



# The Eden Way

wander and wonder



A pilgrimage around the six villages of the  
Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community



**Welcome to the beautiful Teign Valley, an Eden in Devon, combining the rugged hills of Dartmoor with rich farmland and the wooded banks of the river Teign.**

Come and experience the contrasts: wild and cultivated, bleak and densely foliated, craggy quarries and gentle fields grazed by sheep and cattle, in an environment very conscious of the climate emergency - altogether an ideal place for a pilgrimage to explore and celebrate the abundance of God's creation in the context of the ambiguities and challenges of the 21st century.

We read in the Bible that God breathed the Spirit through the Word and 'all things came into being through him' (John 1:3): God places us in the Garden of Eden and humanity falls short. The Eden Way offers us a pilgrimage to raise awareness of our responsibilities as stewards of God's earth. The route passes many working farms; many farmers live in uncertainty, dependent not only on the vagaries of the weather, but also affected by climate change, by politics, and by an increasing change in public expectation, from being producers of food to preservers of the environment, a responsibility we all share.



The Eden Way - **over 18 miles (29km) in total** - may be walked in stages with the six villages of the Teign Valley & Haldon Mission Community offering way-stops: local hostelries for refreshment and churches for meditation:

**Daily opening hours**

<b>St Mary's, Dunsford</b>	<b>9am - 6pm</b>
<b>St Thomas Becket, Bridford</b>	<b>8am - 5pm</b>
<b>St James', Christow</b>	<b>9am - 5pm</b>
<b>St John the Baptist, Ashton</b>	<b>8am - 7pm</b>
<b>St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh</b>	<b>8am - 9pm</b>
<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels, Dunchideock</b>	<b>8am - 6pm</b>

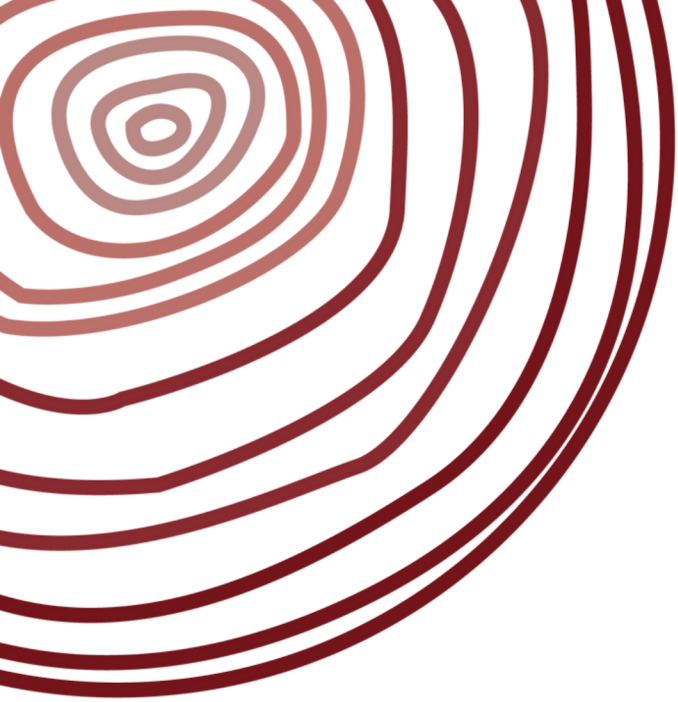
(This is a circular route which returns to St Mary's, Dunsford)

Pause awhile in each place; look and see; listen and hear. Breathe in the beauty, natural and hand-made. Each of the Grade 1-listed churches offers an Eden Way meditation to help focus thoughts and prayers.

Be still and know that God loves you and calls you by name.







There are differing approaches to pilgrimage. The early Celtic practice of pilgrimage draws its inspiration from the Latin word 'peregrinatio', meaning a long, meandering journey for the love of God. Celtic Christians understood the whole of life as pilgrimage; of journeying towards - and in the presence of - Christ in real and tangible ways.

Later, the Medieval Church taught that making a pilgrimage to a holy site or shrine to pray would mean you might be forgiven for your sins. People travelled to shrines hoping to be cured from illness or disease, often leaving small figures symbolic of the healing they were seeking.

Today both forms of pilgrimage remain popular. We still yearn for connection in our journey through life and seek out hope and help in times of need.

**The Eden Way** is closer to the Celtic tradition, taking inspiration from Esther De Waal in her book 'The Celtic Way of Prayer'. It is an invitation to an inner journey, as much as an outer one. It is more about how we travel than our destination. We are encouraged to be 'hospites mundi' - guests of the world - who travel in the name of love. As pilgrims we are invited to walk silently and use contemplative and creative practices to help us to be more present and listen more carefully to what we encounter along the way, both outwardly and inwardly. The act of pilgrimage can be healing and transformative. We hope and pray this will be the case for you.

As you walk through this beautiful corner of creation, may you journey into a new or deeper relationship with God the Creator.



## Walking instructions

Whilst it should be possible to follow the instructions and maps in the booklet, it is recommended to carry an Ordnance Survey map and a compass just in case!

A detailed digital map of The Eden Way can be found at [www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/route/the-eden-way](http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/route/the-eden-way)

## Pilgrim safety

When beginning any journey, it's important to ensure you have everything you need to complete it safely. Being prepared practically for your pilgrimage will allow you to relax and really enjoy your time on The Eden Way.

Visit [www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/wander-safely](http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/wander-safely) for more guidance.

## Tread lightly

To tread lightly is to engage with creation in a way that has a positive impact; to leave no mark on the places we visit save the footprints we leave behind. We seek to fully appreciate, and indeed celebrate, the rich variety of environments that the Teign Valley provides.

Visit [www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/tread-lightly](http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk/tread-lightly) for more guidance.

## Hostelries

The following is a list of pubs, hotels and tea rooms which are ideal resting places on your walking routes.

### Dunsford

**The Royal Oak** (EX6 7DA)  
[www.royaloakdunsford.com](http://www.royaloakdunsford.com)

**The Walled Garden Tearooms** (EX6 7AA)  
[www.facebook.com/157036207700192](https://www.facebook.com/157036207700192)

### Bridford

**The Bridford Inn** (EX6 7HT)  
[www.bridfordinn.co.uk](http://www.bridfordinn.co.uk)

### Christow

**The Artichoke Inn** (EX6 7NF)  
[www.artichokechristow.co.uk](http://www.artichokechristow.co.uk)

**The Teign House Inn** (EX6 7PL)  
[www.teignhouseinn.co.uk](http://www.teignhouseinn.co.uk)

### Lower Ashton

**The Manor Inn** (EX6 7QL)  
[www.manorinn.co.uk](http://www.manorinn.co.uk)

### Doddiscombsleigh

**The Nobody Inn** (EX6 7PS)  
[www.nobodyinn.co.uk](http://www.nobodyinn.co.uk)

### Dunchideock

**The Lord Haldon Country Hotel** (EX6 7YF)  
[www.lordhaldonhotel.co.uk](http://www.lordhaldonhotel.co.uk)

## Buses

There are two buses which serve this area:

### Country Bus Devon 359

Exeter - Longdown - Dunsford -  
Doccombe - Moretonhampstead

[www.countrybusdevon.co.uk/359-exeter-moretonhampstead-via-dunsford](http://www.countrybusdevon.co.uk/359-exeter-moretonhampstead-via-dunsford)

### Country Bus Devon 360

Exeter - Ide - Dunchideock -  
Doddiscombsleigh - Christow -  
Bridford

[www.countrybusdevon.co.uk/360-bridford-exeter-via-christow-dunchideock](http://www.countrybusdevon.co.uk/360-bridford-exeter-via-christow-dunchideock)

## Toilets

### Dunsford

**St Mary's Church** (EX6 7DA)

### Bridford

**Bridford Country Park  
eco-toilet** (EX6 7LL)  
Near southeast entrance

### Christow

**Teign Valley Community Hall**  
(EX6 7WA)  
Toilet block in the car park

# Stage 1

## Dunsford to Bridford

**Start:** St Mary's, Dunsford (EX6 7DA)

Parking available on the road outside the church

**End:** St Thomas Becket, Bridford (EX6 7HT)

**Distance:** 3.2 miles (5.1 km)

**Time:** Approximately 1¾ hours

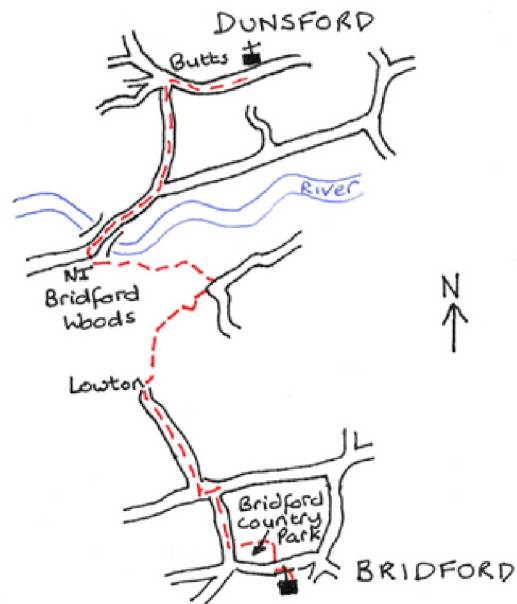
**Difficulty:** Challenging



### Overview

This route initially passes through Bridford Woods, with a steep climb after Steps Bridge, but levelling out beyond into open countryside. The path travels along some beautiful country lanes and footpaths with spectacular views across the undulating farmland.

The route finishes in Bridford Country Park where you can sit and rest in tranquil surroundings with spectacular views before entering Bridford Church for your next opportunity to meditate and pray if you so wish.



## St Mary's, Dunsford

Open 9am - 6pm



### Reading Genesis 1:1-5

'In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.'

### Meditation

'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God' (John 1:1). God spoke the Word and became incarnate in creation. Creation is the first language of God. God's message is of life and light, and springs from the love overflowing from the eternal dance of the Creator, the Word and the breath of the Spirit. The invitation is to join the dance, to collaborate as stewards of Eden, as gardeners sowing the seeds of the new creation, God's Kingdom here on earth.

God spoke the Word to Mary, 'The Lord is with you' (Luke 1:28), and she accepted the invitation: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord' (Luke 1:38). And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the Light of the World. 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and earth were created... all things have been created through him and for him.' (Colossians 1:15-16)

Such a small word, 'yes', to transform creation. Do we hear God's invitation to us? Do we, like Mary, say 'yes'? When we listen and hear and say 'Thy will be done', God says 'Let there be light' and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

### Prayer

Creator God,  
to you be praise and glory forever.  
Your Spirit swept over the face of the waters  
and breathed life and light  
into the whole of creation.  
Pour down your Spirit on us  
that we may walk as children of light  
and by your grace  
reveal your presence.  
Amen.



## Directions

Outside **St Mary's Church**, turn right and follow the road, passing the village hall on your left and the school on your right.

Continue along this road, and in just under ¼ mile turn left into Whidley Lane opposite the 'Butts' signpost. Bear left down Lee Lane signposted to Steps Bridge.

After half a mile, at the bottom of the road, turn right onto the B3212. Continue for ¼ mile and cross the stone bridge over the river Teign.

Walk up the hill for a short distance and enter into Bridford Woods National Trust car park. Walk through this parking area and then take the wide path which veers left rising uphill marked with a BYWAY signpost. Walk uphill in an easterly direction rising through Bridford Woods.

Ahead is a wooden gate which should be ignored so keep right up the main track.

At the top of the hill is a fork with a 4-way sign, continue straight on the BYWAY.

Arrive at a metal gate with a phone mast on your left.

Emerge on to the road and immediately on your right is a finger post indicating the Bridleway to Lowton Farm. Go through the wooden gate and follow the bridleway uphill for just over ¼ mile. You are now walking along a lovely old Devon lane, cool in the summer and sheltered in the winter with remains of hedge laying in ancient times.

After the next wooden gate look for a 3-way finger post on your right. Turn left and follow 'Bridleway Avoiding Farm Yard'.

In 150yds pass straight on through a metal gate immediately followed by a wooden gate with a Bridford sign.

In 100yds turn left on to a metalled lane heading south.

Keeping on this metalled lane (ignoring farm entrances on your right and left) for approximately ¾ mile you will reach a T-junction where you will follow the road by turning left and after 100yds follow the road to the right.

After 350yds the road bends to the right, but instead enter the gate on your left allowing access to Bridford Country Park. Take the middle path and explore any route in a south-easterly direction. You will find many sheltered places to rest and enjoy the views to Haldon Hill. Near the southeast entrance you will find a large shelter with an eco-toilet. The park is a very good example of what a local community can achieve with its own labour and grant funding to cover material costs.



Pass through the southeast gate on to the road and turn left.

After the Bridford sign look for a lane on the right signposted to the village hall and church parking. Descend the lane with allotments on your right. Follow the lane to the left and descend the steps to the west door of **St Thomas Becket Church, Bridford**. Rest and meditate awhile in this peaceful church enjoying the splendid and renowned medieval rood screen.



# Stage 2

## Bridford to Christow

**Start:** St Thomas Becket, Bridford (EX6 7HT)  
Parking in the Village Hall car park behind the church, accessed via Oxenpark Gate road above the church

**End:** St James', Christow (EX6 7LZ)

**Distance:** 2.8 miles (4.5 km)

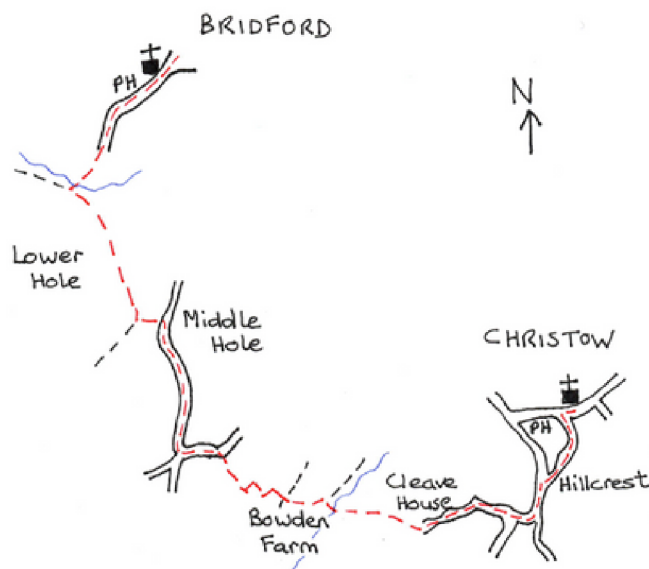
**Time:** Approximately 1½ hours

**Difficulty:** Moderate



### Overview

This is a lovely walk along wooded footpaths and beside tumbling brooks. It passes through working farmyards and across crop-filled fields. It is a gentle walk with no steep inclines or descents, giving the pilgrim plenty of time to admire the views and explore the flower strewn hedgerows and listen to the prolific bird song.



## St Thomas Becket, Bridford

Open 8am - 5pm



### Reading Genesis 1:6-8

'And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.'

### Meditation

Order out of chaos; form from inchoate mass. Who has the power to conceive creation, and formulate the blueprint of life? Who discerns the potential of being alive and being human? Who assembles the building blocks of life in the proper sequence for flourishing?

God separates water from water; God calls it by name and gives it identity. 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you' (Isaiah 43:1-2). God calls each of us out from the chaos and gives us a name; God sees the potential within us and invites us to come and see.

God creates space; space that gives room for choice. For Adam and Eve the choice was one of obedience; for Mary and for us the choice is of accepting God's invitation. Thomas Becket had to choose between serving church or state; who do we serve?

When we say 'Yes' we open ourselves to the power of the God who turns the waters of chaos into sea and sky; who turns water into wine; who turns wine into his own blood. How does God transform us?

### Prayer

Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me,  
fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Amen.

## Directions

Leave **St Thomas Becket Church** by the south entrance and descend the stone steps. Turn right, left and right again.

Pass the Bridford Inn on your right, stopping for light refreshments if you wish, and head along the road and track in a westerly direction.

Bear right at The Old Rectory and follow the bridleway for ¼ mile. Shortly after entering the woodland, you will see a gate ahead of you, but instead bear left along the bridleway signposted for Middle Hole. Continue uphill for just over ¼ mile and continue along the bridleway through Lower Hole Farm.

Continue uphill for 150yds and ignore a narrow gate on the left. Shortly after turn left through a wooden gate signposted 'Bridleway to Middle Hole' and descend quietly through the farm.

When you reach the road turn right. Follow the quiet road for ⅓ mile to the T-junction with Commons Hill and turn left.

After 100yds look for a metal field gate on your right and note the finger post indicating this is a Bridleway.

### Main route

Ignore the stile on your right and instead pass through the metal gate and continue across the field in a south-easterly direction to a metal gate in the far-left hand corner. Pass through the metal gate and turn right.

### Detour

If there is stock in the field continue along the road and take Bowden Farm track to the right.

Continue along this track and pick up the main route as follows.

Follow the farm access road which bends to the left then right, and pass through two sets of normally open metal gates. Pass through Bowden farmyard, with the house on your right.

Look for a wooden gate (with a green oil tank alongside it) leading on to an extension of the bridleway and continue in an easterly direction. In about ½ mile note the rarely seen all red brick house on your left with an even rarer mulberry tree growing in the front lawn.



### Hi-vis

Keep following this road down for ⅓ mile. At the next T-junction turn left down Butts Lane. At the next junction, you will see a white detached house in the fork of the road.

### Main route

For directions to the church, bear right at this fork onto Church Lane, then turn right at the bottom of the hill where you will see the church ahead of you.

### Detour

If you wish to visit the Artichoke Inn for some refreshment, take the left fork here and follow the road around for 400yds where you will find the pub on your right.

Exit the pub and turn right onto Village Road towards the church.

Arrive at **St James' Church, Christow**, with its stained-glass portrait of St James clutching a scallop shell (the international symbol for a pilgrim). Rest and relax as you meditate for a while.

# 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)

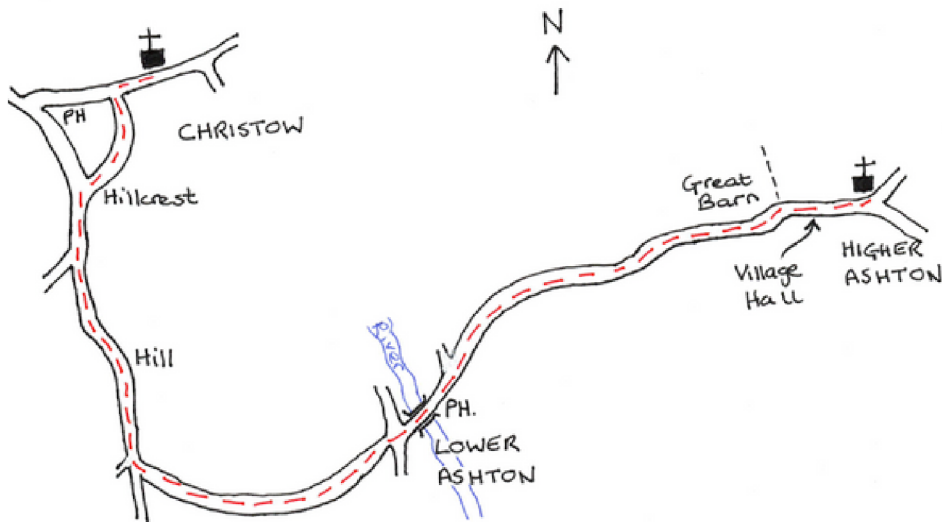
**Time:** Approximately 1 hour

**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.



# 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)

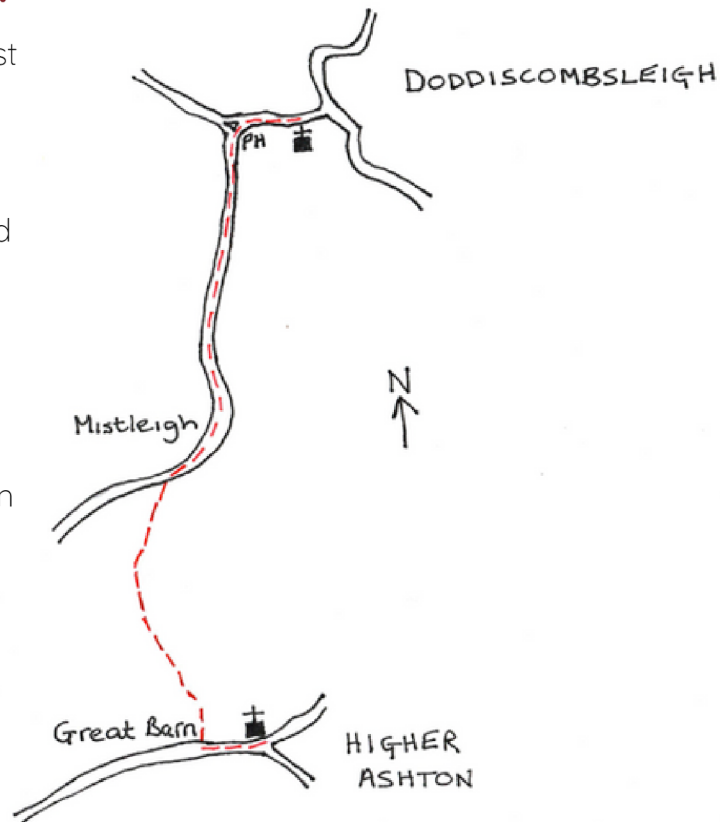
**Time:** Approximately 45 minutes

**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.

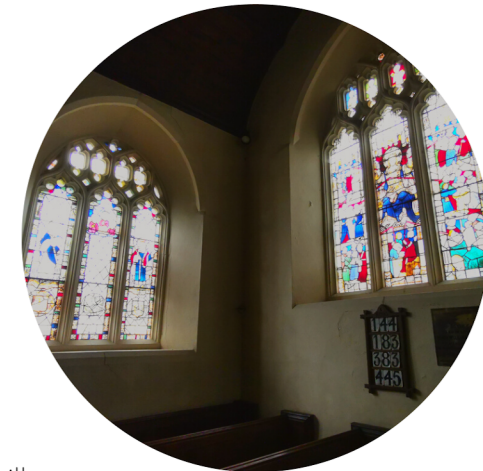


### Hi-vis

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.

# Stage 5

## Doddiscombsleigh to Dunchideock

**Start:** St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh (EX6 7PT)  
Parking available on the verge by the church gate

**End:** St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock (EX2 9UB)

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8 km)

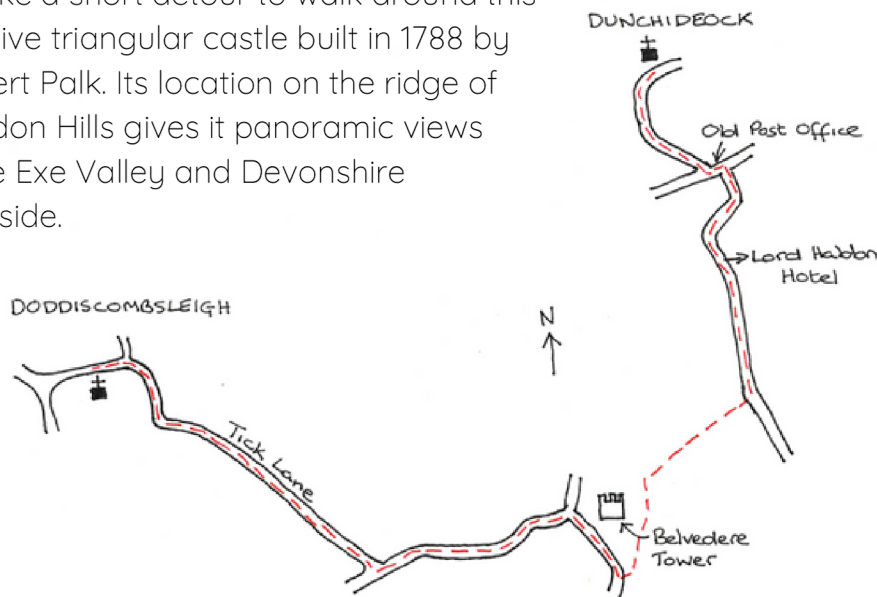
**Time:** Approximately 1½ hours

**Difficulty:** Moderate with challenging start



### Overview

This is an interesting route with plenty of far-reaching views as well as wooded country lanes, making it ideal walking on hot sunny days. It passes the Belvedere Tower, where you can make a short detour to walk around this impressive triangular castle built in 1788 by Sir Robert Palk. Its location on the ridge of the Haldon Hills gives it panoramic views over the Exe Valley and Devonshire countryside.



## St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh

Open 8am - 9pm



### Reading Genesis 1:9-13

'And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.'

### Meditation

Abundance, such abundance of life in the garden. Every seed fell on fertile soil and yielded a hundredfold.

What went wrong? What did we do? Or what did we fail to do? Was it disobedience or was it complacency that led us to think we could go it alone? Without God? Are we jealous of God that we yearn for power? Can we do better than God? We can indeed "play" at being God; we can imitate and pretend that we understand the purpose of existence, but our efforts have disfigured the earth.

'You shall have no other gods before me' (Exodus 20:3). In our pursuit of knowledge and power we have turned away from God. We have ceased to listen properly to the language of creation, to God's Word in the land: we continue to crucify God's Word in the earth.

God speaks the Word in us; we are seeds of the new creation born in the Word made flesh. Are we fertile soil?

### Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all life: in your goodness you have given us as seeds of the new creation. Help us perceive the promise of life, the wonders of your creative love; by your blessing, let us be signs of your creative power, that in sowing and watering, tending and watching, we may see the miracle of growth, and in due course reap a rich harvest. Amen.



## Directions

Hi-vis

From the gate of St Michael's Church turn right. After 150yds, follow Tick Lane round to the right and continue uphill for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the T-junction and turn left.

Continue climbing for  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile until you reach the major road on top of Haldon Hill and turn right (signposted to Chudleigh) passing Belvedere Tower on your left.

In 200yds spot a Devon County Council finger post on your left signposted to Belvedere Parking. Follow this hard track round the rear of Belvedere Tower.

Just beyond a 'No Parking' sign there is a steel gate marked 'Private', but with a yellow arrow on its signage. Pass through the gate as this footpath is a public right of way.

Descend the path lined with fir trees on your right. Follow the path which veers to the right and go through the next metal gate.

The path opens out before you and you are treated with splendid views across the Devon countryside towards the River Exe.



Hi-vis

Continue down the path reaching a metal gate where you turn left onto the road.

Continue on the road for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile noting the opportunity to stop for refreshment at the Lord Haldon Hotel on your right. Or to continue, pass under the bridge and follow the road for  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile until the next T-junction and turn left.

In less than 100yds turn right following the signs to the Parish Church and Dunchideock Barton.

Follow the road around to the right and arrive at the church gate where you can explore the wonderful Church of St Michael and All Angels, built between the 14th-15th Century in local red sandstone.

Inside there is a notable Rood Screen carved with vine and other foliage work.

Enjoy the tranquillity and peace as you meditate within.





# Stage 6

## Dunchideock to Dunsford

**Start:** St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock (EX2 9UB)

Parking on the road below the church

**End:** St Mary's, Dunsford (EX6 7DA)

**Distance:** 5.3 miles (8.6 km)

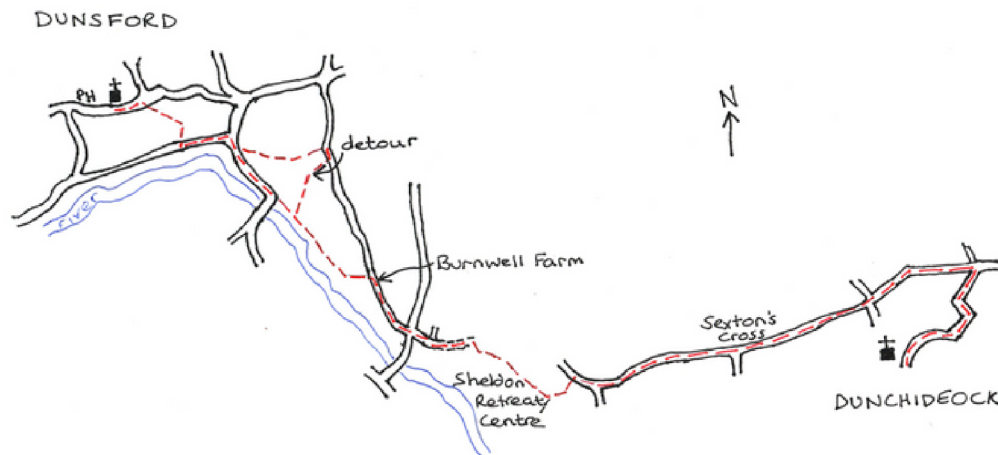
**Time:** Approximately 2¾ hours

**Difficulty:** Challenging



### Overview

At the start, the route is primarily on country lanes and the pilgrim needs to be aware of light traffic. Once these lanes have been negotiated however, there is a wonderful section of footpaths across fields and by brooks, which treat the walker to spectacular views of the Teign Valley with its rolling hillsides and verdant pastures!



## St Michael & All Angels, Dunchideock

Open 8am - 6pm



### Reading Genesis 1:14-19

'And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.'

### Meditation

'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?' (Psalm 8:3-4)

How small we are. How insignificant. And yet how God loves us, that our Creator should share our humanity and live with us. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)

'Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.' (Francis of Assisi, 'Canticle of the Sun')

God speaks to us today through the language of all created life. Now we see the glory of God in the world around us, a glimpse of the glory that awaits. 'And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.' (Revelation 21:23)



### Prayer

Kindle in our hearts, O God, the flame of love which never ceases, that it may burn in us, giving light to others. May we shine for ever in your temple, set on fire with your eternal light, even your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Redeemer. Amen.

## Directions

Hi-vis

On leaving St Michael & All Angels Church turn left and follow the country lane for ¼ mile to a T-junction where you turn left again.

Continue down this lane for just over ½ mile and then at a crossroads go straight on signposted to Doddiscombsleigh.

In ⅔ mile at Sexton's Cross, there is a sign for Doddiscombsleigh. Take the road forking to the right and continue for ¾ mile.

Just past Hereford Cottage turn right. In a short distance, with Batts Brook on your left, you will see a sign for a footpath heading up some wooden steps to a metal gate, also on your left. Go through the gate and follow the narrow path for 100yds and cross a wooden plank and through another gate.

In front of you is a hilled field. The footpath isn't clear, but you are heading centrally across the field in a north-westerly direction to a middle point at the far side of the field. Be mindful of sheep in this field.

Arriving at a triple metal gate fenced area for stock holding – continue straight going through two of these gates (ignore the rightmost gate).

Once again, continue in the same north-westerly direction via the unmarked footpath diagonally across the middle of the field, to the middle point of the far edge of the field. Pass through the gate and keep straight ahead noting the yellow footpath arrow on a wooden post.



Continue straight on this path enjoying the truly spectacular views across the Teign Valley.

The path veers to the right and there is a well-positioned bench to rest a while, taking in the vistas across Sheldon Retreat Centre and beyond.

Go through the wooden gate and turn left heading down the hill and passing Underoak on your left.

Hi-vis

The path turns into a country lane. Shortly, turn left to pass under the old railway bridge. In less than 100yds cross straight over the B3193 taking care of the blind bend and fast-moving traffic.

After ⅓ mile you reach Great Lear and Burnwell Farm. There is a footpath signposted down the farm track. Take this track and pass through a metal gate.

Head down the main path which veers right at the bottom, passing through the farm buildings and onto the bridleway to your left.

Continue down the bridleway, ignoring turnings to the right.

Continue down this beautiful path for just over ⅓ mile with the field and brook on your left.

Pass through a metal gate, followed shortly by a wooden gate. At this point you have two options. The **Main route** follows a busy road, which the **Detour** avoids while adding just over ½ mile to your route.



## Main route

If you have not opted for the detour, take the footpath directly to the side of the cottage, ignoring the footpath heading uphill to the right.

Pass through the houses (there is public right of way) and follow the lane next to a stream on your left.

Continuing in the same direction, we now head onto a busy road, so keep well tucked into the right hand side. Walk along this road for ½ mile and at the junction turn left onto the B3212 signposted to M'hampstead/Dunsford.

## Detour

If you wish to avoid a busy section on the road, take the footpath heading uphill to the right for 1/3 mile.

On reaching the road, turn left and in a short distance turn left again onto a footpath. Pass through one metal gate, follow the path downhill to another gate. Follow the hedge on your right as you pass into another field.

Head diagonally across the middle of the field to a gate in the far northwest corner. Be aware of cattle in this field.

Over the turnstile follow the path downhill, making sure to turn left at the fork (don't enter the gate marked 'Beware of bull').

Keep heading downhill until you emerge onto the road, and follow the B3212 signposted to M'hampstead/Dunsford.

You may now pick up the main route directions.

## Hi-vis

A short way along you will find a narrow pavement on the right side of the road.

Continue for a short distance when just beyond a sign for Dartmoor National Park and before some garden fencing, you will find a footpath sign to your right.



Minding the barbed wire on the fence, take this path and follow it to a metal gate. Walk on the left side of the field until you reach another gate. Continue along this path and follow it into Dunsford village.

Turn left at the road and you will see St Mary's Church on your right.

There has been a place of worship here since Saxon times. The present church building dates from the 1420s and in its well-kept churchyard, stands at the heart of the village.

Rest your tired feet and enjoy this peaceful and holy place.





# St Mary's, Dunsford

Open 9am - 6pm



## And finally...

Every journey is a challenge, whether it be a walk, a hike, a pilgrimage... or life. As we return to the quiet of St Mary's we can look back on our journey and reflect on the steep slopes, the paths slippery with rain and the stunning views we have seen.

'A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.' (Isaiah 35:8-10)

Even if we were solitary, we were never alone. When we may feel inadequate and vulnerable, unwilling or unable to continue, God is with us:

'I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.' (Isaiah 42:16)

This is God's promise...

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.' (Isaiah 43:1-2)

...fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who said:

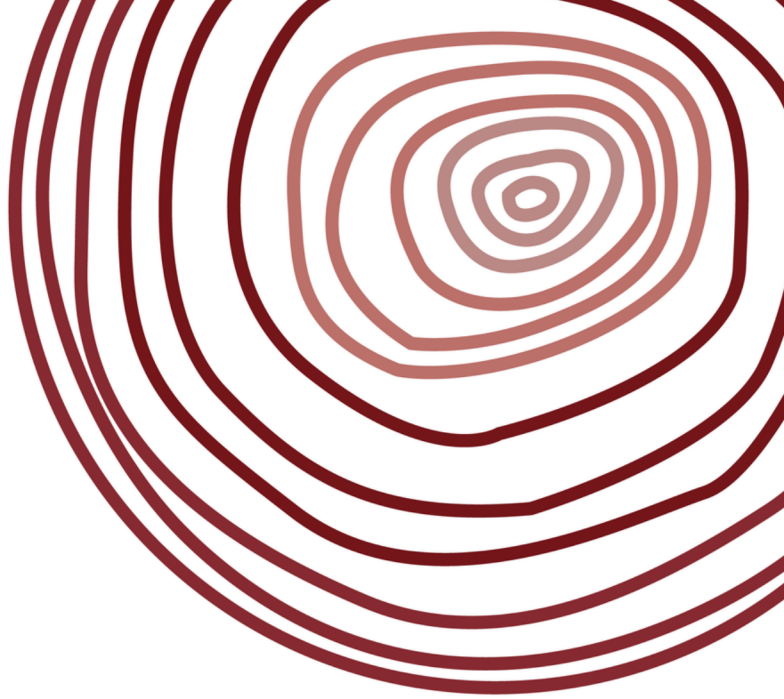
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

And so Godspeed: may you be blessed on your journey:

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

(Traditional Irish blessing)





The Eden Way is a new pilgrimage route created by the Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community

[www.facebook.com/tvhhmc](http://www.facebook.com/tvhhmc)

In partnership with...



Devon Pilgrim

[www.devonpilgrim.org.uk](http://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk)

Church photography by...



[www.devonchurchland.co.uk](http://www.devonchurchland.co.uk)

A project of...



[www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org)

Artwork by...



[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DruMarland](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DruMarland)