

# TOCKENHAM

## The Countryside Code (October 2016)

### Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared follow advice and local signs



## WALKS FOR HEALTHY LIVING



## The church of St. Giles

Building was attributed to Hugh le Despenser. This small church consists of chancel, nave and South porch. The whole building dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1699 Mr Matthew Smith of the Manor, and a Mr W. Wemensoll who owned land in the parish jointly effected a restoration of the fabric. The top of the stone wall on which their initials are carved marks the commencement of the new masonry. The walls were raised 18 inches.

There is a wooden bell-cote over the western bay of the nave.

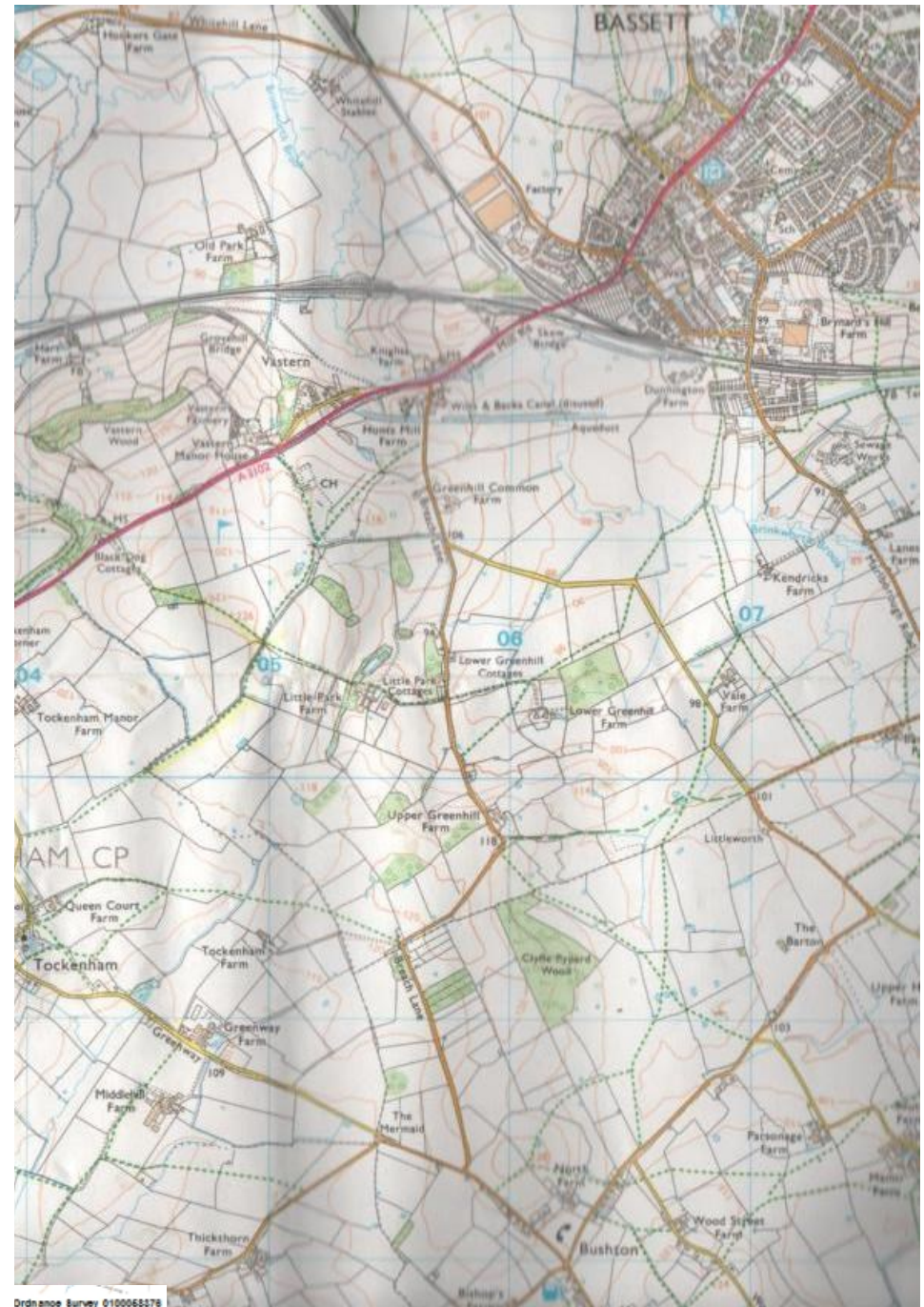
The church was restored in 1876 when the bell-cote was re-built, and the East window inserted, and again in 1907 when the nave roof was repaired and the church re-floored and re-seated. Inside the turret is a single bell, cast at Bristol 1480 and bearing the inscription "Michael Satrapa Celi" (Michael Governor of Heaven).

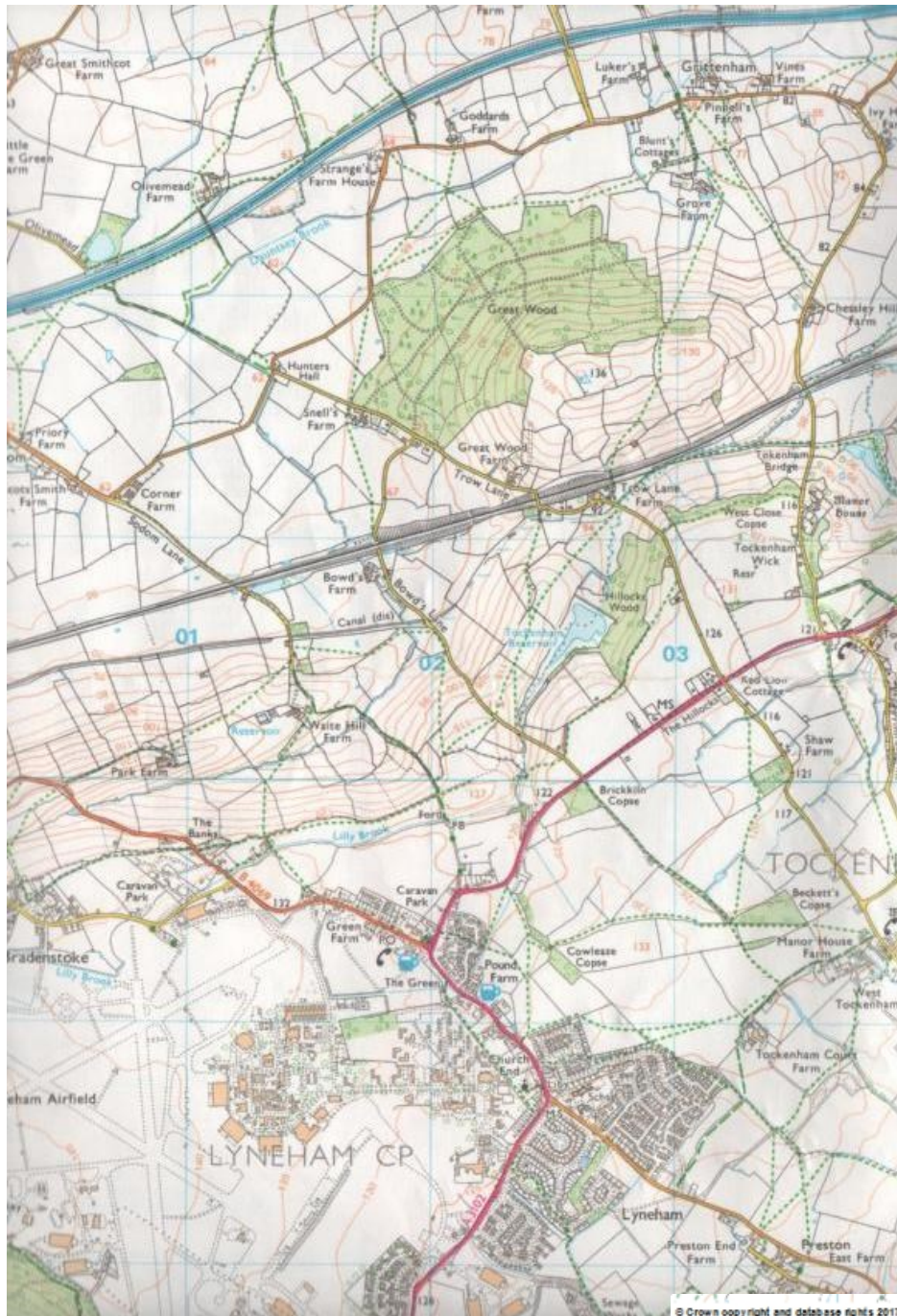
The font has what appears to be a 12<sup>th</sup> Century bowl with a 17<sup>th</sup> Century cover. There is a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Communion table serving as the alter. The pews and pulpit were made from 18<sup>th</sup> Century panelling.

Of all the objects of interest which attracts most attention is the curious Roman figure built into the South wall, to the left of the main door. This figure represents Aesculapius, worshipped in Greece as Asklepios the god of healing. The figure holds a staff in the right hand with a snake coiled around it. How did this curious pagan statue find its way into the wall of a Christian church and remain there for over 600 years?. It is even more interesting when one learns that St Giles is regarded as the patron saint of lepers, beggars and cripples. Was the church erected on the site of a temple famed for its healing powers?.

Time Team were asked to investigate the above in 1994. They found that Tockenham was the site of a Roman temple who's remains can be seen in the stones of the church, particularly on the returns on the North wall. ( The large corner blocks). The statue was found to be a household Roman god, either from the temple or a large dwelling nearby.

The chancel roof was again restored following the flower festival fund raising in 1973. The Nave roof was restored in 1993 .





## TOCKENHAM

**The Parish** is made up of Tockenham Wick - on the left of the road from Chippenham to Swindon - and Tockenham about a mile on the right together with Tockenham Corner, Primrose Hill and Greenway.

**The manor of Tockenham** has a history going back certainly to Saxon times. It was a royal manor in 700 AD when lands at Tockenham were granted "to the church of St James" at Old Sarum. In 854 AD, Aethelwulf King of Wessex granted "to God and St Peter and the household of Malmesbury....5 mansions. (the word "mansion" should be interpreted as "holding"), in a place called Toccanham". Among the 19 signatures to this charter are the name of the King's sons Ethelred and Alfred - later King Alfred the Great - and the Bishop who became St. Swithin.

When the Normans made their great Domesday survey in 1087, Tocheham is mentioned at least five times. "Roger holds Tocheham of Durand" "Dodo held it in the time of King Edward of the Church at Malmesbury and it could not be separated from it," "Oidellard holds Tocheham of Radulf", whilst Alric, Algar, and Aluric are sub tenants of Odo.

In the time of Edward II Tockenham was one of the many manors owned by his notorious favourite Hugh le Despenser " who departed this life crowned with nettles and hanged upon a gibbet 50 feet high."

As a reward for her part in removing the Despensers, Edward III in 1327 granted the manor to his mother, and for more than 200 years it formed part of the dowry of the Queens of England. The farm near the Church is in consequence known as Queen Court. The existing pond is part of the moat which at one time encircled the dwelling.

Tockenham Court, which in 1532 belonged to Bradenstoke Priory was leased by them to the Danvers family of Dauntsey for a period of 82 years. In 1560 following the Dissolution of Bradenstoke it was granted to Sir William Button, but after a successful law suit the Danvers family regained possession and lived there until the lease expired when they moved to the house they had built at Tockenham Wick, the present Tockenham Manor.

Tockenham Court probably stood where the farmhouse now stands known as Tockenham Court Farm. This was built before 1706 from material of the earlier house which had been destroyed during the civil war.

### Walk 1

**Footwear:** normal  
**Walk:** easy walking on road  
**Start Point:** Outside church  
**Distance:** approximately ½ mile 900 metres  
**Time:** Approximately 20 – 30 minutes

### Route

With back to church turn left down Orchard Lane to junction. (Note Time Team reminder on verge in front of Village Hall). Turn right and walk through village up to The Tangle. At junction turn right, walk down road to junction with Orchard Lane, and turn right. Just after sign post for playing field you will note water to your left which appears to be a pond! The house behind is Queens Court, which for over 200 years used to be part of the dowry of the Queens of England. The pond is all that remains of the moat that at one time surrounded the house. Follow the road on past the playing field back to your starting place at the church.

### Walk 2

**Footwear:** normal  
**Walk:** easy walking on road.  
**Start:** Outside Church  
**Distance:** Approximately 2.1 miles. 3500 metres  
**Time:** Approximately 1- 1 1/2 hours

### Route

With back to church turn left and walk to bottom of Orchard Lane. Turn right and walk straight up road to main A 3102 passing The Triangle and Rowley Copse on your left as you go. At the right time of the year this copse is full of bluebells. The last house on the right, on this former coaching road is called Red Lion cottage and was once a public house.

Turn right at main road and taking great care walk down the verge to the next turning right just past the abattoir.

Turn right into Tockenham Corner passing the war memorial on your left, bearing to the right of the green. Continue up Primrose Hill till you reach the junction of Orchard Lane and turn left up past the pond back to your starting place at the church.

steps. At the stop move a few paces to your right and then turn left up the path through the trees. This bears round to the left and brings you out on the road to Tockenham Wick.

At the road turn right and walk along past the houses and the manor and down the hill. About two thirds of the way down the hill you will find a signposted path to your left. Take this route along the side of the Wilts and Berks canal till you reach Trow Lane. The canal bed will be to your left. Turn right and follow the road till you reach the railway bridge. At this point turn left down the field entrance track and on into the field. Pass through this field and then bear right up the hill towards the ridge, then walk along the ridge until you reach Bowds Lane.

At Bowds Lane cross over the road and into the field beyond, go straight across field to stile and into field beyond go straight on over the crown of the hill through a gap in the hedge and down to the stream. Cross this by the footbridge and pass over the stile into Farthing Lane. Follow this to the main A3102 at Lyneham.

Turn right and walk on the pavement until you reach the garage **cross the road very carefully** and pass into the footpath to the left of the church. Follow this path through the houses over Pound Close and into the field beyond. Follow the footpath slightly right through two fields towards some houses. Turn left immediately before the houses and follow the path up into the next field, pass right through the gateway and follows the hedge up to your left. At the top of the field join the well marked path going to your right. When you come to the stile in the hedge pass over the stile into field beyond and turn right. Keep the hedge to your right and pass into the next field and go straight on past the houses on your right. You will come to a track at right angles to your path cross this and go over the stile and pass down the next five fields until you come to a track leading to your left. Walk along this track passing the farm buildings on your right. Where the track becomes metalled and turns right go straight ahead across the field heading towards the red barn. Cross the stile into the road and turn left up the road. After passing the group of four houses you will start rising and come to a single house on your right set up the slope away from the road. Immediately after this house there is a signposted stile to your right. Cross this and keeping the hedge closely on your right walk up the field crossing a stile in the post and wire fence on the way. At the top, in the hedge directly in front of you, you will find a stile bridge stile. Cross this and then turn left, walk across the field heading to the left of the farm to a signposted stile. Cross over this and turn left to your starting place by the church.

### Walk 10

**Footwear:** Boots or heavy walking shoes.

**Walk:** On roads, canal tow path and across fields.

**Start point:** Outside church

**Distance:** Approximately 9 miles. 15000 metres.

**Time:** Approximately 5 to 6 hours.

### Route

Start with your back to the church. Turn right and walk to the near corner by the old barn, you then walk up the driveway of Queen Anne's Court and over the stile into the field beyond. At the end of the field you will cross over a stile in the post and wire fence into the next field. Pass through this field keeping the hedge on your left. At the end go into the next field in front of you and travelling straight ahead keep the new hedge immediately to your right. At the bottom of this field, nearly in front of you, you will find a bridge and gate into the next field. Cross this and pass through the field diagonally to your left to a single gate. You should see farm buildings over to your right. Pass through the gate and over the next field to the gateway directly opposite you. Go through this gate into the next field and you will see to your right a farm track and in front of you a house. Pass through the field in a direction slightly to the right of the house where the track goes to a gate. Pass through the gate and into Breach Lane.

Turn left and walk down the road around the left hand bend and down the hill till you come to the entrance to Little Park Farm with a footpath sign pointing up the driveway to your left.

Walk up the driveway past the front of the farmhouse and around to the left till you are just short of the farm buildings. At this point turn right down the slope to the right of the buildings and into the field beyond the trees. There is a pond over to your right. Once in the field walk up the slope keeping the fence on your immediate left. At the top cross over the stile into the golf course. Please watch out for flying balls. **Take care.** Follow the path in front of you down to the left with the hedge to your left. Once past the lake on your right, cross over the green in front and pass through the gap in the hedge, turn right follow the metalled path up to the next hedge and follow the path round to the left. Signpost on right. Follow this path around to the right and after about 20 mtrs leave the path to your left to go to the bottom right hand corner of the wood. Cross over the stile and walk down the field keeping the hedge on your right. At the bottom of the field in line with Black Dog cottages you will find a stile onto the road beyond. Cross over the stile and walk to your right up the verge till you are just past Bulldog Fencing. **Taking great care** as this is the main A3102, Lyneham/ Wootton Bassett road, cross over and walk down the track on the right of the wood.

Pass over the stile by the gate into the field and then walk diagonally left down the slope to the right hand end of the wood which is on your left. Cross the stile and bridge over the stream into the field beyond and then turn left up the side of the wood till you come to the gate/stile into the wood. Cross this into the wood and walk up the path with the stream down the slope to your left, till you come to a flight of steps on your right. Pass right up the

### Walk 3

**Footwear:** Suggest boots or Wellingtons

**Walk:** Part road, part over fields, can be muddy in places.

**Start point:** Outside church.

**Distance:** Approximately 3 1/4 miles. 5400 metres.

**Time:** Approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours.

### Route

With back to church turn and walk to right past pond, and on to the bottom of Orchard Lane. At junction turn right. In approximately 200 metres on left hand bend, turn right onto sign posted footpath. Keeping hedge on your left pass through five fields till you come to a five barred gate in a wooden post and rail fence. The fourth field is now part of the golf course.

Immediately beyond the fence turn right keeping the fence closely on your right. Pass through the short length of track into the farmyard, where you will see a large pond to your left beyond the trees. Turn left immediately before the farm buildings which are directly in front of you. Follow the farm drive down to Breach Lane. Please note the farm house and gardens on your right.

At Breach Lane turn right up the road and follow this up the hill. Continue round to the right until you come to a very sharp left hand bend with a house on the right hand side. Turn right through the gate onto the farm track.

Looking at the hedge in front of you about 200 metres to the right of the farm track you will see a gate in the hedge, make for this gate. Once through the gate in the hedge, on the opposite side of the field you will see a small gate. Make for this and pass through to the next field.

From here your direction lies downhill diagonally to your left where you will see another gate in the hedge. Pass through this and over the footbridge into the field beyond. Walk up this field with the hedge closely to your left. At the top directly in front of you, you will see an opening into the next field. Follow the well marked path on the right hand side of the field keeping the hedge on your right.

Continue to the end of this field and over the stile at the end. Head for the left hand side of the house and over stile into house driveway, pass down driveway and out into the road at the bottom.. Turn to your left and your starting place in front of the church

#### Walk 4

**Footwear:** Wellingtons or boots

**Walk:** Partly on road, mainly over fields, can be muddy.

**Start point:** Outside church

**Distance:** Approximately 3.2 miles. 5300 metres.

**Time:** Approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours.

#### Route

With back to church, turn to your right and walk along road passing pond on your right. At bottom of Orchard Lane turn right and walk down road to first bend. On the bend turn right where signposted and walk up five fields, keeping hedge on left.

The fourth field is now part of the golf course. At this point you will come to a five barred gate in a wooden post and rail fence. Pass through the gate and immediately turn left over a stile into the golf course.

With back to the stile, you will note a path in front of you passing from right to left on the other side of a hedge. Go down this path to the left, once past the lake on your right, cross over the green in front of you and pass through the gap in the hedge, turn right beyond the hedge onto stone path go up path till near wooded area and follow path round to left and into wood.. In about 20 mtrs where path bends to right leave path and go diagonally left to bottom far corner of wood and pass over stile into field beyond. Below you will see some cottages on the main road. Keep the hedge on your right hand and walk down to the bottom of the field to the stile in front of the cottages. After climbing this stile you are on the main Wootton Bassett - Lyneham road which is very busy. Please be very careful.

Move up to the right approximately 100 metres where you will see on the opposite side of the road a fingerpost pointing down the track. **Cross the road carefully** and walk to the bottom of the track and pass into the field beyond. Once in the field head for the far bottom left hand corner at the end of the wood that is to your left. Here you will find a stile and a 'bridge' over the stream.

In the field turn uphill to your left keeping the wood on your left, after approximately 50 metres or so you will find a gate into the wood with a path leading through the wood, follow this. You will find in a short while that the stream is on your left and the main road is at the top of the bank above it.

When you see a flight of steps to your right go up them.. At the top bear right for a few paces then turn left up through the narrow copse. The path turns left and brings you out on the road to Tockenham Wick. At the road turn left and walk down to the main road. At the fork bear to your left.

On reaching the main Wootton Bassett - Lyneham road you will see, opposite, a stile into the field to the right of the abattoir. **Again cross this road very carefully.** Pass straight down the field keeping hedge on your left, pass over stile into copse and over stream bridge and stile into field, turn to your left where you will find a double stile with a 'bridge' crossing over the stream.

Cross this and immediately turn right keeping close to the hedge which is on your right hand side. As you come nearly to the end of this field you will note a small copse to your right with a stile and 'bridge' over the ditch. Cross this and turn diagonally to your left where you will find a similar arrangement into the next field. In this field keep the hedge close on your left. At the end you will find another stile into the next field. On entering this follow hedge to your left round to the opposite opening by Orchard Lane.. Watching out for traffic walk up Orchard Lane opposite and back to your starting point at the church.

#### Walk 9

**Footwear:** Boots or good walking shoes

**Walk:** Partly on roads, part on fields.

**Start Point:** Outside church

**Distance:** Approximately 0.7 miles 1100 metres

**Time:** Approximately 20 – 30 minutes

#### Route

With back to church, turn left and walk to bottom of Orchard Lane. At T junction turn left and walk down road for approximately one third of a mile. You will pass houses and sewerage farm on your right.

At the Tockenham village sign, just short of the house on the rise to your left, you will see on your left a sign posted footpath crossing a bridge and stile into the field. Cross this and walk up the field keeping the hedge on your immediate right. Pass over the stile in the post and wire fence and continue up the field to the top hedge. You will find stile bridge and stile through this hedge. Take this route.

Once through the hedge turn to your left and head for the gate and stile to the left end of the house drive. Cross over this stile into the road and turn left back to your starting point outside the church.

### Walk 8

- Footwear:** Boots or Wellington's
- Walk:** Over fields, stoned track and roads
- Start point:** Outside church
- Distance:** Approximately 2.2 miles. 3700 metres.
- Time:** Approximately 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

### Route

With back to church turn left and walk to bottom of Orchard Lane, cross over road diagonally to your left and follow signed posted route up driveway and through garden keeping hedge closely on left. Pass over stile at end of garden and bear right. Keeping hedgerow on your right pass through second gateway onto concrete track.

Follow arrow signs through fence into field, bearing left of troughs to space in fence, pass through and follow direction of arrow through next enclosure to far corner, pass through space in fence and turn right, to stile, bridge, stile through hedge, and into next field. Follow direction arrow keeping electric fence on your right until you come to a concrete roadway. Follow this till you reach the other end of the field where you will find on your right a smaller track. Follow this till you reach a three barred stile and double gates.

Crossover the stile and turn left over another stile into field. Keeping the hedge on your left pass through the next five fields till you meet a hard-core track, turn left and follow the hard-core track until you have passed the farm buildings on your right. Where the track has changed to tarmac and turns right, pass over stile on your left. Cross over middle of field heading slightly to left of red barn. Cross stile and then stile through hedge onto road.

Turn left onto road and follow this into the village. When you reach Orchard Lane turn right into the Lane and back to your start point at the church.

### Walk 5

- Footwear :** Wellingtons or boots
- Walk:** Partly on road, through fields and on canal towpath. Can be muddy. Walking difficult where fields ploughed up to edge of field. Some steep sections.
- Start point:** Outside church
- Distance:** Approximately 3.9 miles. 6500 metres.
- Time:** Approximately 2 - 2 1/2 hours

### Route

With back to church turn right and walk to the bottom of Orchard Lane keeping the pond on your right. Cross road through gateway into field opposite, signposted. Pass round field to right and through gateway into field beyond, pass down this field to bottom corner keeping hedge close on your right. Cross over stile, difficult climb down as ground drops away to ditch, and 'bridge' in front of you into small copse, ( watch out for stinging nettles in spring/summer).

Turn right and cross a similar set up into the next field.

Turn left and keeping hedge on your left walk down till nearly at the end of the field where you will find a stile bridge stile to your left. Cross this then bear right to next stile, pass over this and bridge, walk through copse over stile into field. Walk to the stile in the top right hand corner of the field. You are now at the main road.

**Cross this road very carefully**, keeping an eye out for traffic, and then walk up the road opposite until you have passed an old barn and the entrance to Tockenham manor on your right. At this point you go approximately two thirds of the way down the hill where you will find a signposted stile to your left. Turn left over this stile and walk along what was the tow path of the Wilts and Berks canal, which is on your left. (Logs laid over drainage ditch and stile, bridge stile). At the end pass through gate into the road.

Turn right and walk along the road till you get to the railway bridge, at this point turn left down the field entrance track and into the field. Go through this field to the hedge in front of you, pass through the hedge and bear to your right up the hill to the ridge, then walk along this ridge till you reach Bowds Lane. Turn left and walk down the hill passing on your left the entrance to the Bristol Angling Club Lake. ( This was originally the feeder reservoir for the canal). Continue along the road climbing the next steep hill until you reach the main road once again. **Take great care crossing.**

The path continues down the rough track directly opposite Bowds Lane with the wood on your right, passing the barn on your right (this section may be very rough, rutted and muddy) follow diversion track into field and back into copse further on. Continue straight down into the foot of the dip and up the other side through the narrow copse. At the top of the copse you will come to a five barred metal gate, pass through this and into the field beyond.

Turn left and pass through the small metal gate into the next field, keep the wood on your left. At the end of this field pass through the gate then walk diagonally to your right across the field heading to the right of the bungalow. Cross the stile and turn left down the track to the road.

At the road turn right and after approximately two hundred metres turn left up Orchard Lane to your starting point outside of the church.

### Walk 6

**Footwear:** Boots or heavy shoes

**Walk:** Over roads and fields, can be wet and muddy, stiles some hard to get over.

**Start point:** Outside church

**Distance:** Approximately 3.3 miles. 5500 metres.

**Time:** Approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours

### Route

With back to church turn left and walk down to end of Orchard Lane ,turn right for approximately two hundred meters, then turn left into signposted farm track leading to Tockenham Court Farm.

At end of bungalow , turn right over stile into field, head for far left diagonal corner and gateway, once through keep wood on your right and pass through small metal gate at end, into field beyond. Here you turn right through the five barred metal gate into a narrow copse. Walk straight down through this following the well marked track. It diverts into field for a stretch and on past the barn on your left onto the dirt track and upto the main road. This section can be very muddy and rough walking due to the passage of farm vehicles.

**Cross the main road very carefully.** Walk down Bowds Lane, past the entrance to the Bristol Angling Club and up to the top of the rise in front of you. You will then find a stile to your left, cross over the field beyond and through the next field to gap in hedge, follow in straight line over crown of hill and down to footbridge over stream. Pass over this and stile beyond into Farthing Lane to 'The Green' at Lyneham. At the main road turn right and walk down the footpath to the garage. **Cross the road very carefully** to the footpath to the left of the church. You may want to go a bit further down the road to where there is a central island by the roundabout. Walk up the footpath over Pound Close and through into field beyond. Follow well marked track, bearing slightly to right, through first field and towards bottom of houses in front of you. Turn left up field in front of houses through hedge and pass right through gateway into next field walk up left side of field to reach well marked path at top . Go right till you reach stile in hedge pass over and turn right. Pass over stile in post and wire fence, turn left. Keep wire fence on your left and head to the left side of the cluster of farm buildings. Pass through the metal gates and onto the metalled track beyond.

Turn left and walk down track to the bottom.

Turn right for approximately two hundred metres, then turn left up Orchard Lane back to your starting place at the church.

### Walk 7

**Footwear:** Boots or Wellingtons, heavy walking shoes

**Walk:** Across fields and on road

**Start point:** Outside church

**Distance:** Approximately 2.4 miles. 3900 metres.

**Time:** Approximately 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours

### Route

With back to church, turn left to bottom of Orchard Lane, turn right for approximately two hundred metres and then turn left up metalled farm track, signposted. At top of track by entrance to farm turn right through five barred metal gate and almost immediately turn left through further five barred metal gate into field. Once through gates, walk through field, keeping the post and wire fence close on your right side to stile at far end, this will take you into narrow track down behind the houses, which are on your left. At the bottom of this track you will find yourself in a car park. Walk through this to the road.

Turn left and almost immediately turn right into York Road. Follow this to the end turning right into Comet Close (follow road markings) In Comet Close turn left into Britannia Crescent. Pass through Britannia Crescent and left into Argosy Road which you follow till you reach the T junction at the end. Turn left into Preston Lane and walk down this till you have passed Victoria Drive on your left.. After a further 50 metres you will see a bridleway signposted on your left.

Pass through this gate and follow the track upto the five barred double gate at the top of the slope which has a stile on the right of it. Pass over stile into field and turn right down narrow track till you reach concrete area.. Turn left and follow this on left till you find that it moves away from the post and wire fence which has appeared on your left. Follow the post and wire fence closely on your left across to the hedge where you will find a stile bridge stile through the hedge.

Pass over these and walk up the field with the fence on your left. After a few metres you will find a stile in the fence, cross this and head diagonally right across the field, heading towards the right of the farm barns.. In the next fence just to the right of the trough you will find another stile. Cross over this and heading on a similar line for the front right hand corner of the farm buildings you will come to another post and wire fence, with again a stile in it. Cross this and the concrete track beyond, bear slightly to your left and pass through the gateway into the field beyond. Walk through this field keeping the farm buildings on your left, until you come to a stile, on your left into a house garden.

Cross this stile and keeping close to the hedge on your right walk through the garden and down the driveway to the road. Cross over the road diagonally left and walk up Orchard Lane back to your starting place at the church.