

St Mary the Virgin, Seager

All Saints,

Christian Malford

St Giles,

Wotton Hellaways

St Peters,

Wotton Langley

St James,

Draycot Cerne

All Saints, Sutton Benger



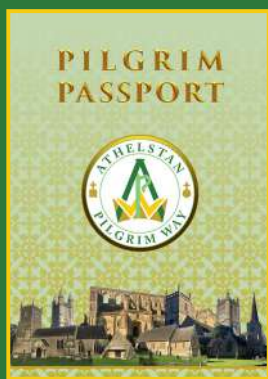
Draycot

WALKING GUIDE 3

ATHELSTAN PILGRIM WAY



The Athelstan Pilgrim Way is a pilgrimage route linking all 36 Anglican churches in the North Wiltshire Deanery. It comprises 6 individual circular routes, with linking sections between them, and with the historic medieval Malmesbury Abbey at its centre.



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR PILGRIM PASSPORT?

There are 36 stamps to collect in each church.

PLUS: Pick up a children's guide and find out more about the furry friends guarding each building.



AVAILABLE FROM MALMESBURY ABBEY BOOKSHOP

GUIDES COMPILED, WALKED, AND WRITTEN BY DAVID & ANNE POPE
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WWW.BRISTOL.ANGLICAN.ORG

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Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 9BA
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WELCOME

King Athelstan venerated Malmesbury as a centre of learning and was buried there, by the altar of the 7th-century abbey, next to St Aldhelm. The current Malmesbury Abbey is a successor to that original building, itself a shadow of its pre-Reformation heyday. The Abbey once rivalled Salisbury Cathedral in size, and has a 15th-century tomb commemorating Athelstan, the first King to unite England as a cohesive entity.

Our historic churches are living places of Christian worship and active community. They are havens of peace and contemplation. Our churches bear the marks of centuries of history, national politics and the changing preferences for how worship was conducted over time.

I invite you to make your pilgrimage around these remarkable churches of North Wiltshire, to marvel at the history and beauty and perhaps take a moment for contemplation or prayer. Whether your pilgrimage is long or short, on foot or otherwise, dare to imagine that you tread where King Athelstan trod before.

+ Neil Swindon



North Wiltshire Mission Area
Diocese of Bristol

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org.uk

CAUSEWAY

I did not know I needed you
I did not know you were
I'd heard of You and Thee and Thou
That you were Him not her.

I'd said your name across these lands
I'd asked for you you came
I hadn't called you but your hands
Though new, seemed just the same.

In laughing at our well-made plans
In smiling at our needs
In saving from our futile dance:
Oh hear the hand that feeds!

Oh to be so sure of self
Oh to be so proud
Oh the richness in sheer wealth –
Means nothing, to the shroud.

Safe the causeway gift for years
Safe the way from flood
Safe if even through the tears
And wretchedness we're stood

Away from that which tires and fears
Away from modern angst
Away to that of peaceful ease -
Dear God, the joy in thanks!

In feeling, now, at last, I'm home
In taking calm, and love,
In slewing off the long-alone -
My causeway, from above.

by Carole Britton

Also by the author: *Past, Present, Presence*,
a companion book about the churches
available from Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop



Detail of stained glass window, St James Draycot Cerne

WALKING ROUTES:

Draycot

BOOK
3

This section of the Athelstan Pilgrimage Way is a circular route around the 6 churches in the Draycot Benefice. The total distance is 11 miles, which should take around 5.5 hours. However, the section is made up of 5 shorter stages, each being between two or three of the churches, which can be tackled separately or in combination, provided that transport is available at the end of the walk.

The route described in this booklet starts and ends at Seagry Church, but the walk can be started at any point along the route, and can be walked in either direction.

The starting point is given for each stage of the walk, with the Ordnance Survey Grid Reference, the Post Code and the what3words app location reference.

All of the route is along public rights of way, or minor roads where necessary, and passes through fields where livestock may be grazing. Dogs should be kept on a lead and care taken where cattle are present, particularly during the calving season.

Practical advice on staying safe when walking dogs can be found online.

Links to other sections of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way:

This section of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way links to the Gauzebrook section via footpaths from from Stanton St Quintin Church to Seagry Church, and to the Woodbridge section via footpaths from Great Somerford Church to Seagry Church.

NEED TO KNOW:

Total distance: 11 miles

Duration: 5.5 hours

Level of difficulty: Easy, but some paths can become overgrown and the maize can grow very high either side of the path between Seagry and Christian Malford

Car parking and refreshments: see each stage for details

Public transport: see <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/>

Church opening: see www.athelstanpilgrimway.org/routes

Toilets: Sutton Benger Church (subject to church opening)

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for your safety when you walk or cycle the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, or for the accuracy of information provided regarding the routes. Information in this booklet is accurate at the date of publication, but may be subject to change.

STAGE 1: SEAGRY TO CHRISTIAN MALFORD

Length: 2.5 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy walking, but see notes below

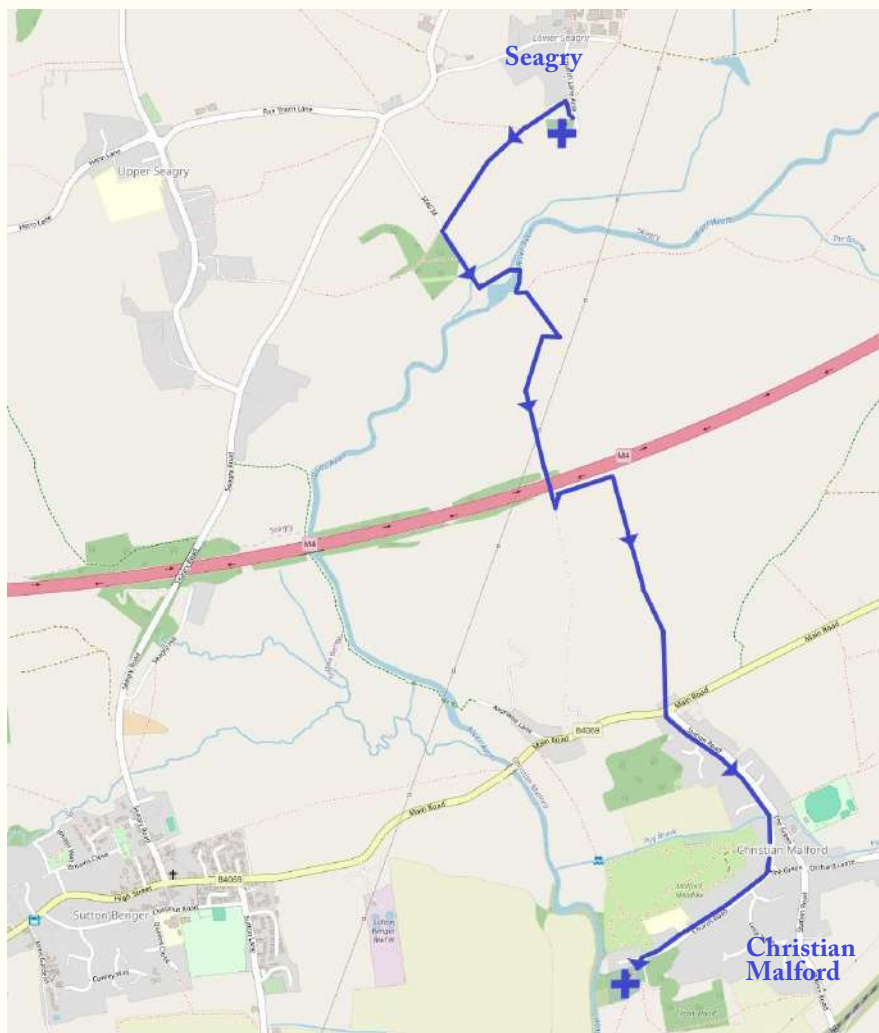
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST958808 **Post Code:** SN15 5EP

what3words: island.pads.relies

Car parking: parking at Seagry Church and Christian Malford Church

Refreshments: The village shop/post office in Christian Malford is on the route

Notes: The maize in the first field after Seagry Church can grow very high in the summer, but there is a path through the field





Directions:

1. With your back to the main door of Seagry church, turn left and follow the gravel path down to the car park area. Go through the double wooden gates and turn immediately left. Go through another wooden gate into a field (where there may be horses) and follow the public footpath adjacent to the stone wall on your left. Go through a small metal gate and follow the well-trodden, usually cleared path across the maize field. (In summer, the maize can be over six feet high).
2. When you reach the other side of the field look for the gap in the hedge (field gateway) and go through it. There is a stile, but it is usually buried in the hedge.
3. On reaching a road, turn left and walk along it through a farm gate straight towards, and onto, a gravel driveway. Go straight on towards the barn, past Seagry Mill House on the left. Walk around the barn on the right, through gates to a gravel path which becomes a grass track.
4. When you come to the Upper Seagry Gate, cross over the river. Once on the other side cross over the field (the footpath goes to the right around the edge, but there is usually a trodden path straight across) and a little stream. Keeping the pylon on the left and the hedges on the right, walk in a slight diagonal direction across the field to a stile in the hedge, cross the stile, turn right and walk through the gap in the hedge.
5. Walk towards the gap and, contrary to the footpath marked on the OS map, keep to the left-hand side of the hedge and follow the field hedge up towards the electricity pylon. When you reach the electricity pylon, carry straight on, go through a gap on the right just before the bridge over the M4 and cross the bridge.
6. Once over the bridge, walk to the bottom of the fence line, turn left and cross the stile. Cross the field by walking along its left hand side, walking parallel with the M4.
7. When you arrive at a point parallel with the tree line on the right-hand side, turn right and walk towards the tree line and a hidden gap between the trees. Cross a bridge and a stile. (You might need to walk around a fallen tree to find the stile.)
8. Keep to the right-hand hedge line and follow the mown track, alongside horse paddocks. Depending on the time of year, this can be muddy and slippery. Once you get to the end of the track next to the horse exercise ring, go over a stile and cross the bridge.
9. When you reach the road, cross into Station Road opposite, taking care as this is a blind corner on a busy road. (It is advisable to turn left or right for a short distance before crossing the road, where the visibility is better). Continue down Station Road passing the shop on your right-hand side until you get to a fork in the road, with a 'school' sign.
10. Take the right-hand fork. When you get to the triangle with the memorial cross in the middle, turn right and continue down the road. You will see All Saints' Church ahead. Follow the drive round to the main door.

STAGE 2: CHRISTIAN MALFORD TO TYTHERTON KELLAWAYS

Length: 2 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST959784 **Post Code:** SN15 4BW

what3words: elects.trying.bystander

Car parking: Christian Malford Church and street parking at Tytherton Kellaways



All Saints, Christian Malford

Directions:

1. With your back to the church door at Christian Malford, turn left and then take the footpath through the graveyard to a gate. Go through the gate and then straight ahead to a stile in a fence.

2. Cross over the stile and go straight across the field to another stile in the fence on the opposite side. Cross over the stile and head down the mown path towards the next fence. Go through a kissing gate.

3. Continue to follow the mown path straight ahead. Go through a

rusty kissing gate, over a bridge, then over a stile. Follow the mown path diagonally towards the buildings in the distance. When you reach the fence, walk alongside it to a stile at the end.

4. After crossing this stile, keep to the left-hand field edge. When you get to the edge of the hedge, turn left to go under a railway arch. Turn right onto a footpath.

5. Continue along this footpath straight ahead until you reach Carpenter's Farm. This might involve crossing a number of stiles, but the path might have been rerouted.

6. Go through the farmyard, keep the farmhouse on your right-hand side and head between the cow sheds to a stile in a hedge.

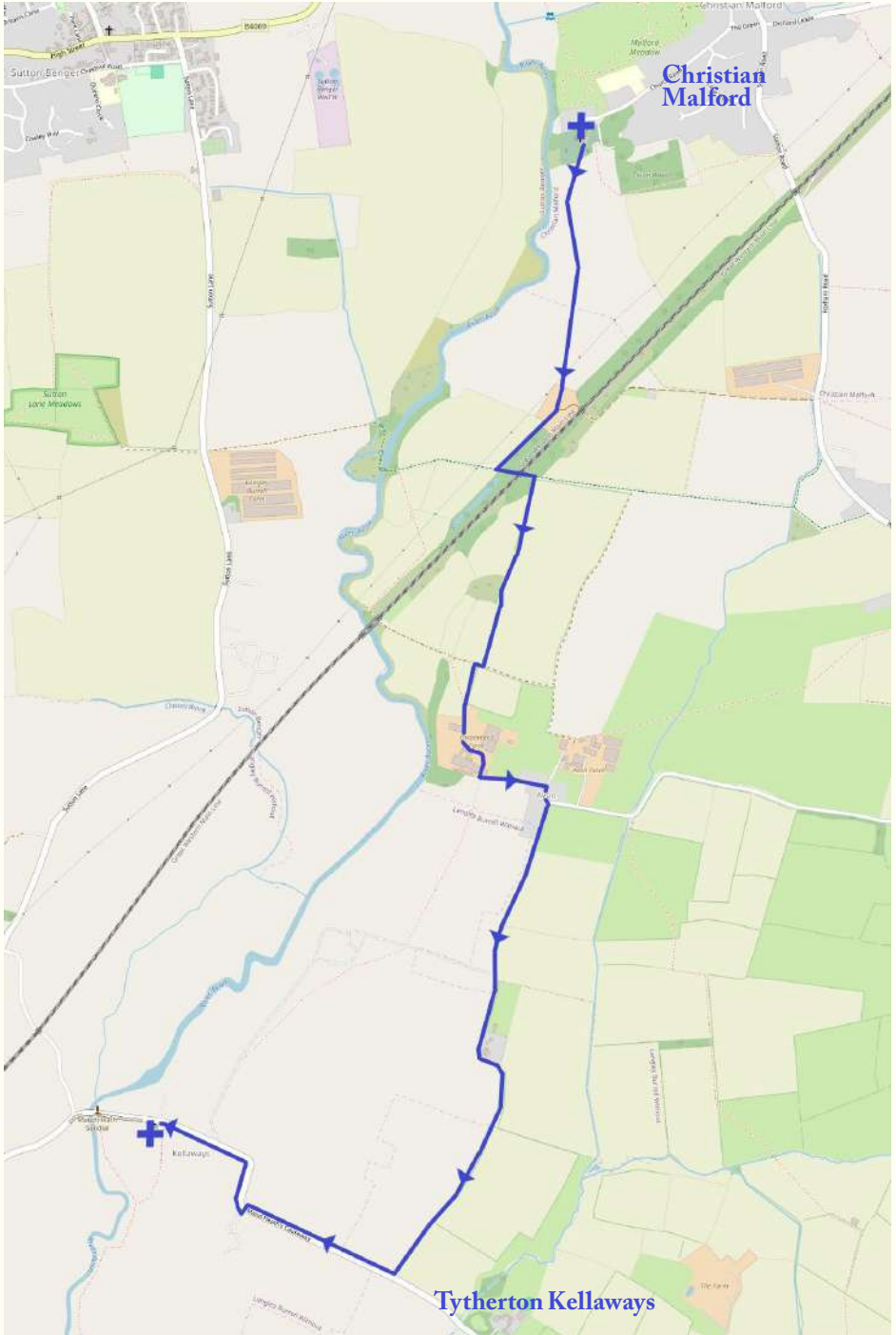
7. When you reach the stile, do not cross it but instead turn left along the farm road.

8. At the T-junction, turn right, then turn right at the next T-junction shortly afterwards (signposted Post Office and Shop).

9. Follow the road to the next T-junction (on a busy road), turn right and walk along the pavement.

10. Just before the double bend, cross the road with care to the pavement on the opposite side.

11. Walk along the pavement until you reach St Giles' Church.



STAGE 3: TYTHERTON KELLAWAYS TO KINGTON LANGLEY

Length: 2.5 miles **Duration:** 1 hour 25 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy, but see notes below

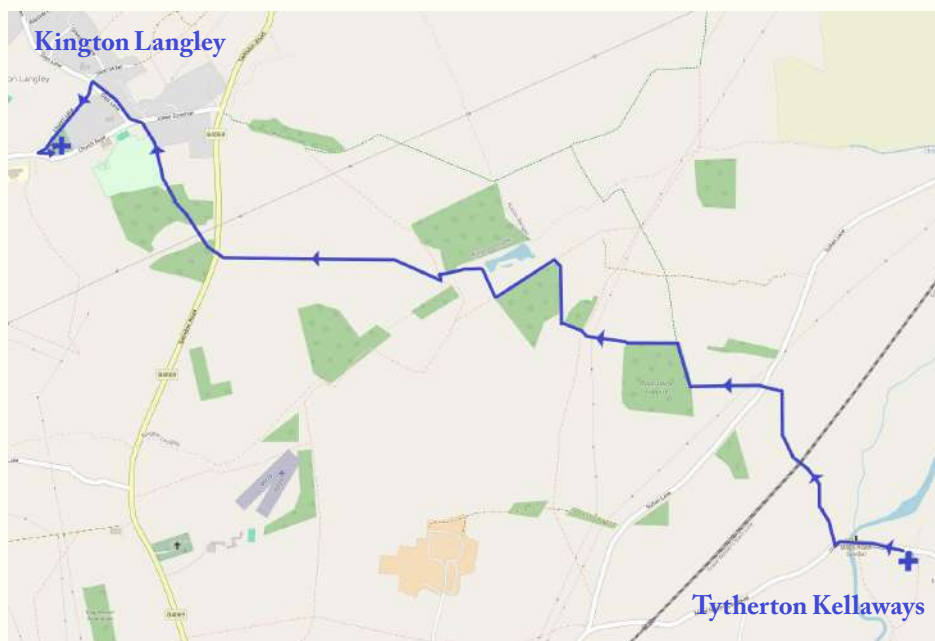
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST948757 **Post Code:** SN15 4LR

what3words: scales.fallen.frail

Car parking: street parking at Tytherton Kellaways and at Kington Langley

Refreshments: Workshop Café at Church Farm Estate in Kington Langley

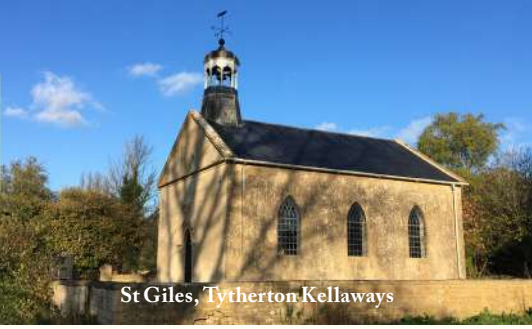
Notes: the footpath through woodland approaching Kington Langley can become very overgrown in places



Directions:

1. With your back to the church door, turn right and walk out of the gate. Turn left and walk along the road on the pavement. This is part of Maud's Causeway – note the monument 'to the memory of the worthy Maud Heath' on the opposite side of the road. At the next junction, turn right, signposted towards Sutton Benger & Malmesbury, and continue along this road.

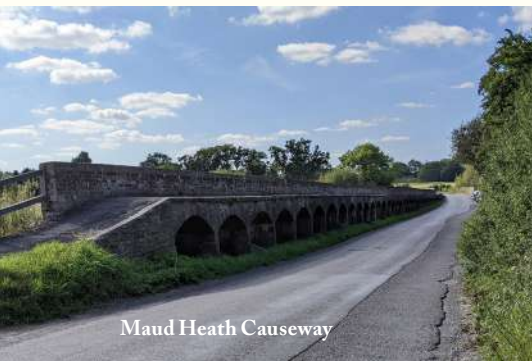
2. Go under a railway bridge and continue to follow the road around, past Thornhill Farm on the right. When you reach a road, go straight across onto a bridleway. Follow the bridleway through two metal gates (curving to the right) until you get to another gate and then take the footpath left into a field.



St Giles, Tytherton Kellaways



Maud Heath Causeway monument



Maud Heath Causeway

3. Stay on the left-hand field edge, then go over a stile (rotten and broken at the time of writing) in a hedge. Continue to walk straight on with the hedge to the right of you in a field. Cross a stile on the right-hand side in a hedge and keep the wood to the left-hand side. Walk round the edge of the wood, cross over the field towards a pond and walk left along the right-hand field edge with a pond on the other side.

4. Go through a big gap on the right after the pond and cross the field to the next gap. At this point, there is a bridleway straight ahead, but it is through a maize field and might not be visible. If this is the case, walk around the field to the left to join the bridleway at the other end of the field after an open area on your left. Follow the bridleway to get to the road.

5. Turn right and walk along the road edge for around 50 metres. (This is the B4069, a busy road which feeds onto the M4). Cross the road carefully and take a footpath on the far side. Cross a field diagonally to the right, head under the pylons and find the footpath that goes through a wooded area.

6. When the woodland ends, walk through a gate into a field and cross to a gate in the far left-hand corner. Go through the gate and walk down the footpath with a fence on the right and trees on the left, arriving at a road. (Take care at this point, as the road is a bus route and can be busy.)

7. Turn left, walk up the road, then turn right into Days Lane. Walk along Days Lane, turn left into Church Lane, and follow this road to St Peter's Church.

STAGE 4: KINGTON LANGLEY TO SUTTON BENGER

Length: 2.5 miles **Duration:** 1 hour 25 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST923769 **Post Code:** SN15 5NJ

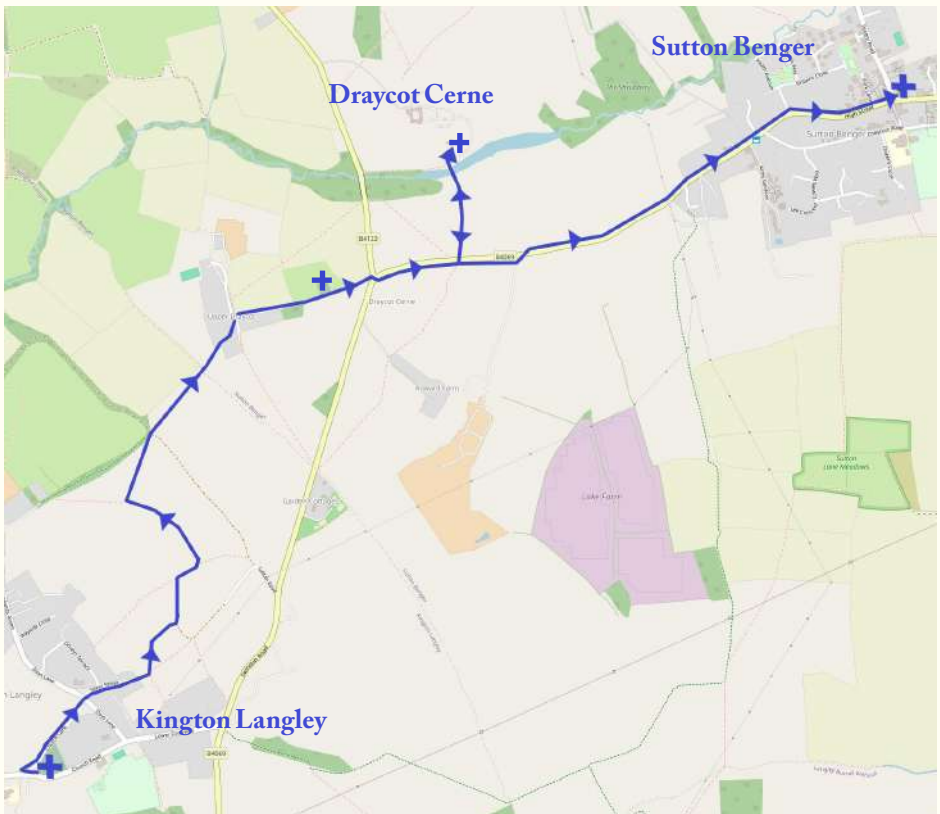
what3words: protrude.meanwhile.unionists

Car parking: street parking at Kington Langley and Sutton Benger (there is no parking available at St James Church, Draycot Cerne)

Refreshments: Workshop Café at Church Farm Estate in Kington Langley, the Wellesley Arms, Bell House Hotel and La Flambé restaurant in Sutton Benger

Toilets: inside Sutton Benger Church, under the tower

Notes: St James Draycot Cerne is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, and the Trust website should be consulted for arrangements to view the inside of the church:
<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk>



Directions:

1. With your back to the church door, turn right and head out of the gates. Turn right out of the gate and head down Church Lane. When you reach the crossroads with Days Lane continue straight over onto Silver Street. When the tarmac road becomes a gravel track, continue on past the houses. The gravel turns into a hardcore narrower track here. On reaching a kissing gate, turn left (do not go through the kissing gate).

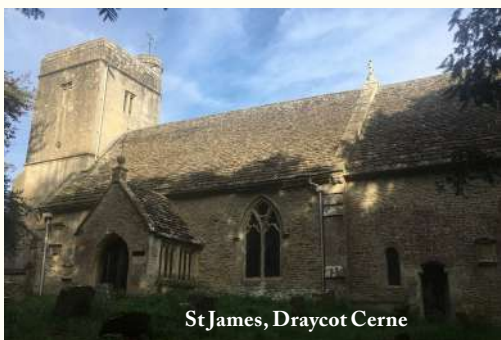
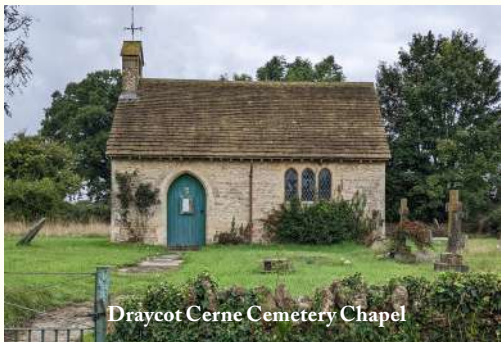
2. At the junction, where the track bends to the right, take a slight left and cross the stile. Continue diagonally across the field following the well-trodden path through the grass. Ignore the path that turns right and continue diagonally across the field to reach some willow trees. After the willow trees, turn left down a path between the hedges, crossing over a small stream.

3. Immediately turn right here (ignore the footpath as it is on the map), follow the path along the right-hand field edge to reach the first corner, then follow the well-trodden path round left to the next corner. Go through a narrow path in this corner, where the path heads downhill to meet another footpath.

4. On reaching this footpath, turn right to reach a crossroads and then go straight ahead, arriving at a field. Stick to the right-hand field boundary and cross over the farm track to go through a metal gate onto a public Bridleway. Go through the wooden gate and keep a beautiful dry-stone wall on your right.

5. At the end of the wall, turn left and follow the gravel driveway to the road. At the road junction, turn right and follow the road to arrive at Draycot Cerne Cemetery Chapel on the left.

6. With the chapel gate behind you, turn left and walk down the road. When you reach a busy road junction (with the B4069), cross straight ahead very carefully to the other side. To the right-hand side, there is a pavement leading to Sutton Benger.



7. A little way down here, you will see the main gates of the Draycot Estate on the other side of the road. Inside the estate grounds is the historic church of St James, Draycot Cerne. The outside of the church can be viewed by crossing the road, entering the estate drive via the wicket gate in the main gates and walking along the drive to the church. (There is no public access beyond this point). After viewing the church, retrace your steps back to the main road and cross to the other side.

8. Continue along the pavement to reach Sutton Benger, crossing the road when the pavement changes to the other side. Walk through Sutton Benger, past the Wellesley Arms, until you see All Saints' Church ahead of you. Cross the road carefully and walk through the church gate.



DID YOU KNOW?
You can follow Stan on a pilgrimage around all the churches on the Athelstan Pilgrim Way. There are friendly guard dogs at each church. Pick up a **Children's Guide** in Malmesbury Abbey bookshop.



STAGE 5: SUTTON BENGER TO SEAGRY

Length: 1.75 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy, but see notes below

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST947787 **Post Code:** SN15 4RH

what3words: apprehend.micro.publish

Car parking: street parking at Sutton Benger and outside Seagry Church

Refreshments: The Wellesley Arms, Bell House Hotel and La Flambé restaurant in Sutton Benger

Toilets: inside Sutton Benger Church, under the tower

Notes: the maize in the final field before Seagry Church can grow very high in the summer, but there is a path through the field

Directions:

1. With your back to the main church door, turn right and head out of the gate. Turn right onto Seagry Road and walk along the right-hand side of the road. Continue along this road over the M4 and continue past a few houses until you arrive opposite the entrance to Manor Farm House on the left. Here turn right and go through the kissing gate.





2. Follow the wide grassy path between two fields and when you reach a wide metal farm gate on the left after around 100 yards, with a public footpath disc on the gatepost, go through it and keep to the left-hand field edge. You will reach another wide metal gate and stile. Cross the stile. Continue straight ahead through trees. Cross a bridge ahead of you.

3. Pass through another wide metal gate (often open) and continue along the right-hand tree line. Come to another wide metal gate and stile. Cross over the stile and cross the road to a gap in the hedge to your right. Go straight across the field (sometimes through a maize crop, but there is usually a clear path) to a metal gate. Keep to the right-hand fence and you will see the Church of St Mary the Virgin ahead of you.

4 CHURCH FEATURES TO SPOT ALONG THE WAY:



Sutton Benger's Green Man



Seagry's church door inscription



Scratch sundial at Christian Malford



Brass at Draycot Cerne

Maud Heath's bequest of 1474 gave the money for the causeway which features on Stage 3 of this Walking Route. She is also commemorated with a stone monument at the top of Wick Hill, south east from Kellaways Tytherton, looking out over the most easterly section of the Bristol River Avon.

Maud was carved in 1838, and the then vicar, William Bowles, wrote these words for the memorial:

Thou who dost pause on this aerial height,
Where Maud Heath's Pathway winds in shade or light,
Christian Wayfarer in a world of strife,
BE STILL, and ponder on the Path of Life.



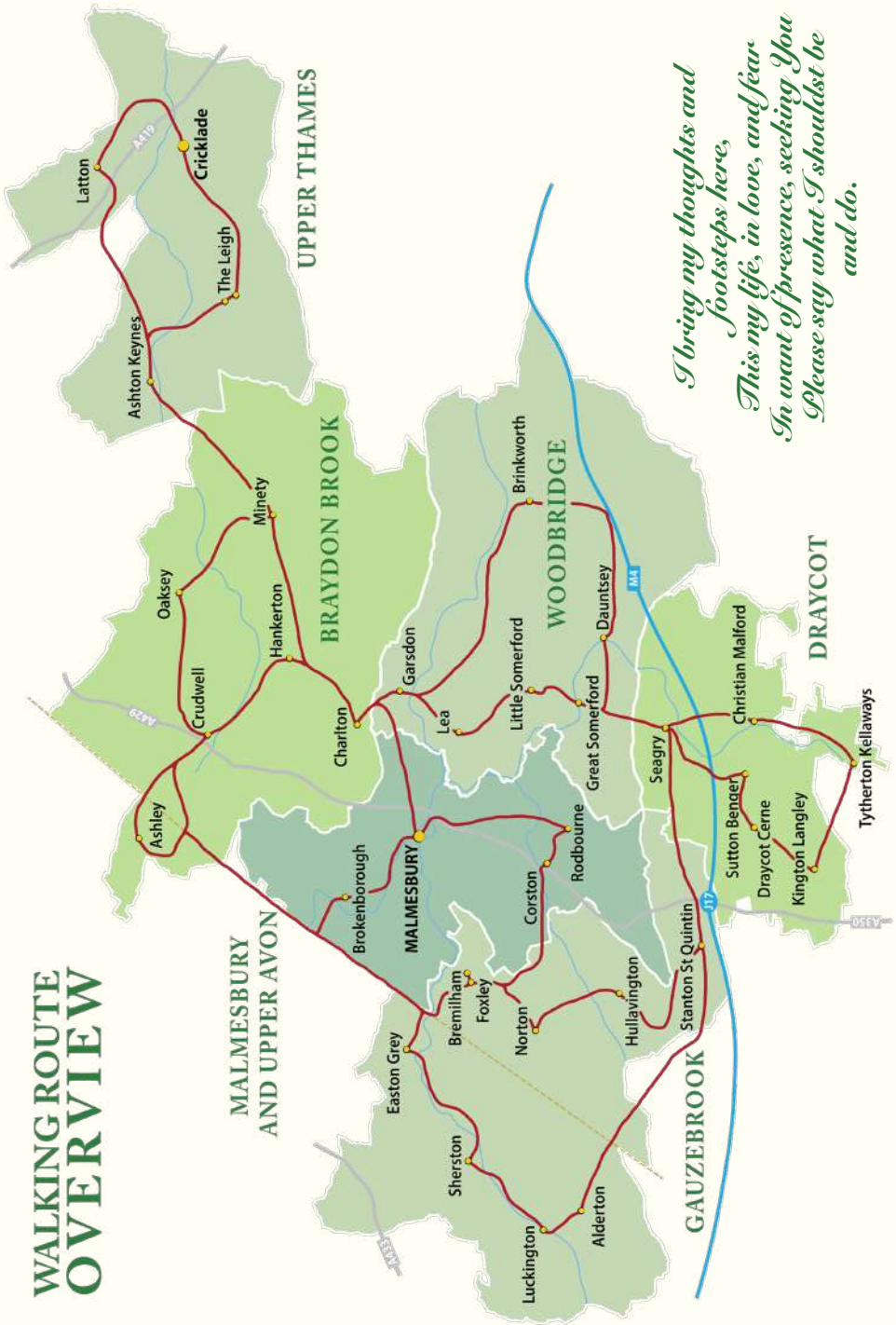
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Have you enjoyed your pilgrim walk? Did you meet unexpected obstacles or discover something new?

Find us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/athelstanpilgrimway/>



WALKING ROUTE OVERVIEW



*Bring my thoughts and
footsteps here,
This my life, in love, and fear
In want of presence, seeking You
Please say what I shouldst be
and do.*

PLANNING YOUR WALK:

MAPS: Whilst the maps shown in this booklet should be sufficient, we recommend the use of the Ordnance Survey Explorer map 156, which contains full details of footpaths and bridleways.

SAFETY: Walking is a low impact activity that offers many health benefits and is generally a safe way to exercise. However, there are safety and environmental issues to consider. The National Trust website and the Ramblers website offer useful safety tips for exploring the outdoors.

HOSPITALITY, REFRESHMENTS & TOILETS: Relevant information is included on the detailed description of each stage of the walk.

TRANSPORT: Although the route described in this booklet is circular, the individual stages are not. For up-to-date information about local bus services, please visit:

www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/accommodation

CHURCH INFORMATION: If a church is not open, details of how to obtain access should be available in the porch. Further details of the churches, together with their usual opening arrangements, can be found on the Athelstan Pilgrim Way website:

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PILGRIMAGE?

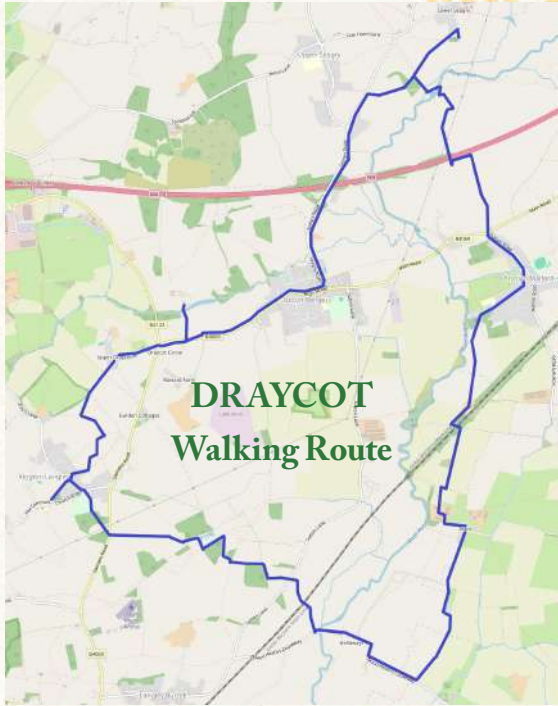
Pilgrimage has historically been a way to enact one's dedication to God by undertaking a walk to a site of special religious significance. Liturgy, prayers, and material tokens of devotion (such as pilgrim badges) were particular features of medieval Christian pilgrimage. Today such enactments may take less devotional forms, but are increasingly found to be restorative and reorientating in surprising ways, both physically and spiritually.

Find out more about the Christian understanding of pilgrimage by using **The Pilgrim Way** resources from the Church of England:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/pilgrim-way>



WALKING GUIDE 3

Athelstan Pilgrim Way



Churches of the Draycot Benefice:

- St Mary the Virgin, Seagry
- All Saints, Christian Malford
- St Giles, Tytherton Kellaways
- St Peters, Kington Langley
- St James, Draycot Cerne (CCT)
- All Saints, Sutton Benger



North Wiltshire Mission Area
Administered by Malmesbury Abbey
Diocese of Bristol

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org.uk

