Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

Follow Bishop Gavin's 2023 Ride + Stride Route visiting 18 churches in West Oxfordshire. Bishop Gavin estimates the route to take around 6 hours, allowing for a 45 minute lunch break and stopping for 10 minutes at each church.

St Bartholomew, Yarnton

Begin your journey at St Bartholomew, Yarnton. There is a regular bus to Yarnton from Oxford City centre and its surrounding towns and villages.

Did you know?

Yarnton Church boasts a peal of six bells, with one bell surviving since 1611, commissioned by Sir Thomas Spencer.

1

St Peter, Cassington

Head north on Church Lane before turning left onto Yarnton Road, then turn right onto Church Lane to discover St Peter's Church.

Did you know?

This 12th-century church boasts a quirky Norman corbel table featuring a menagerie of carved heads, both human and animal.

2

St Leonard, Eynsham

Stay on Eynsham Road for approximately 1.5 miles before turning right onto Hanborough Road to continue onto Church Street.

Did you know?

St Leonard's boasts a 400-year-old bell alongside 5 others, spanning centuries of change in the church's structure.

3

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St Mary, Farmoor

Turn right onto High Street and continue on Oxford Road. At the roundabout take the second exit onto Cumnor Road before turning right onto Church Close

Did you know?

St Mary's in Farmoor started as outdoor services in 1935 and only became a permanent church building in 1997.

4

St Michael, Cumnor

Turn right onto Cumnor Road and keep right to stay on Abingdon Road to discover St Michael's.

Did you know?

This church has parts dating back to the 12th century, with the tower even older, making it a near-millennium house of worship.

5

St Laurence, Appleton

At the roundabout take the second exit onto Appleton Road to weave through this pretty village to discover St Laurence church.

Did you know?

St Laurence's boasts architectural elements from across six centuries, showcasing the evolution of church design from Norman to Gothic Revival.

6

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St Mary, Longworth

Cycle out of the village on Netherton Road, continue onto Appleton Road before cycling past the pretty thatched cottages on Hinton Road. St Mary's is tucked away on Church Lane.

Did you know?

This 13th-century church may have a hidden treasure: a chancel screen gifted by a powerful Archbishop of Canterbury.

7

St Denys, Northmoor

Head out of the village and turn left onto the A415 and continue for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Moreton Lane and weave your way through the lane to discover St Denys on Church Road.

Did you know?

St Denys, 13th-century church, holds a hidden gem: a font from an even older house of worship!

8

St Michael, Stanton Harcourt

Turn left to wind through the hedge-lined lanes for a peaceful 1.5 miles before taking a sharp left to discover St Michael's church just before The Harcourt Arms.

Did you know?

St Michael's boasts Norman details from the 12th century alongside later Gothic features, showcasing a fascinating evolution of architectural styles.

9

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St Mary, Cogges

Wind your way out of the village to turn left onto the B4449 before turning right onto Cogges Lane and continuing for 3.5 miles. You'll find St Mary's on Church Lane.

Did you know?

St. Mary's unique Norman tower stands guard from the northwest corner, a striking departure from the traditional central placement.

10

Congregational Church, Witney

Cycle the short distance to Market Square, continue onto the High Street to take the first exit at the roundabout onto Welsh Way.

Did you know?

Church on the move! The congregation of this church has a unique history, worshipping in different locations for over 360 years.

11

St John the Evangelist, Hailey

Head north on the A4095 and the B4022, past Witney Rugby Football Club to discover St John the Evangelist.

Did you know?

Designed in 1869, this church features a curiously shaped bell turret that stands out from the crowd.

12

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St Michael and All Angels, Leafield

Head northwest on the B4022 before winding through Witney Lane for 3 miles. Find St Michael's church on Lower End road.

Did you know?

From a towering spire to stained glass windows, this Victorian church showcases the beauty of the Gothic Revival style.

13

St James, Ramsden

Continue for approximately 1.5 miles along Leafield Road and turn right passed Charlbury Garden Centre. Continue along High Street below turning right onto Akeman Street, just before The Royal Oak

Did you know?

Built in 1872, this church showcases the beauty of the Gothic Revival style with its dressed limestone, pointed arches, and lancet windows.

14

St Peter, Wilcote

Turn right onto High Street, then left onto Ramsden Lane and continue for just over half a mile. St Peter's Church will be on the right hand side.

Did you know?

This 12th-century church boasts layers of history, with additions from the 13th and 14th centuries creating a fascinating architectural journey.

15

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St Mary, North Leigh

Continue right along Ramsden Lane before turning right into a winding, single track lane. Take a slight right onto Drakes Lane before discovering St Mary's church on Church Lane,

Did you know?

Uncover a 15th-century Doom painting and breathtaking fan vaulting within this church's historic walls.

16

Christ Church, Long Hanborough

Cycle approximately 1 mile along Boddington Lane then turn right onto the A4095. Continue for 1 mile and you'll find Christ Church.

Did you know?

Designed by architect E.H.L. Barker in 1893, Christ Church stands proudly as a testament to the vision of Reverend William Wynne Wilson, who championed its construction.

17

Methodist Church, Long Hanborough

Turning right out of Christ Church, continue along the main road (and straight on at the roundabout). The Methodist Church is on the left hand side.

Did you know?

Built in 1895, this church has constantly evolved to meet the needs of its congregation. From a schoolroom addition in 1901 to a planned modern extension, it reflects a commitment to community.

18

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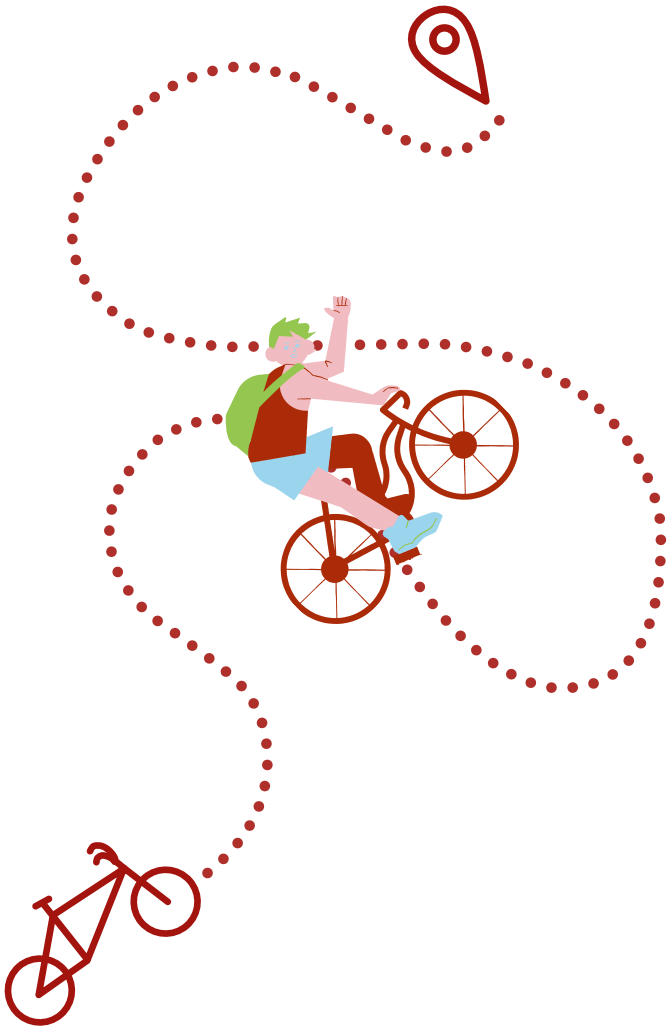
This route can be made circular to return to St Bartholomew, Yarnton by following the A4095 and taking the right hand turn onto Cassington Road. It will take approximately 23 minutes. Alternatively, there are easy transport links from Long Hanborough to Bicester and Oxford.

Link to Google Map Instructions
Part 1 and *Part 2* and *Part 3*