

WILDMOOR HEATH CIRCULAR - 5 miles

START POINT SU825618 Outside St Michaels Church, Lower Church Rd

THE ROUTE

Prayer Stop (before we start)

For all the people and activities at St Michaels

The route begins with an optional short there-and-back trip to the bridge on Yateley Rd marking the parish boundary, and the boundary between Berkshire and Hampshire.

Note that crossing the main road from the Yateley road to St Michaels Rd is not recommended.

Opposite St Michaels School turn down Lychgate Close and continue to the far end to reach the Yateley road via a footpath between houses. Turn right along the path beside the road, as far as the bridge.

Prayer Stop

Pray for the neighbouring community of Yateley

Retrace route along Yateley Rd and Lychgate Close.

Prayer Stop -

For St Michaels School

Use the pedestrian crossing to cross the main road, and on the far side go left and right into the footpath into Rectory Close

At St Michaels Rd turn left and go all the way to the end. Here turn right. At the sign for Mason Place on left turn into a footpath.

At the T junction of paths by railway cutting turn left and keep ahead into Perryhill Drive SU827621 At the end of Perryhill Drive turn right into Church Rd.

Cross with care and use the footpath on the left side.

Continue along Church Rd over the railway bridge where the path is narrow.

Keep ahead passing Cheviot Rd on the left.

Where the main road curves right keep straight ahead into Sandy Lane. This lane gets narrower and rougher.

SU832626 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.

Optional Prayer Stop -

Eagle House School.

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

Prayer Stop -

For our utilities.

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

DIVERSION TO WILDMOOR HEATH CAR PARK -

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.

Prayer Stop -

Pray for all those who use Wildmoor Heath for recreation.

Pray for the neighbouring community and parish of Crowthorne

To return to the boundary path, 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, initially following the path by which we entered the car park.

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 re-joining the broad straight track as before.

END OF DIVERSION

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 slight hump with a seat nearby on the right. Beyond the hump the path drops down to a junction of paths.

SU846630 Here turn right through the gate.

Here we leave the parish boundary.

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 beyond the boardwalk the path continues ahead into a narrow line of trees. Follow another section of boardwalk.

Reach a corner with a third section of boardwalk and a gate ahead. Before the gate turn right (you can use a path that curves right just before the corner)

The path curves uphill with a fence on the left for a short distance then opens out and becomes much wider.

Ignore the gate on the left soon after the climb.

The broad path follows a very gentle ascent towards trees.

About 100 yards before the trees is a good viewpoint. Good views of the parish and beyond to the south (left) and glimpses of houses in Owlsmoor behind us.

Prayer Stop -

Pray for all those that live & work in the area visible

Continue up to the trees and take the left fork through a gate. Just beyond here the views on the left are still good including clearer views of houses in Owlsmoor.

Follow the well trodden but fairly narrow path as it meanders round to the right.

SU841628 Pass a seat on the right and just beyond it reach a path running left-right (with gate visible on right). Turn left on this path, initially down a fairly steep hill.

Just after a short section of boardwalk keep straight ahead through a gate. This section may be muddy, but it is not far to pick your way through the muddy patches.

Reach a junction of paths and turn right. Initially there is a little more mud but it soon becomes a gravel track.

After a clump of trees on the left and with gate visible 100 yards ahead curve left on a well trodden path.

Pass a seat on the right and continue on the path as it curves very gently right towards trees.

After entering the trees keep straight ahead across a junction of paths and go through kissing gate through trees ahead.

SU837624 Emerge at the main road opposite the entrance to Eagle House School.

Prayer Stop -

Pray for the school if not already done so.

Turn left along the broad tarmac footpath beside the road.

At the traffic light junction cross the road, turning right into Longdown Rd.

Take the first left into Mickle Hill and follow this road as it curves up the hill

Pass Long Mickle, and Oak Tree Way on the left.

Then take the next left Sylvan Ridge

At the end of Sylvan Ridge go straight ahead into a tarmac path between houses. Follow that path left and right (you have no choice!), then down steps.

Caution. These steps slope down away from you, so take care.

At the bottom of the steps keep ahead along the tarmac road.

At road junction keep ahead or slightly left.

After Forest End Rd on the right is a footpath just before Four Ways Care Home. We will be using this footpath, but first . . .

Continue down the road to the Methodist Church (clearly visible ahead with spire)

Prayer Stop -

Pray for the Methodist Church & Sandhurst Churches Together

Return along the road to Sandhurst Well on the right.

Prayer Stop -

Give thanks for our water supply and pray for those parts of the world where water is a problem

Return to Four Ways and turn left along the footpath. The path later runs above a railway cutting and then crosses by a bridge. Just after the bridge turn left to return to St Michaels Rd. In St Michaels Rd turn right then left, and half way down the road turn right into Rectory Close.

At the end use the footpath and crossing to return to the church.

END OF WALK