



The Wye Churches Trail

WALKING ROUTE **FROM ST GILES CHURCH GOODRICH** **TO ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH WALFORD**

Distance approximately 4 miles

**The extended walk to include St Margarets Church Welsh Bicknor adds
approximately 5 miles.**

This walk is covered by the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL14 – Wye
Valley and Forest of Dean.

No charge is made for this guide.

Thank you for visiting the ancient Church of St Giles Goodrich. We hope you have enjoyed your visit. A donation box is located just inside the main door. Your donation will help us maintain the church for future generations to enjoy.

WALKING ROUTE FROM ST GILES CHURCH GOODRICH TO ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH WALFORD

Distance approximately 4 miles.

Stage 1 Turn left as you leave St Giles Church and follow the footpath to the bottom lefthand corner of the churchyard. Pass through the gate and follow the footpath along the lower edge of the arable field for a distance of approximately 150 yards. Pass through the gate and continue to follow the footpath along the back of the village school. Pass between the present school building and the old school building (now private houses) to the highway. At the highway turn left and walk a few steps to the bus stop. Cross over the road.

A worthwhile diversion at this point is to take the lane to Goodrich Castle, approximately 600 yards. Goodrich castle is one of the most complete medieval castles in England. The castle has a café and toilets. A signboard at the entrance to the lane indicates if the castle is open. After a visit retrace your steps.

Stage 2 Follow the road signposted to Welsh Bicknor, Youth Hostel and Courtfield. After 100 yards the road crosses a road bridge.

If you are undertaking the extended walk to visit St Margarets Church at Welsh Bicknor this is point it diverges from the direct walk to Walford.

Stage 3 On your left and to the righthand side of the bridge you will see a footpath leading down some steps. Go down the steps and follow the path at the side of the road (B4229) until you reach Kerne Bridge. Kerne Bridge is clearly visible from the steps.

As you walk along the road you pass Flanesford Priory on your left – a café is open here at weekends in the summer season.

This is the point that the extended walk to St Margarets Church re-joins the direct walk to St Michael and All Angels.

Don't forget to look behind you at this point for a fine view of Goodrich Castle in its prominent setting.

Stage 4 Cross over Kerne Bridge and turn right on the B4234 (ignore the traffic signpost pointing left for Walford). Pass the 'Inn on the Wye' on your left.

The 'Inn on the Wye' offers refreshments and accommodation.

Stage 5 Take the first track on your left after the 'Inn on the Wye' away from the road. Ignore the first track off to the left. The track becomes a footpath and bears away to your left. The footpath follows the contour of the hill and passes above the River Wye. This path is initially in open countryside but it later becomes wooded. After following this footpath for about 1.1 miles a footpath to the left takes you down the hillside to the road.

Stage 6 At the road (B4234) turn left. In about 130 yards a footpath on your right leaves the road.

The 'Mill Race' public house is close by for refreshments and food.

Stage 7 Follow the footpath across the field for 300 yards. The footpath crosses a footbridge and enters the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels Walford.

Directions for the extended walk to St Margarets Church at Welsh Bicknor are on the back page of this guide.

A guide describing the next stage of your walk to the Church of St Mary the Virgin Ross on Wye is available at the Church of St Michael and All Angels Walford.

Self-service tea and coffee and toilet facilities are available at St Michael and All Angels Church Walford.

EXTENDED WALK TO INCLUDE ST MARGARETS WELSH BICKNOR

Distance an additional 5 miles.

St Margarets Church is a Victorian building that is no longer used as a church. It is in private ownership and is not open to the public. The setting of the church on the banks on the River Wye is evocative and this makes a visit worthwhile.

Stage A Follow the directions for the walk to St Michael and All Angels Walford as far as Stage 2.

Stage B Continue to walk along the road to Welsh Bicknor and the Youth Hostel. The road leaves the wooded area and opens out into parkland.

Stage C At the fork in the road take a right fork following the signs to the Youth Hostel.

Stage D As you approach the Youth Hostel you will see a footpath to the right of the track. Follow this footpath as it passes to the rear of the Youth Hostel and drops down through the woods to the River Wye.

Stage E Keep going forward on the path until it joins the footpath along the bank of the River Wye (part of the Wye Valley Walk). Check you are heading upstream along the River Wye.

Stage F The footpath passes through the camping ground of the Youth Hostel and St Margarets Church is visible ahead.

Stage G After enjoying the setting of the church continue to walk forward on the riverbank footpath for 3.3 miles until you reach the first road (at Kerne Bridge). Ascend the steps to the road. You are re-joining the direct walk to St Michael and All Angels Church Walford at Stage 4.

The Wye Churches Trail is a walking route from Ross on Wye to Monmouth taking in the historic churches along the River Wye. Most of the churches are 800 to 900 years old and in picturesque settings.

This guide is supported by the Ross and Archenfield Deanery of Hereford Diocese of the Church of England and the Wye Valley AONB.