

Hello everyone : )

Just to introduce myself, my name is Jane, and I work for the Church in Wales as Pioneer Pilgrim Priest, spiritually looking after those who make their pilgrimage along the **North Wales Pilgrims Way** or the **Llwybr Cadfan** (Cadfan Way)– both routes are a fortnight's journey, one starting at Holywell on the North Coast of Wales, and the other starting at Tywyn on the West Coast of Wales. The two routes finally meet about half a mile outside of Aberdaron, before the final walk into the beautiful village of Aberdaron. For some the finishing point is at St Hywyn's church, perhaps choosing a stone from the beach to write on and add to the prayer cairn outside of the church. For others the finishing point is to walk to Mynydd Mawr - this loop route can be found on the Outdoor Active app as one of the final day options on the Llwybr Cadfan, but is a useful addition for either route. For some, the finishing point is a hope to travel out to Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island), depending on whether the boat goes out depending on the sea and tide conditions, during open season, Spring to Autumn.

### **Evening of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Evening of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

One thing I will be running this year, in conjunction with the NWPW trustees, is the **Annual Pilgrimage on the North Wales Pilgrims Way.**

I am aware this is very short notice, so my sincere apologies for that, but circumstances have meant that we have only just been able to start planning this over the last month or so.

### **Is this for you? – some things to help you decide : )**

- This is a pilgrimage – at times there will be thoughts reflections or prayers of a Christian nature. If there's a particular reason why you'd like to make this pilgrimage, do feel free to let me know, so that we can be attentive to your needs.
- We are walking as a group (max 15), this means that you will need to have a good level of fitness to be able to walk for 2 weeks, anywhere between perhaps 9 and 14 miles a day, and you will need to have appropriate walking boots, weatherproof jacket and waterproof trousers, and a rucksack to carry whatever you need for the day each day, including your own food, water, any personal first aid, and so on.
- You will need to organise your own accommodation and food (we are aware this isn't always easy, and are currently looking into whether there's any way we can better resource this in coming years....it's possible to book 2 or 3 places and travel each day if you can't find enough accommodation options, or the route also works well in a camper van if you're lucky enough to have one)
- It is a guided pilgrimage – the pilgrimage is being arranged by Reverend Jane Finn, and there will be a walk leader for the entire 2 weeks – Mike Costello, and a spiritual leader – Reverend Jane Finn. Mike has a wealth of experience designing and walking the NWPW, and Jane is an ordained Priest, usually to be found in and around Aberdaron, who will be available and on hand, in a gentle way, to help with your life journey and where you find yourself at this time. There is no charge for either the walker leader or the spiritual leader.

- You will be walking at your own risk, and will need to complete a medical form and a disclaimer.
- Unfortunately, due to the route sometimes coming through farmers' fields where there are sometimes cows and /or bulls, we sadly cannot welcome dogs on the pilgrimage for the safety of the group. We do apologise for this.
- You will need your own transport to get to a meet point each morning. The advantage of this is that you can drive to accommodation or food outlets between days of walking. Due to the lack of large size settlements on the route, this is currently a solution to enable us to be able to go ahead and offer an accompanied pilgrimage.
- We are currently hoping to transport you all by minibus each morning back to our start point and will be able to confirm this very soon, depending on numbers booked. If we go ahead with the transport, all participants will need to be part of that, and the cost of the transport for the 2 weeks will need to be met by participants. These will be one-way journeys each morning to get us back to the start point and will cost between £69.33-£104 per person for the entire pilgrimage (plus the cost of 2 local buses for the final 2 days).
- *If* we are unable to source transport back to our start points each day, for all or some of the route, there will be a need for people to share cars to get to the start point, and again at the end of the day, hence a number of cars will need to return to the start for those who did the morning drive to be able to pick their cars up (all meet points and instructions will be made clear each day).
- We will meet the evening before the pilgrimage commences for a Pilgrims' Meal in Jacob's Ladder, St Asaph, to introduce everyone, to give you a briefing for how things will run, and get to know each other, ready for the beginning of our journey the next morning from Basingwerk Abbey. The cost for the meal will be paid by each person.
- At the end, people can book to go out to Bardsey if they wish (Colin the boatman has a set cost for day trips out to the island), or if the boat doesn't run, plan B will be to do the day's loop walk out onto the end of the peninsula, from where we will be able to see Bardsey. There should be the option for a group booking with Colin the boatman once we have numbers of participants.
- At the end, we will again spend the evening together to share a fish and chip supper or pub meal in Aberdaron and share our experiences and company.

### **What Next?**

If this sounds like something you would like to embark on, and would like to join us to complete this pilgrimage, then it would be lovely to hear from you.....we had an amazing and very blessed time last year, and we'd love you to experience it too. Please email me on [JaneFinn@cinw.org.uk](mailto:JaneFinn@cinw.org.uk) or phone me on 07709 222591.

With every blessing,  
Jane

Pioneer Pilgrim Priest  
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