

26-31 MAY 2025

JUBILEE

PILGRIMAGE

A 5-DAY WALKING
PILGRIMAGE TO
HOLY ISLAND



STELLA MARIS

[STELLAMARIS.ORG.UK/PILGRIMAGE](https://stellamaris.org.uk/pilgrimage)

The Pilgrimage

Image by Ian Procter from Pixabay



St Cuthbert's Way

Walk the beautiful St Cuthbert's Way to Holy Island

Join Tim Hill MBE, CEO of Stella Maris, and Deacon Joe O'Donnell, Senior Area Port Chaplain, on a 5-night, 6-day pilgrimage marking the Jubilee Year of Hope—a meaningful time for pilgrimage.

Follow the ancient St. Cuthbert's Way from the Scottish Borders to Lindisfarne, walking in the footsteps of saints, monks, and medieval travellers. Beginning at Melrose Abbey, the route winds through rolling hills, river valleys, and historic landmarks, with stunning landscapes from the Eildon and Cheviot Hills to the windswept Northumberland coast. The journey culminates in a final walk across the tidal causeway to Holy Island, a place of deep spiritual significance.

This special pilgrimage concludes during the Vatican-designated Jubilee of Families (30th May – 1st June), where we will pray especially for families of seafarers and fishers.

A unique journey of history, faith, and breathtaking scenery awaits.

Key Information

Dates 26-31 May

Duration 6 Days

Distance 62 Miles

Difficulty Moderate

Image by Stephan Junker from Pixabay



Pilgrimage Highlights

- Melrose Abbey
- Eildon Hills
- Dryburgh Abbey
- Roman Roads
- Cessford Castle
- Kelso Abbey
- Cheviot Hills
- St Cuthbert's Cave
- Lindisfarne

Image by Iain Lees / St Cuthberts Cave



About Stella Maris

Stella Maris is an Agency of the Catholic Church dedicated to supporting seafarers, fishers, and their families worldwide.

Founded in 1920, it provides practical, emotional, and spiritual support to those working at sea, often in difficult and isolated conditions. Its chaplains and volunteers visit ships in ports, offering pastoral care, welfare assistance, and a connection to faith.

Inspired by the Charity's patron, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris ensures that those who rely on the sea for their livelihood are never forgotten.

Image by Walter Baxter / Walking in the Cheviot Hills



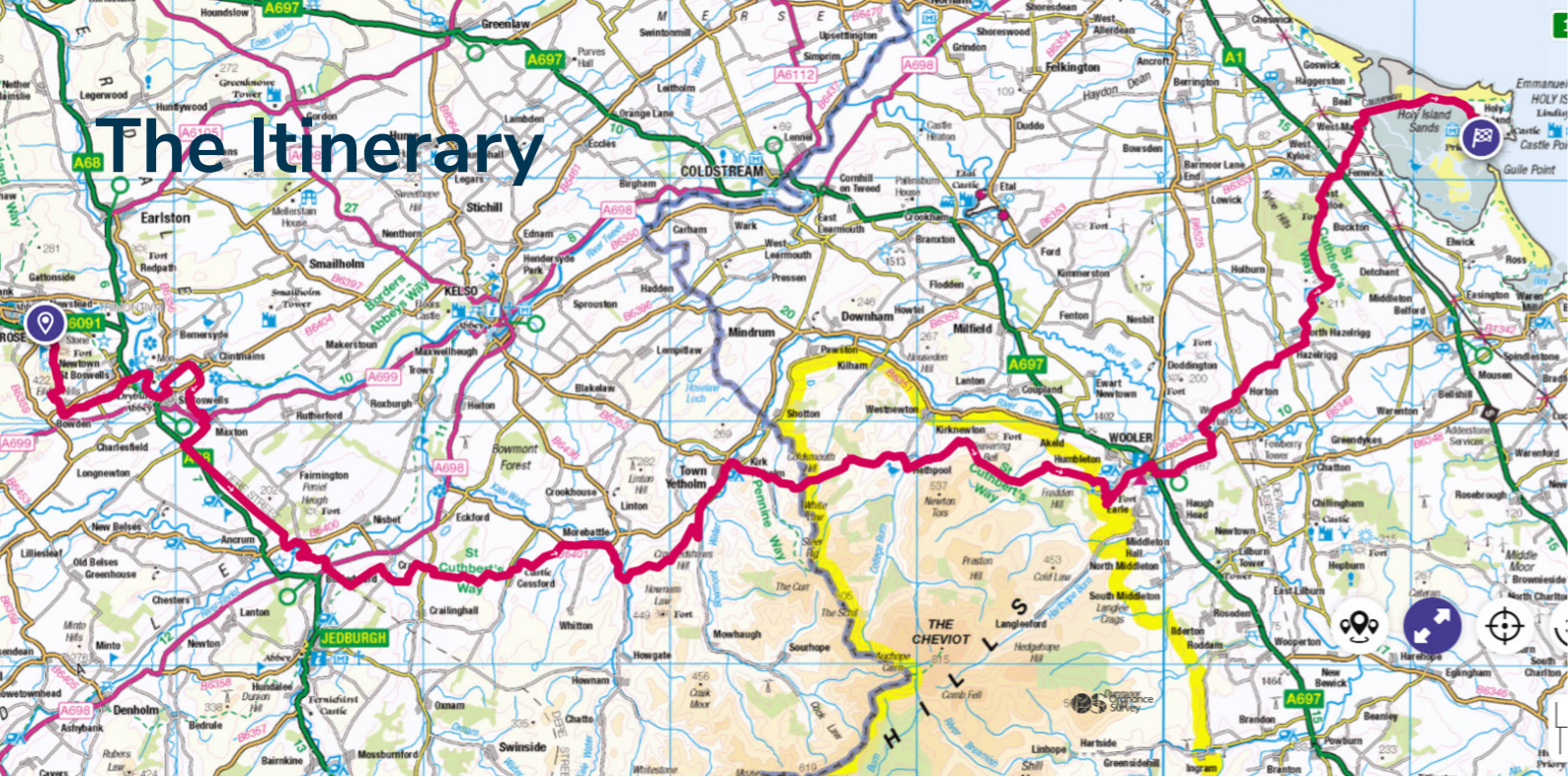


Image by [Davie Bicker](#) from Pixabay

Day 1

**Melrose
Travel Day.**

Meet at the Hotel in late afternoon in Melrose for a briefing, pre-pilgrimage prayers and dinner

Day 2

**Melrose to Harstanes
Walking distance: 15 miles**

The journey begins with a short prayer service at the gates of 12th Century Melrose Abbey, before an ascent over the Eildon Hills, where breathtaking views stretch across the Scottish Borders.

Descending into Bowden, the route winds through farmland and woodland to Newtown St Boswells before following the River Tweed past Dryburgh Abbey into St Boswells. From Maxton, the ancient Dere Street Roman road guides the way to Harestanes.

This inspiring first day offers landscapes once admired by Sir Walter Scott, ending with a well-earned rest in nearby Denholm where we'll gather at our hotel for dinner, prayers, and an after dinner talk.

Day 3

**Harestanes to Kirk Yetholm
Walking distance: 17 miles**

After a short prayer, we cross the Monteiot Suspension Bridge and follow the River Teviot to Jedfoot. Passing through woodland and farmland, the route reaches Cessford Castle, once the stronghold of the Ker family, and a striking reminder of the troubled history of the borderlands.

A lunch stop in Morebattle provides a break before ascending Grubbit Law to Wideopen Hill (400m), the highest point of St. Cuthbert's Way, with breathtaking views back to the Eildon Hills.

The final stretch leads into Kirk Yetholm, where the day ends with a short transfer to accommodation in Kelso for dinner, prayers, and an after dinner talk.

Day 4

**Kirk Yetholm to Wooler
Walking distance: 12 miles**

After a pre-walk prayer, the trail climbs from Halterburn, circling hill-fort Green Humbleton (287m) before reaching the Scottish-English border and crossing into Northumberland Park.

Descending through Elsdonburn to Hethpool, the route continues past the Collingwood Oaks and along the Cheviot foothills to Yeavinger Bell, Northumberland's largest Iron Age fort.

A scenic descent over Gains Law leads into Wooler, where the afternoon offers time for reflection before dinner, prayers, and a team quiz night at a welcoming local hotel.



At the foot of Eildon Mid Hill by [Tim Heaton](#), CC BY-SA 2.0



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Pilgrimage Information

INCLUDED

- Hotel accommodation on a twin-share basis
- Dinner on Day 1
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on days 2-5
- Breakfast and picnic lunch on day 6
- Luggage transfer between hotels
- Transfer from Holy Island to Berwick-Upon-Tweed
- First Aid qualified guide
- Fundraising Pack

NOT INCLUDED

- Transport to Melrose
- Accommodation on Lindisfarne (A list of accommodation options will be provided if required)
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Personal insurance

DATES AND PRICE

- 26-31 May 2025
- £750 pp twin sharing full board basis

FUNDRAISING

- Participants are requested to raise a minimum of £1,000 sponsorship to support the work of Stella Maris

DAY WALKS AND VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

- If you would prefer to join us for a day walk or join our virtual pilgrimage please contact us for more information

For more information, please contact Hugh Ramsay:
hugh.ramsay@stellamarismail.org



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Day 5

Wooler to Fenwick Walking distance: 12 miles

Today's trail climbs over Weetwood Moor, crossing the 16th-century Weetwood Bridge the route follows quiet lanes to Horton, then joins the Devil's Causeway, a Roman road once linking Corbridge and Tweedmouth. Woodland tracks lead to St. Cuthbert's Cave, where monks took refuge with his remains, when fleeing viking raids in 875 AD.

Ascending the Kyo Hills, our *mons gaudium* (mountain of joy), walkers catch the first glimpse of our pilgrimage destination Holy Island and Bamburgh Castle beyond the golden sands, an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route descends through Shiellow Wood into Fenwick, where the day ends with a visit to Bamburgh beach, prayers, a final talk, and a celebratory dinner.

Day 6

Fenwick to Lindisfarne Walking distance: 6 miles

The last stretch of St. Cuthbert's Way leads from Fenwick to the coast, passing Fenwick Granary, WWII coastal defences, and Beal Cast Burn. Reaching the Causeway at low tide, walkers will follow the historic Pilgrims Path, marked by wooden posts across the sands.

A triumphant arrival at Lindisfarne where the pilgrimage joins our annual Holy Island Pilgrimage which will include prayers on the green, picnic lunch and Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Mason, Stella Maris Bishop Promoter.

A fitting end to a journey rich in history, faith, and breathtaking landscapes.