

## “Share the Journey” Walk from Flitwick to Leighton Buzzard

After readings and blessing from Deacon Philip, the walk between the two parishes served by Fr John took place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July on a glorious day.

The two purposes of the walk were firstly to add further to the miles for Cafod’s Round the World walk, and secondly to raise sponsorship funds for the Just one House scheme operated by Refugees Welcome Milton Keynes.

Fr John and Anne-Marie walked the whole distance from Flitwick to Leighton Buzzard, and the 30 participants from Flitwick, and Theresa (who was also our official photographer) walked as far as Eversholt, with 14 of the group (of all ages!) walking the return to Flitwick.

Our first short stop was at a beautiful shaded area where a wooden footbridge crosses the river Flit. There we had a reading of the testimony of Khodesa, one of the refugees featured in the Cafod leaflet, and reflected on the contrast between her life and ours.

We walked on through fields of wheat ready to harvest, crossed the M1 (on a footbridge!) and reached Tingrith, where we had another short stop. We had a reading of the inspiring poem by Brian Bilston, which has a completely different meaning when the lines are read in reverse order.

We reached Eversholt just 15 minutes late, which considering the heat was no mean achievement. There the groups from Flitwick and Eversholt met up, and Mary Flach led a service in the shade of the churchyard. We had readings of the testimony of Khodesa, Nazir, David, Manuel, and Mohammed, the five refugees featured in the Cafod leaflets. We had a period of quiet and reflection, following which Peter reminded us that many of those who died in the Grenfell Tower fire just over a year ago were migrants and refugees. Fr John offered prayer for them, and for the refugee family we will help to house and support in Milton Keynes.

We had our picnic lunch at the cricket ground (or fine meal in the Green Man!). Fr John and Anne-Marie then set off for Leighton Buzzard with their group, while we bade them farewell and set off on our return to sunny Flitwick.

It was a joyous occasion, and we felt uplifted that we had contributed in some way to the Cafod campaign to urge world leaders to ensure greater compassion and fairer treatment for migrants and refugees, and we made an encouraging start to our project to raise funds for Just one House.