

MAIN ROUTE 12.5 miles

SECTION 1 - CHURCH TO WILDMOOR CAR PARK

START SU825618 Outside St Michaels Church, Lower Church Rd

END OF SECTION SU838630 Wildmoor Heath car park

THE ROUTE

Prayer Stop (before we start)

For all the people and activities at St Michaels

Walk along Lower Church Road away from Sandhurst.

Caution. There is no footpath or verge so we have to walk on the road.

At the T junction at the end turn left along the road (still no path or verge) and soon turn right into the Horseshoe Lake Entrance. In a few yards turn left into the car park.

Prayer Stop

For all those who enjoy recreation at Horseshoe Lake and the river.

At the far end of the car park keep ahead on a path which curves slightly left nearer to the road.

SU819619 Reach the river bank and turn right along the broad path.

Here we have joined the parish boundary.

At the end of the first lake on the right is a junction of paths. Keep left continuing to follow the riverside.

A few yards along at the corner of the next lake note the hide on the right.

Prayer Stop (here, or at any of several hides beside the second and third lakes)

For nature conservation

Continue along the riverside.

At the end of the second lake the path curves round to the right.

Here the parish boundary turns right across the end of the lake. We are not allowed access to the lake shore and still less to swim across, so reluctantly keep left to continue to follow the riverside.

Pass a footbridge on the left. Do not cross and keep ahead.

In a few yards the path divides as it continues straight ahead. Take the right option signposted for pedestrians.

SU805621 At the end of the lake reach a junction of paths. Here turn right, again taking the right option of the two parallel routes. Gravel workings are visible across to the left.

Keep ahead over a footbridge and on the far side again take the right option of the two parallel routes.

SU805628 At the end of the path keep ahead into Moor Green car park and at the far end turn right along the road.

Caution. Again there is no footpath or verge along this road.

Pass a postbox on the right.

SU809627 Between a large house and a row of brick houses all on the left is a gravel track on the left signposted "restricted byway". We will turn left along this track.

Prayer Stop

For those that work on the farms in this area. Nearest farm is Hall Farm a short distance further along the road as in the diversion below, but it is safer to stop in this gravel track rather than on the corner of the through road.

DIVERSION TO PARISH BOUNDARY (about 5 minutes each way)

Instead of turning keep straight ahead along the road, which soon curves right.

Caution. Limited visibility at the bend, so use the left side of the road and take care.

Pass the entrance to Hall Farm on the left.

Pass the main entrance to Monks Hall (a large house set back from the road) on the left.

SU813625 Continue to the next entrance on the left (the service entrance to Monks Hall).

This is where the parish boundary crosses the road.

Prayer Stop

At the boundary.

Turn around and return along the road to the row of brick cottages.

Caution. Limited visibility on the left bend just before the cottages, so use the right side of the road and take care.

At the far end of the cottages turn right on the gravel track as above.

END OF DIVERSION

Beyond buildings the track becomes narrower and rougher and climbs gently with woods on both sides.

The track curves right with an entrance and a National Trust sign on the left (this is the bottom of Finchampstead Ridges).

Prayer Stop

For the work of the National Trust in protecting our heritage

Continue along the track as it curves right up the hill.

After houses on the right the track dips down, then climbs again with trees on both sides, curving right then left.

SU814632 The track suddenly levels with a path junction a few yards beyond. The main route is straight on.

DIVERSION TO PARISH BOUNDARY (less than 5 minutes each way)

At the path junction take the right turn on a narrower path through the trees. The path is almost straight but at a muddy patch amongst the trees you may need to divert a little to the right then curve left to re-join the path.

The woodland slopes down steeply to the right; continue to follow the path along the top.

SY813621 Nearing the end of the woods a field is visible ahead and below. At the end the path drops down steeply, and the parish boundary crosses left to right at the bottom of the slope. You may prefer to just view this section of the boundary from the top rather than going down and back up again!

Prayer Stop

At the boundary.

Turn around and retrace your steps to the main track with the top of the hill nearby on the left.

At the path junction where we turned earlier turn right along the broad track.

END OF DIVERSION

Keep ahead on the track ignoring side turns.

SU814635 At the end of the track reach Wellingtonia Avenue.

Cross the road with care and turn right along the tarmac path on the far side.

Prayer Stop

The avenue of Sequoia trees was planted in honour of the Duke of Wellington (of course!)

At the roundabout keep straight ahead crossing the road with care.

Here we join the parish boundary

SU823637 At Crowthorne Station follow the road over the bridge then cross with care and turn right into St Francis Close. Head for the houses/flats straight ahead rather than the station building.

Prayer Stop

For those that travel by train.

The railway line was built in the early 1850's especially to serve Wellington College and Broadmoor.

Continue down the road. Where vehicles are blocked by a gate use the pedestrian gate beside it.

At the end of the road go slightly left then ahead into a narrow path, and follow that path as it curves right behind the buildings then left to follow a broad well used path alongside the railway line.

Initially industrial units are on the left, then the green boundary fence of Wellington College.

With an embankment ahead (and disused railway bridge visible ahead and to the right) follow the path as it curves left towards the College.

At the college gates ahead turn right on a signposted footpath.

Here we leave the parish boundary

SU826629 Soon on the right is a plaque and row of trees planted in 2003 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Wellington College.

Prayer Stop

For Wellington College. Face the plaque and the trees to pray for the origins and history, then turn around and look across the corner of the playing field where you will probably see some of the college buildings to pray for the present day students teachers and governors.

At the end of the line of commemorative trees we are close to the railway. Looking across the railway, Ambarrow Hill is slightly to the right, and the trees at Ambarrow Court further away to the left.

Prayer Stop (Maybe)

For the role of Ambarrow Court in the aircraft technology of WW2

Continue on the path beside the railway as it drops down beside the railway embankment.

SU828625 Approaching houses ahead curve slightly left on the path to take a narrow path between houses to reach Cheviot Rd.

OPTION TO LEAVE THE ROUTE HERE

To end the walk, turn right in Cheviot Rd and follow the road as it curves left. Turn right along Church Rd. Follow that road to the end and turn left along the path beside the main road to return to the church.

END OF OPTION

Turn left along Cheviot Rd.

At the junction follow Cheviot Rd round to the right, then turn left into Grampian Rd.

Soon reach the entrance to New Scotland Hill School on the left

Prayer Stop

For the school.

Beyond the school entrance keep slightly right then turn right into Allendale Close.

Walk along the left side of Allendale Close and at the end use the path straight ahead to reach Sandy Lane (at this point a rough track).

Turn left along Sandy Lane.

After a gentle climb the lane turns sharp right. Here keep straight ahead on a broad path into the woods.

At a gentle slope up, the path divides. The left option is slightly better surface but both are almost straight ahead and they join up a little later. Just before the divide the trees are open to the right and we catch a glimpse of Eagle House School.

Prayer Stop

Eagle House School.

Keep straight ahead across a gap in the trees, with electricity pylons overhead.

SU837631 In the trees beyond the gap the path rises to reach a bend in Sandhurst Rd, Crowthorne. Cross the road with care, and go ahead into the broad straight track into the trees on the far side.

Here we have joined the north boundary of the parish

To omit the visit to the car park continue ahead along the broad track.

About 100 yards after leaving the road look for the corner of a school playing field on the left. A metal gate is in the trees on the left. Opposite this gate turn right on a narrower footpath through the trees. Soon the path slopes down and reaches the corner of the Wildmoor Heath car park.

END OF WALK SECTION

SECTION 2 - WILDMOOR CAR PARK TO COMMUNITY HALL

START OF SECTION SU838630 Wildmoor Heath car park

END OF SECTION SU842613 Car park at Sandhurst Community Hall

THE ROUTE

Prayer Stop (before we start)

For all those who use Wildmoor Heath for recreation and for those that maintain it.

For the neighbouring community and parish of Crowthorne

Turn with your back to the main road and go to the far left corner of the car park. Ignore the path going ahead up the hill parallel to the pylons; instead turn left into the trees.

Soon reach a fork in the path. Take the right fork - actually almost straight ahead - and keep almost straight on until we are close to a school playing field visible ahead through the far edge of the trees. Here turn right along the broad straight track as in the previous section of the route.

At a junction of paths go through the gate and continue straight ahead.

Note. Cattle sometimes graze in this area. They are generally friendly but try to avoid disturbing them!

Follow the path over a hump with a seat nearby on the right. Just beyond the hump, houses of Owlsmoor are visible half right.

Prayer Stop

For the community and parish of Owlsmoor

Beyond the hump the path drops down to a junction of paths.

SU846630 Here turn left along the path.

Note: If you are walking this section at the same time as the Wildmoor Heath party this is the decision point where the two groups split!

Note: We return to this point later.

The first few yards of this path may be muddy but it soon becomes a good surface.

SU846632 Almost at the end of the heath pass through a gate, and in a few yards turn right over a sleeper bridge on another path through trees.

Later houses are nearby on the left. Keep straight ahead over a curious metal stile with one step.

Just beyond this stile there is a glimpse of Broadmoor across to the left.

SU850632 Drop down through trees to a junction with a tarmac path.

We will be going down the tarmac path on our right, but first we go ahead for a prayer stop with a better view of Broadmoor.

Follow the path straight ahead, crossing an awkward metal stile after a few yards.

Just after the stile is a field on the left. About half way along that field the view opens out and you can see both the old hospital (with security wall in front) and the new hospital under construction. The exact point to stop is not important.

Prayer Stop

For patients and staff at Broadmoor and for all that struggle with mental health issues.

SU853631 Preferably continue ahead along the path to a point where the path turns sharp left. This is as far as we can go on this section of the boundary.

The boundary continues ahead across a field to which we have no access and from there to the RMA training area!

Prayer Stop

At the corner of the boundary.

Turn around and return to the junction with the tarmac path just beyond the stile.

SU850632 Turn left through the gate and continue along the tarmac path/

Here we leave the parish boundary.

SU850629 Follow the tarmac path up a slope and through a barrier into the end of a wider tarmac lane.

Prayer Stop

Utilities: electricity line above us; gas control station and mobile phone mast on left. Also our water supply (including the pipeline under construction in Swinley Forest) even though nothing is visible for this.

Owlsmoor visible ahead (if we have not already prayed for it).

After a few yards the tarmac road curves gently left. About half way round this curve, turn right on a clear path up a short slope and follow path ahead with Wildmoor Heath information board on the right.

Follow the path downhill, and pass through a gate.

Note: We are back in the area where cattle sometimes graze.

SU846630 Reach the crossroads of paths where we turned earlier in the route.

Here turn left through a gate.

Follow the path onto a boardwalk.

Caution. Where boardwalks are mentioned take care to stay on them, as the area beside them can be very wet!

The boardwalk curves right then left and the path then leaves it into a narrow line of trees ahead. Follow another section of boardwalk.

At a third section of boardwalk follow the boardwalk through a gate ahead, and soon after go through another gate, still on the boardwalk.

Beyond the end of the boardwalk keep straight ahead in the woods through two gates fairly close together.

After a third gate keep straight ahead into a residential road (Thibet Rd).

SU840617 At the far end of Thibet Rd turn left along the road (Wellington Rd)

Keep ahead along Wellington Rd, passing Park Rd on the right.

SU842616 At Brookside (road) on the right, the St Mary's Site is on our left.

Caution: Bend in Wellington Rd restricts visibility.

Prayer Stop

For St Marys

Turn into Brookside

In Brookside keep straight on through a barrier towards the end of the road.

At the end of the road turn left and in a few yards use the pedestrian crossing to cross to the Community Centre car park.

END OF WALK SECTION

SECTION 3 - COMMUNITY HALL TO CHURCH

START OF SECTION SU842613 Car park Sandhurst Community Hall

END SU825618 Outside St Michaels Church, Lower Church Rd

THE ROUTE

Prayer Stop (before we start)

For the local groups that use the Community Hall .

For our council and councillors

For the sport groups that use the memorial park

For children and youth that use the play facilities and the skate park

For the local police (note police point at house to left of hall)

For those commemorated at the war memorial (face the hall then turn left to see the memorial)

For users of the Day Centre and staff and volunteers that work there. (end of Day Centre behind war memorial)

From the car park go to the right end of the Community Hall. Take the tarmac path that runs alongside the end of the hall with Cricket Club building ahead.

Follow the tarmac path alongside the cricket building. At the end of the building turn left over one footbridge then turn right to walk along a grass strip with a stream on each side.

Follow the grass strip as it curves half left and along an avenue of trees with a sports pitch on either side.

At the far end (almost at the Yorktown Rd and near the car park under construction) turn right along the edge of the field.

In the corner turn left to reach the tarmac path beside the road, and turn right along that path.

SU846613 In a few yards reach the Rackstraws traffic light junction. Go straight ahead continuing along Yorktown Rd. towards College Town

Caution. At this junction, must use the light controlled pedestrian crossings to cross the turning lane and the main lanes of Marshall Rd on the right.

SU850610 Follow Yorktown Rd to the junction with Branksome Hill Rd (on the left) with charity shop on the corner.

Prayer Stop

For the work of the HospiceCare charity

Continue along Yorktown Rd to the junction with College Rd on the left. A few yards before this junction there is a funeral directors on the left

Prayer Stop

For those who are bereaved and those who care for the bereaved.

Continue along the right side of Yorktown Rd passing the line of shops (including Waitrose) on the right.

SU853607 On the corner pause opposite the rear entrance to the Military Academy

Prayer Stop

For those who live and work at RMA

For our armed forces in general

Continue to follow the footpath along the right side of Yorktown Rd

SU853605 At the roundabout outside M&S cross the road on the right and enter the car park.

Caution. This entrance is not designed for pedestrians, so take care to look out for cars entering or leaving the car park.

Cross the car park heading for the covered walkway that leads to the corner of the M&S store.

Follow this walkway and continue ahead along the front of M&S to reach the Tesco entrance

Prayer Stop

For all who work in retail

Continue along the front of Tesco.

At the far end of Tesco turn half right across the car park towards the large roundabout.

Head for a point just to the right of a large gantry sign on the roundabout.

With care, use the zebra crossing to cross the car park perimeter road and then go up the steps to the footpath beside the roundabout.

Turn right along the footpath and in a few yards use the pedestrian crossing to cross the first carriageway of the A321.

Use the pedestrian crossing to cross the second carriageway of the A321 and turn left along the footpath on the far side.

Follow the tarmac footpath as it curves right beside the access road.

SU854499 Where the road curves left keep straight ahead then turn right into the riverside path.

Here we join the parish boundary.

Initially there are backs of office buildings on the left on the opposite side of the river.

Prayer Stop

For all those who work in the offices here.

For those who travel by train and those who work on the railways.

Just beyond the last office building turn left over a footbridge, and on the far side turn right to continue following the riverside.

SU847606 Reach a junction of paths with a footbridge on the right. Ignore the footbridge and keep straight ahead with the river on the right.

SU843607 The next field becomes narrow at the end. Here pass through a barrier and immediately turn right over a footbridge. On the far side of the bridge turn left on a footpath towards the railway footbridge.

In a few yards keep ahead up the ramp of the railway footbridge. Cross the railway and the river.

On the far side keep ahead following a path along the river bank.

SU835609 At the end of the path emerge at a tarmac road. Turn right to follow the footpath beside the road.

Here we have left the parish boundary.

Continue past Vulcan Way on the left

Prayer Stop

For all the businesses in this area

Pass under the railway bridge and at the mini roundabout turn left among the shops along the left side of Yorktown Rd/

An alternative option is to take the footpath on the left immediately before the railway bridge. This is very slightly shorter emerging on High St just beyond the station. The route as suggested includes a prayer stop among the shops.

Prayer Stop

Pray for the shops in this area - in particular the charity shops and the flower shop (noting that the flower shop comes into peoples lives at both happy and difficult times).

Follow the pavement turning left under the railway bridge and continue along High St
Just before the Toyota garage note McKernan Court on the right side of the road.

Prayer Stop

For all those in the sheltered accommodation, nursing and residential homes in Sandhurst,

Continue along High St to the church.

END OF WALK