

Pilgrimage is a time to reflect

MORE than 40 people took part in a pilgrimage that took them from the far north of our diocese to the cathedral.

Worshippers from across Petersfield deanery joined forces for the three-day walk from Liphook Church Centre to Portsmouth over the first May Bank Holiday weekend.

The 35-mile pilgrimage gave walkers the chance to reflect on the beauty of the scenery, as well as to worship in churches along the way.

Six walkers covered the whole distance, with others joining them for a day or part of a day along the way.

Around 30 people walked together on Saturday from Liphook Church Centre to St Peter's Church, Petersfield, with lunch at St Mary's, Liss.

Around 20 travelled from Petersfield to Rowlands Castle on the Sunday, pausing for services in Buriton and Idsworth churches.

And 14 made the final trip from St Faith's Church, Havant, along the shore of Langstone Harbour to our



Walkers pause for food and drink at the Harvester pub near to Langstone Harbour

cathedral on the Monday. They joined Evensong there, which was augmented by the voices of former gap-year choral scholars having a reunion.

Mary Crittenden, from St Peter and St Paul Church, Hawley, joined them for the first few miles to Liss.

"On Saturday, we walked in beautiful sunshine in a countryside just awakening to Spring, with the cuckoo

calling through the woods. The benefits, other than physical, of embarking on such a venture are those chance encounters with other Christians from all kinds of traditions, those sharing of personal and spiritual journeys, those words of support and encouragement, those times of engagement and sense of joint purpose.

"There were six times of worship and reflection, with

a particularly inspiring all-age Communion at Buriton taken by Judith Bee on Sunday.

"As well as feeding the soul, the body was not neglected, with stories of tea, cake and cream teas.

"Huge thanks to our diocesan spirituality adviser the Rev Ruth Tuschling, whose idea this was, and to many others whose work meant that it went so efficiently and smoothly."

Readers celebrate 150 years in style

READERS from our diocese were among those marking 150 years of Reader ministry at a special service in London.

The first of two major events to celebrate the milestone was a Eucharist at All Souls, Langham Place, last month, to which Readers from every diocese were invited.

The Archbishop of York led the service, which was attended by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, who is patron to the Cof E's Central Readers Council.

The Rev James Grenfell, who leads training for Readers on the Portsmouth Pathway, attended with some of our Readers. It was held on Ascension Day 2016, 150 years after Readers were re-inaugurated on



(back, l to r): Readers Caroline Hilton, Betty Spiller, Melanie Evans and Hilary Spurgeon; (front): Sandra Haggan, Mary Close and the Rev James Grenfell at the London service

Ascension Day 1866. The second major event is a day conference in July, which is being organised by the Central Readers' Council as a gift to the whole Church.

It is called 'Follow2016',

and is taking place at De Montfort Hall in Leicester from 10am-4pm on July 16. Among the speakers are theologian Paula Gooder, Church Army chief executive Mark Russell, author and

speaker Mark Greene, and former broadcaster Debbie Throver. Songwriter Pete James will lead worship, and composer Roger Jones will form a scratch choir and perform his new musical *Barnabas*.

Activities throughout the day include a taste of Messy Church with Lucy Moore, who created the concept in our diocese, a 24/7 prayer space, adult and children's bouncy castles, and entertainment from Christian magician Steve Price.

All are welcome, not just Readers, and our Readers' Board has offered to cover the cost of petrol for those sharing a car to get there.

To book tickets and find out more details, see www.follow2016.co.uk.



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