

# OBERAMMERGAU

AND

## AUSTRIA

### Churches in Croydon

Ecumenical Pilgrimages to Passion Play 2020



*McCabe*  
PILGRIMAGES

29 May – 5 June

Led by The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon  
and The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith

14-21 August

Led by The Revd Andrew Letby and Deacon Belinda Letby

A visit to Oberammergau is combined with time among the sparkling lakes and majestic mountains of Austria and a visit to Salzburg. These pilgrimages will give the opportunity of fellowship together with the common purpose of attending the Passion Play.

# The Oberammergau Passion Play



Towards the end of the Thirty Years War in central Europe, there was an outbreak of the plague in Bavaria. The elders of the village of Oberammergau in an effort to protect their village, decided to seal it off from outside contact. But an itinerant worker returned, bringing the plague with him and it swept through the village.

Whereupon the people solemnly vowed that, if God would show His compassion and lift the scourge, every ten years they would enact the Passion of our Lord. The plague left the village in 1633 and, as a perpetual thanksgiving and re-affirmation of faith, the villagers of Oberammergau have performed the Passion Play at regular intervals ever since.



## A message from the leadership team:

Every ten years the people of Oberammergau fulfil their oath to God made in 1633 by performing a Passion Play. It is an act of faithfulness and we have the privilege of sharing in it. The familiar story is dramatically and powerfully retold during one day in this beautiful Bavarian town.

These pilgrimages to experience the Passion Play from Croydon Churches will incorporate time in the wonderful mountain and lake locations of Austria. Whilst preparing to journey with Christ to the cross in Oberammergau, we are developing an itinerary with a pilgrimage theme, we will have time to individually reflect and, if you wish, to share reflections on the Passion as we journey together. The pilgrimages will offer the option to walk part of the Jacobsweg the Austria section of the Camino, which passes through Salzburg and close to our hotel. These trips will be true pilgrimages in a most beautiful part of the world, travelling James Way and the Way of the Cross.

We will include a tour of the local area and a wonderful day to visit Salzburg, including major attractions, and locations of the film version of the "Sound of Music", and a day at Lake Wolfgangsee, including the charming village of St Wolfgang.

We will visit Oberammergau for two nights and receive a top grade ticket for a performance of the Passion Play.

While we are in Austria there will be opportunities to reflect and worship together as a group, as we prepare ourselves for the Passion Play. We will talk about the key events and people of the days leading up to the crucifixion.

Whichever journey you choose to make, we look forward to travelling with you. For many people it is an opportunity of a lifetime to share with the people of Oberammergau in the fulfilment of their vow to lead people on the Way of the Cross.

Come and join us for the trip of a lifetime.

The Right Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, Revd Nicola Furley Smith, Revd Andrew Letby and Deacon Belinda Letby.

# Meet the Leaders

29 May—5 June

## The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon

Bishop Jonathan is Chair of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, supporting the work of the diocese's 106 church schools. For the Church of England, he chairs the Ministry Division's panel which oversees quality in theological education.

More widely, he chairs the Churches' Refugee Network, a network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and also chairs the Board of Safe Passage International, a pioneering charity seeking to enable unaccompanied child refugees to be reunited with family members.



## The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith

Nicola is Moderator of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church encouraging its 149 churches, members and ministers, in the south east in their passion for Walking the Way, an exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission.

She sees pilgrimages such as Oberammergau as moving our Christian discipleship beyond a set of programmes into the world, where each step we take is accompanied by Jesus, helping us to bring about change in our own lives and, ultimately, in Church culture and society. She is married to Russell, a URC minister in Purley.



14—21 August

## The Revd Andrew Letby & Deacon Belinda Letby

Revd Andrew Letby and Deacon Belinda Letby are Methodist Ministers who have a passion for leading people on journeys of faith discovery and to places of retreat and refreshment.

Andrew has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to the island of Iona.

They believe that travel to places and events of spiritual significance bring encounters with old and new faith traditions which help inspire discipleship in the world today.



Please mark your booking form with your preferred date of travel and leaders.

# Our Itinerary

## Day 1 Friday, Gatwick To Munich

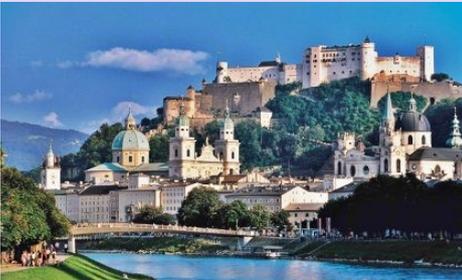
We meet at Gatwick airport. EasyJet flight to Munich departs at 1325 arriving Munich 1620. Three hour drive to Waidring and the Heigenhauser hotel, our base for five nights.

## Day 2 Saturday, Salzkammergut

Our excursion today takes us to the Austrian Lake District, where we have the opportunity to sail on Lake Wolfgangsee, and visit the charming town of St Wolfgang.

## Day 3 Sunday, Pilgrimage Theme

A pilgrimage themed day, where we begin with worship in the church of St Adolari, on Lake Pillersee, before walking a section of the Jacobsweg, the Austrian route to Santiago de Compostela. We break for lunch before driving to Unken where we walk another section of the Jacobsweg, and bring together our day at Maria Kirchentel Pilgrimage church with an act of worship.



## Day 4 Monday, Visit Salzburg

A day in Austria's musical capital of Salzburg, a beautiful compact city, full of interest from Mozart to the Sound of Music. A guided tour in the morning and an afternoon to explore at leisure. Tyrolean evening at the hotel.



## Day 5 Tuesday, Waidring

This morning a local guide will take us on a walk through the village. The afternoon is free to explore and perhaps take the gondola up on to the mountain where there are many easy walks and eating places.

## Day 6 Wednesday, To Oberammergau

Driving time is about three hours and we take a scenic route breaking the journey beside Lake Achensee, the largest lake in the Tyrol.

Afternoon arrival in Oberammergau and check-in to your accommodation for a two night stay.

## Day 7 Thursday, The Passion Play

Morning free to explore the village. A light lunch is included. Afternoon and evening attend the Passion Play with dinner during the interval.



## Day 8 Friday, Return to Gatwick

We will visit the monastery at Ettal en route to Munich airport, less than two hours drive. Our homeward Easyjet flight departs Munich at 1650 arriving Gatwick 1750.

*Flight times are subject to change*



# Heigenhauser Hotel, Waidring

Surrounded by an impressive mountain landscape, Hotel Heigenhauser is located in the heart of the picturesque village of Waidring only 500 yards from the gondola ascending the mountain and close to the picturesque village church. The hotel will have recently been renovated to a high standard, including the installation of an outdoor pool. Rooms have a lovely natural wood feel and are double or twin-bedded with walk-in showers, wc, television and balcony. McCabe parties will have exclusive use of the hotel.

The pilgrimage church of Maria Kirchentail, also known as Pinzgau cathedral, sits high on a nearby mountain and we will visit it by coach. The Jacobsweg passes close by and our holiday itinerary will have a pilgrimage theme. We will walk along a scenic section of the Jacobsweg by Lake Pillersee and enjoy a day in Salzburg.



Our programme also includes a visit to the lakes of the Salzkammergut, made famous in the “Sound of Music” film. We will visit St Gilgen and sail to St Wolfgang with free time to explore this iconic lakeside village.

We will also arrange a local guided walk and an Austrian themed evening. In your free time perhaps take the cable car and enjoy lunch on the mountains surrounding your hotel.



# Tour Information

**The cost of this holiday is £1,625 per person sharing a twin or double-bedded room with private facilities.**

**This includes:** flights from Gatwick to Munich with Easyjet, seven nights accommodation with breakfasts and dinners, airport transfers, and an excursion programme with local guiding. Also included are gratuities to guides, drivers and waiters.

Your tour price includes two nights in Oberammergau, a top grade Passion Play ticket and lunch on the day of the performance.

**Not included:** Lunches are not included (except in Oberammergau). Most gratuities are included but we ask you to leave something on departure in your room for the cleaning staff.

## **Travelling Alone**

A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional charge of £150. Ask for a room share, and we will either accommodate you with another single traveller looking for someone to share with or, if we are not successful, we will accommodate you in a single room at half the usual cost.

## **Deposit Payments**

A deposit of £200 is payable on booking with a second deposit of £400 payable in May 2019. The balance becomes due eight weeks prior to departure.

## **Special Cancellation provision**

It is difficult to effect travel insurance more than a year in advance, and we appreciate your personal situation may change.

McCabe have a special condition that if you cancel, for whatever reason, before the end of April 2019, your deposit will be refunded in full.



# Make a Reservation

## **To reserve your place on this tour:**

Please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £200 to the pilgrimage administrator. (Please make cheques payable to 'McCabe Pilgrimages')

If you wish to make a payment by debit/credit card, please mark your booking form with 'Card payment' and the McCabe office will contact you to take card details.

Please ensure you mark your booking form with your requested departure date and tour leader.

**Mrs Toni Suffolk**  
**18 Alwen Cottages**  
**Badgers Hole, Oaks Road**  
**Shirley**  
**Croydon**  
**CR0 5HR**

Tel: 0208 654 9035

Mob: 07786 935 554

Email: [toni.suffolk@btinternet.com](mailto:toni.suffolk@btinternet.com)

# Your Stay in Oberammergau

## Oberammergau Village

During the season, accommodation in and around Oberammergau is allocated to ticket holders for two nights, and restaurant reservations are pre-assigned. It is not possible to book an extended stay in the village, and for this reason we are combining the Passion Play with a holiday among the lakes and mountains of Austria.

For our time in Oberammergau we may be divided between a few houses, but all McCabe allocated accommodation is within walking distance of the theatre.

All McCabe guests will receive a top grade performance ticket and we will be seated together in one or perhaps two groupings in the theatre itself.

## McCabe staff

McCabe will have their own staff in the village helping us to make the very most of our time—in 2010 McCabe shared an office with Jesus's sister! All the villagers are involved in some capacity, and you will be impressed at how smoothly they cope with so many visitors.

Two nights accommodation in the village and a top grade performance ticket are included in your tour cost.

## A Group Experience

This is the fourth programme of Oberammergau Passion Play holidays McCabe has organised and their aim, and ours, is to encourage a real feeling of sharing as we participate together in this landmark Christian event.

## Austrian twin-beds

Twin bedded accommodation in Austria traditionally consist of one bed frame with two separate mattresses and separate duvets. McCabe have contracted their hotels on the basis a good number of rooms with properly separated twin beds are available, and these will be allocated as a priority to guests requesting room shares. For the two nights in Oberammergau occasionally the traditional style beds may be allocated. We can, however, be creative in solving this problem by adding a sofa bed, for instance.



# The Passion Play Experience

## The Theatre

The Passion Play theatre is large, but intimate in nature. In response to feedback from last time, the capacity has been reduced to 4,400 seats to allow guests more space. The play is performed in all weather conditions with the audience under cover, viewing the open-air stage and natural mountain back drop (though there is now a retractable roof)

The play will be performed five times weekly from May through September. The five hour performance begins at 2.30 concluding around 10.30 with a three hour break when dinner is provided in our assigned restaurant.

Part One 2.30 pm – 5 pm

Part Two 8 pm – 10.30 pm

From a dramatic point of view, the first half is in daylight, enhancing such spectacular scenes as the Palm Sunday procession when over 2,000 villagers are on stage at one time. The second half is quite different as the stage lighting and special effects make a stunning impact.

You will feel part of something truly special as the open-air stage is transformed into the Garden of Gethsemane with the disciples huddled around open fires.



## Oberammergau News Update

McCabe plans to publish a supplementary brochure six months before the performances commence. By this time, the cast will have been selected and rehearsals will be underway.

They will introduce us to the principal players and tell us something of their backgrounds, as well as updating us on preparations in the village.

Accurate flight schedules will also be available and at this point flight times will be confirmed for our holiday. We will also receive a more detailed itinerary and ideas for independent exploration.

# More about our holiday

## The Booking Process

The village of Oberammergau manages the extraordinary demand for tickets by working with partner companies such as McCabe Pilgrimages. We have been allocated tickets with accommodation for nearly every performance. In return for this privilege we have agreed to pay in advance in instalments with full payment due six months before the season begins. This enables the committee to allocate money in advance to prepare the village and theatre for our arrival.

This is the reason we are requesting larger than normal deposit payments. We ask for an initial deposit of £200 with a second instalment of £400 payable in May 2019 enabling us to fulfil our commitment to the village.

**If you have to cancel, for whatever reason, before the end of April 2019 we will refund you in full.** After this point, our normal cancellation conditions will apply. This is also the point when travel insurance can start taking the risk and you will be able to claim a refund, if for instance you cancel for unforeseen medical reasons.

## Holiday Price

This brochure is being published in March 2018, more than two years before the first performance, and in the middle of Brexit negotiations. McCabe have agreed prices with their partners but there is a lot of uncertainty just now about our future trading relationship with Europe and especially regarding currency exchange rates. The holiday price is based on an exchange rate of £1 = 1.15 Euros. If this changes significantly, it could affect the price of the holiday. The key areas that would trigger a price change are the value of our Pound; a sharp rise in the cost of oil; rampant inflation in Austria leading to higher hotel prices; any new travel taxes. McCabe will absorb the first 2% of any increase, and in the very unlikely event that the price increases by more than 10%, you have the right to cancel and receive a full and prompt refund. Full McCabe booking conditions can be found on the McCabe website.

## Single Travellers

A limited number of single rooms are available and we will try and accommodate single room requests. We do accept bookings on a room share basis where we will try to find a person to share with you. If numbers don't match up and we are unable to find a share for you, a single room will be allocated and only half of the supplement charged.

## Booking Conditions

A short version of our Booking Conditions is printed on our Booking Form and conditions in full can be found on our website. We will be happy to post or email a copy to you.

## The McCabe Educational Trust

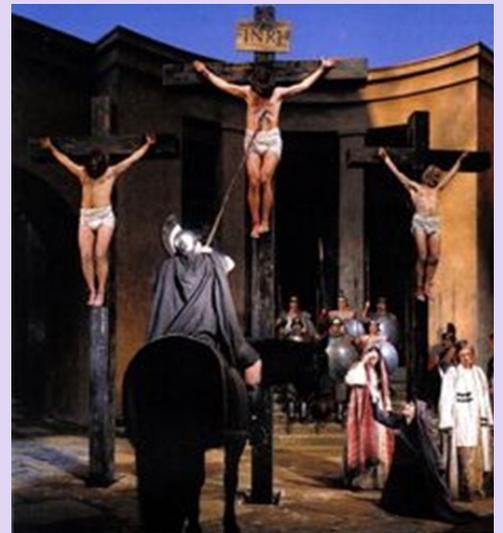
MET is the heart and soul of McCabe Pilgrimages. With the support of so many travellers, we have now gone past a significant milestone giving more than £3 million pounds in grant aid to needy people we have met on pilgrimage. McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £15 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

## AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on [www.aito.co.uk](http://www.aito.co.uk). Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

**This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.**

**The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.**



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