

Start/End	Car park at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Whixall
Grid reference	SJ 51779 34808
Distance	Approximately 2 miles
Time	Approximately 1 hour at a leisurely pace
Terrain	Field paths, short distance on lane; can be overgrown in places

*St Mary's Church was built in 1867 at a cost of £3000. It is described in Kelly's Directory of 1909 as an edifice of brick and stone in plain Gothic style from designs by the late G E Street RA. It consists of Chancel, Nave of four bays, north aisle, south porch and a turret over the chancel arch containing one bell. The large picture behind the altar depicting the Risen Christ and two disciples on the road to Emmaus is thought to be by a pupil of Caravaggio.*



*The pond plays host to a wide range of wildlife.*

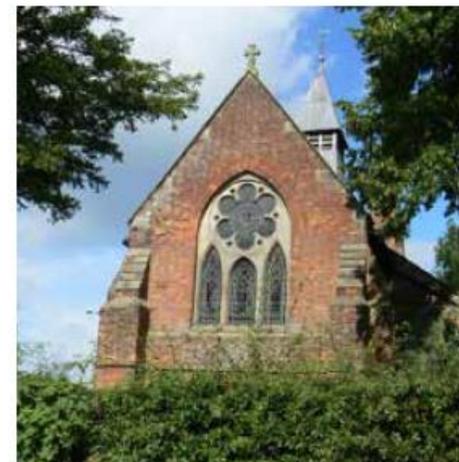
Turn left out of the car park at the church and follow Church Lane for about a quarter of a mile until you reach Oak Cottage on your left. Take the stile to the left of the cottage driveway and continue ahead over two more stiles. A few steps after the second stile, turn right and go through a gap in the trees to cross the walk boards.

Cross the middle of this field towards a group of large trees at approximately 1 o'clock from the walk boards where there is another stile. Crossing this, turn half-right past a pond towards the closest house, Mill House Cottage.

Keeping the house on your right follow the hedge line enclosing the garden, onto the track and through the farm gate. Continue straight on the track past Mill House Farm to a lane (Sandy Bank). Cross the road and go over the stile opposite, to the left of a farm gate. Continue ahead to stile in hedgerow, and then follow an obvious path across at a left hand angle to the next stile. Bear slightly right, passing behind Higher House Farm, over the next two stiles, to a field gate where you come out onto a road.

*Higher House Farm is one of several half-timbered buildings in the area and is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the mid 17th century.*

Cross the road and go over stile ahead, follow hedge line, go past pond and turn right towards another stile. Go over the stile and cross the field to the far right corner. Go over the stile onto a footpath between trees. This emerges next to a house at the top of Garners Lane. Ignoring the official diversion sign which relates to another footpath, continue to follow Whixall Walks signs to the end of the lane where it joins a road. Turn left (past another half-timbered house), immediately looking out for a stile on the right opposite Lower House stables.



Keep to the hedgerow along the right hand side of the field and cross the next stile maintaining the same direction. Crossing the next field you will go over a stile into Church Lane opposite Oak Cottage. Turn left along Church Lane, retracing the start of the route back to the church car park.



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