



Saturday 23 June 2018

Information for Pilgrims

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The Story of Alban

Alban lived during the third century in the Roman city of Verulamium. He was a worshipper of Roman gods, until one day he gave shelter to a stranger fleeing persecution. The stranger was a Christian priest, and Alban was so moved by his faith and courage that he asked to be taught more about Christianity.

Before long the authorities came to arrest the fugitive priest. But Alban, inspired in his new-found faith, exchanged clothes with him, allowing him to escape. The Roman soldiers were furious at this deception and arrested Alban and brought him before the judge.

Alban refused to renounce his faith, and instead declared: 'I am Alban, and I worship and adore the true and living God, who created all things'.

He was brought out of the town, across the river and up a hill to the site of his execution. Legend tells us that a spring of water miraculously appeared to quench Alban's thirst; and the executioner's eyes fell out after he had beheaded Alban.

Alban is honoured as the first British martyr, and his grave (on which the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban was built) quickly became a place of pilgrimage. For over 1700 years, people have journeyed to this place to remember Alban, to pray for peace and healing, and to seek God.

Giant puppets and costumed children retell the story of Alban's martyrdom. It is not only a stunning spectacle; it is a profoundly moving experience, taking us to very beginnings of Christianity in this country.

The Alban Prayer

Among the roses of the martyrs brightly shines Saint Alban.

**Almighty God,
We thank you for this place built to your glory
and in memory of Alban, our first martyr.
Following his example in the fellowship of the saints,
may we worship and adore the true and living God,
and be faithful witnesses to the Christ,
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.**

**If your group would like extra posters and flyers,
please let us know and we will be happy to send you a supply.**

The Alban Pilgrimage – Timetable of the day

10.30am Please aim to arrive by 10.30am

ready for the procession to set off at 11am prompt.

Visiting parishes and groups are split into different areas to form up for the procession. These are marked with coloured flags.

When you register, you will be e-mailed a flag allocation sheet.

11am Pilgrimage Procession begins through the City Centre

The route begins from St Peter's Church, St Albans,

continues to the Town Hall, where we will pause. We will then process to the West End of the Cathedral. (See the map on page 5 for details)

c. 12noon Festival Eucharist (following the Procession)

Preacher: The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark.

12noon Children's Worship and Activities

In the Deanery Garden.

**2pm Orthodox Service and Veneration of the Relic
at the Shrine of Saint Alban**

Organised by the Ecumenical Chaplaincy and the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius - all welcome.

3pm Anointing for Healing in the Lady Chapel

4pm Festival Evensong and Procession to the Shrine

Preacher: Stuart Burns OSB of Mucknell Abbey.

The Abbot's Kitchen will be open from 10am - 4.30pm
serving breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas, and a range of snacks and drinks.

The Cathedral Shop will be open from 10am - 5pm
selling a range of pilgrimage merchandise, books, greetings cards, CDs, and much more.

Registration

To help with our planning, **groups are encouraged to register in advance.** Please fill in the form and return to – *Cathedral Office, Deanery, St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, AL1 1BY*, or by email to pilgrimage@stalbanscathedral.org.

You can download the form separately and all other information in this booklet from our website: www.stalbanscathedral.org. Registration closes on **Wednesday 20 June 2018** so please make sure you return your form by this date.

Children and Young People

Younger pilgrims are welcome to any part of the day. Children can either sign up to join in the activities or alternatively, they are welcome to remain with their parish groups. We would strongly advise that children under 5 remain with their parents and parish groups. If you would like to register children for Children's worship, which runs parallel to the Eucharist, you can download a children's form on our website.

Clergy and Readers

All Anglican Priests are invited to robe for the procession (alb and red stole) and to concelebrate the Eucharist. If you are not used to concelebration, please be assured that it is very straightforward and instructions are given. Clergy who do not wish to concelebrate are still welcome to robe and join the clergy procession.

Ministers of other Christian denominations are also very welcome to robe and take part in the procession, as are Anglican Readers, and are asked to wear their customary dress.

Clergy intending to robe for the procession should vest in St Peter's Church to be ready for a briefing at 10.40am, in order for the procession to start promptly at 11am. Please fill in the registration form if you intend to robe and to concelebrate.

Please Note: Clergy should not leave any belongings behind as there will be no access to St Peter's, once the procession has begun.

Disabled Facilities

Entrance to the Cathedral for pilgrims needing disabled access is via the West. Please note that the Cathedral will be closed before the Festival Eucharist. Until then, access is only available to the disabled toilet in the South Ambulatory. The Abbot's Kitchen and Gift Shop will remain open during the morning (from 10am).

It is helpful to let the Cathedral Office know in advance if any pilgrims have special access or seating requirements so that we can make appropriate provision for them and any companion who is assisting them on the day. Any pilgrim who needs any additional help is asked to bring a carer with them.

The Red Cross are on duty during the day. Please alert one of our stewards immediately if you or a member of your group requires attention.

Food and Drink

The Abbot's Kitchen is situated in the South Churchyard and will be open on the day from 10am-4.30pm. The menu is full of regional and seasonal delights to suit all tastes and includes breakfasts, lunches, light bites, cakes and pastries, afternoon teas and a range of hot & cold drinks.

Pilgrims are welcome to bring a picnic to eat on the Abbey Orchard.

Cathedral Shop

Situated in the South Transept, the Cathedral Shop is open from 10am-5pm. On sale is a selection of pilgrimage merchandise, as well as an attractive range of religious items, books, ornaments, and jewellery, souvenirs and greetings cards.

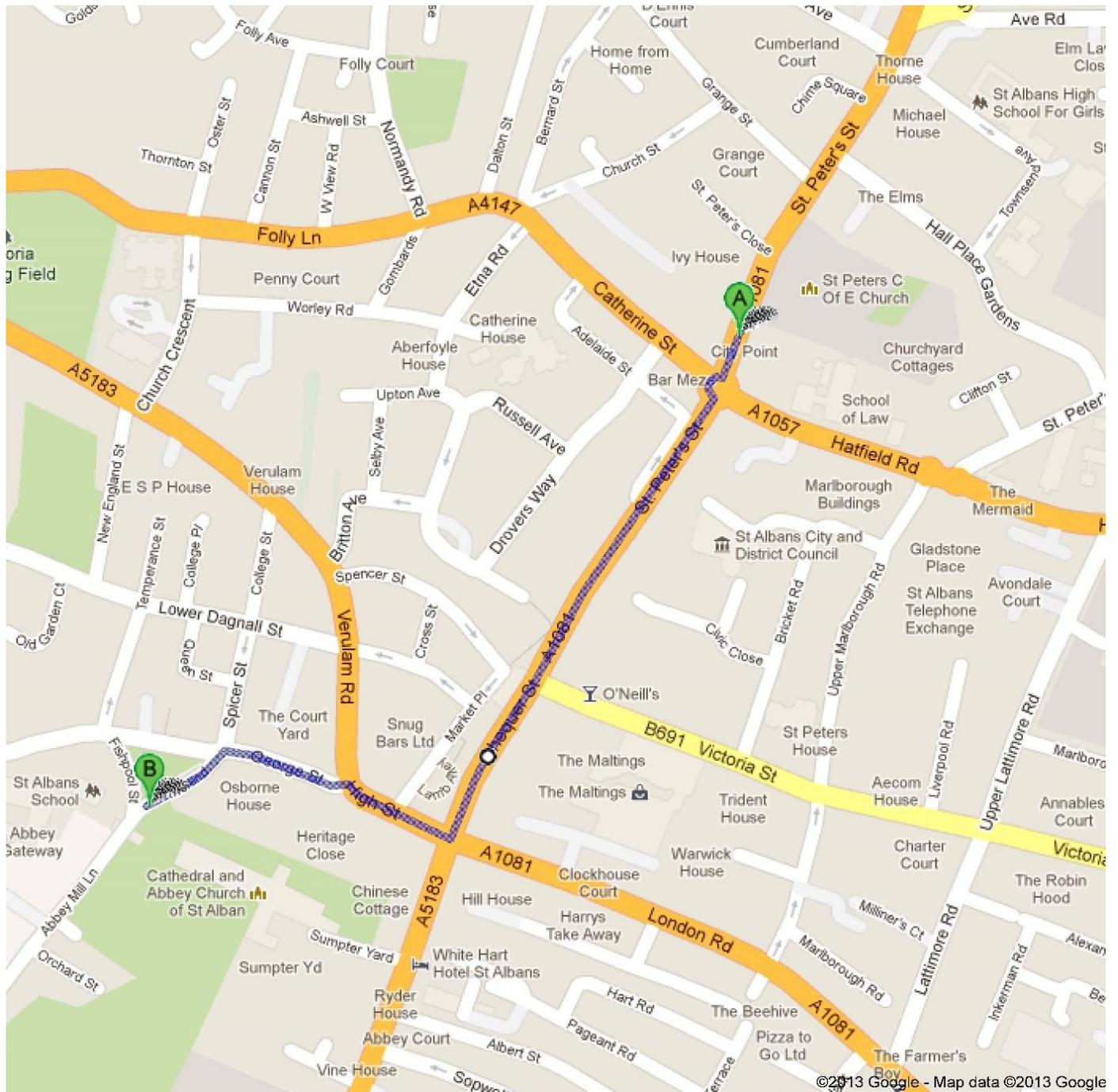
Banners

Parishes are encouraged to bring their parish banners for the Pilgrimage Procession. Let us know if you are bringing one.

Roses

It is traditional for pilgrims to wear a red rose, these are left at Saint Alban's Shrine at the end of the pilgrimage as a sign of devotion, and as a request for his continued prayer as you journey home. Roses are available at the Cathedral during the day for purchase by donation.

Map of the procession route



Procession begins: St Peter’s Church, St Albans, AL1 3HG

Situated at the other end of the city centre. The processional route is approx. ½ mile.

Procession ends: West End of St Albans Cathedral, the re-enactment of Alban’s beheading will take place outside the West End entrance, followed by the procession into the Cathedral for the Festival Eucharist.

Travelling by Bus

St Albans is well connected on the local bus network with services from North London, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Harpenden, Luton and Watford. The Green Line 724 service links St Albans with Heathrow airport and West London, Harlow and Essex.

Travelling by Rail

St Albans City Station is situated about 20 minutes from London St Pancras International on the First Capital Connect service through central London from the South Coast and Gatwick to Luton and Bedford.

St Albans is also connected to Watford via the St Albans Abbey Line. Trains from Watford Junction serve the North London Line and the West Coast mainline.

The Cathedral is a 20 minute walk away from St Albans City station and about a 10 minute walk away from St Albans Abbey station.

Travelling by Coach

Coaches and Minibuses should apply for a parking permit for Westminster Lodge, by making sure you complete a registration form and a permit will be e-mailed to you, with instructions on where the driver should park up.

For the beginning of the procession, coaches may drop off in the designated bus stops on St Peter's Street until 10.30am, for a short period (5 mins maximum). As soon as coaches have unloaded, they must depart and park at Westminster Lodge.

Travelling by car

Close to the M1 (Junctions 6 – 10), A1(M) (Junctions 3 & 4), and M25 (Junctions 21a & 22), St Albans is easily accessible from all parts of the UK.

Parking

There are a large number of city centre car parks available. For further information:

www.stalbanscathedral.org/visit/planning-your-visit

www.stalbans.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking

There is no parking at St Peter's church or the Cathedral, except disabled parking booked in advance. Space is limited, but please apply to the Cathedral Office if you require a permit. Those who wish to take part in the procession will need to leave 30 minutes to go through St Peter's Street to get to the start of the procession at St Peter's Church. Please note, the roads through the city centre will be closed immediately before the procession to all traffic.

