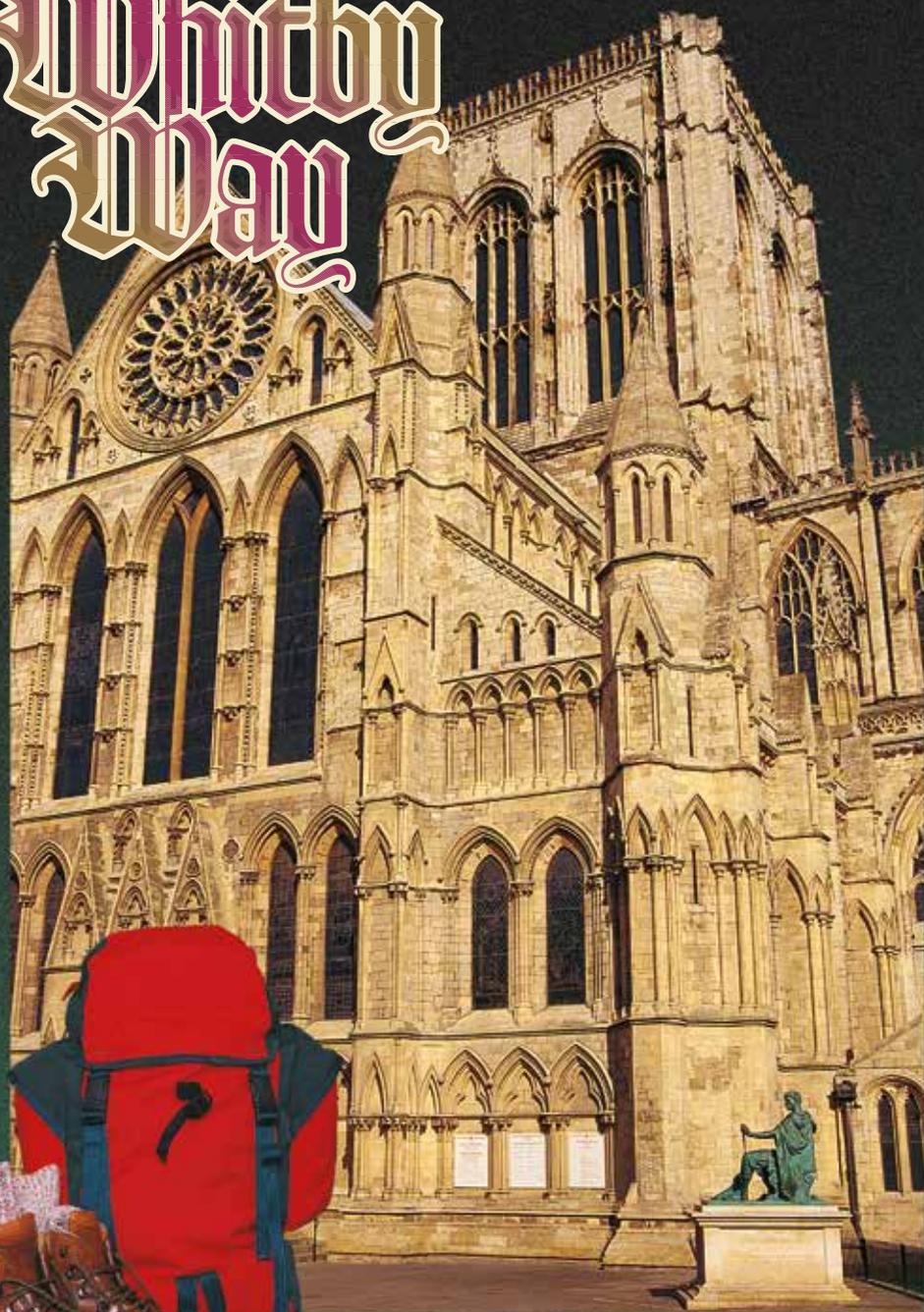


Whitby Way



by **Leslie Stanbridge**

A sixty-six mile pilgrimage from York to Whitby



Nicholas Postgate martyred 1679

1140 priory for nuns

ROSEDALE ABBEY

654 founded by St Cedd

LASTINGHAM

Whitby Way

A pilgrimage walk from York to Whitby - 66 miles

1131 Cistercian abbey

St Gregory's Minster

Hutton-le-Hole



Wass

BYLAND

1155 Cistercian abbey

Coxwold

CRAYKE

685 St Cuthbert at Crayke

Huby

Wigginton

Huntington

YORK MINSTER

627 the first York Minster

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 © Leslie Stanbridge
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Acknowledgements
 I would like to thank various pilgrims on the Whitby Way for advice and information and also Mark Comer for his constant help and encouragement. *Leslie Stanbridge*

The Whitby Way logo
St Peter's Key on an ammonite from Whitby beach (designed by Lynn Harper)

Leslie Stanbridge was Archdeacon of York from 1972 to 1988

Whitby Way

FOR WALKERS & CYCLISTS

by Leslie Stanbridge

*A sixty-six mile route from
York Minster to Whitby Abbey, visiting many of the
most interesting pilgrimage sites in Yorkshire*



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Preface

by Archbishop Dr David Hope

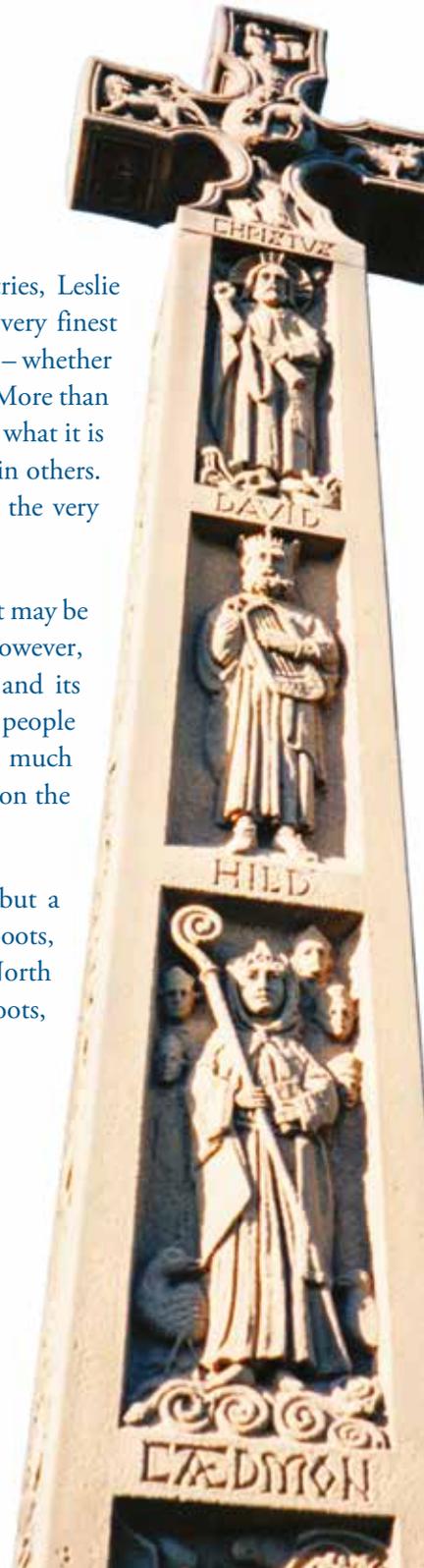
Over many years, many miles and in many countries, Leslie Stanbridge has honed his navigational skills to the very finest edge of excellence. He knows exactly what the walker – whether tyro or seasoned veteran – wants in a walking guide. More than that, in every sense himself a pilgrim, he knows, too, what it is that will enlighten and inspire a sense of pilgrimage in others. So it is then in ‘The Whitby Way’ Leslie offers, in the very fullest sense, a real *vade mecum*.

Detailed, accurate, informative and, above all, clear, it may be truly described as ‘user-friendly’. More than that, however, it is also a positive joy! With its fine illustrations and its interesting and informative features on places and people encountered along the way, it affords almost as much pleasure as a fireside read as it does when consulted ‘on the hoof’.

Almost, but not quite: for armchair pilgrimage is but a poor substitute for the real thing. So, put on the boots, pick up the book – and go for it! In our glorious North Yorkshire countryside and close to our Christian roots, you will not be disappointed.

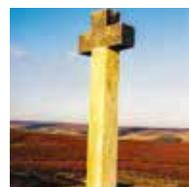
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About the Whitby Way

IT IS sixty-six miles from York to Whitby by the Whitby Way – but that is not the shortest route. Starting at York Minster and finishing at Whitby Abbey, it is designed to include some of the most interesting pilgrimage places in Yorkshire.

It can, of course, be enjoyed simply as a walk, for it goes through beautiful scenery. From the flat Vale of York it climbs to gently undulating country at Crayke. It crosses the North York Moors from south to north using field paths, moorland tracks and ancient paved ways. Finally, it follows the lush Esk Valley down to Whitby.

Someone said that a tourist passes through a place, but the place passes through a pilgrim. To walk the Whitby Way as a pilgrim is an invitation to leave time to be quiet, at Crayke and at Byland, at Rievaulx and Lastingham, at Kirkdale and Egton Bridge and, of course, in the cliff-top abbey ruins at Whitby which is the end of the way – at the top of the 199 steps!

The way starts at **York Minster**, scene of the re-birth of Christianity when in 627 King Edwin of Northumbria became a Christian and with him members of the royal family, including Hilda, soon to be abbess of the monastery at **Whitby**. But the statue of Constantine outside the Minster is a reminder that there were Christians in York when the Romans were there.

From Whitby, monks came to **Lastingham**, where the two saintly brothers, Cedd and Chad, were abbots, and the unforgettable Norman crypt of the present church, built not long after the Norman conquest, is still a focus of pilgrimage. Then there is **Crayke**, where St Cuthbert probably founded a monastery, and where his body rested for four months

during the time the monks from Lindisfarne were fleeing from the Viking invaders. **St Gregory's Minster** in Kirkdale also dates back to the time before the Normans.

The years of the twelfth century saw the great cathedrals built or re-built, and countless villages got new parish churches. Monasteries grew up all over the country, including those of the Cistercian monks, who sought out lonely places. The Whitby Way visits two of the finest Cistercian ruins at **Byland** and **Rievaulx**. The Benedictine abbey on the cliff top at **Whitby** was built not long after. In **Rosedale**, too, there was a small nunnery, and the present church is built where its choir stood.

After the Reformation came a time of great religious change, but some, particularly in lonely and remote areas like the North York Moors, clung to the old ways. But even there, the persecutors apprehended Nicholas Postgate, who became one of the last of the Catholic martyrs, hung, drawn and quartered in York in the final years of the seventeenth century. He is remembered in the Roman Catholic church at **Egton Bridge**.

Laurence Sterne, the eighteenth century novelist, would probably have been horrified to be included in a pilgrimage journey, but readers of his bizarre novel, *Tristram Shandy*, will be glad of the opportunity to visit the church at **Coxwold**, where he ministered, and to see Shandy Hall, where he lived.

Pilgrimage is not just looking back. It helps us to rediscover our own roots, and to re-equip ourselves for the everyday pilgrimage of life. Besides the obvious pilgrimage places, other churches on the Whitby Way, at Helmsley and Pockley, Kirkbymoorside and Glaisdale will be found open and welcoming to walkers and pilgrims with time to stop and rest.

The Whitby Way in Seven Days

Day 1 *York to Huby* (10 miles)

Start the day by visiting York Minster. Then walk across the flat country of the Vale of York to Huby. Overnight there or (*by bus*) in Easingwold or York.

Day 2 *Huby to Coxwold* (9 miles)

Walk to Crayke and visit the church; continue to Coxwold to see the church and beautiful village where Laurence Sterne was vicar. Overnight in Coxwold, Oldstead (*one mile off the route*) or Kilburn (*two miles off the route*).

Day 3 *Coxwold to Helmsley* (11 miles)

Visit the abbey at Byland (*English Heritage*) and follow the ancient monks' road to Rievaulx (*English Heritage*). Visit the abbey and continue to Helmsley for overnight.

Day 4 *Helmsley to Kirkbymoorside* (8 miles) or *Hutton-le-Hole* (11 miles)

Follow field paths via Pockley and Beadlam to St Gregory's Minster in Kirkdale. Continue to Kirkbymoorside or to Hutton-le-Hole for overnight.

Day 5 *Kirkbymoorside or Hutton-le-Hole to Rosedale Abbey* (9 or 6 miles)

An easy day with time to explore Lastingham and to cross the moor to Rosedale. Overnight in Rosedale.

Day 6 *Rosedale Abbey to Glaisdale* (9 miles)

Over the moor to Fryup Head and a long downhill stretch to the Esk Valley. Overnight in Glaisdale.

Day 7 *Glaisdale to Whitby* (11 miles)

Down the Esk Valley, visiting Egton Bridge, to Sleights and Whitby, finishing up the 199 steps to St Mary's Church and the abbey ruins.

Public transport

Huntington and Wigginton to York – a regular service of buses (*Rider York*).

Huby, Crayke and Easingwold to York – served by the Reliance bus service (01904 768262).

Coxwold, Wass and Helmsley – occasional buses operated by Stephensons (01347 838990).

Helmsley to Kirkbymoorside and Scarborough – an hourly service operated by Scarborough and District Motor Services (01723 375463). Links at Pickering and Thornton Dale with the Yorkshire Coastliner service (*see below*).

Hutton-le-Hole and Rosedale – served by the Moorsbus on Sundays and some weekdays from May to September (*details from tourist information centres*).

Glaisdale, Egton Bridge, Grosmont, Sleights and Whitby – an infrequent train service on the Esk Valley line, connecting at Middlesbrough with trains to the main line north and south. There are occasional buses from Egton Bridge to Whitby and a regular service from Sleights.

Whitby to Leeds, via York. The Yorkshire Coastliner service (01653 692556).

Accommodation

Overnight accommodation is plentiful in York, Helmsley and Whitby, and there are youth hostels in all three places.

There is abundant bed and breakfast accommodation in the Esk Valley (*Glaisdale to Sleights*) and also in the southern part of the North York Moors. Accommodation is relatively scarce in villages south of the moors, but a list published by the Easingwold tourist information centre, Chapel Lane, Easingwold YO61 3AE includes addresses in Huby and