

Templar Pilgrimage Trust



Photo courtesy caminodocumentary.org

MORE WORK

During 2019, the Trust made 20 grants, compared to 14 in 2018.

We made grants to disabled children, to school groups, to students helping disabled and disadvantaged children on pilgrimage, as well as to nurses, priests and church workers.

In 2019, we made grants totalling £6,650.

Six of the grants were to groups of young people travelling to Lourdes or Walsingham.

In all, the Trust helped some 150 people to make pilgrimages in 2019.

There was a sharp increase in the number of applications in the first two months of 2020.

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[Find more information about the Trust by visiting our website: \[www.templarpilgrimage.org.uk\]\(http://www.templarpilgrimage.org.uk\)](#)



Photo courtesy L Danby

The Trust helped pilgrims to travel to Assisi, the Holy Land, Lourdes, Rome, Santiago de Compostella, Turkey and Walsingham. The largest number travelled to Lourdes, with the Holy Land and Walsingham the next most popular places of pilgrimage.

MORE APPLICATIONS

Most applications arrive during the first half of the year, as pilgrims plan for travel at Easter or in the summer.

After an increase in applications during 2019, there were more still in early 2020. By the end of February, there were 30 to consider - 50% more than for the whole of the previous year.

The increases are proof, if proof were needed, that interest in making pilgrimages remains stronger than ever and that there is plenty of opportunity for the Trust to help.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As this newsletter was being prepared, the effects of Coronavirus were starting to bite, with UK Government restrictions on everyday life, as well as on travel.

It looked likely, in the short term, that pilgrimage sites could close and that pilgrimages would be postponed until later in the year, or until 2021.

Pilgrims who had been given grants in 2020 were naturally disappointed at changes and delays but they were equally determined to go ahead as soon as the situation allows them to do so.

A group leader wrote:

The cost now is such that the pilgrimage is becoming cost prohibitive for many students'

HIGHER COSTS

The costs of making pilgrimages continue increasing. Church workers, nurses, priests and students find it increasingly difficult to raise the necessary funds. The more funds the Trust raises, the more pilgrims it can help.

If you do not currently support the Trust and are able to do so to, please donate, either by a one-off payment or regularly by a standing order, using the attached form.

We like to let a pilgrim have the last word:

It's all about being present and that's what I got from my pilgrimage.

I could shelve the anxiety and just enjoy the moment'