

A PILGRIM WITH A NEW MIND

Hello Everyone,

You may have heard about Ashley's pilgrimage last year, and the work of IRFF in Africa. www.irff-uk.org will tell you all about it. This year we even had the privilege and joy of the help from an STF team visit in July. So, Ashley set off again this year for the second time, saying, "The same route but with a different mind". It was Sunday evening 14th October 2012. He returned home Monday evening 22nd October with only one big blister, swollen feet and a few pounds lighter, carrying a few wild mushrooms, chestnuts and an apple as souvenirs for us. But in his heart and mind's eye are the faces of all the children of Destiny School, Uganda, and the Head Teacher Jessca, and her fellow teachers...who are counting on you to support them. PLEASE give £10 a month for a child to be educated and given one good meal a day, and £15 a month for a teacher (go to www.irff-uk.org to set up your direct debit). From amongst 1,000 primary schools in the Kampala area, Destiny School came 6th in academic achievement last year!!! There are 90 children, so grateful for your support, who would otherwise have absolutely no education, or vision for their lives; many of them AIDS orphans; a few of them infected with AIDS themselves.

Here are some pictures, texts and tweets from the 8 days' 140 mile walk.

Thankyou for your heart to help!

Susan Crosthwaite (wife, observer and admirer of deep dedication in pilgrim) Oct.26th 2012

I hope the following messages which are colour coded: **Ashley Crosthwaite, Selina Luis (IRFF UK Secretary), Marshal Desuza (WAIT UK), Robin Marsh (UPF UK),** will give you a sense of Ashley's 8 Day Walk. My notes are in black .



Oct16,day2, starting off from d tricycle shop. Thanks to markus & tessa we slept in comfort!

Text to my phone 2.25 pm, 15th “ Taking a break; a mouse came and sat on my leg for about 5 minutes as if to say ‘Keep going.’”

Text to my phone 6.55 pm, 15th “ Still walking...4 miles to Alton. Selina came ½ way then I put her on a bus, she wasn’t well. x to u 3.”

Text to my phone 1.10 pm, 16th “ Left the (IRFF) Tricycle shop dis am Now reached Holbourne church... slow going thru woods & hilly fields... Songs of birds & wings, a lone red admiral. Got to get near Guildford tonite to meet marshall & vitas tomorrow am.”

Text to my phone 5.49 am 17th Oct., “It’s raining hard, I found shelter. Love, Papa”

Text to my phone 6.05 am, 17th “Missing u. Rain, rain, beautiful rain. I’m dry, just no fire. x”

Text to my phone 7.10 pm, 17th “ Dorking! Just saw off fellow pilgrims marshall & vitas @ d station, now walking to michelham, warren farm, yea, Staying w/dave and tracey. 55 miles walked...”



Thanks to marshal & vitas we reached our goal, here’s st martha’s hill. Vitas carried d pack, thanks.

Marshall texted me; “Hi Susan, Vitas and I returned to London Wednesday (17th) night exhausted but really happy that we could join Ashley for one whole day. We walked between Guildford and Dorking a distance of about 20 miles across hills and valleys. It was much harder than I had expected – fast pace, muddy and some rain! We all had aches , pains and some blisters.”

Text to my phone 10.52 am, 18th Day 4 “Wow! This is climbing mountains

today. The blister on ball of left foot is bad, but only 1. Take care.”

Text to my phone 10.30 am, 19th Day 5 “Made it to Westerham well after dark; dead to the world. Wasn’t sure of going on, but it all hurts a little less this am. Stayed in the B&B of a friend made last pilgrimage. It rained a lot last night so we grateful to crash on a bed. I’ve got no clear goal today, but it’ll be less than yesterday for sure...Still gentle rain. Thanks for all your support. x”



19th Oct. What to say?
Sheer determination & bloody mindedness, madness?
Whatever, it ended reached westerham :-)

Text to my phone 10.40 am, 20th Day 6 “Struggling, but hf continually renews a pilgrim’s heart & legs! Walking towards Rochester, in d clouds.”



October 20th Near rochester...so tired, just one step after another no rain so far today. 'Still be my vision o'roall'

Started from the green@ westerham, still raining softly slow due to mud on d tracks, no blood as yet

Text from my phone to Ashley, 20th 10.50 am, "Wish I were with you."



Slept in this barn, w/a kettle! What a blessing. No rain dis am, another blessing. Day6 starts here.





Midday, day6, in d cloud all morning d sun is trying to shine through if heaven lights my heart then...

Text to my phone 11.20 am, 21st Oct. **Day 6 “Slow going, muddy traks. Through Hollingbourne towards Harrietsham. Beauty surrounds me, Light rain. Had a cry for tigger last night.”**

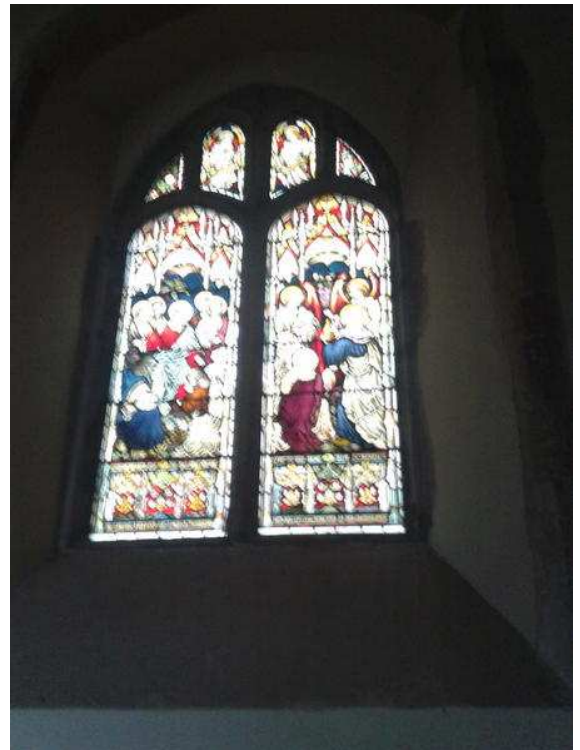
Tigger is Simon Rosselli’s older dog who had to be put down due to having several strokes in the last 2 days. Ashley spent many hours with Tigger gardening in the Rosselli’s home over Tigger’s life-time.

Text from my phone to Ashley, 20th 4.59 pm, “We’re going to Family Night soon. Will you have your phone on? How far is Rochester?”

Last night we had a family evening in the South London Peace Embassy and so we all – about 50 dults and children - sang “I’m on my way and I won’t turn back” with many verses onto Ashley’s smart phone to encourage him. He told me that he played it *over and over* again on Day 7.



Left hollingbourne down muddy tracks in slight rain. Trudgestaggerstumble mean more than before. tanks



Day7:st georges in wrotham, sanctuary from wind & rain, a time to reflect. Thanks to al of u



Day7: found simon dozing, tried to wake him to no avail.

Text from my phone to Ashley, 21st Oct. 9.54 am “ Goodmorning!”

Text to my phone 5.21 pm, 21st **Day 7**
“Back on the downs after a prayer@ d church, charing, and chips @ d oak. Won’t make it to boughton lees, but maybe 1/3 the way, got to make camp soon, wet & windy.”

Text to my phone 6.01 pm, 21st **Day 7** “Setting camp on westwell downs, 3 miles short of boughton lees. Getting dark early”



Day8:
everything wet. No tea just water & start walking. Rained thru d night. Windy on d topodowns. Everything wet. Had tea last night but dis mornin must move on day 8... 18miles to holy grail



Day8: walked 8 miles, hot coals, then suddenly met dis lot+simon, we walked down into chilham. Thanks!



Making our way to meet Ashley at Kings Wood, along his 140 mile walk. Spotted a nice Spiders Web.... from Selina

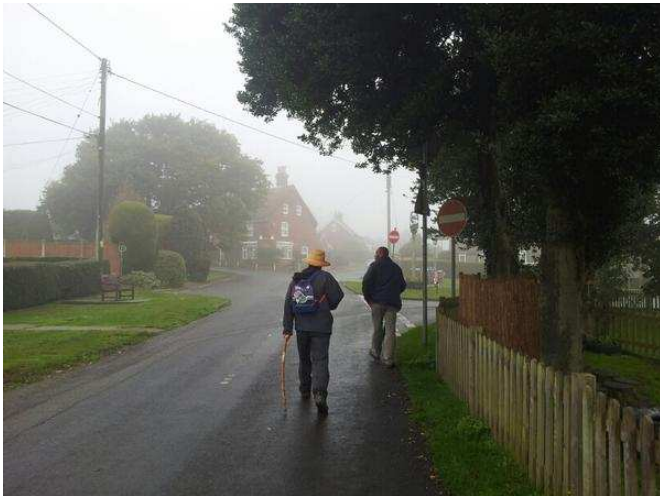
On the way again. Looks like Ashley's made a new friend... Well his pocket with the polo mints has ;) Selina



We've found our brave pilgrim Ashley at last! He was very happy to see us... Onwards we go... :) Selina



Time for a quick pit-stop to refuel at the White Horse Pub in Chilham. Happy faces all around! Selina
After 8 days reached Canterbury Cathedral Thank you everyone who donated Robin Marsh



After 4 miles we say goodbye to Ashley & Franklin at Old Wives Lees, as they continue to Canterbury! Selina



@ d finish, we went to give thanks. Canterbury cathedral. THANKS t al of u. Survived...signing off