

A timeline to the church in stone

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3	7thC Cuthbert Caring
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More information about the path
can be seen on this QR code



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Tab 'About us'

Dropdown list 'History of Wetheral Church'

Holy Trinity and St Constantine
The church is part of Eden Churches
with St Paul's Holme Eden.



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Leaflet 5

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Path



Seeking, choosing and meeting God

The Timeline: a journey of faith

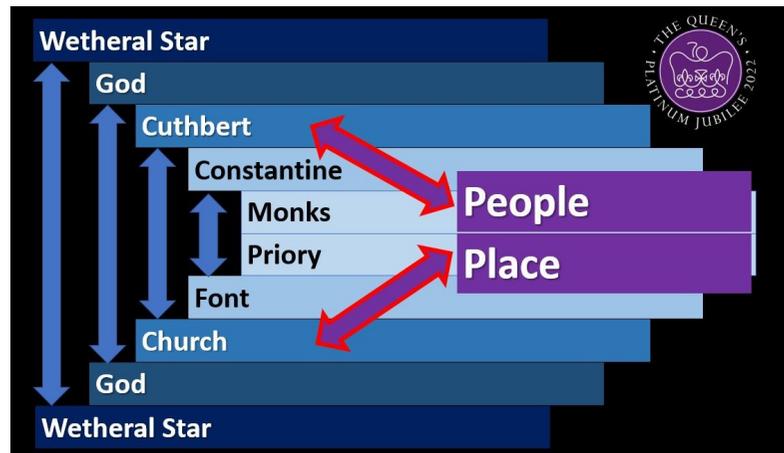
The path begins and ends with the Wetheral Star, designed by Nigel Holmes, a member of the church, in the shape of a **cross** with a circle of 'Ws' representing Wetheral with Warwick (stones 1 and 10). On the second stone we read of the birth of Jesus the Son of God (2). The name Jesus means '**God saves**'. The following stepping stones, mentioning key people and places, take us through a timeline of events leading up to the Platinum Jubilee year, 2022.

History: possible, probable and certain.

We know that St Cuthbert (3) visited Carlisle from his home in Lindisfarne around 680AD and we read that he also visited a local monastery. He was a bishop at the time he was **caring** for the local Christians. It is possible, bordering on the probable, that there was a Christian Community here in Wetheral at that time, evidenced by the fragment of an Anglo Saxon preaching cross, found in the church grounds. There is also St Cuthbert's Well nearby, first mentioned in 1200AD. Did he walk through this site?



Our church is named St Constantine (4). It is possible that this is after the 8th Century saint and king from Strathclyde, we can imagine him **praying** for this community. There are monastic cells cut out of the sandstone along the river cliff to the south of this spot, known as St Constantine's Cells. However it is most likely



that the caves were used as a place of safety and prayer by the monks who were **worshipping** here (5) during the violent years of the Reiver wars.

The nearby Wetheral Priory was built by Benedictine monks in 1106AD (6). One of the key themes of Benedictine spirituality is '**Seeking God**'. The oldest item in our church is the font, where people were baptised and declared their belief in God (7). In the Medieval period the octagonal shape became associated with 'new life'. It was almost certainly installed by the priory monks. The font is a focal point for **choosing** to follow God.



Most of the church (8) was built in the 16th Century and is contemporary with the Priory Gatehouse and will predate the dissolution of the Priory in 1538. Although God is anywhere and everywhere, the church building provides a focal point for **meeting** God.

'**God save the Queen**' The Platinum Jubilee path 2022 (09) for the late Queen Elizabeth II was well on its way to completion before the news of her death in September 2022. We had been through the design stage and secured Council and Church permissions. Funding bids were successful, with promised grants and gifts from Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust and a few individuals. We were poised to complete the stones and then lay the path when the death of Her Majesty was announced. King Charles III wrote to say that he was 'Interested to hear of the Platinum Jubilee path and was glad to know of this special project'.

Becoming and being a follower of Jesus

The action words on the stones describe becoming a follower of Jesus, **seeking, choosing and meeting** God. These are followed by a second set of words, **caring, praying and worshipping**, which are expressions of being a follower of Jesus.

The new paved path also makes the walk from the Wetheral Memorial lychgate to the Parish church more accessible for all.

Thoughts for further exploration:
Where are you on the timeline
in your own faith journey?