

CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

St James, Ireby **via** **Ireby Old Church** **to** **St James, Uldale**

- Distance:** 4 miles (6.8 km) + $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to return to start
- Time:** about 2 hours walking + $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to return to start
- Grid References:** start – NY 238393 end – NY 240379
- Terrain:** fields, lots of stiles, quiet lanes
- Gradients:** some ups and downs, nothing too steep
- Underfoot:** generally good, parts of some fields may be muddy
- Church Access:** St James, Ireby – open all day
Ireby Old Church – open all day
St James, Uldale – open all day

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

St James, Ireby to Ireby Old Church – 1½ miles

From St James's Church porch go downhill through the churchyard, turn right onto the road and walk south through the village. *Notice the former "Wesleyan Chapel 1870" on the right.* Go straight on at the first crossroads, where there are turnings to Caldbeck on the left and Torpenhow on the right. At the next cross-roads, with the Globe Hall on the left and the former Lion pub on your right, turn right, uphill, signposted "High Ireby 1¼ Whitrigg 2¼". *Notice the Butter Cross a little way up on the left.* Pass Ireby Hall on your left but where the road turns left, go through the front gate of Skiddaw View, signposted "Public Footpath New Park, Ireby Old Church". Pass to the right-hand side of the cottage and through another gate into a small paddock.

Go ahead curving slightly to your left to reach and cross a stile, NOT down to gates in the corner of the field. (The stiles along this stretch used to have clear Public Footpath discs with bright yellow arrows but these have now faded and some are completely blank, unless they have been renewed by the time you get here.) In the next field again go ahead veering slightly left to a stile in the far hedge. Cross the stile and a strand of barbed wire. *On a clear day, a view of the Scottish mountain Criffel comes as a pleasant surprise.*

Cross the field, again slightly left of a straight line, to another stile. There are two Public Footpaths crossing the next field. Take the one going down a quarter right to exit by a stile about half way down the opposite side of the field (not the one up to the left).

In the next field, go slightly right of straight on to another stile on the far side of which don't twist your ankle stepping down a little stony bank. Continue in the slightly right veering direction, heading for Criffel, if you can see it, or a solitary wind-turbine, if it has not been joined by a host of others. The stile on the far side of this field has a barbed wire strand on top, but it is covered with blue pipe which is helpful. The barbed wire beyond the stile has no covering so take care as you duck under, or limbo dance if more supple.

Keep to the right-hand edge of this field with fence on right. The Old Church is now in sight ahead. Avoid a boggy patch in the corner of the

field and cross a bridge, stile and barbed wire a few metres to the left. Cross the next field bearing slightly left to find a stile tucked away in trees with a beck on your right.

Go straight across the following field to a stile out onto a tarmac-surfaced by-way. Go over a stile on the other side of the by-way and cross rough pasture to reach Ireby Old Church. *A leaflet about the history of the Old Church is available at St James's Church in Ireby.*

Ireby Old Church to St James, Uldale – 2½ miles

From the church return to the by-way, which you crossed to reach the church, and turn right. Follow this lane as it bears left, rises gently and curves right. Pass New Park Farm Holiday Cottages on your right, then climb steadily between high hedges. *There is a great variety of flowers in the hedgerows in Spring including primroses, bluebells, campion, stitchwort, wood anemone, and water avens.*

As the gradient flattens, the Uldale Fells and Skiddaw come into sight. At the T junction turn left and first right, signposted “High Ireby 1”.

After the first bend the road climbs steadily. *In July meadowsweet and vetch were most frequent in the hedgerows with some cranesbill.* Where the road turns sharp right, go straight ahead at a Public Bridleway sign, possibly hidden in the hedge on the left, through a gate into a field, and straight ahead to another gate. *There are views to the left of the Sandale ridge, Uldale Fells, and the villages of Ireby and Uldale.*

Go straight ahead to a gate into a large field. Where the wire fence on the left turns away to the left, go straight on, following the line of a change in level, presumably a former field boundary, which dips down to the left. Pass the hollow of a disused quarry on your right and keep straight on to come alongside a wire fence on your left. Where the fence dips down to the left, keep straight ahead to come alongside it again after a few metres.

At the end of the field bear right into a muddy corner and go through a gate into a green lane, shaded by trees. Follow this path, possibly overgrown in summer, to the road where turn left. Take care: this is the main access road to Ireby from the south and, although the traffic is not heavy, you are bound to be passed by a few vehicles.

Walk down the road for half a mile, then at a signpost on the right “Public Bridleway Uldale Mill ¼ mile”, go through a gate and turn right. Walk

down the edge of the field with hedge on left. Go through a gate and continue with hedge on left, then through a gate onto a bridge over the River Ellen. Pass between the farmhouse on the left and the now converted buildings of the Old Mill on the right. Go up the gravel slope which curves left through a gate, and at the road find the lych gate of St James's Church, Uldale on the left.

To return to Ireby – about ¾ mile

Leaving the churchyard, turn left along the road for about half a mile. After crossing the River Ellen and passing The Old Mill on your left, climb steeply up to the crossroads where turn right to retrace your steps through the village to your starting point at St James's Church, Ireby.

The Pilgrimage

Give me my scallop shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation:
My gown of glory, hope's true gauge,
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

*Part of a poem by Sir Walter Raleigh,
written about 1618 in the Tower of London.*

BINSEY TEAM MINISTRY

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proclaiming Jesus as Lord in word and deed in
Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, Embleton, Ireby, Isel,
Plumbland, Setmurthy, Torpenhow, Uldale, and Wythop.

2015