

About Student Cross

Student Cross is a pilgrimage organised by and for students, which has been running since 1948. It's a chance to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in a unique way.

Nine different groups, known as legs, walk from different parts of the country across Norfolk to Walsingham. Kind-hearted parishes provide food and accommodation along the way. Each leg carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people they pass.



The climax of the week is in Walsingham, a centre of pilgrimage for many centuries. All the legs meet up to celebrate the Easter liturgies together.

Why people walk

Here are some things that previous walkers have said:



'Each year I grow a little more – It's an incredible feeling.'

'I had time to think, form strong friendships and be myself. Best of all, everyone accepted who I was and where I was coming from.'

'It's a retreat on feet!'

'Love, laughter and life. I really celebrated Easter for the first time.'

'It is a time to take stock and to realign my priorities – easier to do when you remove yourself from the pressures of everyday life.'

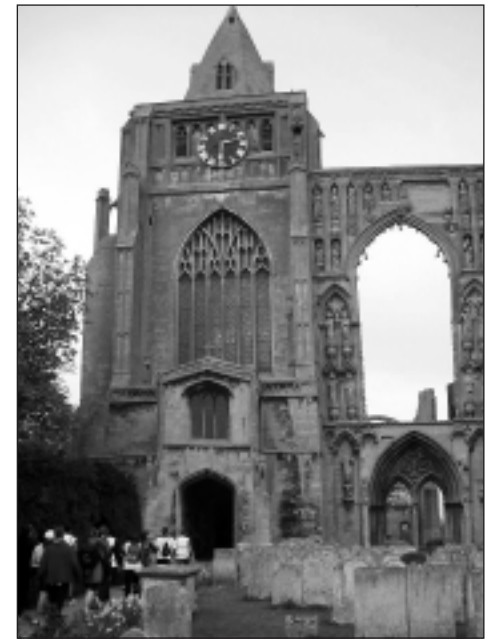
As you can see, although Student Cross is a very much a shared experience, no two people get the same things from it.

The strong sense of community encourages people to come back year after year.

Activities during the week

Much of each day is spent walking. However, there is a lot more to it than that. In fact it's not just the walking that's really important, it's what goes on within the group.

There are plenty of breaks for rest and reflection; every few miles the group stops and one person will tell the others about a thought they want to share – one which may have struck them during the walk. Each day will include a service of some kind, and in the evening there's a chance to recuperate and socialise in a local pub.



Who walks?

Students and young people from all over Britain and internationally – mainly Roman Catholic but from other Christian Churches as well. Pilgrims come from as diverse backgrounds as students themselves.



Your questions answered

When does it take place?

Most groups will meet on the evening of the Friday before Good Friday, but there are options to start later. It finishes on Easter Sunday.

What gear do I need?

All you need will be cheap or easy to borrow – as long as you've got a waterproof, a sleeping bag and some trainers, you'll be all right. No specialist equipment is needed.

How far is it?

Most legs walk 120 miles. It's easier than you think – there are lots of stops, and walking with a group provides a great boost. Your luggage is taken in a car, and if it gets too much, so are you.

Do I need to be really fit?

Many confirmed couch potatoes have completed the walk without much difficulty. However, some preparation can be helpful. As little as two weeks' preparation with simple stretches and exercises should enable you to tackle the week.

How much does it cost?

Costs vary, though students and the unwaged can expect to pay between £15 and £50. This covers all your food and accommodation for the week. The only other extras you have to find are spending money and the cost of getting home.

Financial support towards the cost of the pilgrimage is available from the Student Cross Association – please ask for further details.

What if I don't know anyone?

Don't worry, you soon will. Previous walkers are very keen to meet new faces, and there are plenty of other people to meet on your leg and at Walsingham. Many very strong friendships are formed during the week.



Book a place for this Easter

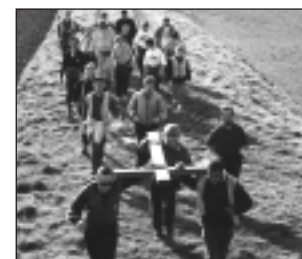
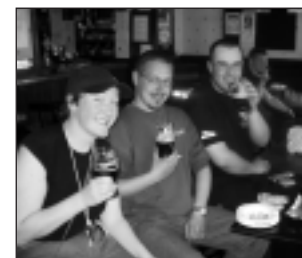
The organisers of Student Cross are elected each year, so there isn't one continuous point of contact. Please check the website for up to date details.

www.studentcross.org.uk

Student Cross is supported by the Student Cross Association (Registered Charity number 1019313). Patrons: Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville (Archbishop Emeritus), Right Rev Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, Bishop Peter Nott, Right Rev Bishop Malcolm McMahon.

Student Cross

Easter pilgrimage to Walsingham



A week of fellowship and a lifetime of friendships