

The Methodist Church and Hope Together are launching [Try Pilgrimage](#). This new website offers resources for individuals and churches to host local pilgrimages and was inspired by the catholic year of Jubilee theme for 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope",

The website and its resources are designed for individuals who may not have experienced pilgrimage before and are looking for a gentle introduction. There are two main pathways available on the site: one for churches and Christians interested in hosting a pilgrimage, and another for those who want to try a pilgrimage for themselves. All resources are available for free download.

Sammy Jordan from Hope Together says, "Most of the time we take a journey to get somewhere, to reach a destination. Journeys are often frantic, fast-paced and fuelled by a desire to get somewhere... quickly. Life is full of journeys where the destination is the point so I'm excited that the invitation of Try Pilgrimage is to make the journey the point; to take a journey that invites us to come to a greater understanding of ourselves, our connection with people, places and with God."

Try Pilgrimage encourages Christians and non-Christians to embark on a unique journey to discover people, make new experiences and engage with their community. The website shares existing pilgrimage routes but also enables members of the public to step out of their comfort zone, create their own pilgrimages and share them on the website.

Interest in spiritual walking is at an all-time high, largely due to the BBC series "Pilgrimage" which encouraged many individuals to explore famous routes like the Camino, also known as the Way of St James going to Santiago de Compostella. However, Great Britain also offers numerous local pilgrimages that allow for a deeper engagement with the community.

Try Pilgrimage incorporates the 2023 BBC series as part of its "fuel for the journey." It offers a free downloadable discussion resource based on the program, which is suitable for both groups and individuals. Eryl Parry, the Pioneer Priest from the Diocese of Bangor, who appears in the first episode, shared her insights with us and created a series of short videos to help people understand and fully appreciate the experience of pilgrimage.

Holly Adams from the Methodist Church says, "Setting out on a pilgrimage can transform lives, connecting individuals with their own stories and the work of God around them. Each day, people worldwide experience this power, and the resources from the Methodist Church aim to support that. While mission and faith-sharing often focus on speaking, it's important to recognize that we are all on our own journeys. Walking alongside each other on pilgrimage – both literally and metaphorically – allows us to grow and connect spiritually with our communities as we step out together."

A pilgrimage can be on foot, by bike, by bus and even in a chair! Inclusion and accessibility are key to the project. Try Pilgrimage steps outside traditional pilgrimages and invites

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people to create transformative experiences with their community, online with a virtual prayer walk or with special activities to engage children.

#### Notes to editors

For questions, queries or to arrange interviews, contact Anaïs Pédrón on 020 7467 3534 ext 3534 or [pedrona@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pedrona@methodistchurch.org.uk).

Among the high-profile Methodist leaders with interest and experience of pilgrimage are **Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal** – founder and President of City of Sanctuary, a former President of the Methodist Conference, former Leader/CEO of the Corrymeela Community and former CEO of Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum –, **Revd Michaela Youngson** – former Chair of the London District and President of the Methodist Conference 2018-19 and current Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference since 2021 – and **Revd Simon Topping** – notably involved in the Jubilee 2000 Drop the Debt campaign. Let me know if you wish a quote or interview with any of them. If you would prefer an ecumenical pilgrimage, the **Saint Aelred's Pilgrim Trail (SAPT)** in Yorkshire is gaining momentum: it appeared in the Daily Mail's holiday section and was walked by Countess Alexandr Tolstoy at the end of March 2025.

The **Methodist Church** is one of the largest Christian churches serving Great Britain, with around 135,000 members and regular contact with nearly 500,000 people. It has 4,650 churches in Great Britain and maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 80 million.

**Hope Together** is a national Christian UK charity which wants everyone everywhere to know Jesus. Hope believes that God uses local churches and individual Christians to introduce people to himself, so it partners with them. Hope offers creative ideas, high-quality and great-value resources, cutting-edge research and well-produced courses to help local churches, leaders, youth workers and everyday disciples reach out in loving action and speak about the powerful message of Jesus Christ.

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