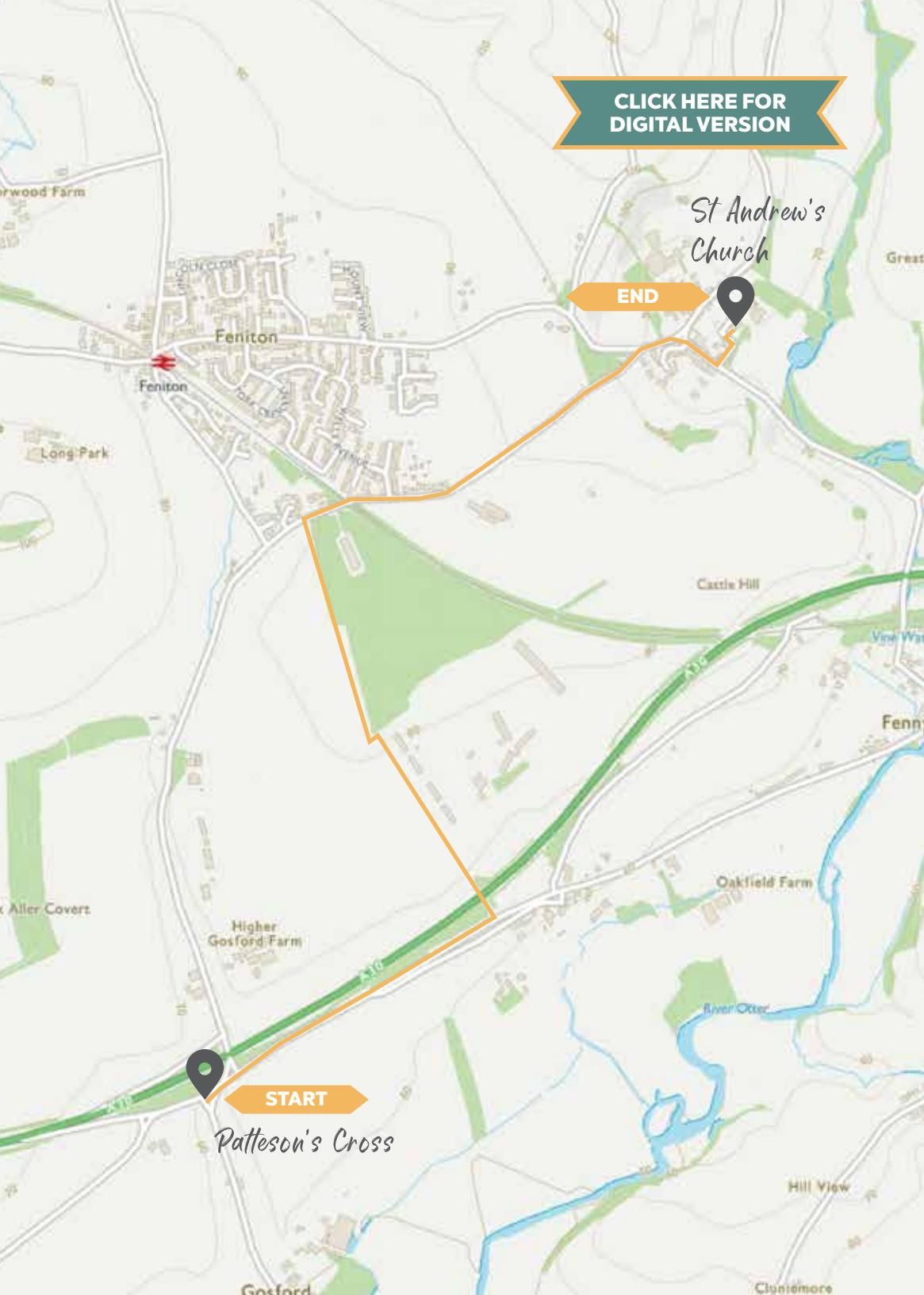
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St Andrew's Church

END

START

Patteson's Cross



PILGRIMAGE SITES



THE MELANESIAN CHAPEL

Feniton Church

BACKGROUND:

Here at the east end of the South Aisle, is what has become known as the Melanesian Chapel. At the time of Patteson it would have been a private pew for his family, as occupants of Feniton Court, with the door serving as the family's entrance.

TO DO:

This chapel has now been set aside for reflection and a space to pause. So having been active by your pilgrimaging, now give yourself time to sit and reflect and pray.

Use the **Pilgrimage Reflection Book** to write or draw or craft a poem or prayer to mark your journey and to encourage others who will come after you.

Use the **Tree of Light**.

Leave prayer requests for others to pick up.

Stay silent for a time, without expectation on yourself to think or do anything. Through attentiveness and silence listen for that 'still small voice'.



TO SEE:



Memorial Window and Brass Plaque

Bishop Patteson would have never seen the imposing window put there in memory of his father. The allusion used for Sir John is King Solomon and his wisdom as an eminent judge – yet is neatly coincidental because here we remember The Solomon Islands, which became such a part of family history through Bishop Patteson!

The Floor Slab Memorial..

...Lists the members of the family remembered here.

The Melanesian Altar Cross...

...Given as thanksgiving from the people of Melanesia, inlaid with shells from the islands.

Palm Prayer Mat

Made of a common material in Melanesia, used for many purposes, including, in our story, wrapping the body of Bishop Patteson.

Bust of Bishop Patteson

This rather stern bust of Patteson used to live in Lambeth Palace, but now has come back to his home church to cast its gaze on pilgrims and visitors and locals alike. So what do you think Patteson would say to us, to you, if he could?

Copy of the Famous Telegram

The news of Patteson's death came slowly, from Norfolk Island where most missionaries were based, to New Zealand.

This telegram made the event known and sent shock waves around the world that a bishop and such a bishop should be put to death.

Though Patteson died on the 20th Sept 1871, you'll see the date on the telegram is 3rd November and the date of his death is incorrect, as is the spelling of his name!

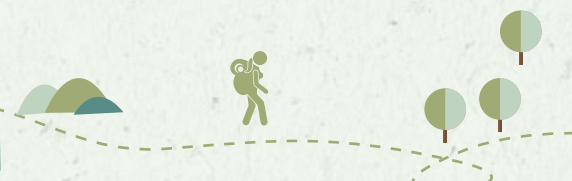


TO PRAY:

The Special Prayer for Patteson's Day (September 20th)

God of all tribes and people's and tongues, who called your servant John Coleridge Patteson to witness in life and death to the gospel of Jesus amongst the peoples of Melanesia: grant us to hear your call to service and to respond trustfully and joyfully to Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and in the days to come.

Amen





Nukapu Island today

THANK YOU

*Thank you for walking
Patteson's Way.*

If you wish to know more about Patteson and his extraordinary legacy felt deeply today in Melanesia, visit the Melanesian Mission's website :

www.mmuk.net

Other pilgrimage routes in Devon can be found at:

www.devon.pilgrim.org.uk



THE MELANESIAN MISSION



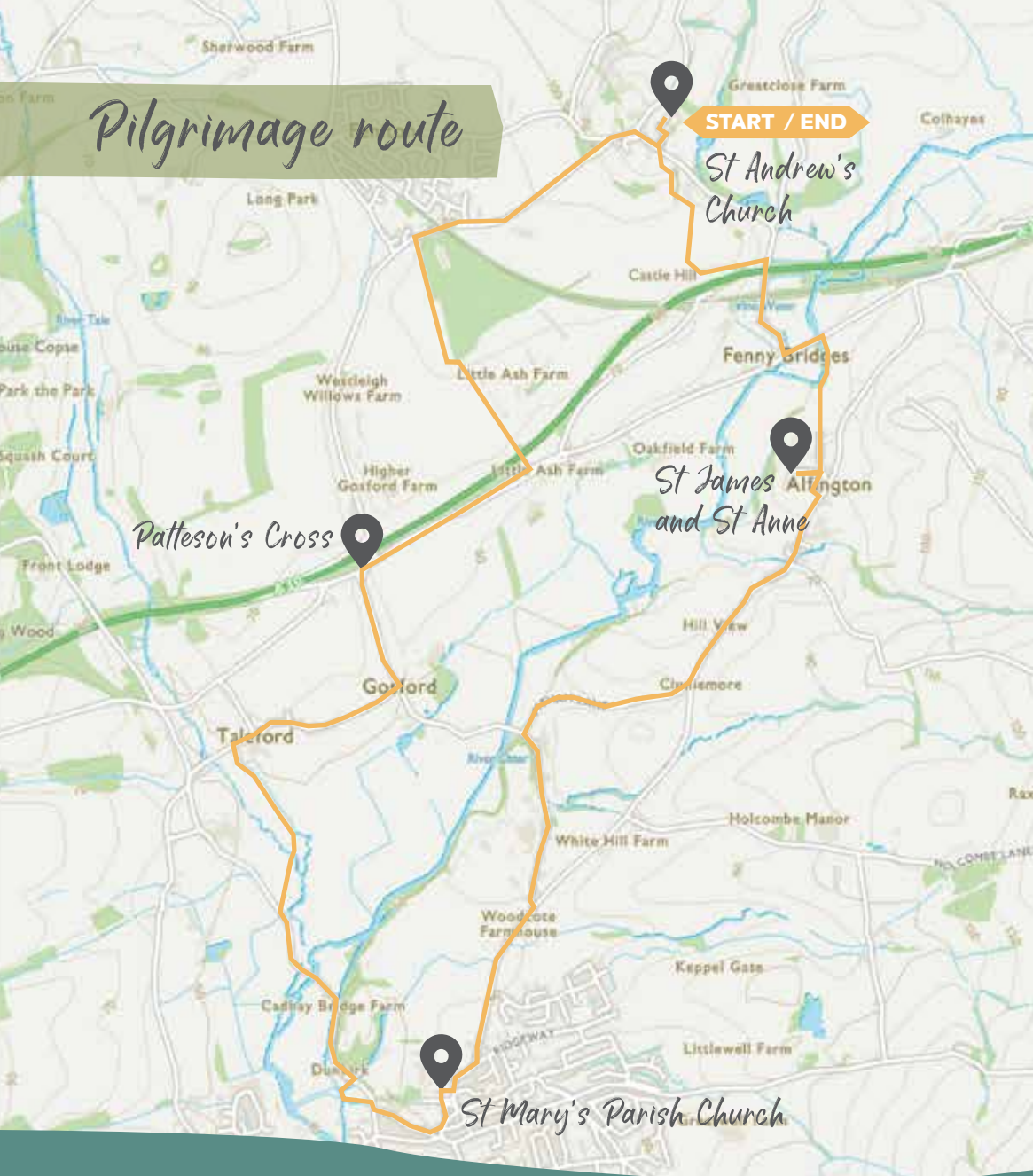
Finally words to go with you
as you walk on.....

*“Go in peace,
be brave,
hold fast to that which is good,
give no one evil for evil,
strengthen those who are afraid,
hold up the weak,
help those in trouble,
honour all people,
love and serve the Lord,
be full of joy in the power of the Spirit”.....*

(from the Melanesian Prayer Book)

Use this space to write or draw any reflections as you walk this pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage route



START / END

St Andrew's Church

St James and St Anne

Patteson's Cross

St Mary's Parish Church

The Melanesian Mission

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