

# CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

## **St Margaret, Wythop** **via** **Wythop Old Church** **to** **St Cuthbert, Embleton**

- Distance:** 4 miles (6.4 km) + 2 miles to return to start
- Time:** about 2 hours walking + 1 hour to return
- Grid References:** start – NY 190301 end – NY 162294
- Terrain:** fellside grass paths, quiet lanes, gravel tracks
- Gradients:** some steepish ups and gentle downs
- Underfoot:** good
- Church Access:** St Margaret – open at all times  
St Cuthbert – open daily 9.30 to 4.30

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 Margaret's Church to Wythop Old Church – 1½ miles

Emerging from the church porch, turn right along the gravel path in front of the building and at its east end bear right up the grass slope to a metal gate on the left. Through the gate take the grass path sloping up through bracken to a bench. *Here take a few moments to absorb the view right to Bassenthwaite Lake and Binsey, and ahead across the Vale of Embleton.* Turn right and go up the path, through a gap in a wall, and then bear right on a terrace path.

Follow the path as it curves left and comes alongside a wall on your right. The path to the summit of Sale Fell turns off to the left, but for today's walk continue ahead beside the wall. When the path starts to go steeply downhill, bear off to the left on a gently descending path. Follow this terrace path, *enjoying the peace of the delightfully secret Wythop Valley.*

At Kelswick, a farm screened by trees, join the tarmac access drive and turn left. When the entrance to the farmyard is on your right and a seat in front of you, turn right, signposted “Public Bridleway Beck Wythop 2 miles”. Go through a gate and follow the grass terrace path with fence on your left. Where the oak trees begin you will arrive at Wythop Old Church.

### Wythop Old Church to Wythop Mill – 1 mile

Retrace your steps to Kelswick, join the tarmac driveway and follow it down the valley. Go through a gate into a wooded area with a parking place on the right and Wythop Beck on the left. Where the farm road joins the public road, go straight on, keeping the beck on your left and with Fisher Wood (mature oaks) on your right. After a little less than half a mile, turn left at a road junction, signposted “Lorton 4, Cockermouth 4½”, crossing Wythop Beck. *As you go over the bridge, notice the remains of the mill leat down on the right.*

## Wythop Mill to St Cuthbert's Church – 1½ miles

Follow the road round right and left bends and up a steep hill. Ignore a turning going back on the left to the Old School, but about 100 metres further on turn left onto a gravel track signposted “Public Bridleway High Side ⅔ mile”. Follow this track climbing uphill for about ½ mile (it will seem longer). *When the views open up, take a breather and see if you can spot Cockermouth's two churches – Christchurch with a tower, All Saints with a spire – and, nearer at hand, your destination in the valley. If it is clear you will also see Scotland, and the sea at Workington.*

Continue down the track to Highside Farm. In front of the farm buildings take the “Public Footpath St Cuthbert's Church ½ m”, turning right through a gate bearing the sign “Private Road Footpath Only Authorised Vehicles Only”. Follow the tarmac farm road straight ahead with farm buildings on your left and the farmhouse up on your right. Continue downhill on the tarmac track. *On the left notice a pond damned at one end and former mill leat, leading from it.* Pass between Beckhouse Mill on your left and Ruddwent, a large house on your right. Ignore a turning to Laurel Bank on the left and continue downhill. At a junction of footpaths, take the left hand one, signposted “Public Footpath St Cuthbert's Church ¼ m”. Pass Beckhouse Cottage on your right, ignore a footpath to Jenkin on the left, and pass a house on the left. At the next property, turn right in front of the house (Brook House with adjoining barn conversion called The Lazy Fish) and bear left on a gravel track. Follow this down to the road where you will find St Cuthbert's Church opposite.

## To return to St Margaret's Church, Wythop – 2 miles

Go east along the road for about 1¼ miles. Ignore the turning on the right to the Old School and descend to cross Wythop Beck at Wythop Mill. The crossroads is so shaped that “go straight on” is hardly the appropriate instruction, so I'll say “go neither right nor left but half left”. Carry on for a further ¾ mile to reach St Margaret's Church.

## **COLLECT FOR ST CUTHBERT'S DAY – 20 MARCH**

Almighty God, who called Cuthbert from following the flock  
to be a shepherd of your people:

Mercifully grant that, as he sought in dangerous and remote  
places

those who had erred and strayed from your ways,  
so we may seek the indifferent and the lost, and lead them  
back to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **THE 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