

Church Walks

These are family walks that include a sacred place, past or present.

They use public footpaths and bridleways.

Most walks are 4-6 miles approximately and where possible on easy terrain.

We welcome your ideas for walks as well so that others can share in the beauty and the history of the landscape.

Each walk can be downloaded and printed to take as a guide to the walk.

We use the Ordnance Survey Maps and also What 3 Words for locations. The app can be installed on all screens.

Walk One

Chapel in the Wood

Distance: 6 miles

Terrain: Mostly flat, open grassland, quiet lane, wooded and with some steady hills

Start White Hill Plantation, W3W. [pining.standing.ambitions](#)

Description:

Beginning at the small parking area, the path follows the Dorset Ridgeway known as the Abbotsbury Lawns all the way to Abbotsbury Castle. Stunning views over Abbotsbury and the Chesil Beach to Portland to the south east around to Golden Cap to the south west.

Abbotsbury Castle is a short extension to the walk which then continues from [dentures.juniors.wishes](#) north down a narrow lane to [vet.towels.soap](#). The wooded path then leads through to the remains of a chapel. Part of the west wall and the altar remain and some local graves among the leaves. See Points of Interest at the end.

There is more about the chapel and its connections to Netley Abby in Southampton the book 'Secret Places of West Dorset' by Louise Hodgson - www.rovingpress.co.uk

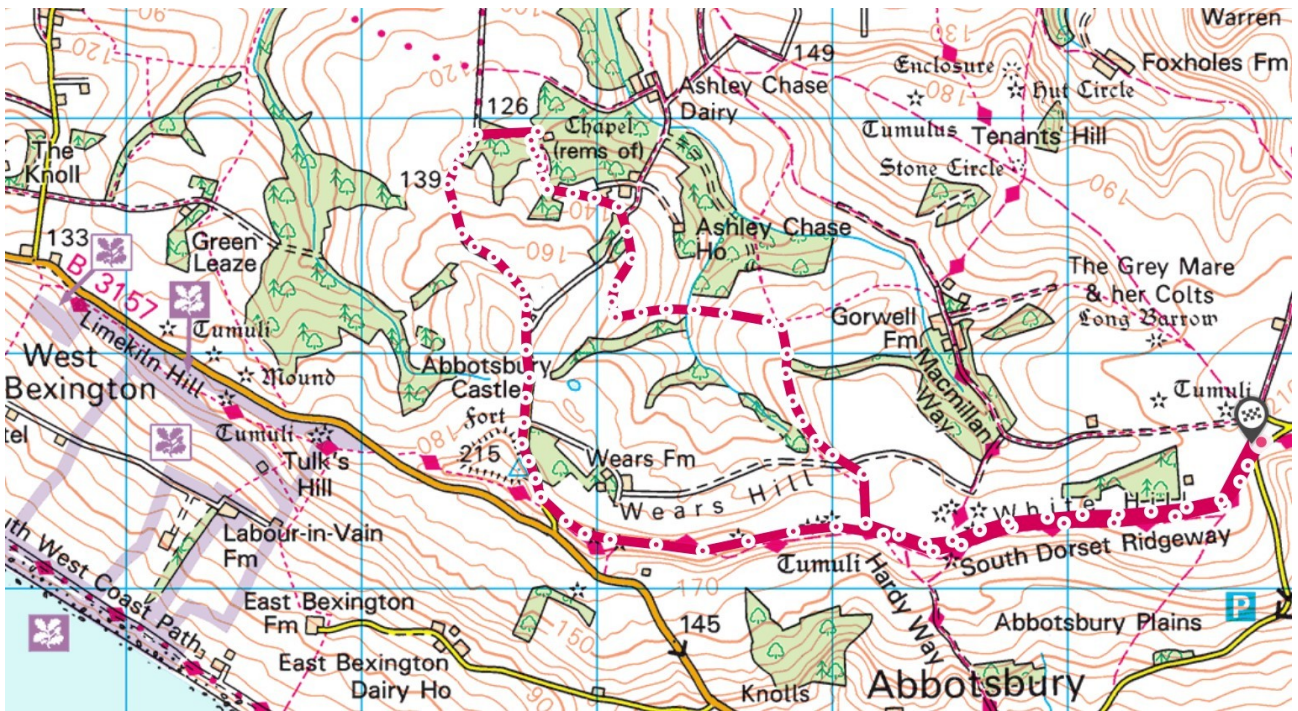
The chapel was once part run by the Cistercian monk who farmed the land and dedicated the religious outpost to St Luke. He was a Syrian from Antioch and companion to St Paul on his travels in the first century AD. The Abbey was 'dissolved' in 1538 when Henry the V111 changed the English religion.

From the chapel, the path is hard to locate in the woods but once found, you will emerge through the trees at the South of the wood [devours.nutty.steadily](#).

Heading West South West you cross a track before following the path South with Ashley House on your left. Continue At a junction of three fields at [flows.cherished.cowering](#), the path goes West across Bramble Withy Bed, up the hill past a row of trees to a path junction at [crumble.quaking.headstone](#) and then taking the south trackway. the path leaves the track at [jots.grapes.kicks](#) and follows the bottom of a steep bank up to the corner and over into the field at the top at approximately [dorms.rocked.jazz](#). The object os to reach the top of the Chase again and the way was a bit overgrown when I found the style in the hedge so a little search is needed but once at the top, the way is clear to set off East again and retrace your steps to the car.

You will need to follow the walk on the map before you set off but with clear views out on the Chase, it is easy to see where you will be walking.





The extract above is from OS Sheet: **OL15 Purbeck and South Dorset** available at local shops or online from www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Key

The Route to follow.



This Walk and route has been physically walked beforehand and the checked on the map. We have tried to keep things as accurate as we can. The walk can be downloaded and printed out. If you are able to successfully reach home again, we would value any comments and additional recommendations as well as suggestions for your own walks. Send these to wrc1@gmx.com and when you are passing one of the churches, a small donation to funds would be gratefully received.