

A SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT MWiB TWO DAY PILGRIMAGE IN THE CHRISTCHURCH AREA

This poem written by Hilary Evans, one of the 13 pilgrims who took part, encapsulates the spirit of our pilgrimage together.

Pilgrimage experience

Wondering what lies ahead we set out,
Sturdy shoes, back packs balanced.
We settle into a line of walkers;
Two's, three's, some friends, some strangers,
Chatting, questioning, listening,
As the path passes beneath our feet.

A baker's dozen of women
Breaking life's daily pattern
To look, to listen, to hear, to be
In the shared experience.
Seeking to savour each moment
And share, pause, reflect, sing, pray,
Give thanks for the wonder of a spreading oak tree:
Sparkle of light on a sunlit sea.
Walking on in silence;
Invisible birds singing hearts out
As we meditate on God's creation.

Stories told of journeys made,
Crossing unknown territory;
Seeking God moments;
Waiting on his presence
In the rhythm of movement;
Savouring rest, support of non-walkers
New, yet old ways to worship
Bread and wine taken together.
Part of this special journey

As step by step the goal comes nearer
Feet remind us of how far we have come
While minds meditate on new perspectives,
Values tested, Insights gained.

Put down your pack
Shake off the dust. The end is here.
Yet just a start for days ahead
Challenging us to a Pilgrim's Way.

