

# Bespoke Bennington for Bishop's Pilgrimage

When Ann Bishop hatched her plan to drive the Via

Francigena from Reims to Rome, she turned to Bennington's to help her find a carriage to fit the bill. Serendipity was at work as the team at Bennington were working on a new prototype of an all round family vehicle with interchangeable backs which could be used for pleasure driving or a working vehicle on a small holding.

Aptly named the Versatile, the carriage has been designed to have the options of a tipping back and wheelbarrow (for poo picking or other light farm duties) and side facing seats or forward facing seats, so it has the capability of taking the kids for a ride around the lanes or

doing jobs around the fields. It also has poles to drive a single or a pair.

Ann snapped up the prototype Versatile for her pilgrimage and worked with Bennington to make the adjustments needed for her journey. An 18-inch detachable extension was added along with side panels to create additional storage space. Ann and her travelling companion Francesca Firrett are carrying everything they need for the trip including food, water, medical supplies, grooming and camping equipment for them and the horses so extra storage capacity on the carriage was a prerequisite.

A roll bar was also added to carry lights and a solar panel. The solar panel drives the



battery for the lights, a USB port and cigarette lighter for charging the iPad and running a small fridge. Ann also has a Go Pro camera fitted to the carriage so she can record her journey on video.

The carriage was set up to drive her pair Pebbles and Samson with Captain Jack Sparrow, Ann's gypsy cob, tethered at that back carrying the lighter weight items needed on the trip in specially designed panniers.

Once Ann has returned, she can remove the attachments and use her Versatile as a standard vehicle around her small holding, until she gets itchy feet again and takes off on another pilgrimage.

- For more information on the Versatile contact Bennington Carriages on 01400 281280. To follow the pilgrims' progress visit [www.cycleclipsandhoofpicks.wordpress.com](http://www.cycleclipsandhoofpicks.wordpress.com)

