

Pilgrims of Hope-Visit to Crediton

St Boniface Church, Crediton

The Church will be open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 until 5pm. Mass is celebrated every Wednesday at 4 o'clock. Within the Church lies the National Shrine of St Boniface containing a relic of the Saint (a vertebra), given to us by the Bishop of Fulda. The Shrine will therefore be open for private prayer half an hour before Mass.

The St Boniface Trail

For those who wish, there is a trail of 8 stations, running the length of the town, erected by Crediton Town Council. These consist of 8 panels of coloured glass, representing key moments in the life of St Boniface (* see picture attachment). The first station is at the far end of the town and the eighth and final station is here at the Catholic Church. To complete the trail takes about an hour and a half to two hours, longer if you want to take in lunch along the way.

Suggested Itinerary for following the St Boniface Trail

Arrive at the Church (St Boniface's Catholic Church, Park Road), mid to late morning, depending on whether you intend to have lunch and leave your car at the Church. Proceeding by foot walk out of the Church car park and turn right. Turn first right into Dean Street and walk to the end. You will emerge opposite the old medieval Church, Holy Cross, turn left and walk the whole length of the High Street. As soon as you pass the last shops, you will see on your right hand a large lawned area with trees. This is **St Lawrence's Green** where you will find the first station. And then heading back towards High Street you will find the second St Boniface Station at the Congregational Church. Carry on walking for about 300 yards and turn left into Market Street which will bring you immediately into the Town Square where you will find the third station. Return to High Street and turn left, continue until you arrive at the Methodist Church on your left-hand side where you will find the fourth station. Following the signpost, just after the Methodist Church, there are steps taking you down into Newcombes Meadow where you will find the fifth station. Here you will also find a large statue of St Boniface which was visited in 1954 on the 1100th Anniversary of the Saint's Martyrdom by three Cardinals, two of whom were German, one of whom was Cardinal Frings. Frings was one of the most prominent voices ten years later at the Second Vatican Council, who chose as his theological expert the young Fr Joseph Ratzinger, author of the principal draft and chief architect of the Apostolic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, arguably the most important document of the Council.

Now return to the High Street and turn left and walk as far as the large Medieval Holy Cross Church where you will find the sixth station. Holy Cross Church is one of the finest parish churches in Devon. It is certainly advisable to allow at least half an hour to look around.

Emerging from Holy Cross turn left. Within a few hundred yards the road divides into the main Exeter Road and East Street where there is a small green containing the seventh St Boniface Station.

Continue along the main road for another hundred yards and you will come back into Park Street, and you will be back at the Catholic Church where you will find the eighth station.

The Church will be open at 3:30pm for private prayer at the National Shrine of St Boniface and Holy Mass will be celebrated at 4pm. (If you wish to have a more extended commentary on each station follow this link, <https://www.crediton.gov.uk/>).

Refreshments along the way

Traditionally pilgrimages are not only about prayer but also about fellowship and conviviality. Various refreshments are available along the way. Just after the second Station are two fish and chips shops, both are good (my favourite is The Chef's Choice). Progressing along the High Street you will find a number of sandwich shops and various cafes. When you arrive in the Town Square in the Market Place there are two tea rooms, one traditional and one serving Middle Eastern dishes. There is also a specialised coffee shop, the Crediton Coffee Company, where you can enjoy coffee made with single estate beans and enjoy a light snack. If you want a traditional pub lunch The Three Little Pigs is highly recommended.

Buon Appetito

I hope you have a very holy and happy visit to Crediton.

Fr Michael Wheaton

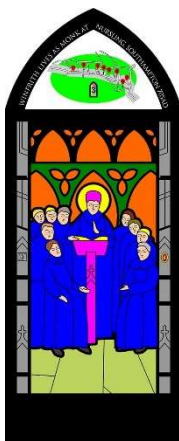
Location 1: **St Lawrence Green**



Location 2: **Congregational Church**



Location 3: **T own Square**



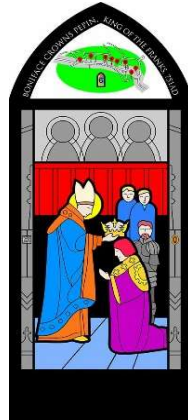
Location 4: **Methodist Church**



Location 5: **Newcombes Meadow**



Location 6: **Holy Cross Church**



Location 7: **East Street Junction**



Location 8: **The Catholic Church National Boniface Shrine**

