

WALKING ST EDWARD'S WAY



2nd – 4th September 2021

This footpath route between Wareham and Shaftesbury Abbey has been developed by the Dorset Ramblers and was waymarked earlier in 2020. Unfortunately, the planned pilgrimage to celebrate this was cancelled due to Covid, however we are now back on track!

St Edward, boy king, murdered possibly on the orders of his stepmother at Corfe Castle, was originally buried at Wareham. Later in 979, for political reasons, his body was moved to Shaftesbury Abbey where it became an object of pilgrimage.

In 2019 there was an archaeological dig in the Abbey and surrounding area to try and understand more about the Abbey, whose influence spread far and wide.

'Shaftesbury Abbey: A Voyage of Exploration and Discovery' involved many volunteers, including schools, with students taught basic principles of archaeology and doing some digging on site. The results of that dig are still being analysed.

To celebrate the project, the acting Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of Sherborne Karen Gorham will be leading a pilgrimage walk over three days in early September.

Each day will be a walk of some ten miles through varied countryside, starting at 9.00am or 10.00am and ending at 4.00pm.

Come and join us!

Thursday 2nd 9.30am leave Wareham to Winterborne Kingston (lunch 1pm Bloxworth)

Friday 3rd 9.00am Winterborne Kingston to Shillingstone (Lunch 1pm Winterborne Stickland)

Saturday 4th 10.00am Shillingstone to Shaftesbury (Lunch 1.30pm Bedchester)

Bishop Karen would like as many people as possible to join in what has, in the last year, become a permanent waymarked pilgrimage route.

We will end by walking up Gold Hill to have some refreshment in the Town Hall before a short service in the Abbey and gardens.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/st.ed.way

Email to notify you are joining: bishop.sherborne@salisbury.anglican.org

More details of the route: britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/st-edwards-way