

Children's Society follows in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims

A historic journey through Kent is set to help transform the lives of some of the UK's most vulnerable children. Church of England charity, The Children's Society, is calling on walkers to take part in its Pilgrims' Way walk, 25-29 June 2004, in Kent.

The Bishop of Rochester, The Rt Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, is supporting the 74km journey through some of England's most stunning countryside:

The Rt Rev Dr Nazir-Ali says: "The walk is an excellent opportunity for people to come together to help some of the country's children who have not had the best start in life. It's also a wonderful way to experience one of the oldest pilgrimage routes in Britain."

The 74km walk is a historic journey through the county known as the Garden of England. Walkers will raise money for The Children's Society's work with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK. Starting at Rochester Cathedral, the route along the North Downs Way national trail will take in some of the country's most popular sites, including Canterbury Cathedral, Leeds castle and Godmersham Park, where the author Jane Austin regularly stayed.

Kim Gutteridge, The Children's Society's event organiser, says: "By signing up for the walk you will be helping thousands of disadvantaged children, including young runaways living in danger on the streets and teenagers involved in the criminal justice system."

"So put on your walking boots and with your support we can be a positive force for change wherever unnecessary suffering and injustice damages young lives."

The route will follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims travelling to the tomb of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury and will visit many places depicted in Chaucer's classic *The Canterbury Tales*, such as Harbledown.

Walkers will also experience other sites of historical and religious significance, such as the remains of the Archbishops' Palace at Charing and the ancient Iron Age hill at Bigbury. For more information, please contact The Children's Society on 0845 300 1128.

A pig and a hen were walking past a Church displaying a loud notice reading:

GRAND BACON AND EGG PARISH BREAKFAST

Here next Sunday

The hen looked at the pig and said, "Isn't it great that the two of us can make such a contribution to that wonderful event! Doesn't it make you feel useful?"

"It might be a "contribution" from you, hen," said the pig, "but it involves a considerable sacrifice for me!"

Contribution or sacrifice? That is something of a question posed to us on almost every page of the New Testament that we read each Sunday in our Churches.

It was something Jesus knew well and also knew that the easy ways of the former would not make much difference to the Kingdom of God but that the latter had the potential of transforming the whole of creation.