



## Justin Butcher

Walking for 5 months and covering 2,000 miles across Europe from London to Jerusalem, the Just Walk marked the centenary of the Balfour Declaration in which the British Government announced their support for a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. In this episode Andrew Stuck catches up with **Justin Butcher**, who conceived and led it, who describes the Just Walk as a ‘pilgrimage of penance’ and a ‘march of solidarity’. Crossing the Alps by the St Bernard Pass to north western Italy was rivalled in its beauty by the Albanian countryside. Accompanied by groups of walkers of different faiths and nationalities, a core group walked the whole distance, meeting refugees making journeys in the opposite direction, and being welcomed as celebrities by Palestinians. It is an extraordinary undertaking, chronicled by Justin in his best selling book entitled “Walking to Jerusalem”. 22’38” 10.6MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in December 2018 on a cold winter morning along the Parkland Trail from Finsbury Park to Highgate Woods, London. Published in April 2020 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Walking to Jerusalem: blisters, hope and other factors on the ground by Justin Butcher Published by Hodder <https://www.hachette.co.uk/titles/justin-butcher/walking-to-jerusalem/9781473673717/>

The Just Walk to Jerusalem took place in 2017 and was sponsored by the Amos Trust <https://www.amostrust.org/>

Pen Hadow, polar explorer <http://www.penhadow.com/>

The walk was bookended by two anniversaries in the Palestinian struggle: leaving London on the 10th June 2017, the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the Six Day War [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War) and Occupation and finish on the centenary of the Balfour Declaration on the 2nd November [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour\\_Declaration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration) .

Harry Bucknall [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Bucknall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Bucknall) who had walked the via Francigena [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via\\_Francigena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Francigena) from Canterbury to Rome and was the author of “Like at tramp, like a pilgrim” <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/like-a-tramp-like-a-pilgrim-9781408187241/> entitled after a phrase in the prologue of Patrick Leigh Fermor’s “Time of Gifts”. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Time\\_of\\_Gifts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Time_of_Gifts)

Ian Brodrick of the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome and Jerusalem <https://powerofpilgrimage.wordpress.com/about/>

Great St Bernard pass in the Swiss Alps into northern Italy following the via Francigena diverting at Piacenza <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piacenza> , just north of Tuscany, down the via Imelia to Ancona <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancona> on the Adriatic coast and then ferry to Durres, Albania <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durr%C3%ABs> to join the via Egnatia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via\\_Egnatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Egnatia) all the way to Constantinople.

The Holyland Trust led by Sami Ahmed <https://www.discoverthenetworks.org/organizations/holy-land-trust-ht/>

The Abraham Walking trail [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham\\_Path](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Path)