

# PILGRIMAGE SITES



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## ST ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD

*beside the Patteson Family grave*

### BACKGROUND:

From the Lytch Gate walk to the back of the churchyard near a wooded door in the stone wall. You are standing beside the Patteson Family vault. Next to the churchyard you can glimpse Feniton Court, the family home (now a private house).

There in the garden, Bishop Selwyn, then Bishop of New Zealand, asked Patteson to come with him to be a missionary, and to leave his family and all that was familiar.

Back in the house, his father, now widowed, point blank refused to let his son go, only later selflessly changing his mind, giving his blessing on one condition, 'that he (Patteson) never felt he needed to come back!'

### TO SEE:

**Look at the family grave, with its terse record of the Patteson family.**

(JP – Sir John Patteson, Bishop Patteson's father: EP – Elizabeth Patteson, Sir John's first wife: FDP – Frances Duke Patteson, Bishop Patteson's mother: JCP – John Coleridge Patteson: JEP – Joanna Elizabeth Patteson, Bishop Patteson's stepsister. His other sister, Fanny and his brother James, died elsewhere). He would have been deeply conscious of the effect that leaving to go to the other side of the world, would have had on his family. And none of them were to see him again – his mutilated body was buried at sea in the Solomons.

**Here, in the family vault until the early 1900s**, the matting Patteson's body was wrapped in immediately after his death was buried in a wooden cask. It is now found in the Cathedral in the capital of the Solomon Islands.





## TO PRAY:

This is a live link today. The ground you will tread on is seen as holy ground by Melanesians – the place where a founder and inspirer of their church came from and loved. Therefore before you go, do as he would have wished, pray for the peoples of Melanesia....

*Almighty God, wherever we walk, we walk with you beside us.*

*Whenever we walk, we walk with those who also walk with you.*

*So, with each of our steps, bless the peoples of Melanesia*

*who John Coleridge Patteson travelled so many miles to walk with:*

*And, as with Patteson, may our Pilgrimage this day*

*draw us closer to the living God:*

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*Amen*

## TO DO:

Look past the southern edge of Feniton Court. Straight in front of you is Melanesia, 9500 miles away... Patteson's final destination.

Imagine how he might have felt – how you would feel leaving all that gives you outward security

## TO WALK ON:



Patteson started his long journey from here in 1854, parting from his family at the door of the house. Walking alone through the wooden door in front of you and having found a primrose to lay on his mother's grave where you stand, he then took a coach to London and then a ship to the other side of the world. Imagine him that day as you walk out of Feniton.

For us our journey will take us to explore the places and people who got Patteson to step out that day and so to understand and learn from this man, whose influence helped transform one of the most dangerous areas in the world so that it became known as the Happy Islands.

You are invited as you set out to find a wildflower or grass, maybe even a primrose and place it on the grave and so start your pilgrim route.

Ironically on your way to Alfrington you will pass near the site of the Battle of Fenny Bridges in 1549, when 300 were killed and following the battle a further 900 unarmed prisoners were slaughtered. Ironic because it was a battle fought by Cornish and Devon men who were loyal to the traditional Catholic theology and practice and against the imposition of the Edward VI's prayer book, which amongst other things, wanted to ban pilgrimages!

So reflect on how religion can be used for such great good and in its name such cruelty and division can be promoted or excused.



**DISTANCE**

↔  
1.5 miles /  
2.4 km

**TIME**

35 minutes

**DIRECTIONS****STAGE 1***Feniton to Albington*

**OS:** SY 10862 99417

**Latitude/Longitude:**

50°47'15"N , 003°15'57"W

**What3Words:**

edgy.salutes.severe

**Address:**

St Andrew's, Church Lane,  
Feniton, Devon, EX14 3BY

**OS:** SY 11332 98009

**Latitude/Longitude:**

50°46'29"N , 003°15'32"W

**What3Words:**

depths.vent.flinches

**Address:**

St James & St Anne, Church Lane,  
Alfington, Devon, EX11 1PE

*Directions*

From the churchyard walk down Church Lane and turn left at the end. On the opposite side of the road take the footpath up the hill.

At the top of the hill follow the footpath left over open fields. Continue following the path as it takes a right turn, eventually to a T junction and turn left.

*Take care as there may be animals in the fields.*

Follow the path around the edge of the field, across three stiles and down some steep steps to the road.

*Look across the road to the memorial to the Battle of Fenny Bridges.*

At the bottom of the steps turn right and follow the road to the T-Junction.

*There is not a footpath all the way along this road, so take care and walk in single file.*

At the junction turn left. Walk over the bridge and then right onto a bridleway. Then turn almost immediately right onto a footpath. This path takes you across some fields and emerges onto Mill Lane. At the next junction turn right onto Church Lane. Follow this to the church.

CLICK HERE FOR  
DIGITAL VERSION

*St Andrew's Church*

START

Castle Hill

Vine Water

Fenny Bridges

Oakfield Farm

END

*St James  
and St Anne*

Alfington

River Otter

