Ripon’s first recorded event was an Anglo-Saxon monastery in 657 A.D. by Alfrith. In 671 A.D. St. Wilfred, the Bishop of York was given the monastery which was near the site of the present Cathedral. In 672 A.D. a first stone church was built on the same site by St. Wilfrid - Ripon’s patron-saint.

In 937 A.D. King Athelstan granted the right of Sanctuary as part of the Liberty of St. Wilfrid. The Sanctuary Boundary of the settlement in those days, within which anyone could be granted sanctuary overnight, was marked by eight Sanctuary markers. One of them still remains today at Sharow Cross.

The jurisdiction of law and order and punishment within The Liberty Area was the responsibility of the ecclesiastical body and took place the next day. Law and order was administered by the Gryth Priest. The Sanctuary Peace stool which was located in the Cathedral church was the place of jurisdiction. This continued until the time of the Reformation.

THE SANCTUARY MARKER WAY TODAY

To celebrate the centenary of Rotary International in 2005, the Rotary Club of Ripon and the Rotary Club of Ripon Rowels created and installed replica Sanctuary markers close to the original sites which mark the ancient Sanctuary Boundary. These have now been linked to provide a fascinating circular walk around the City of Ripon for the enjoyment of the public. The distance of the full circuit is 10 miles. Shorter walks of the scenic section and half circuit routes are also illustrated. Interpretation Boards are also available on the route.

Walkers will experience many different species of wildlife, unique views of the Cathedral, the Canal and the rivers Ure and Skell.
**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**For the walk start at Ripon Cathedral.**

(Interpretation board) Facing the west door of the Cathedral take the footpath to the right of the main entrance and turn right down steps passing under the archway to High St. Agnesgate. Turn right, passing Thrope Prebends House Heritage Centre on the left. On display inside the house, as part of the history of Ripon, is a replica of the original Peace Stool. Turn left and follow the main road across the bridge passing Ripon Canal Basin on the right. Follow the footpath until Firs Avenue. Turn left down Firs Avenue until the river, bear right and follow the road (Fisher Green) alongside the River Skell. At end of road continue straight on to the footpath following the river until Bridge Hewick is reached.

Three suggested walks start here

- **SCENIC ROUTE** (2 hours)
- **HALF CIRCUIT** (3 hours)
- **FULL CIRCUIT** (4 hours)
- **CONNECTING ROUTE TO START**
- **MARKER POINT**

The most scenic part of the route is between Bridge Hewick (1) and Ripon Golf Club (4)

**MARKER @ BRIDGE HEWICK (START)**

"May your heart be strong in faith—faith in your friends, faith in humanity, faith in God."

(Interpretation board) This is the start point of the original sanctuary boundary.

Take the public footpath to the marker beside the river bank. Continue along river bank until the path divides. Turn right & follow hedges towards the copse. Turn left through the gate on left to footpath to Sharow village. Follow road left to Dishforth Road.

**MARKER @ SHAROW CROSS**

(NT) This is the only original Sanctuary Cross.

"May your heart be strong in compassion—with that forgiving love that offers sanctuary to refugees, asylum seekers and all victims of loveless regimes".

Views of Ripon Cathedral. Turn left on to Dishforth road until Ripon by-pass. Use underpass to cross to North Bridge. Turn left at bridge to cross.

**MARKER (not on route)**

To visit turn right and follow main road up hill past Ripon Landrover for half mile to Hutton Hill Farm (See inset for history).

(A) Scenic route finishes here. To return to the Market Square walk straight on past The Station Pub, passing the Victorian Clock Tower. Suggested time required 2 hours.

(Interpretation board) Leaving Quarry Moor turn left towards Ripon past Esso petrol station. Turn right at the traffic lights into Quarry Moor Lane. Pass Greystones School and turn right up steps on to footpath. This takes you to the last marker situated on the by-pass.

**MARKER @ QUARRY MOOR**

"May your heart be a healing heart, to heal those you listen to, look at, touch and share with the world." (Interpretation board)

(C) This completes the walk. To return to the Cathedral walk back up Knaresborough Rd. passing Ripon Leisure Centre on right, cross Dallamires Lane in to Bondgate. Walk towards Ripon Cathedral.

Total Distance of walk 10 miles. Time required approx 4 hours.

**MARKER THREE HISTORY INSERT**

- **Viewpoint: Ripon Cathedral; White Horse Vale; N. Yorks. Moors; Norton Conyers House.**

Follow track through farm buildings (private drive) to road Turn left to Ripon Golf Club where Marker 4 is situated on left side by the main road.

"May our leaders never fail us. May our children live in truth. May they inherit a world that will not exploit them with false promises."

**MARKER**

"May your heart be strong in hope, hope in human goodness, hope in tomorrow, hope in life itself."

Cross Kirby Road and turn right following footpath to Lark Lane junction. Turn left and continue down Lark Lane to the post office. Turn right onto to Clothermhole Road and walk to Bishopton Lane junction. Turn left and walk for half mile until Studley Road junction is reached. Turn right following road towards the River Skell crossing at Bishopton Bridge. Continue on main road. Opposite River Laver Caravan Park a public footpath sign is seen to the left. Take footpath towards Studley. At path junction turn left and head towards Hellwath.

**MARKER @ HELIWATH (Picnic spot)**

"May your heart be full of courage, courage to begin again, courage to face the oppressors of freedom, courage to face ourselves."

(Interpretation board)

"As we touch this Sanctuary Cross may we remember that only the truth will set us free."

May your heart be always shining with light-light for the lost, light for our leaders, light for the whole world.

"May our leaders never fail us. May our children live in truth. May they inherit a world that will not exploit them with false promises."

"May your heart be strong in hope, hope in human goodness, hope in tomorrow, hope in life itself."