

CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

St Bega, Bassenthwaite **to** **St Barnabas, Setmurthy**

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Time: about 2 to 2½ hours walking, but allow extra time to visit the churches, and to stop for refreshments, photography etc.

Grid References: start – NY 226287 end – NY 184323

Terrain: mostly fields and quiet lanes, with some woodland sections, and one short stretch of fairly busy B road.

Gradients: mostly flat with some gentle ups and downs.

Underfoot: be prepared for some very boggy/muddy stretches.

Church Access: St Bega – open at all times
St Barnabas – open during daylight hours every day

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

St Bega's Church to Scarness – 1½ miles

From St Bega's Church go east along the gravel path for a short distance. Where the footpath bears away to the right, turn left over the beck onto the vehicle access track. Follow this for 80 metres and then turn off over grass (no path) on your left towards a wood (north). Enter the wood over a stile and follow the clear path.

Leave the wood by a stile and go straight ahead across the field. Go through a gate into Church Plantation (“Woodland Trust, Welcome”) and straight ahead through the wood. Leave the wood over a stile and keeping in the same northerly direction cross the next field to and through a gateway (no gate in May 2015). *There are views here left across Bassenthwaite Lake to Sale Fell and the Wythop Woods, and straight ahead to Binsey.*

Carrying on in the same direction, go across a second field, which may be very chewed up by cows' hooves! Leave by a small wooden gate, crossing straight over a farm track, and through another small wooden gate into a third field. Go straight on (north) to leave the field by a gate in the far corner.

Turn left on the minor road and follow this for about three-quarters of a mile. Ignore the turning on the right to Bassenthwaite but, shortly after, arrive at a group of houses and lodges called Scarness.

Scarness to Ouse Bridge – 2 miles

Pass between the entrance to Scarness Lodges on your left and Scarness Cottage on your right. There is a footpath sign on your left “Armathwaite Hall 1½” and a sign saying “Access to Houses Only”.

At entrance to Dower House bear right on tarmac drive (there is a second “Armathwaite Hall 1½” footpath sign on the left and a sign on a gate “Scarness Farm Private Road Access to Farm Only”). Where the drive swings right up to the farmhouse, go straight ahead on grass with a corrugated iron barn on your right and follow the wall on left to reach a gate out onto rough pasture.

Bear slightly right across this pasture, passing a power line pole on your right. Then go down a slope, *with views to Binsey and Bassenthwaite village to the right*, to reach, over a small wooden bridge, a large gate in the far corner. Through this gate go straight ahead across a reedy area; the mud in this field may be hard-baked in the sun or not! At the far side bear left into the corner, *where there is a view to the lake*. Go through a kissing-gate and over a footbridge *crossing the beck which is the combination of the two Bassenthwaite village becks – Halls Beck and Chapel Beck.*

Go over the stile at the end of the footbridge, turn left and follow grass/mud path which after about 70 metres swings half right, the direction indicated by a footpath sign. Carry on with confidence across this reed covered expanse towards a white topped stick which marks the crossing of a ditch.

On the other side continue in more or less the same direction, on a meandering path, bearing left after a bit, to reach the fenced crossing of another ditch. Immediately after crossing the ditch, turn left and follow the path as it curves right to a stile into wet woodland, *technically called carr*.

Keep to the recycled plastic board-walk winding through the wood, *where there is a carpet of wood anemones in Spring*. Leave by a stile into a small reedy pasture field and go ahead through this to another stile/gate.

Keeping close to the fence on your left, go through four more larger, flat, pasture fields. *On your right are beautiful open views of the valley and, if you turn round, Skiddaw and Ullock Pike will be seen rising majestically. From the third field the lake is briefly in view on your left.*

From the last field cross a stile over a metal fence into a rough grass area with an overgrown hawthorn hedge on the right. Go ahead to cross a footbridge and follow the path, which may be overgrown in high summer, through tangled brambles, shrubs and trees. Heading north and then north-west uphill, come alongside the rusty remains of an old wire fence and wet woodland on your left. Parts of this stretch can be very muddy. Go over a stile, down steps, and WITH CARE through a small gate onto the road (B5291). Turn left. *The footbridge overhead is for the use of guests staying at Armathwaite Hall Hotel.*

Walk down the road for about 300 metres; there is a verge to step onto to avoid speeding traffic. Ignore a gate on the left but at the lay-by just beyond it go down rocky, rooty 'steps' towards the lake. Turn right onto gravel path with retaining wall at first on your right. *Very soon there is a break in the trees on the left where you can admire the view along the length of Bassenthwaite Lake.* Carry on along the gravelly/pebbly path for about 400 metres. *There is much debris along here, left after the lake has been particularly high.* Then take a broad track on the right which brings you back to the road. (If you miss this path you will find your way blocked by Coal Beck where it flows into the River Derwent at the foot of Bassenthwaite Lake. Turn right and follow the beck back to the road.) Turn left on the road and WITH CARE follow it round to the left over Ouse Bridge.

Ouse Bridge to St Barnabas Church – 1½ miles

At the far side of the bridge, turn right and walk uphill and then down, again making use of the verge when necessary. *In spring try not to trample the violets and primroses. Notice the beautiful oaks and the River Derwent in the peaceful valley to your right and there may be alpacas in the field.*

At the Lakes Distillery turn right, signposted “ISEL”. *The buildings of Low Barkhouse farm were converted into the distillery in 2014. The GR post box in the wall has been preserved.* Follow the gently curving and undulating lane for about a mile. *The delightful countryside is well-wooded and there are views of Binsey to the right at first before the lane curves away to the south-west.*

Pass Setmurthy Parish Hall on your right and take the first turning left, signposted “St Barnabas Church Setmurthy”. *There is another GR post box in the wall on the left at this corner.* Go 150 metres uphill to the church.

The Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4 verses 36-37

There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'Son of Encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Collect for St Barnabas Day – 11 June

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,
who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas
and gave him grace to encourage others:
help us, by his example,
to be generous in our judgements
and unselfish in our service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE BINSEY TEAM MINISTRY

(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