

# Pilgrim's Guide



## To The Leeds Country Way





Setting out on pilgrimage



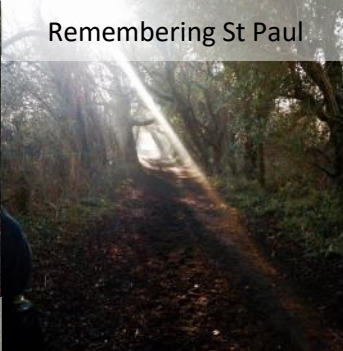
Challenged to reflect



Finding welcome



Companions on the way



Remembering St Paul



Life returning



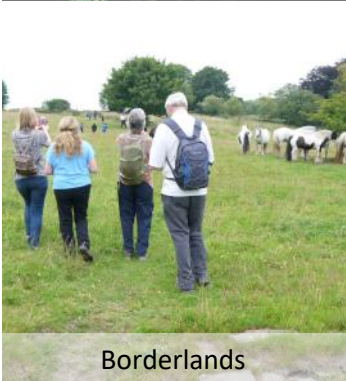
With you always



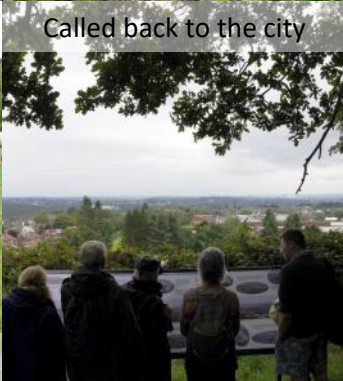
Staying the path



Pilgrim or tourist?



Borderlands



Called back to the city



Our Completed Journey

## **The Leeds Country Way as a Pilgrimage**

The Leeds Country Way is a 63 mile walking route through the countryside at the edges of the city of Leeds. A group of people from Leeds Church Institute walked the LCW as a pilgrimage in 2016-17. This booklet is our way of sharing the experience and encouraging others to try it.

We planned our route so that we could complete the pilgrimage in one year, walking together once a month, and traveling to and from the city by public transport (see page 6 for details). We had a walk leader and another person to offer reflective input. The reflective input related to the season, church calendar and the specific route for the day.

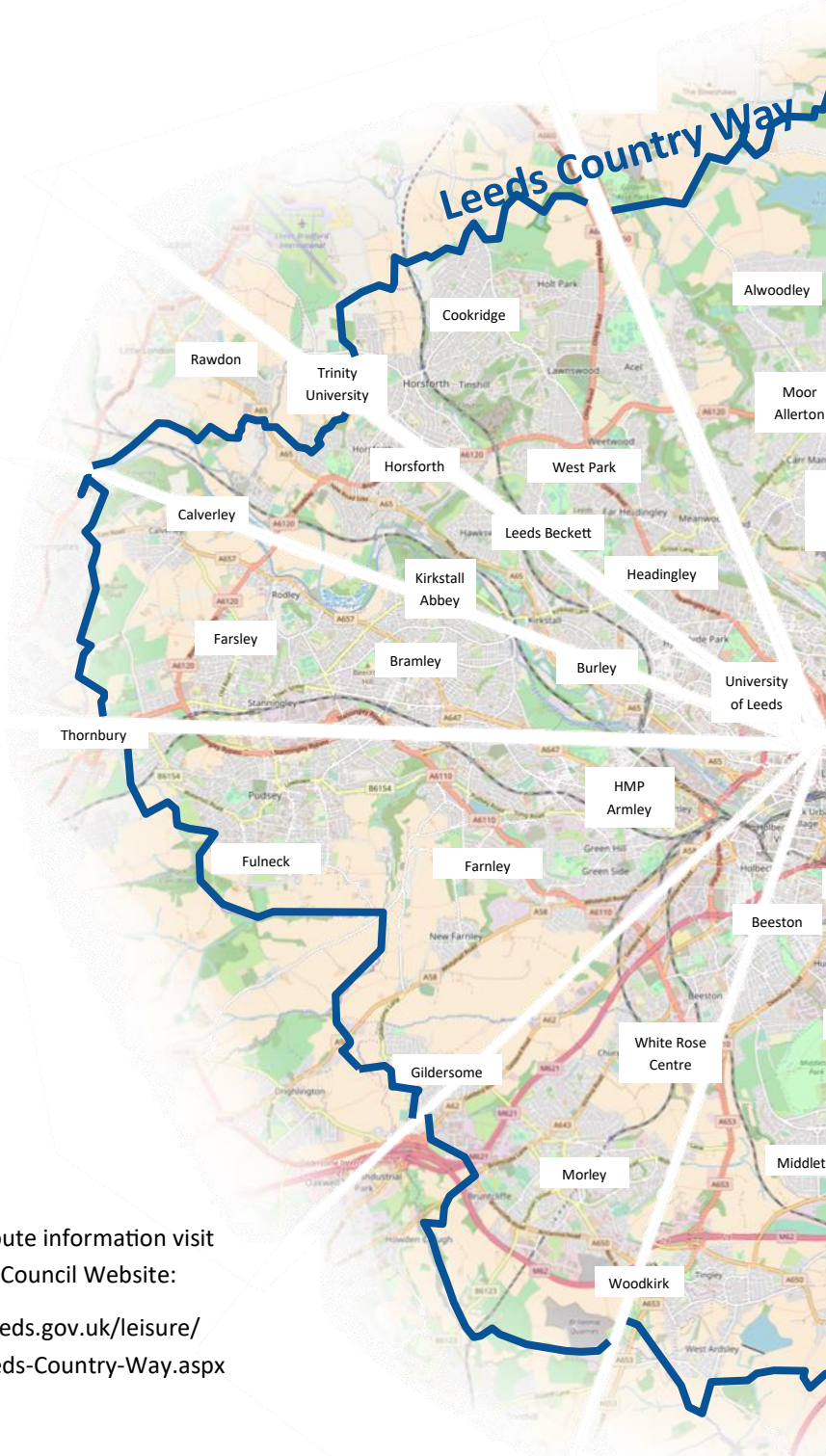
For each section of the walk we had a map showing a wedge of the city drawn between our starting point, finishing point and Leeds Church Institute in the city centre (see next two pages). On each map was marked key areas or institutions as a focus for prayer and reflection.

As we walked past East Leeds, the wedge map raised the issue of housing at a time when many new houses are being built and homelessness is an increasing social problem. At other times, we focused on universities and students in the city; hospitals, healthcare and healing; transport routes in and out of the city; shops and commercial life. The wedge maps also helped us engage in our new reflective challenge – to see the city as connected to the surrounding countryside including muck heaps, tv studios, industrial farms, Roman remains and, in the distance, a cathedral and communications towers.

We would highly recommend the experience of walking the LCW as a pilgrimage. If you are interested, please get in touch with LCI, we have more reflections and ideas to share with you and support to offer.







For detailed route information visit  
the Leeds City Council Website:  
[http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/  
Pages/The-Leeds-Country-Way.aspx](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/Pages/The-Leeds-Country-Way.aspx)



Harewood

Thorner

East Leeds Extension

Roundhay

Chapel Allerton Hospital

Chapeltown

Bishop Young Academy

Seacroft

Crossgates Shopping Centre

St James' Hospital

Osmondthorpe

Royal Armouries

Cross Green

Garforth

Hunslet

Thwaite Mills

Belle Isle

M1 Motorway

Aire & Calder Navigation

Rothwell

RSPB St. Aidan's

Carlton

Methley

## Transport and Churches On The Way

### Hunger Hills to Golden Acre Park

97 bus from Leeds City Bus Station and X84 on Otley Road back

Church on the way: Leeds Trinity University Chapel

### Golden Acre Park to Harewood

X84 from Leeds city bus station and 36 bus from A61 Harrogate Road back

### Harewood to Bardsey

36 bus from New Briggate and X99 bus back

Church on the way: The Parish Church of All Hallows'

### Barsey to Barwick In Elmet

X99 from stop H1 on the Headrow and 64 bus back

Church on the way: St Peter's Church, Thorner

### Barwick In Elmet to Swillington

64 bus from York Street out and 167 bus back

Church on the way: All Saints Church, Barwick In Elmet

### Swillington to Methley

167 Castleford bus from Park Row out and 410 Arriva bus back



Church on the way: St Mary's Church, Swillington

### Methley to Carlton

410 bus out and 444 bus back

Church on the way: St Oswald's Church, Methley

### Carlton to Woodkirk

444 bus out and 203 bus back

Church on the way: East Ardsley St Michael's Church

### Woodkirk to Gildersome

203 bus out and 65 bus back

Church on the way: St Mary's Church, Woodkirk

### Gildersome and Thornbury

65 bus out and X6 bus back

Church on the way: St Peter's Church, Gildersome

### Thornbury to Apperley Bridge

X6 bus out and train from Apperley Bridge back

Church on the way: St Margaret's Church, Thornbury

### Apperley Bridge to Hunger Hills Woods

Train from Leeds station to Apperley Bridge Station and 97 bus back





## Reflections on Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is usually to a sacred site but for us, although we enjoyed the hospitality and spirituality of a variety of churches on the way, it was more about taking in 'sacred sights' of our city. On our walk, we kept getting new vantage points over Leeds. This enhanced our reflections on Leeds as a place of value and worth, where we and others experience the presence of God and work out our Christian calling.



As we walked each month, we enjoyed seeing the changing seasons. Walking together through the landscape was a way to slow down and be ready to receive blessing from the physicality and the metaphors present in the natural world around us. We experienced the pilgrimage as a walking prayer, and found that when we got into the rhythm of walking, we were more observant of all that was around us. As a group we felt we saw so much more than if we were each walking alone.

The fact that the LCW is a circle means that our pilgrimage finished where it started, at Hunger Hills Woods with a great view across the whole city and beyond. The spot was not exactly the same, however, because in the intervening year, Leeds City Council had erected an information board explaining key features of the city scape. For us, this development reflected the fact that, while we had walked right round to what felt like the same place, our journey in faith and growth in wisdom meant we have walked a spiral not a circle. We had moved on from where we had been in appreciation of Leeds and our connection to the city. We experienced the completion of the pilgrimage as a call back to deeper engagement with city life.

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*With particular thanks to Revd Tom Lusty and Pippa Woodhams who led our walking and reflecting.*

*'For Wisdom renews all things, in every generation she enters holy souls, making them friends of God, and prophets.' Wisdom 7: 26*



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