

# CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

**St Michael & All Angels, Isel**  
**to**  
**St Cuthbert, Plumbland Parish Church**  
**via**  
**St Bridget, Bridekirk**

(NOT in the Binsey Team, but a 'bonus' church for walkers)

- Distance:** 9 miles (14.5 km)
- Time:** 4 to 4½ hours walking but allow for a lunch stop
- Grid References:** start – NY 162334 end – NY 142393
- Terrain:** quiet lanes and tracks, fields, a little wood, one short section on verge of main road.
- Gradients:** some quite long ups, but nothing too steep.
- Underfoot:** many miles are good but some stretches are very muddy during or after wet weather, and overgrown in summer.
- Church Access:** St Michael – open from 10.00 to 16.00 every day April to October; Saturday and Sunday only in winter.  
St Bridget – open every day  
St Cuthbert – open all day (You'll think it's locked but that's because the latch is very tricky. Persevere!)

This is one of a set of twelve guides to walks around the Binsey Team.

*ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Italics are used for descriptions of scenery and points of interest which are not essential to route finding.*

### St Michael & All Angels, Isel to Redmain – 2 miles

From the church car park walk up to the road and turn left. *The pink pele tower of Isel Hall can be seen across the fields.* Follow the road as it climbs gently, passing the Old Almshouses on your right. *Endowed by local benefactress, Mary Wybergh, The Wybergh Almshouses provided homes for “poor people of good character and repute” from 1850 to 1965.* The road bends left. *On your left is the valley of the River Derwent with a wooded ridge beyond.* Ignore the turning to Bothel and Sunderland on your right and continue down the road, passing an entrance to Isel Hall which is hidden among trees on your left. *After a second entrance to Isel Hall, a notice board on the wall has information about opening times.* Cross Blumer Beck, a tributary of the River Derwent, and keep on this road for a further half mile. On this stretch you pass The Old School. *Endowed as a school in 1676, the 1836 date stone refers to the more modern section added at that date. Money from the sale of the school and the almshouses in 1965 went into charitable trust funds for further education students and the elderly of the Parish. Further away on the left, forming the far bank of the Derwent, is an interesting cliff formation where sand martins nest.*

Once in woodland look out for a footpath on your left, signposted “Redmain ½ mile”, and turn off along this; it can be very muddy and slippery in places. After about 100 metres, in winter ignore a footpath on the right to Blindcrake and keep straight ahead, signposted “Derwent Bank”; in summer you'll walk straight past the sign without noticing it among the foliage. The path goes down and crosses a wooden footbridge over Ghyll Beck. On the far side turn left and climb up.

Leave the wood over a stile, turn half right and climb diagonally across the field to a stile in the top right corner. Cross the next field in the same direction. Do not go to the top of this field but look for the place where the hedge kinks, about half way up, where you will find the stile out of this field. *Before leaving the field, turn round for a wow! moment – the view of the Skiddaw massif and Binsey.* Negotiate stone pillars and a second stile, then go ahead bearing slightly to the right but keeping to the base of a bank on your right. Follow the bank round to the right until a track materialises which carries you up the bank. At the top keep in the same direction to a stile in the corner. Go over the stile, past stone pillars and up to the road. Turn left and walk along this road, passing the “Redmain Please Drive Carefully” sign. *There are very good views on the left of Binsey, Skiddaw, and the Western Fells.*

### Redmain to St Bridget, Bridekirk – 2 miles

On your left, pass Redmain Hall, *thought to be late 16<sup>th</sup> century and the oldest inhabited house in Redmain,* and on your right, Grange Farm, *with 1812 date stone over the barn door. Further on there is a Victorian post box in a barn wall on your right.* Near the end of the village look out for “Redmain Lodge” sign on a wall on your left and turn down the tarmac driveway here. The drive curves right passing Redmain Lodge, Redmain Hall Farm, and Redmain Gill, all on your left. Go through a gate and straight along a gravel track, clearly labelled “Footpath”.

Where the track forks, keep to the lower path, but when you reach a gate in a corner do NOT go through it. Turn left and, keeping next to the fence on your right, go up the slope to the corner of a wood, and over a stile on your right. Proceed along the left-hand edge of the field with fence and wood on your left. Cross another stile into next field and keep in the same direction with the wood on your left. Where the edge of the wood turns away to the left at a rocky gully, skirt round the right of the gully and boggy ground of a spring. Then bearing slightly right pass a rocky knoll on your right to reach and cross a tricky double stile, with rocks between, in a double fence. Go half right across the next field to a stile by a gate out into a lay-by on the A595 road.

Turn left and proceed WITH CAUTION along the grass verge. This section is unpleasant, *with the wind of passing lorries, noise of traffic, and taste of petrol and diesel*, but safe as long as you keep well over to the left of the verge. A gate half way along this section gives brief respite *and a view to admire*. When you continue, WITH CARE cross the road while you have a clear sight of traffic in both directions and before you get too near the brow of the hill. The verge on the other side of the road is not so wide or even underfoot, but the torment is soon over when you turn up a minor road to the right of the first house on the right.

Follow this lane, grass-grown in places, until you come to a junction on the bend of another road. Go straight ahead, north-west, ignoring a cul-de-sac on the right and Low Road on the left. Also ignore the main turning to Dovenby and Maryport on the left, and go straight on to reach St Bridget's Church on the left. *The twelfth-century font with runic inscription is particularly worth seeing. Seats, particularly those at the top of the newer section of the churchyard, make an excellent spot for lunch.*

### St Bridget, Bridekirk to St Cuthbert, Plumbland (located at Parsonby) – 5 miles

Just beyond the church entrance, but still opposite the churchyard, turn right between two big barns, on one of which is a “Bridekirk Herd” sign. At the end of the farm stock pens and sheds the road turns sharp left and you are out in open countryside of big, rolling, green fields. Follow this very quiet road as it rises for about 1¼ miles. *In spring the verges are full of cowslips, the most I have ever seen in one area, and water avens. Further on, at an opening between trees on your right, look back to see Skiddaw and the Western Fells. Near the top of the hill, on the left of the road a view appears of the Solway, its wind turbines, Scotland, and the houses of Tallentire across the fields.* Follow the road as it descends for a short distance to a junction. Turn sharp right up a stony track signposted “Public Bridleway Tallentire Hill”. Follow this track for about ¾ mile; at first it climbs dead straight, *with superb Solway views on the left*, then gently descends and becomes muddy, and very overgrown in summer, *with a wide panorama on the right*.

Go through a gate out onto a huge grass prairie, where both cows and sheep may be encountered. Strike out half left heading for a power pole on the horizon. On reaching the corner of the field, go through two gates and turn right. Keep to the right-hand edge of the field, with wall on right. Go through three gates passing a sycamore plantation on your left, then past the farm buildings of Grange Grassings, with, possibly, its fierce dog. Go along the farm access track for about 100 metres but where it turns left, with woodland in front of you, turn right through a gate and immediately left up a straight gravel track. Where the track turns off to the right to the radio beacon, a metal construction looking like

a stranded UFO, keep straight on with the fence and hedge, *and the view to the Solway and Criffel*, on your left. When the track peters out, continue beside the fence on your left to a reedy corner and go through a wooden picket gate. Keep straight ahead through a rough area of scrub, picking your way between a reedy pond on your right and a ditch on your left. Reaching a track through conifers, turn left and proceed to and through a gate out into a field.

Keep on in the same direction, gently downhill, with fence and hawthorns on your left, *and a view to Criffel straight ahead*. *You are now on the land of Ewe Close Rare Breed Farm, so you may encounter some rare breeds*. Leave the field by a gate onto a farm access track and carry straight on following this track downhill for about ½ mile until you reach a road where turn right *and pass a row of beautifully kept terraced cottages*.

Continue along the road for about ¾ mile, ignoring a turning on the right to Plumbland and Bothel, and keeping straight on, signposted Aspatria and Silloth. After passing “Little Cross”, a large house and converted barn on your right, look out for a “Public Footpath” sign in the hedge on the right. Here go over the ditch and through the hedge on a double stile. Follow the left-hand fence, passing between the fence and a fenced and covered well, to reach a boggy area. Cross a bridge over a ditch and a tricky triple stile. Go straight across a small field to a double stile, then half left across the corner of the next field to sleepers over a ditch and a stile. Go half right across the corner of the next field to pick up a clear track heading left (north east) between a ditch on your left and a fence and hedge along the side of the field on your right. St Cuthbert's Church is now in sight among trees. Go through a gate or over a stile into the last field, follow the track round to the left behind houses, and turn left onto the church access driveway. You are now in Parsonby, but after following the track round to the right and crossing Flatts Beck you enter Arkleby, and arrive at Plumbland Parish Church – confused? Most people are! *The small, square, stone building on the left before the church is a former dovecote*.

### **COLLECT FOR ST CUTHBERT'S DAY – 20 MARCH**

Almighty God, who called Cuthbert from following the flock

to be a shepherd of your people:

Mercifully grant that, as he sought in dangerous and remote places

those who had erred and strayed from your ways,

so we may seek the indifferent and the lost, and lead them back to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **THE BINSEY TEAM MINISTRY**

([www.binsey.org.uk](http://www.binsey.org.uk))

proclaiming Jesus as Lord in word and deed in

Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, Embleton, Ireby, Isel,

Plumbland, Setmurthy, Torpenhow, Uldale, and Wythop.

2015