

## Church2Church Walks in Warwickshire – Page 13

### No 31. St. Mary and Holy Cross Church - Alderminster to St. Mary's Church - Whitchurch

[www.shipstondeanery.co.uk](http://www.shipstondeanery.co.uk)

Distance: 1.6 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 230 486

The churchyard that surrounds this pretty 12<sup>th</sup> century church is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and is a place of sanctuary for flowers, animals and wildlife.

Exit the churchyard of St. Mary and Holy Cross Church and walk out to the A3400. Now walk to the L along the A3400 for approx. 700 yards to pass The Bell Inn on the way. Look for the combined PG/FG on the L at the side of the last property on the L. Through the gate, walk down to cross over the ditch culvert and then the FB spanning the River Stour. Now keep the same line to the hedge corner directly ahead. Walk with the HTL and follow the FP out to the lane at Whitchurch. Walk to the L on the lane to pass Whitchurch Farm and Park House. Now take the PG on the L and cross the field diagonally to the R to a ST by a FG. Walk over to the PG and then go to the R to enter the churchyard of St. Mary's Church. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;

### No 32. St. Mary's Church - Whitchurch to St. Mary the Virgins - Preston on Stour

[www.shipstondeanery.co.uk](http://www.shipstondeanery.co.uk)

Distance: 1.9 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 227 486

The setting for St. Mary's is remote – you reach the church across a field and it is in a gloriously peaceful spot, close to the River Stour.

Exit the churchyard of St. Mary's and walk to the R and then take the PG on the L and over to a ST by a FG. Now cross the field diagonally to the L, to aim for a PG out on to the lane, next to the property. Walk to the R on the lane, to pass Park House and Whitchurch Farm. Continue on into the village of Wimpstone and then head down to the R, with The Spin Mill, Ashby's Farm on the corner. Use the pedestrian pathway, which joins Wimpstone Lane by the telephone kiosk and keep going to the R.

Where Wimpstone Lane turns sharply to the R, a short distance before the river bridge, cross over the lane and take the ST by a FG (part of Shakespeare's Way). Walk forward as far as the corner of the works and then TL and cross the field to a PG/Bridge/PG, to enter the field beyond. Walk SA until you find the hedge and river is on your R and follow until both turn away to the R. Now continue SA to cross the field to aim for a combined PG/FG to the L of the sewage farm. Keep this forward line in the next field to a PG in the field corner and out on to the lane.

Walk into the village of Preston on Stour and after passing the Village Hall and the P.O/Shop, turn L by the War Memorial and walk uphill to pass the telephone kiosk and on to enter the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgins Church. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;

### No 33. St. Mary the Virgins - Preston on Stour to St. Helen's Church - Clifford Chambers

[www.shipstondeanery.co.uk](http://www.shipstondeanery.co.uk)

Distance: 2.2 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 203 500

St. Mary's church and churchyard is rather like stepping back in time as you wander up the main footpath. Sheep are still used to keep the grass down and the yew trees date back half a millennium.

Exit the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgins and walk downhill to the L, to pass the telephone kiosk and to meet the main road through the village. Now walk to the L and at the end of the road with Park Farm opposite, TR to take the narrow lane. At the bottom with the Old Vicarage in front, TL along a lane that soon becomes a path leading to a PG and into the grounds of Alscot Park (part of Shakespeare's Way). A clearly defined grassy path bears slightly to the L to a PG by a FG, just to the L of a mound. Now follow the field boundary to the R and along to the first field corner. Go to the R here to follow a FP through the trees and with the ditch on the L. The FP crosses a ditch culvert and continues on along the field boundary to exit out on to a lane by the road bridge.

Walk to the L into Atherstone on Stour, to pass the former church of St. Mary's and then continue on around the corner to the Georgian Old Rectory House. Approximately 300 yards further on the lane TR through a wide gateway on to a track and follow, crossing the gallops and to pass to the side of a large FG. Approx. 250 yards further on, look for a FP on the L (a part of Shakespeare's Way) and follow around to exit out on to Main Street at Clifford Chambers.

Walk to the L into the village and to pass The Old Rectory and further on to enter the churchyard of St. Helen's Church. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;