

## St Alphege, Edmonton - Report on the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage 2018

On Monday 30 July 2018, a group of 8 young people and 2 adults were joined by some friends from Ss Peter and Paul, Enfield Lock and waited (and waited and waited) for the coach to arrive. Eventually the coach did arrive and we set off for Walsingham.

When we got to the field, it was all hands on deck to put up our big communal tent as well as all the tents for the pilgrims. Once that was done, it was time for cake and juice! A bit later, we went to the Big Top for the Opening Liturgy. Bishop Philip North introduced all the teams and the theme, 'Generation Hope'. CJM provided the music and soon we were all on our feet joining in. After the worship, it was time for the barbecue and disco, followed by hot chocolate and bed!

There was Bible Study every morning with Bishop Philip and it was a lot of fun as well as giving everyone things to reflect on. This year, the Shrine had a catered option which was great as it took the pressure off the leaders. There was hot soup and sandwiches for lunch and a two course evening meal. We did of course still have room for hot chocolate and pot noodles before bed!

Highlights of the week, apart from the fantastic liturgy and worship, included the Holy Mile Walk, inflatables and a trip to the beach. The London Group were asked to provide servers for the Final Pilgrimage Mass and we were honoured that David from St Alphege was 'Boat Boy' during the Mass, he did us proud!

All too soon, it was time to pack everything away and return home.

We would like to thank the trustees for their generous funding which enabled us to attend the Youth Pilgrimage. Below are some of the things we said about the week.

I learned that 'Generation Hope' doesn't judge you based on society and that we're all equal according to God.

Thank you for the funding. I had a great time at the Youth Pilgrimage. The thing I loved most was the Holy Mile Walk and the night vigil. I also made some new friends and had lots of fun. So once again thank you very much.

Thank you. I enjoyed the bible studies so much. I enjoyed the football.

The pilgrimage has helped me to develop my faith and has given me a massive insight in how I can go further in my life as a Christian.

Ashley, Brandon, Cameron, David,  
India, Keiana, Skie and Talia  
Kathryn and Luke