

Stage 3

Christow to Ashton

Start: St James', Christow (EX6 7LZ)

Parking in Teign Valley Community Hall Car Park

End: St John the Baptist, Ashton (EX6 7QR)

Distance: 2.2 miles (3.6 km)

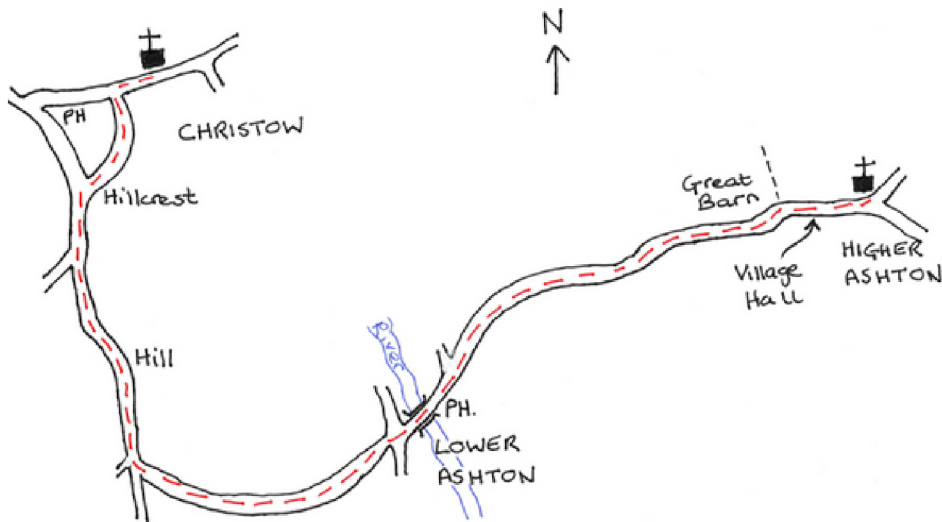
Time: Approximately 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Overview

This is a beautifully short walk; what it lacks in length, it more than makes up for with beautiful views in every direction. It is a relatively easy walk along country lanes with gradual ascents and descents across the rolling hillsides. There is plenty of interest en route passing old cottages, manor houses and a wonderful pub which is renowned for its food and welcome.



St James', Christow

Open 9am - 5pm

Reading Psalm 8

'O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Meditation

Whatever the season we are surrounded by natural beauty: sun, moon and stars and an ever-changing pattern of clouds decorating the blue sky. Look up and marvel at the immensity of the universe; look down at your feet and notice the detail in each leaf, in the tracery of a dragonfly's wing. Listen to the wind in the trees – creation giving voice to the movement of the Spirit, the creative breath of God. How humbling that we too share the life of this myriad of beings! Our stewardship so often falls short. When we are self-absorbed we can neglect or mistreat our world through thoughtlessness or self-interest. We can destroy fellow creatures who in their own way, in their own lives, give praise to God.



Prayer

Father God, forgive us when our carelessness results in the destruction of your creation. Turn our minds outwards, away from ourselves, that we might respect your world and become the stewards you want us to be. Amen.

Directions

Hi-vis

From St James' churchyard turn right and shortly left into Church Lane.

At top of Church Lane turn left and follow Butts Lane in a southerly direction. After ½ mile notice the thatched cottage on your right. This is 'Hill' and is one of the oldest cottages in the Teign Valley.

Continue for another ½ mile and descend to the B3193. At the crossroads, go straight on crossing over the stone humped bridge in Lower Ashton.

Continue past the old railway cottage and noting the Manor Inn which would be a good place to stop and refresh yourselves should you so wish.

Continue gradually uphill for ¾ mile enjoying the beautiful views in all directions. When you see an imposing stone building on your left you have reached 'The Great Barn' renowned for its superb carol concert in the run up to Christmas and its beautifully restored function facilities.

Carry on up the hill for a short distance and you will catch a glimpse of St John the Baptist, Ashton on your left. Follow the steps up to the church, and walk around to the left (west) side to enter.

Rest in the beautiful church and enjoy the meditation in peaceful and tranquil surroundings.



The top of the Rood Screen has had some repairs but the bottom, the wainscoting, is all original.



Faces from the rood screen.



Medieval stained glass spelling out INRI, Latin acronym for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.