

# Stage 1



Low route



Brentor -  
Lydford



5½ miles /  
9 km



2½ - 3 hours

Start off with a visit to the lofty heights of St Michael de Rupe atop Brent Tor and descend back across the fields and along the lanes of North Brentor village before skirting the edge of Black Down en-route to Lydford village.



St Michael de Rupe,  
Brentor

PL19 0LP



Christ Church,  
North Brentor

PL19 0LR



St Petrock,  
Lydford

EX20 4BH

# Brentor to Lydford

## Reflection and prayer

Throughout history people have recounted stories of encounters with angels. They appear in many major religions, often as a messenger, (the word angel meaning messenger in Hebrew). In our modern culture many believe we each have a guardian angel watching over us and stories of encounters with angels are not uncommon. Whether you believe in angels or not, their prevalence in stories points to a deeply human yearning within us; a searching for a message to give us direction, or a need to feel safe and protected.

Pilgrimage is a space and time we can make for us to spend time apart from day to day life. To be still and listen. To attend to that emotional need of human existence. It can bring opportunities to connect to the others who share our path, and to allow the voice of that which is transcendent and beyond our understanding to speak into our lives. Our way is mapped out, so we walk the path that others have done before and chose our own path of our inner journey.

Each pilgrim walking this way will have their own reasons for undertaking this pilgrimage. It maybe that you are at a significant time in your life, or perhaps are simply relishing the break from the daily rush and routine. As you set out on your journey, may you allow your body and your mind to still, breathe deep and start to feel at one with the landscape around you, and may you draw closer to that which gives you life.

There is no wrong path  
except the path  
taken  
with regret  
without love  
in anger or from fear.

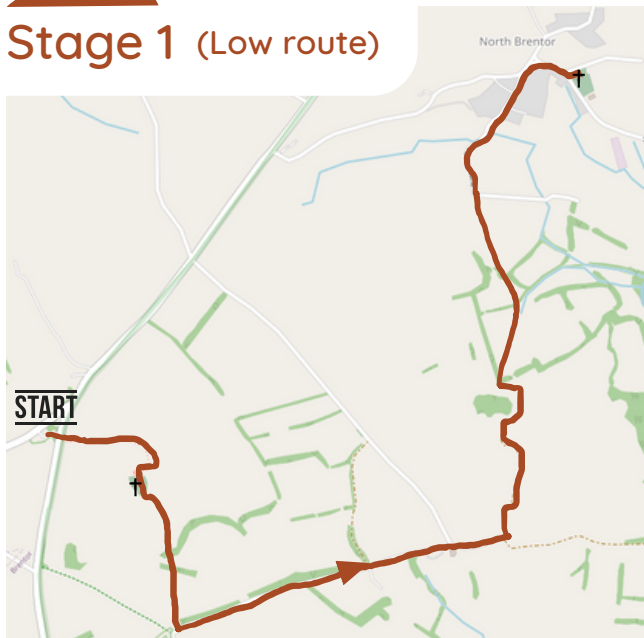
It's how we take  
the path we choose.  
How we breathe  
into each step, loose  
and free, and look up  
with expectancy;  
how we greet each fellow  
traveller we meet;  
and leave no record  
of our passing there  
bar the aroma of  
just extinguished prayer.



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# Directions

## Stage 1 (Low route)



From the Church car park, cross the main road with care and pass through a kissing gate. Follow the clear, steep track up to the Church. (Alternatively, there is a gentler ascent by following the ramparts of the Iron Age Fort round the Tor leading to the foot of the granite steps up to the churchyard gate). **St Michael de Rupe** is the 4th smallest, and highest, working church in England.

As you prepare to begin your pilgrimage, pause to consider the journey ahead and admire the stained-glass window depicting St Michael.

On leaving the Church, walk around to the south door and across the graveyard to a gap in the boundary and follow the faint pathway which leads south downhill to a gap in the earthen rampart. Go through this gap and descend carefully to a farm track.

Turn right along this to reach the end of the wall and a gate marked “Permissive path to road at Holyeat”. Go through the gate and follow left hand field boundary to the lane at Holyeat Farm. Turn left and follow lane through South Brentor, continuing straight along it until you see a gate ahead with views across the valley to Blackdown.

Turn left here along a well-surfaced farm track. At the end of this are two gates. Take the right-hand gate signposted “Public footpath”. This path crosses 5 fields:

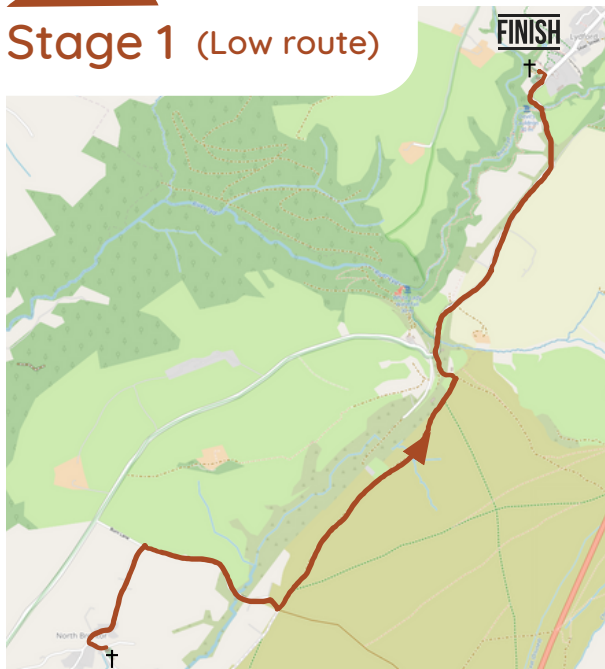
- Cross field 1 ahead, keeping to the right of the pond, to a gate in the field boundary opposite.
- Cross field 2 diagonally to a kissing gate in the bottom right-hand corner.
- Cross field 3 to a second kissing gate with a gateway to the left into field 4.
- In field 4, head for the gateway in top left-hand corner.
- Cross field 5 to a padlocked metal gate. Part of this can be opened to give access into Darke Lane, leading into North Brentor.

At the road junction, turn right towards the War Memorial. You will see **Christ Church** to your right. This is much more modern than its counterpart, but no less fitting as a place of reflection.

# Brentor to Lydford



## Stage 1 (Low route)



When you have reflected a while, return to the War Memorial from the church and turn right along the lane to the signpost beyond the playing field. Turn right into Burn Lane as far as the cattle grid onto West Blackdown.

Follow the road uphill until it bends right. At this point go straight on between stones onto the moorland track and across the leat to join Route 27 of the National Cycle Network.

Turn left onto this track and follow it until it starts to descend towards a white house. Bear right onto a grassy track and follow its boundary wall to a granite boundary stone marked "MT".

Continue on this track to the ford and then on to the summit of a grassy slope. Here, follow the stony track until you see a wooden five bar gate to your left and a row of cottages.

Pass through the gate and follow the access road across a former railway bridge to the junction with the main road from Brentor to Lydford (to the left is Lydford Gorge waterfall entrance - National Trust). HiVis is recommended for the next section.

Turn right along this road and keep to the right. Descend with great caution to cross the River Lyd and climb up hill over former railway bridge to top where road levels out past houses. Continue beside the former railway track as far as the bridge.

Proceed under the bridge in single file to descend to the entrance to Lydford Gorge (National Trust).

Cross the bridge over the Gorge itself before climbing the steep hill into Lydford using the footpath on the right-hand side of the road to the Church of St Petrock, Lydford.

Go through the church gate and you will find a granite wheelwright's stone to the right of the path and the unique watchmaker's tomb against St Petrock's church wall beside the porch. The lights come on automatically to welcome you as you enter.