



Car Parking

Riley's Post Office and Store in Halmer End have given permission for their car park to be used for all cars coming for the walk. Entrance to the car park is just above the store in the High Street (ST7 8BJ). The Car Park will be available from 12 noon.

Idea for the Walk

Back in 2022 the Church organised a walk for all the Methodist Churches in the North Staffs Methodist Circuit. After the walk we had comments from members of the village of Halmer End saying that they knew nothing about the walk, even though we advertised it widely, and would have liked to have taken part. We have been asked to do another walk and so this time the walk is organised for local people as well as the churches to show support for all the work that is being done in the village to remember the victims of the disaster on 12th January 1918.



**Halmer End Methodist
Church**

**A Sponsored Walk on
Saturday 4th October 2025
At 1.00 pm**



**At Halmer End
in Bateswood Country Park and
visiting the Minnie Pit Heritage Site**

Bateswood Country Park

For about 25 years the area around the Audley Parish was worked for open cast coal mining. Halmer End was the scene of many years of that work and when the mining ceased the area was developed into a Country Park and that is now the beautiful Bateswood Country Park that we shall be walking in.

The Walk will provide

- An opportunity for people to gather outside for shared fellowship and fun and a healthy walk around a nature filled country park;
- An opportunity to raise funds for the Minnie Pit Centenary Commemoration Group who are developing the Minnie Pit Heritage Site;
- An opportunity to learn more about the Minnie Pit Disaster of 12th January 1918 and the work being done to develop the Heritage Site in memory of the 155 miners and 1 rescuer who died in the worst coal mining disaster in North Staffordshire.

The Walk

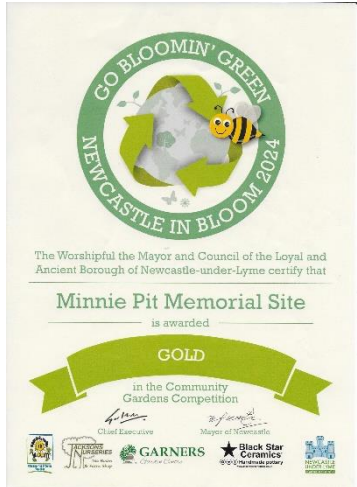
The walk will be about two and half miles and go through the park, around the lake and to the Heritage Site and then return to the Chapel. There will be a Searching Game for children on the walk. Representatives of the Minnie Pit Centenary Commemoration Group will be at the Heritage Site to talk about the work which is being done there. Drinks will be available at the Chapel after the walk. Start time for the walk is 1.00 pm but this may vary a little if the numbers are great and we have to phase the start times to reduce any congestion. Allow up to 2 hours for the walk. The route will be identified.

Who can walk?

It is suitable for adults and children but not suitable for conventional wheelchairs or walking aids; some paths are uneven, sloping, or muddy.

As a walker you are responsible for your own safety and that of any children with you - all walkers must wear suitable footwear. Children must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. **No unaccompanied children allowed to walk.** Dogs are allowed but must be kept on a lead. Keep to the paths for safety.

Charity Support



You can come just for the pleasure of the walk but as the Church is sponsoring this walk to raise funds for the Minnie Pit Centenary Commemoration Group we would like to invite you to get sponsors for your walk. Work on the Heritage Site, which was awarded Gold in the 2024 Newcastle in Bloom Competition, is entirely dependent upon voluntary donations and grants.

The 'Minnie Pit Centenary Commemoration Group' has worked very hard since the centenary of the mining disaster in 1918 to develop a permanent Heritage Site in memory of the miners and the rescuer who

died. Your support will be greatly appreciated and be an encouragement to all in the group.

First Aid

There will be at least two First Aiders on the Walk. If you are coming as a group and have a First Aider with you please let David Rowley know by email dj-rowley@techdocservices.co.uk before the 4th October.

Insurance

The walk is covered by the Halmer End Methodist Church Insurance Policy.

Sponsorship Forms & Consent for use of personal details (GDPR)

Each sponsored walker will need a Sponsorship Form. Consent will not be required for personal details of sponsors providing that the Church or Group does not retain any details for later use.

Help with numbers

If you are walking with a recognised group please keep a record of the number of walkers, adults and children, and send the numbers to David Rowley at Halmer Methodist Church by 27th September or earlier if possible please (01782 722014 or dj-rowley@techdocservices.co.uk). This will help with our arrangements if we have to phase the start of the walk to avoid congestion.