

# CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

## **St James, Uldale to St John, Bassenthwaite**

- Distance:** 7¾ miles (12.5 km)
- Time:** 3 to 3½ hours walking but allow extra time to visit the churches and to stop for refreshments, photography, etc.
- Grid References:** start – NY 240379 end – NY 229316
- Terrain:** quiet roads, fields, tracks, woodland, 150 metres of main road
- Gradients:** some ups and downs, nothing too steep
- Underfoot:** mostly good, some potentially muddy stretches
- Church Access:** St James – open all day  
St John – open all day

This is one of a set of twelve guides to walks around the Binsey Team.

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

### St James, Uldale to Longlands 2¼ miles

From the church walk south-east along the road for nearly a mile, *passing between hawthorn hedged pasture fields*, to the village of Uldale. *Along the way Binsey can be seen on the right, and there are views to Skiddaw and the fells "Back o' Skiddaw" ahead.*

At the crossroads go straight across up the road signposted "Overwater 1½, Orthwaite 2¼". *On the green on the right there is an old water trough and a bench commemorating Uldale WI's Golden Jubilee in 1965.* Pass the Old School now Mae's Tearoom & Gallery. *It's too early for a coffee break! Skiddaw comes into view.* Continue downhill, curving left, and, before the road curves right, take a gravel track on the left signposted "Public Footpath Longlands 1 mile".

Strictly speaking the right of way follows the track straight ahead through three gates (*the last of which I was unable to open*) but it appears that these are usually by-passed by going into the field on the right. Rejoin the path, which can be very muddy, between a bank with trees and fence on your left and the remains of an old hawthorn hedge on your right. After a row of conifers, keep along the field edge close to the bank, trees and fence on your left. Go over a stile in the corner. Wooden rails on the right guard you from plunging into a ghyll (wooded ravine with beck).

Carry on with the beck on your right to a footbridge which cross and turn left. Observe a post with a Public Footpath yellow arrow which points the way along the edge of the field with wire fence on your left. Go over a stile in the corner. In the next field continue in the same direction near wire fence on your left. Pass a redundant stile where there is no fence and continue ahead over lumpy ground to cross a stile, with spring and ghyll down on the right. Keep close to the possibly dried up watercourse on your right, which is flanked by gnarled and twisted hawthorn trees. At the end of this long field, go over a stile next to a gate. In the next field keep close to the wire fence on the right. *Grisedale Pike is in view ahead right.* Cross another stile next to a gate where there are a few wind-bent conifers. Go straight ahead with fence on right, and pass a small fenced off enclosure on your right to reach and cross a stile next to a gate onto the road. Turn right. *This is the hamlet of Longlands.*

### Longlands to Overwater Hall Hotel – 2½ miles

Walk downhill. At the bottom the road crosses Longlands Beck and swings right. Go uphill for a short distance. Turn right onto a track signposted "Public Footpath Stanthwaite Bridge 1 mile"; there are trees on the right-hand side of the track. Go through a gate. Longlands Beck is in a deep valley on your right. Pass a house and Chapelhouse Reservoir both on your left. *There is a charming view to Skiddaw along the length of the reservoir, framed by trees.*

The track, now tarmac, rises past Chapel House Farm on your right. Keep to the tarmac where it turns left, ignoring a Public Footpath sign pointing across fields. At the T junction turn left. *This is a very quiet road with wild flowers on the verges in spring and summer, and the smoothly curved shapes of the Uldale Fells ahead left.* The road curves

right. *Skiddaw, Ullock Pike and, further away, Grisedale Pike and other North Western Fells come into view.* The road bends right and descends steeply. *Over Water can be seen ahead.* There are beech trees and you pass a disused quarry on your right.

At the junction turn right, signposted “Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cockermouth”. *Where the trees on the left end there are good views of Over Water and Skiddaw. The pink building nestling among trees on the other side of the valley is Orthwaite Hall.* After about ¾ of a mile you reach Overwater Lodge and Latrigg Cottage on your left. Here turn left down a driveway, signposted “Public Footpath Orthwaite 1 mile”. Passing between Pond Cottage on your left and a pond on your right, keep on up the tarmac drive.

### Overwater Hall Hotel to Halls Beck, Bassenthwaite – 2¼ miles

Pass Overwater Hall Hotel on your left, and keep straight on uphill, now on a stony track. Go through gates into and out of a concrete pen, past a metal barn on your right and straight on to and through another gate. *View to Dash Falls on the left.* Keep straight on along the clear, undulating track, passing through a gate in a dip.

At the end of the track go through the left-hand of two gates and walk away at right angles to the fence, south-east, towards Dash Falls. You will soon see a fence running in this direction which you come alongside, with the fence on your left. Go forward to negotiate the gate or stile ahead. Continue in the same direction, following the slight ridge of an old field boundary, but, when the ground slopes away, go down to the right to reach a ladder stile in a dry-stone wall.

Climb the ladder stile and cross the fenced strip of grass to go through a metal gate (not the wooden gate on the left). Bear half right and climb the hill in this large pasture field, passing to the right of the highest point. *From the crest of the hill part of Bassenthwaite Lake and the fells beyond it come into sight.* Continue in the same direction down the far side of the hill to a stile by a gate in a gravel track. Go over the stile and down the track, fording a watercourse where the track swings left. A few metres on, where the track bears right and ends, go ahead left across grass and through a gate into Park Wood, much of which was felled in 2012/13.

Ignore a path going steeply down to the left and go ahead on a wide track which then gently descends. *The High Close lodges can be seen in the valley below and there are wide views to Skiddaw, Ullock Pike, Bassenthwaite Lake and the fells beyond it.* At the bottom of the slope where there is a junction of paths, do not go left down to the road, but bear right uphill. The path climbs steadily and eventually flattens out. *Look for tadpoles and newts in a little patch of water on the right.*

The path rises again. Keep a sharp look out for a path going down to the left where there is also a path which goes back up to the right. Turn down the path on the left and follow it as it curves right. Leave the wood through a gate and keep on in the same direction down a grass path with a wire fence on your left. *Where the trees end on the left there is a good view of the Skiddaw massif, Bassenthwaite village with St John's Church beyond, and Causey Pike and Wythop Woods in the background.* At the end of the grass path go through a gate and along a short length of fenced path to another gate onto the road.

Turn left and go steeply downhill, taking the right-hand fork at the triangle junction and then going straight across the bottom road onto a gravel path, beside swings, bearing right with Halls Beck on your left. Turn left over the wooden footbridge.

### Halls Beck to St John's Church – ¾ mile

Turn right and follow the road between cottages. The road bends left, and passes between terraced houses on your left and farm buildings on your right. Ignoring the turning on the right, Winding Gate, and two roads across the Green on your left, go straight ahead to where the road bends right. Do not go straight ahead into Burthwaite but follow the right hand bend into School Road. Walk along School Road, passing the Parish Room on your right and the School on your left, until you arrive at the main road, A591. Turn left and, WITH CARE and due traffic awareness, walk down the road for about 150 metres, keeping on the left-hand verge as much as possible, to arrive at St John's Church on the left.

### **Collect for St John, Apostle and Evangelist – 27 December**

Merciful Lord,

cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:

that, being enlightened by the teaching

of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,

we may so walk in the light of your truth

that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord.

Amen.

### **BINSEY TEAM MINISTRY**

([www.binsey.org.uk](http://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