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No 9. St. Leonard's Church - Priors Marston to St. Mary's Church - Priors Hardwick

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk Distance 4.0 miles Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 489 576

There are many fine old trees, mainly yew and cedar in St. Leonard's churchyard and the two most impressive cedars standing to the west and north of the church date back to 1810 and 1814.

To exit the churchyard of St. Leonard's Church, take the path that leads towards <u>Priors School</u>. Through the PG, follow the pathway SA and out to <u>School Lane</u> with <u>The Holly Bush Inn</u> on the opposite corner. Go to the R here, and to walk along School Lane and at the road junction, cross to take the way-marked FP almost opposite. After crossing over a ST, walk into the field and aim diagonally to the R to a gap in the far corner. Now follow with the HTR until approx. 100yards from the farmhouse where the path crosses through the hedge. Walk with the HTL to arrive at the farmyard of <u>The Meadows Farm</u>. Proceed through the farmyard and cross the corner of the field beyond to a small spinney. Follow the FP through the spinney to exit over a plank bridge. Now walk to the L with the spinney on the L and to keep SA to cross over the first field. Pass through the hedge over a plank bridge and then to walk diagonally L in the second to a FG at the meeting with the road.

Walk downhill to the R to pass both <u>Cotswold Lodge</u> and <u>Marston Meadows Farm</u> and on towards <u>Marston Doles</u>. Cross over the road bridge spanning the canal and immediately TL to go through a metal PG on to the canal towpath at <u>Bridge No 119</u>, Marston Doles Lock 16. Follow the <u>Oxford Canal Walk</u> to the R as far as <u>Bridge No.123</u> and then leave the canal to cross over the bridge and through a BG on to a wide UCR/BW track. Continue on the track until the next FG. Through the gate, follow the track forward and then around to the R to a FG. Now follow the track, passing through field-gates and Hollow Meadow Farm all the way to meet the main road running through the village. At the main road, walk SA and around to the L with care and take the lane SA, sign-posted to <u>village centre</u>. Pass the Butcher's Arms and the <u>War Memorial</u> both on the L and on to enter the churchyard of St. Mary's Church. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;

No 10. St. Mary's Church - Priors Hardwick to St. Peter's Church - Wormleighton

Distance 3.8 miles

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 472 562

This simple but beautiful church has been used for Christian worship for over 800 years. The modern lych-gate was built in 1862 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

To exit the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, walk towards the lych-gate and take the FP on the L a short distance before reaching it. Follow the path down to a FB and PG entrance into a field. Cross SA to the PG and follow the pathway between wooden fencing to the end, but do not exit the field. Instead take the PG on the L and follow with the HTR to the ST in the field corner. Exit out on to the lane (at a more safe position} and walk L as far as the crossroads at <u>London End</u>. Head to the R into <u>Welsh Road</u> (direction of <u>Boddington</u>) and to walk out of the village. Take the first FG on the R, to join a BW (part of <u>The Millenium Way</u>). Follow through two more field-gates and after bearing first around to the L and then to the R look for the BG on the L. Cross SA over the field to aim for the right hand corner of the wood. Keep the same forward line to walk with the HTL until the BW passes through a gap in the hedge. TR and follow with HTR along to <u>Berryhill Farm</u>, where the path turns L to go around to exit on to the farm drive through double gates. Walk L down the farm drive and over a cattle grid out to the lane at <u>Stoneton</u>.

Now walk to the R along the lane as though heading back towards Priors Hardwick for approx. 700yds and take a ST on the L by a telephone pole into a large field. Cross the field diagonally to the L to aim for the ST in the fence just to the R of <u>Stoneton Moat Farm</u>. Proceed on the farm drive and where it turns L towards the house take the FP directly ahead passing through 2 x PG/FG in quick succession. Cross the field diagonally to the R over the <u>Site of the Medieval Village of Stoneton</u>, to aim for the R corner of <u>Newfield</u> <u>Pool</u>. Follow with Newfield Pool on the L to cross a plank bridge and into the next field. Now walk L to follow the field boundary with the HTL as far as the way-marker post. Cross L through the hedge and walk SA across the next field to aim for a gap in the hedge and a way-marker post, at the start of a track. Follow the track to reach a PG entrance into a small paddock. Exit the paddock by another PG and follow the pathway out to view <u>The Gatehouse</u>. To enter the churchyard of St. Peter's Church take the wooden hand-gate directly opposite The Gatehouse. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;