

Coventry Pilgrimage 2018

A Pilgrim's View

Postscript

After the November stretch

All Saints Allesley to Coventry Cathedral via St John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

The last stage brought some surprises and it wasn't as cold starting the walk as in October. Apart from one or two stages, I didn't know anyone else who was going on the walk so was pleasantly surprised when I met a former work colleague with whom I was able to exchange the sort of pleasantries you did on such occasions. In fact I'd never had such a good conversation, as our previous meetings years ago had been work business.

Another surprise was in crossing paths with people on the way... and people known to individual Pilgrims! It happened on more than one occasion, including this time when we were in a narrow spot, letting a former Mayor of Coventry and his party through (they were *incognito*).

There certainly weren't any more challenging field crossings this time although I observed some Pilgrims trying to negotiate kissing gates without moving the gate. Just pleasant landscape along the Sherbourne valley, until it disappeared¹.



Crossing the River Sherbourne



The old old ruins

The hospitality was great and the hosts were very patient. On all occasions. I had mentally estimated the timing and as the months passed gave up on guessing an arrival time. On this occasion I think that it could have taken longer. We imagined that we were located somewhere mid-Atlantic to account for the 12 noon when we were supposed to say the Litany of Reconciliation.

Coventry Cathedral was a great place to end the journey. I once said to people that I liked the new cathedral as it didn't have lots of dead people in it. In fact I was pleasantly surprised the first time I went to the basement/undercroft of the Cathedral to take part in a meeting (Parish Partners again). I saw no catacombs!

A good thing about this Pilgrimage was its discontinuity - enabling feet and muscles to recover. No blisters! And the next month's to look forward to, wondering who would be there. And the distance enabling good conversations but gentle walking.

The best thing was that some people whom I met would also be going to this coming Wednesday's Institution, Induction and Installation (yes, *that's* the correct phrase) of the vicar of *Bulkington in plurality* with Burton Hastings and Stretton Baskerville. I think that our little Parish is now better known.

Anne Dickinson, November 2018



An attempt to take a photo of the font at the cathedral goes horribly wrong but it's my shadow there

¹ I have since found this article dated 2015: *BBC News follows the hidden River Sherbourne, covered by city centre development, that a report claims could be worth £1.5bn for Coventry.* Not sure whether it's been pursued. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-30446327>