

Church2Church Walks in Warwickshire – Page 10

No 22. St. Michael's Church - Whichford to St. Peter & St. Paul Church - Long Compton

www.shipstondeanery.co.uk

Distance 2.3 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 312 346

Exit the churchyard of St. Michael's Church on to the lane through the front gates. Walk to the L a short distance and then go over to the combined FG/PG on the R, to enter a field. In the field, follow the well walked FP heading slightly to the R to pass to the rear of the gardens and on to meet another clearly defined FP (part of the Macmillan Way) going uphill from the R and aim for the top corner of woodland. The path now becomes enclosed for a short distance before reaching a field. Head to the R and follow the edge of Whichford Wood as far as the third way-marker post. Now leave the Macmillan Way to head across the field diagonally to the L to aim for the first large tree from the L at Redliff Hill. Over the field, go down an enclosed track and through a FG at the bottom, to enter a field. Walk forward and around the base of the hill, where a wonderful view opens out over Long Compton and continue downhill to follow the fence protected trees and to pass the water spring on the way to a FG in front at the bottom. Through the FG keep the HTL to a second FG which leads out to cross over a track and the FP now heads diagonally to the R across the next field to a FB. Keep the same diagonal line to reach Long Compton through a gateway at the end of a farm track.

Walk SA up Vicarage Lane for approx. 175 yards and take the pathway on the R opposite Yerdley Farm. Now walk to the L along Malthouse Lane to reach the A3400 (Oxford Road). Cross the A3400 to enter the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul Church through the unusual lych-gate, known locally as 'the gate house'. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;

No 23. St. Peter & St Paul Church – Long Compton to St. Lawrence's Church – Barton on the Heath

www.shipstondeanery.co.uk

Distance 4.1 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 287 330

Inside the porch you'll find the recumbent figure of a 14th century lady. No-one knows for sure who the mystery woman is.

Exit the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul Church through the lych-gate. Now walk SA to follow the A3400 towards the centre of the village, to cross Buryway Lane and then to pass The Stores (village shop) on the way to the Village Hall.

At the far perimeter of the grounds of the village hall go R through a gate and follow the FP (part of both Shakespeare's Way and Macmillan Way). Pass through another gate and then head diagonally to the L across the field to a ST by a gate in the top corner, climbing over another ST by a gate on the way. TL on the track and immediately R on to a tarmac drive and follow until the drive TR into a property. Now keep SA to follow with the HTR up to a point where the field boundary turns to the R and then maintain direction and climb to the top corner of the field. Climb the ST tucked in the corner and aim for the way-marker post in front and then proceed by walking slightly to the L to another post by a FG. Now head towards South Hill Farm and enter the farmyard over a ST by a FG. Follow the track ahead to the end of the farm buildings on the L and then cross the field beyond to aim for a point to the R of the satellite mast. Exit out of the field through a gap in the wall by the chevron road signs.

Walk to the R on the road and take the opening on to the BW and follow for approx. 1 mile to pass Neakings Barn and Wheelbarrow Castle to reach the lane. Cross the lane into the BW opposite and follow until a FG on the R, just before Salter's Well Farm. Pass through the FG (now part of Donnington Way) and two more that come in quick succession to enter a field and follow the garden fence downhill to climb a ST, which is in the fence in front. Continue on with the F and HTL to a gateway in the corner and then cross the field ahead diagonally to a pair of stiles in the bottom field corner. Over the stiles follow the field boundary to the R, climb a ST by a FG and keep SA with the HTR across to a fence on the opposite side. Now aim slightly to the R to cross over the brook through a gap in the hedge and maintain the line to a FG out on to the road at Barton on the Heath.

Walk to the R into the village and to enter the churchyard of St. Lawrence's Church, which is on the L. Your favourite spot in this churchyard:

No 24. St. Lawrence's Church – Barton on the Heath to St. Michael and All Angel's Church – Great Wolford

www.shipstondeanery.co.uk

Distance 2.3 miles

Map: Landranger 151; Start SP 256 325

Exit the churchyard of St. Lawrence's Church and walk to the L to pass the Village Green, with the elaborate domed memorial fountain of 1874 in the middle, opposite the gates to Barton House. Continue on through the village to pass Home Farm and around to the R at the corner and then look for the PG on the L, just passed the farm buildings.

Walk forward to go through a FG and then head down the field to climb a fence on the R, not quite in the bottom corner. Now cross the next field slightly to the L to go through the FG and keep this diagonal line to a FB over Nethercote Brook. TL and walk up to climb a ST in the top corner of the field. Walk over to the R field boundary and follow through two field-gates to reach a ST in the hedge on the R. Climb the ST and cross the corner of the next field to another ST and then head straight across the field beyond to meet a track out to the PG by a FG on the road at Nethercote.

Walk to the L on the road to go over Nethercote Bridge and take the PG on the R opposite Nethercote Fields. Follow the FP across to another PG and continue on the track heading towards St Michael and All Angels Church. Leave the track through the PG in front of Manor Farm and follow the pathway alongside the church to exit out on to the lane. Go to the L to enter the churchyard of St. Michael and All Angels Church. Your favourite spot in this churchyard;

