



Pilgrim Paths

Chipping Norton Deanery

Milton To Shipton Circular Walk.

3 Miles

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place

This leaflet offers Bible passages and reflections to accompany your journey, with suggestions of places to pause. Please allow much more time than you would usually spend on a walk to be able to pause and take in the suggested ideas and activities. We would think you need two hours or maybe longer.

The circular walk includes some road walking through the village, footpaths through fields and negotiating some stiles.

St. Simon & St. Jude at Milton under Wychwood

Preparing : Inside the Church

The church of St. Simon and St. Jude at Milton under Wychwood is open during daylight hours. Built in 1854, the architect was G.E. Street and it is a fine example of Victorian architecture.



Can you spot
the four patron
saints of the
British Isles

... St. George, St. Andrew, St. David & St Patrick

There are a lot more saints in other stained glass windows.

Can you find who is holding a saw, a basket, and a boat?



There's another special window worth a look. It's very different in style to the ones of the saints.

To give you a clue, it's got hens and lambs in it and is a riot of colour!



Can you also find three words that are the motto for the probation service? One word in each light

Advise, Assist, Befriend

We are going to use a Psalm to help us think about the amazing world which is all around us as we walk.

A Psalm is one of the ancient songs of worship to God, and they are found in both the Jewish and Christian scriptures.

Many of the Psalms were written for pilgrimage, particularly for the Jewish people as they travelled to Jerusalem, the centre of their religion.



Starting out

As you leave the church, stop and look up at the sky, breathe in the fresh air. Listen and see what else you notice.

Psalm 104

Lord God, you are great;

you are clothed with splendour and majesty

2 The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;

he stretches out the heavens like a tent

3 and lays the beams of his upper chamber on their waters.

He makes the clouds his chariot

and rides on the wings of the wind.

4 He makes winds his messengers,

flames of fire his servants



A Prayer

Guardian of our life, guide us on our way this day.

Keep us safe from harm.

Deepen our relationship with you, your Earth, and all your family. Strengthen your love within us

that we may be a presence of your peace in our world. Amen

Tom Pfeffer & Joyce Rupp

Turn Right

Turn right out of the Lychgate along the pavement past the old school, now converted to houses (also designed by Street). Take the first road on the right – Lyneham

Road - and walk about 500 metres down this quiet country lane past Heath Farm, on the left, where top class dressage horses are trained.

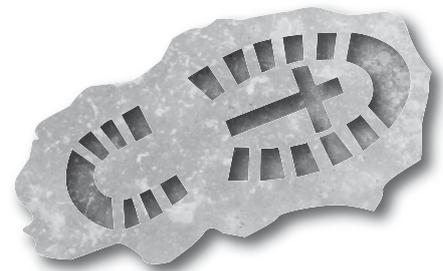


To The Left

Away to the left are the Bruern Woods and the ancient monastic site of Bruern Abbey.

Turn right down a footpath signposted Oxfordshire Way - possibly muddy initially but it improves.

Follow the path past a new wood, through a gate and then through two grass fields to another gate.



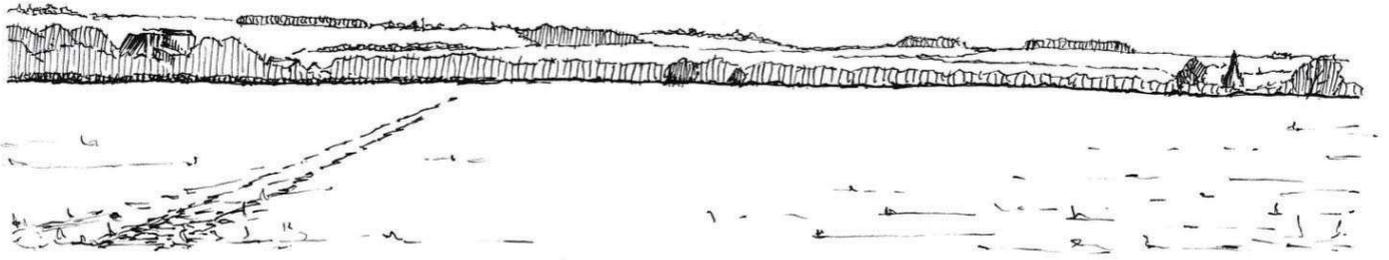
Pause Here & enjoy the open views

*14 He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate –
bringing forth food from the earth:
15 wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.*



Ahead

Directly ahead you can see Shipton Church and, to the **left**, Matthews' Flour Mill. 100 years of milling flour in this building was celebrated in 2012.



Bread sustains our hearts because having good food makes us feel good. You may like to think about what else gives you the feel-good factor? Consider these words of Jesus,

'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.' (Matthew 4.4)



Continue

Crossing the middle of the next field, **turn left** at the corner formed by projecting hedges. After 200 metres with the hedge on your right, **turn right** onto a track which eventually crosses a brook (Littlestock Brook).

This track now turns into a tarmac road - **Meadow Lane**.

There's another good view of the flour mill from here on your **left**.

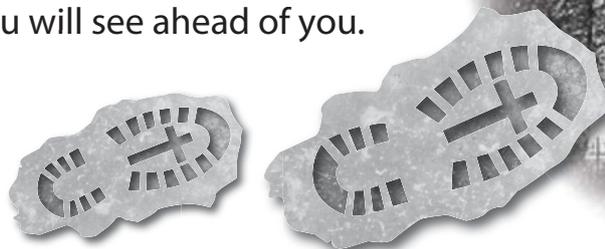


Follow

Follow Meadow Lane until you reach the main road (A361) where you will **turn right** -

or take a short cut across the grounds of Beaconsfield Hall, if there's no game in progress. You might also like to stop at the children's playground behind the hall if you have youngsters with energy to spare!

Whichever route you choose, **cross** the main road and **continue** down Church Path, opposite the main entrance to Beaconsfield Hall, and proceed to the Church of St Mary the Virgin which you will see ahead of you.



Approaching

Depending what time of year you are walking, one of these sketches will look more accurate than the other. These trees are pollarded Limes.



Sometimes it's hard to believe that treatment like this can produce the growth for the next season.



Pause Here

You may like to think about, or share, an experience of new opportunities following 'hard pruning'.



new growth

rejuvenation

pruning back

hard pruning

seasons



Please draw your map here . .

Pilgrim Paths



The Church

As you walk past the church, notice how much lower the floor of the tower is than the rest of the building. The doorway has splendid carving from the early 13th century but the tower has Norman foundations.

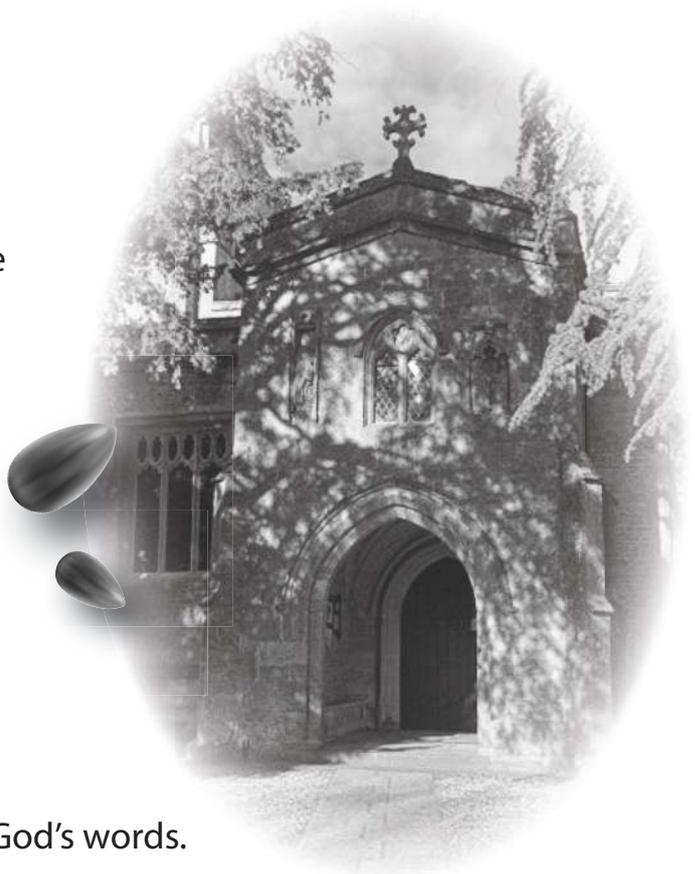
Go to the end of the path and **turn left** to go into the church through the beautifully vaulted south porch.

Inside The Church

There's a switch inside the door to turn on the lights.

There are two windows, either side of the door, based on the same story that Jesus told about sowing seeds.

They are asking us to think about the results of the choices we make - seed that we can encourage to grow, or that can be destroyed.



Jesus warned people to take care to nurture goodness and truth which he summed up as God's words.

If you have time to look up the passage, there are Bibles on the shelf and on the seats; just turn to **Matthew chapter 13**.

St. Paul put it another way . . .

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, what ever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8



Find . .

the windows and see how each artist has tried to illustrate the point.

On leaving the church (not forgetting to switch off the lights!) walk straight ahead to the gate onto Church Road.

Turn Right

Turn right and walk up the hill towards the Shaven Crown. Founded in the 14th century by the monks of Bruern Abbey, it was built to house pilgrims and as a hospice for the poor and needy.



Shipton Court

Turn left

Turn left and walk along the pavement for 400 metres until you reach the gates to Shipton Court, a beautiful Jacobean house, on your left.



Wild Garden

On the other side of the road, directly opposite, is the entrance to the Wild Garden: 12.5 acres of woods and ponds created as a pleasure garden for Shipton Court but now owned and managed by the local community who keep it open for locals and visitors to visit. Walk down the lovely avenue of lime trees with Shipton Cricket Club on **your left**.

The standard of cricket is high. In recent years Shipton has won the Village Cricket Club competition twice, playing the final at Lords.





Follow . . .

Follow the path until you reach the ponds
Take some time here to slow your pace or sit on a bench. This place, like the church buildings, gives us a chance to feel we have reached a destination on the journey.



Pause Here

A point to pause and reflect

Here we are, finally still, Ready to listen, ready to wait. Lord God help us to find you. You are the well spring of life, All things are come from you. We have come here to rest and gather strength.



Bear Left

Bear left round the opposite side of the ponds and exit the Wild Garden through the gate onto Dog Kennel Lane.



Turn right

Turn right and follow this muddy track for 500 metres. The crop in the fields to your right is *Myscanthus* or elephant grass, a bio-fuel.

At the gate at the end of the lane bear half-right, keeping the new triangular wood on **your left**.

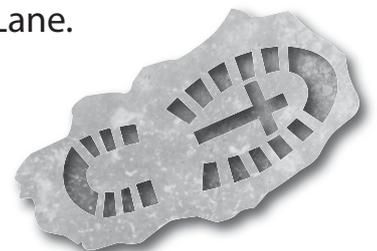
At the end of the wood **bear left** over a stream.

Walk across the middle of the grass field to a steel kissing gate by another stream.

Cross the next grass field and go through the gate onto Jubilee Lane.

Follow Jubilee Lane to come out on the High Street.

Turn right and walk down to The Milton Hare pub.





Returning

Cross the road and turn left down Church Road to arrive back at Milton Church after 400 metres.

A Prayer

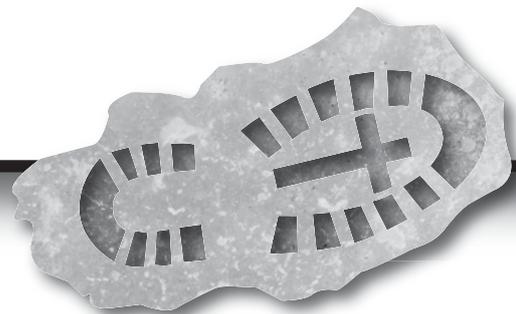
*Sometimes our way may have been
tedious and our feet are now tired.
Other times we rejoiced
on the path stretching before us.*

*As we set this time apart,
And turned our steps to pilgrimage,
May our thoughts please God,
as our hearts respond with gladness.*

Amen



Notes



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