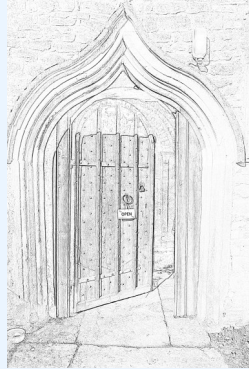


Staying at Swainswick Church

St Mary's Swainswick is part of the British Pilgrimage Trust's Sanctuary Network - churches and halls that all over the country that provide basic, low-cost accommodation to pilgrims.

If you would like to stay the night, you can find information on the [British Pilgrimage Trust](#) website or email swainswickchurch@gmail.com.



Longer Pilgrimage Routes

If you are interested in other pilgrimage routes, the British Pilgrimage Trust website is full of information. They list three routes going through Bath, all of which could include an overnight stay at Swainswick.

Aquae Sulis Way – Frome to Bath (2 days, 37km/ 23 miles)

A pilgrimage from Frome, a town built round a Holy Well to the hot springs of Bath (Aquae Sulis), sacred to the Celts, the Romans, the Georgians – and everyone in between.

Glastonbury Water Way – Bath, Frome, Wells & Glastonbury – (6 days, 88km/ 55 miles)

A longer route linking the ancient springs of Bath, via rivers and streams, to the mineral outflows at the foot of Glastonbury Tor, a place of pilgrimage for more than 10,000 years.

St Aldhelm's Way (7 days, 119km/ 74 miles)

Aldhelm was Bishop of Sherborne and founded a monastery in Malmesbury, another at Frome, and another at Bradford-on-Avon. Aldhelm spoke Latin and Greek fluently and was well-known for using music to draw crowds to listen to him preach. He died on May 25th 709 AD in Doultong near Shepton Mallett.

St Aldhelm's Way starts at Doultong and passes through Frome, Westbury, Bradford-on Avon, Bath, Colerne, Littleton Drew, ending at Malmesbury Abbey.



KEYNSHAM TO BATH ABBEY

Ancient churches, beautiful views, a battle field, labyrinth and iron age fort. Hills, river and canal paths.

Day 1: Keynsham to Swainswick (14.5km/ 9 miles)

Day 2: Swainswick to Bath Abbey (9.5km/ 6 miles)

Optional overnight stay at Swainwick Church, part of the British Pilgrimage Trust Sanctuary network

Terrain: lanes, footpaths with some steep sections

*Blessed are they whose
heart is set on pilgrimage”
Psalm 84*



Getting there

Start: St John's Church, Keynsham. Easily accessible by train from Bath or Bristol. The church is a short walk from Keynsham station.

Day 1 follows the Monarch's Way from Keynsham to St Mary's Church Bitton, a holy site dating back at least to Saxon and perhaps even Roman times. From there you walk through the village of Upton Cheyney (where you could have an early stop at the Upton Inn) before heading uphill with far reaching views, to join the Cotswolds Way.

The Cotswolds Way crosses the site of the Civil War Battle of Lansdown before descending into the beautiful Lam Valley with its three tiny churches - 12th century St Mary Magdalene, hidden away below the village of Langridge; 18th century All Saints Woolley and 12th century St Mary's Swainswick where pilgrims can spend the night.

The principal architects of Georgian Bath, John Wood and his son John Wood the Younger (who also designed All Saints Woolley) are buried in a family vault at Swainswick and there are intriguing links with the mythical King Bladud and stories about the origins of Bath.

Day 2 takes you from Swainswick up and over the iron age fort of Little Solsbury where skylarks nest in the Spring. The route continues through Bathampton Meadows on the River Avon to meet the Kennet and Avon Canal. From there, it's a gentle walk to Sydney Gardens in Bath, then along Great Pulteney Street, across Pultney Bridge to the glorious Bath Abbey.

For an alternative route from Swainswick to Bath see the 2-day pilgrim path from Bradford on Avon to Bath Abbey.



For information & ideas about pilgrimage visit: www.britishpilgrimage.org

Downloads of this route available from: www.swainswickchurch.org.uk

All Trails map

After a short stretch of enclosed path, go down steps on to the lane by **St John's Church Bathampton**. Turn right along the road and in about 400m by the Old Exchange follow a paved pathway to the left down to the road.

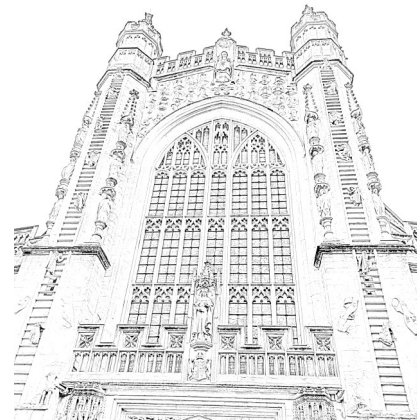
Turn left and cross over by the George and Dragon. Go through a small car park and across a bridge over the River Avon. Continue along a wide track through Bathampton Meadows. When you reach the road, turn left across the bypass and railway line to **St Nicholas Church Bathampton**.



Kennet and Avon Canal

Go up some steps by the front of the George Inn to reach the **Kennet and Avon Canal**. Turn right on on the towpath and walk along the canal towards Bath.

After about 2.5 km, follow the path through a tunnel. Shortly after the first metal bridge turn right through a gate into **Sydney Gardens**. Walk straight ahead across the railway line passing to the right of the Holburne Museum.



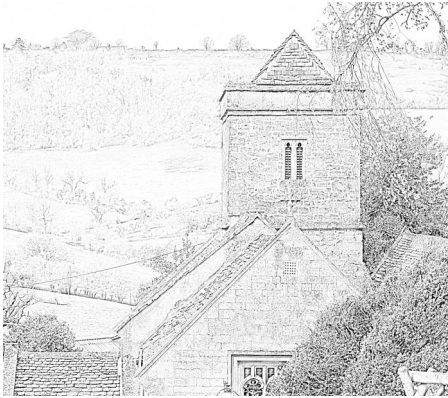
Bath Abbey

Coming out of the gardens, turn left along Sydney Place and opposite the front of the Holburne, cross the road and walk down Great Pulteney Street, passing by Laura Place Fountain at the end and across Pultney Bridge.

Once over the bridge turn left and follow the road round to the right where you will see **Bath Abbey** in front of you.

DAY 2: SWAINSWICK TO BATH ABBEY (9.5km/ 6 miles)

[For an alternative route over the hills, see the 2-day pilgrim path from Bradford on Avon to Bath Abbey.]



St Mary's Swainswick

Turn left out of the churchyard and left again up the steep lane. At the top, turn right and walk through the village to a Give Way sign.

Turn right (signed Bath A46) and head down the road to turn left under the A46. Bear left uphill. Just before meeting the A46, carefully cross the road and head up the lane marked 'Private Property – No Unauthorised Access'.

After about 100m turn right through a gate and go straight across the field. Turn right at the telegraph pole and follow the hedgeline uphill through the two gates to the flat top of **Solsbury Hill**. Near the top look out for a small **labyrinth** on the right created by protesters in 1994 when the bypass was built.

Walk either way around the top of the hill until you reach a National Trust sign on the opposite side. Go downhill here and through a kissing gate on to a lane. Follow the lane straight ahead to a T junction and turn left. After a few yards, take a footpath on your right.

Go through the gate and follow the path down the left hand field boundary. At the bottom, take the path in the corner and follow it to the left, across a small field and down some steps to a lane.

Turn right and after a few yards go through a gate on the opposite side of the lane to follow a path down the valley, across a brook and along the bottom of the next field.

DAY 1: KEYNSHAM TO SWAINSWICK (14.5 km/9 miles)

Coming out of St John's church, turn right and follow the path along the side of the church to join the road out of Keynsham, crossing first the bypass then the railway line.

At the station car park, cross the road at the lights and continue downhill over the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon canal.

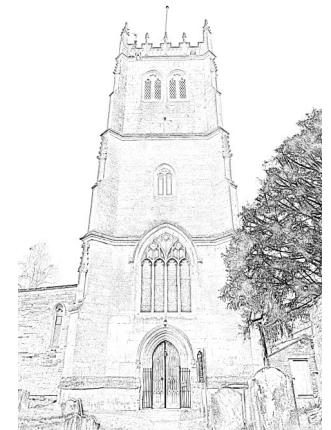
Once over the canal, cross back over the road and turn right at a sign for Keynsham Marina. Follow the road round to the right and just before the Lock Keeper Inn, take the canal path on your left signed Swinford.

When the path joins a lane, carry on over a cattle grid into a field. At a large pipe across the river, keep left along the surfaced drive past Avondale House to a gate into a field.

Follow the path through two fields with the hedge on your left, past Meadow Wood and through two further fields to reach a lane.

Go through the tunnel under the old railway line (now the Bristol to Bath cycle path). Immediately through the tunnel, take a footpath on the right signpost Bitton. Follow the path around two sides of the field keeping the field boundary on your left.

When you reach the south east corner of the field, go through a gate and turn left on a gravel track. Over the stream take the path along the right hand side of track to reach the lane opposite Church Farm in Bitton. Turn right to find **St Mary's Church**.



St Mary's Bitton

Coming out of the church, take the path to the right through the lychgate and along Church Lane. Cross over the main road and take the road opposite (Golden Valley Lane). Just past Aubrey Meads road, follow a footpath on right between gardens and into a field (signpost Upton Cheyney).

On the far side of the field go through a kissing gate and straight ahead to reach a further gate. Continue uphill with the hedge on your left. Where the hedge ends go into the field on your left and on uphill. *[If this section of path is overgrown, instead of going uphill with the hedge on your left, walk up the field with the hedge on your right. You'll rejoin the official path on your way up.]*

Near the top of the field go through a gate on your right and join a track past the front of a cottage to meet the lane in Upton Cheyney (where you'll see the Upton Inn just to the right).

Turn left and walk up the lane (Brewery Hill), past a phone box. Just past Manor Farm take the right hand fork and walk up Lansdown Lane.

When the metalled road comes to an end, continue through the gate uphill through a field. At the top, go through a gate and turn immediately sharp left to join the **Cotswolds Way** by some pine trees. Follow the path along a stone wall with wonderful views.



St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

Through a kissing gate, turn right on to the site of the **Battle of Lansdown**. Follow the path along the edge of Hanging Hill, through a gate and to the left of a mast.

Once past the buildings, take a footpath on the left which runs parallel with the driveway and then rejoins it.

Shortly after, turn left through trees to the main road. Cross the road and follow the path to the left to **Sir Bevil Grenville's monument**.

Past the monument, continue along the Cotswolds Way through trees and a field to a stone stile. Over the stile, follow the path downhill to your left to a metal gate with the Lam Valley opening up in front of you.

Continue on down the path (ignoring a Cotswolds Way sign on the left) until eventually you reach a lane. Turn right and follow the lane to a T-junction. Turn right and walk up to the church of **St Mary Magdalene Langridge**.

When you leave the church, retrace your steps downhill and take the footpath on your right across a small stream and uphill towards a waymarked post.

At the post the path curves round to the left to a kissing gate and then across the corner of the next field.

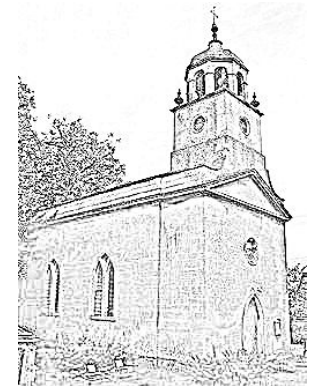
Follow the path parallel with the valley bottom as it passes through four fields. At the end of the fourth field, the path emerges on to a track down to a lane.

Turn right along the lane into Woolley and then left down Church Street to reach **All Saints Church**.

After visiting the church, turn left out of the churchyard and left again over a stone stile. Walk down a narrow path through a kissing gate and continue downhill with the hedge on your left, through a gateway.

At a waymark the path heads diagonally down to the bottom right hand corner of the field to a footbridge over the Lam Brook. On the far side of the bridge turn right and walk along the bottom of the field with the stream on your right.

Go through a pair of gates with a small, plank bridge and follow the path as it heads diagonally left up the field towards Upper Swainswick. At the top, go up some steps, through a garden (there is a right of way) and out on to the lane by **St Mary's Church Swainswick** where pilgrims can stay the night.



All Saints Woolley