

Stage 4

Ashton to Doddiscombsleigh

Start: St John the Baptist, Ashton (EX6 7QR)
Ashton Village Hall car park just below the church

End: St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh (EX6 7PT)

Distance: 1.6 miles (2.6 km)

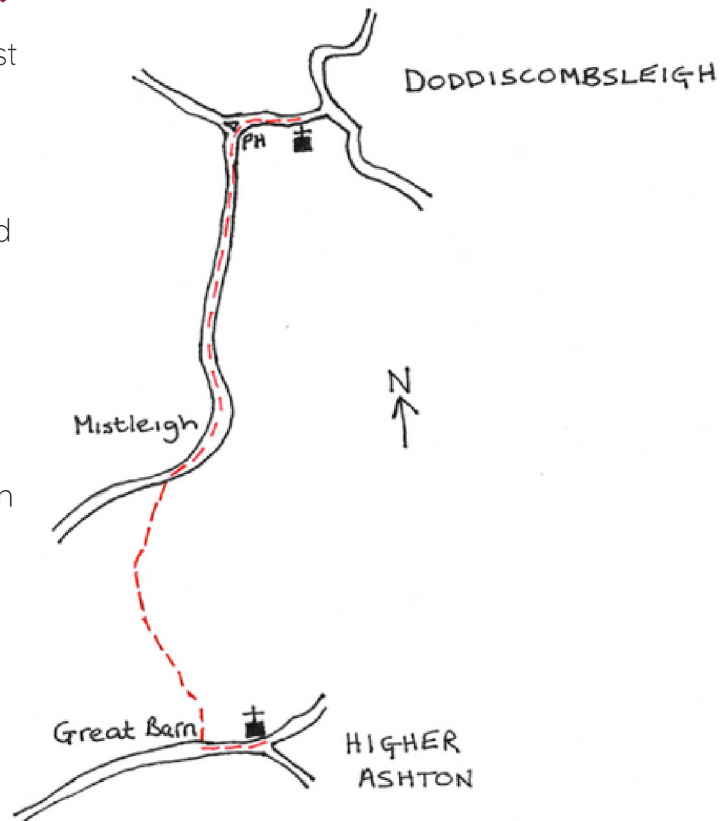
Time: Approximately 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Overview

This is the shortest route on our pilgrimage and it is a mixture of country lanes and footpaths. Once again we are treated with wonderful views, gently flowing streams and open farmland.



St John the Baptist, Ashton

Open 8am - 7pm

Reading Psalm 104: 1-2, 5-9

'Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.'

'You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the
valleys to the place that you appointed for them.
You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.'

Meditation

Nestled in this valley we feel held in the loving arms of our Father, nurtured by the waters and shaded by the trees; loved, protected, hidden away from the outside world. We are privileged to live here so tucked away. But no man is an island. We are part of a larger whole. We are part of humankind, some of whom starve and have no shelter.

We are part of creation which 'has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves' waiting to 'be set free from its bondage to decay and... obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.' (Romans 8:21-23)

How can we spread the love and security we enjoy so that it ripples out as a blessing to the world?



Prayer

Father God, when I listen to the news I hear about so much suffering in this world of yours. But it is all too big for me; I don't understand how we got ourselves into this mess. I don't even know what to pray for, or how to start. Send your Spirit to help me. Amen.

'Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.' (Romans 8:26-27)

Directions

On exiting **St John the Baptist Church** return down the steps and turn right down the road to The Great Barn.

On the east side of the barn you will see a green footpath sign pointing north. Follow this sign with the barn on your left and ignore the parking area to the right. Keep going straight on until you come to a wooden gate marked with a yellow footpath arrow. Pass through the gate and continue on this path.

Go over a stile on your right as the path narrows.

After $\frac{1}{3}$ mile, at the end of the footpath pass through a metal gate.

Continue with the stream on your left and look for a wooden bridge over the stream.

Cross the bridge and continue with the stream on your right.



Ascend the next field in a north easterly direction, heading to a point to the left of the barn at the top of the field. Pass through a wooden gate onto a road and turn right.



Hi-vis

Follow the road in a northerly direction for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile until you arrive in Doddiscombsleigh by the NoBody Inn.

With the pub on your right follow the road to the right and in 200yds you will find a wrought iron gate on the right giving access to the church path.

Inside **St Michael's Church, Doddiscombsleigh**, you will see some of the oldest stained glass in Devon. The crowning glory of these medieval windows is the window depicting the seven sacraments at the east end of the north aisle. It is worth sitting before and pondering its beauty.



On the South side of the church you will find a sheltered bench. Here you can enjoy your lunch whilst admiring the well-kept cemetery and its peaceful surroundings.