

# Pilgrim Paths

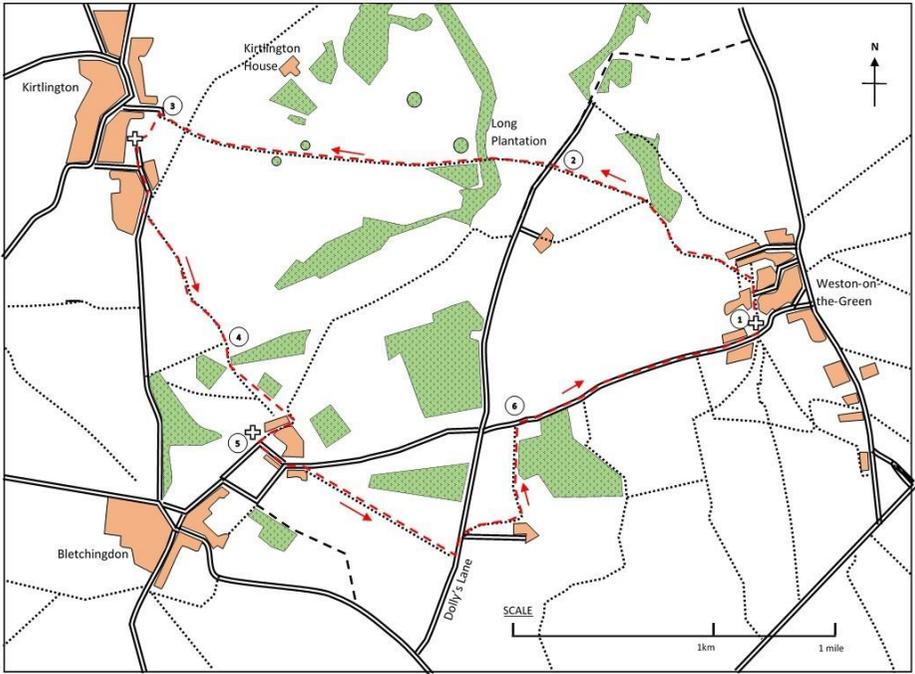
## Weston-on-the-Green, Kirtlington, Bletchingdon Circular Walk

Distance: 5.6 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.*



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

FOR ADDITIONAL WALKS  
PLEASE FIND US ON  
**FACEBOOK**  
at  
**Bicester and Islip Deanery  
Pilgrim Paths**

## START

**LOCATION:** Church of St Mary the Virgin,  
Weston-on-the-Green



## 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.

*The church has Norman origins, but had fallen into disrepair by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when it was rebuilt by Norreys Bertie, Lord of the Manor, as a characteristically Georgian box-like church, with no chancel. There was an elaborate plaster ceiling, but this collapsed in 1810. The surviving ornate plasterwork around the south door is of high quality. Note that there is no east window – instead there is an altarpiece displaying the Ten Commandments, reputedly by the Italian master Pompeo Batoni.*



Leave the church (1) by the gate leading to the village hall, and follow the footpath leading off the village hall car park, alongside a stream (signposted 'Private Access - Walnut Tree Cottage') to Westlands Avenue. Cross diagonally right next to number 22 to continue on the footpath between some bungalows and through a kissing gate. Cross the field diagonally left to another kissing gate in the far left-hand corner. Go through the gate and turn left to cross a concrete bridge over a mill stream, through a third kissing gate and cross the next field slightly right to a footbridge over another stream. Turn right following the field edge to the corner of the field, and then follow the track through the spinney and through a gap in the hedge into a large field. Here you have a choice of paths. Take the Oxfordshire Way, crossing diagonally left and through a gap out onto a broad track (2). Turn right, and then immediately left to follow the Oxfordshire Way diagonally left across this field and through 'Long Plantation'. On leaving the spinney through a wooden gate, cross a farm track and on entering another wooden gate opposite, continue on the Oxfordshire Way, with a small plantation on the left. When this plantation / hedgerow ends (shown), go left into an open field continuing diagonally across the field on the



Oxfordshire Way. You will shortly have a view of Kirtlington House to your right. Carry on past a small wood on your right and into a grass field, crossing diagonally left to a gate leading into Kirtlington Park. Do not go into the park but continue following the Oxfordshire Way, keeping the hedge on your right all the time until you reach Kirtlington Village Hall (3). Go to the right of the Village Hall and take the footpath skirting the playing field to visit the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kirtlington.



## LOCATION: Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kirtlington



The earliest record of a church here is in the Domesday Book of 1086, though there may well have been a church here in Saxon times. The



oldest visible parts of the church are the Norman arches supporting the central tower, and a tympanum over the vestry door. On the south side of the tower is the Chapel of Our Lady, also known as the Dashwood Chapel, as it was rebuilt

in 1716 by Sir Robert Dashwood, who had it converted into a family vault. In 1770 the tower was deemed unsafe and demolished, being rebuilt in 1853. In 1877 the chancel was restored. One of the most notable features of the church is the wall painting above the font, depicting St George and the Dragon with St Christopher. In 2009, the Victorian pews and floor tiles were replaced with York paving and modern chairs, and a much-needed lavatory and other facilities were introduced.



## Pause, Reflect & Pray

As we look at St George and the dragon, let us remember areas of the world where innocent people are suffering at the hands of evil.

Lord, help us to stand courageously to fight injustice where it occurs both in our country and in those countries far away. May we walk in your paths of righteousness. Amen.

Turn left on leaving the church to the gate and continue down the path, with the playing fields on your left. On reaching the road continue straight ahead, until you reach the stone gate posts that form



the entrance to the driveway of Park House (shown here) on the left. Ignore the first footpath by the Park House entrance but continue a further 40 metres to take a footpath on the left (signposted 'Bletchingdon Park ¾'). Cross the double stile into a small paddock, where you bear slightly right across the paddock to reach another stile. Cross this stile and enter a field (shown below), following the footpath down to the

bottom right hand corner of the field (as marked by the arrow). On

reaching the bottom corner turn left and continue along the track with a hedge on your right towards a wood. After about 250 metres turn right off the track, following the footpath through a gate in a wall. After going through the gate turn left to follow the path to a gate between two



plantations (4). Continue straight ahead up a slope, following the permissive path, with a fence on your left, and into a small paddock alongside the converted stables of Bletchingdon Park. Bear right across the paddock to the stile in the far right hand corner, following the permissive path. Cross the stile and continue past the stables up a gravel drive to the Church of St Giles, Bletchingdon (5).



## LOCATION: Church of St Giles, Bletchington



Photo: Andrew Thomas



As with many churches, there is no precise record of the first building here. The chancel is the oldest part, with a Norman lintel visible on the outside south wall and the nave being 15<sup>th</sup> century. The porch was added in 1695 and the church enlarged and other changes made in 1878. In 2000, a kitchen and lavatory were added. You can read of the many virtues of The Rev'd Isaac Bacon, whose memorial is on the chancel's south wall. Also don't miss the beautiful window of St Francis and the animals.



Photo: Barbara Walton

### Pause, Reflect & Pray

Reflect on the beauty and variety in God's creation as you gaze at the window. His creation is truly amazing!

Praise the Lord from the earth ...

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

*Psalms 148: 7,13*

On leaving the church, turn right and then continue straight through the car park, down the narrow lane to Church End and onto the Weston road. Turn left towards Weston-on-the-Green and, after the houses on the right, take the footpath on the right that leads through a small spinney. On leaving the spinney, continue on the same line straight down the next field and over a footbridge into the next field. Continue on the same line, keeping the hedge on your right and out onto Dolly's Lane. Turn left on Dolly's Lane and, immediately after the second farm entrance on the right, take the footpath on the right signposted Weston. Cross this field diagonally, following the footpath through the gateway in the far corner. Turn left over a footbridge and follow the edge of the woodland to a stile into the next field. Cross the stile and head directly across the next field and over another stile onto the road (6). Turn right, follow the road back into Weston for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and return 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.