

Bicester and Islip Deanery

Route
3

Pilgrim Paths

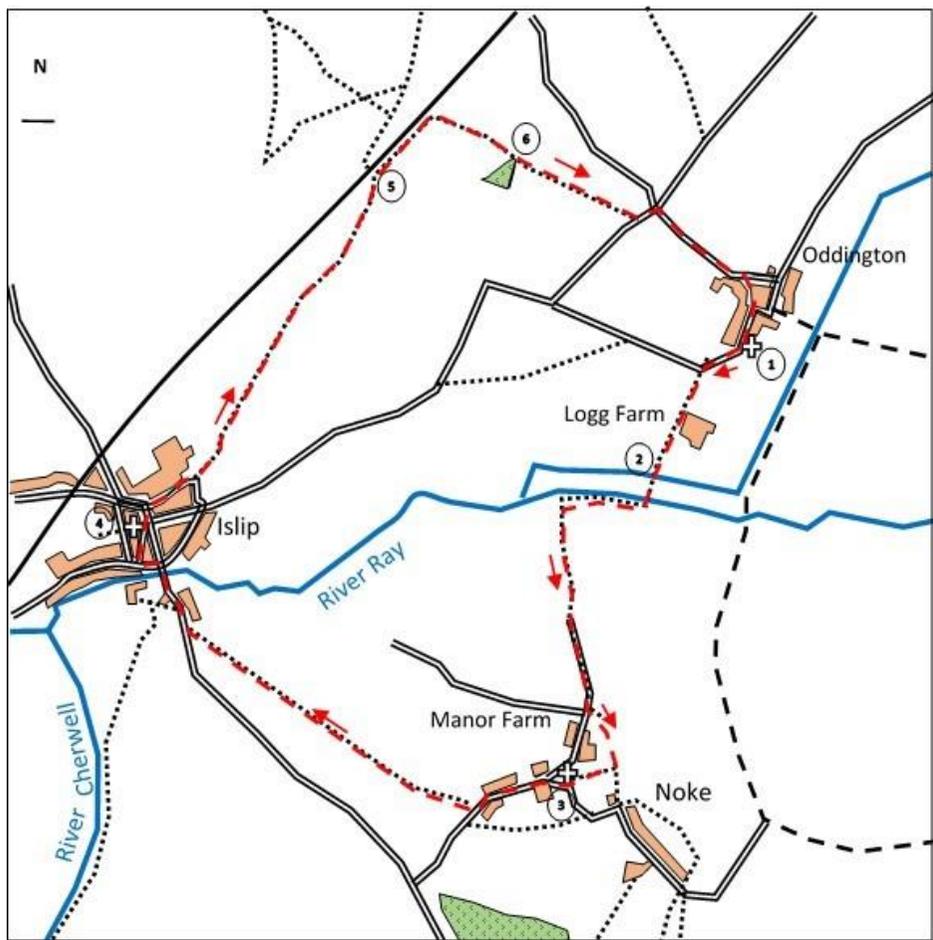
Oddington to Noke to Islip Circular Walk

Distance: 5.25 miles

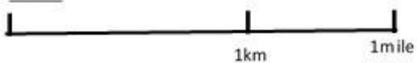
A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place.

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 contemplate the journey.

The circular walk may include road walking through villages, footpaths through woods and fields and negotiating some stiles. You may also encounter sheep, cattle or horses grazing in the fields.



SCALE



KEY

-  Pilgrim Path
-  Road
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  River
-  Railway
-  Station
-  Village/Farm
-  Woods
-  Church

START

LOCATION: Church of St Andrew, Oddington



Pause, Reflect & Pray

Be with us, Lord God, as we set out today. Open our eyes to see the beauty of your creation and open our hearts to receive your love.

Amen.

St Andrew's Church is the Pilgrimage Church of the Ray Valley Benefice. An ancient preaching cross pictured, the only complete one in Oxfordshire, stands erect in the church yard. Near the door of the church a small bronze plaque marks the grave of the Maori Princess, Maggie Papakura (known as Margaret Staples-Browne).



Enjoy the views of Otmoor from St Andrews churchyard (1). Turn left out of the churchyard and after 200 yards take the footpath signed Noke straight across the field, following the footpath, to cross over a stile. Turn left and continue following the path to the right of Logg Farm, crossing over another stile and then eventually crossing the River Ray and the Old Ray. Turn right, along the far bank of the Old Ray. On reaching the field boundary turn left, keeping the hedgerow on your right. Across to your right you should eventually see the tower of St. Nicholas, Islip. You will reach a low concrete building which is a small water tower and is sometimes rather overgrown. Follow the path to the right of this, continuing in a straight line. In about 200 yards, turn left on a track around Manor Farm, through a small wood and then immediately right after the wood on the bridleway (3) leading to St Giles' Church. (4)



Photo: Nigel Lambert



LOCATION: Church of St Giles, Noke

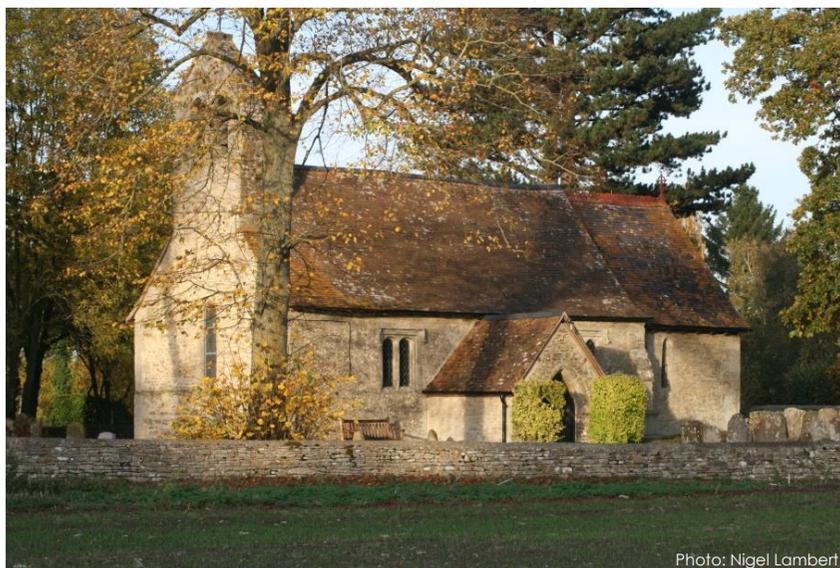


Photo: Nigel Lambert



The Church of St. Giles dates from the 13th century, in the “Early English” style and is thought to have originally been a chapel of Islip church. It was restored in the 16th century and again in the late 19th century. It is in a simple style, but constructed of fine stone. Particularly in the 19th century when Noke was a poor, agricultural community the church was of great importance, with the village school next to it. A recent feature is a modern stained glass window commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War 2.

Pause, Reflect & Pray

As you gaze at the stained-glass window seeing the light flow through the colours into the church, give thanks to the men and women who fought to give us our freedom.

Pray for resolution to the many wars that are happening now, that leaders can come together and peace may reign.

From St. Giles walk straight ahead on the road, climbing out of the village. After the last house on the right, turn right on the Oxfordshire Way. As you reach the highest level look across to your right to see Oddington and Charlton-on-Otmoor in the distance. Straight ahead you will see Islip.

Emerge from the footpath on to the B4027 Wheatley Road, just above Islip Bridge. Turn right, initially walking on the verge and then crossing the bridge on the left-hand side. Follow the path around to the left and then bear right up “The Walk” towards the village centre. Bear left past The Elms cottage on the gravel track to St. Nicholas Church (4).



Photo: Nigel Lambert



LOCATION: Church of St Nicholas, Islip



Photo: Nigel Lambert



The Church of St. Nicholas is a Grade 1 listed stone building, the oldest parts of which were built in about 1200. Edward the Confessor is said to have been baptised at an earlier church on the site. The church was rebuilt in the latter part of the 15th century and has altered very little since then. It was restored in 1854-55 with new roofs erected and the nave reseated. A glass screen, designed by Nicholas Mynheer, was installed in 2011, depicting scenes from the life of St. Nicholas.

Pause, Reflect & Pray

We are part of a long shared Christian heritage. As you stand in this place, where so many have walked, think about your place in history.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

NIV 1 Peter 2:9



Photo: Nigel Lambert

From St. Nicholas return to the main road through the village. Turn left, go past the Red Lion public house and then go right down North Street. On a sharp right-hand bend take the footpath straight ahead, marked "Oxfordshire Way".

Continue on the Oxfordshire Way across the fields until you reach the footbridge over the railway (5). Do not cross the bridge, but instead continue on a footpath which has the railway which has the railway on your left.



Photo: Nigel Lambert



Photo: Nigel Lambert

At the end of the field the footpath turns right, towards a wood, home to roe deer. Go through the edge of the wood and over a footbridge shown here (6). The footpath goes straight across the field on the other side of the footbridge towards the Islip to Merton road.

There is a gap in the far hedge which takes you on to the road. Turn left, taking care as there is fast moving traffic. After about 200 yards, turn right on the road to Oddington.



After the first few houses on your right take a track by the “Beyond the Pond” cottage which takes you back to the church.

Pause, Reflect & Pray

We have come to the end of our walk, taking the experience with us ...

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine brighten your heart.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.

Old Gaelic Blessing

END

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

LEAVE GATES AND PROPERTY AS YOU FIND THEM AND WALK ONLY ON
DESIGNATED PATHS.