

CHURCH TO CHURCH WALKS AROUND THE BINSEY TEAM

All Saints, Allhallows **via** **Allhallows Old Church** **to** **St Michael & All Angels, Torpenhow**

- Distance:** 8½ miles (13.7 km)
- Time:** About 4½ to 5 hours walking
- Grid References:** start – NY 198425 end – NY 206398
- Terrain:** Mostly tracks, green lanes, and fields, with one stretch of very quiet road and two villages.
- Gradients:** Very gentle along Ellen valley for half the route, then climbing up to and beyond Bothel and down to Torpenhow.
- Underfoot:** Plenty of potential for mud.
- Church Access:** All Saints – open at weekends
Allhallows Old Church – closed
St Michael & All Angels – open all daylight hours

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

This may seem like a long way round to get from Allhallows to Torpenhow, but it makes a good walk and visits two villages – Blennerhasset and Bothel – which do not have an Anglican church of their own but are both in the parish of Torpenhow.

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

All Saints to Allhallows Old Church – ¾ mile

From the church cross the road and turn right and left into the access driveway to Leesrigg Farm, signposted “Public Footpath”. Pass between bungalows. *There is a view ahead right to Bothel and its wind-farm.* Pass two big tanks on your left and, at the end of the farm buildings, where there may be gates or pens set up for stock management, turn left. Go through a wooden kissing gate, signposted “Public Footpath Old Church”.

Pass a silo and farmhouse on your left and go ahead between hawthorn hedge and remains of old metal fence. At the corner of the field there are two kissing gates on either side of a larger gate; as the left-hand gate now seems jammed, use the other one to get into a green lane, again signposted “Public Footpath Old Church”. *Notice the wonderful carved post on the left.* N.B. After visiting the Old Church, retrace your steps to this point.

The path curves right, passing a beech copse to arrive at the Old Church on the right. You may explore the churchyard and the outside of the Old Church but what remains of the building itself is closed.

Allhallows Old Church to Harbybrow – ¾ mile

Return along the green lane to the kissing gates. Go through the left hand gate, signposted “Public Footpath Harbybrow”. Keep to the edge of the field with hedge and trees on your left. *Aspatria comes into view on the horizon.*

Go through a small gate in the corner of the field, then immediately left through a gate with sandstone gateposts. Take the direction indicated by the “Public Footpath” sign (south-west), passing a copse of horse-chestnuts on your right, but aiming for the right-hand end of woodland on the far side of the field. At the corner of the wood, turn left and follow the field edge to a boggy corner, where cross a footbridge over a beck.

Go through a metal kissing gate and half right across the field, NOT towards the sandstone pele tower among trees, but towards roofs just visible above a rise in the ground. On reaching the buildings keep them on your left to reach a “Public Footpath” sign pointing back the way you have come. Here go through a kissing gate into a garden, turn right and go along a driveway to the property entrance. Turn left and cross the bridge over the River Ellen.

Harbybrow to Blennerhasset – 1¼ mile

Immediately after the bridge turn right through a gate, in summer obscured by rampant gunnera, signposted “Public Footpath Blennerhasset”. Follow the footpath with the River Ellen on your right. Go through a kissing gate and turn half left across a field, passing a large solitary tree on your right. Go through another kissing gate, turn right and walk along the edge of the field to a gate.

Go straight ahead across the next field to come alongside a hedge on your right. Go through a gate and keep to the right-hand edge of the next field, with hedge at first then fence on right. Go through the right-hand of two gates. *As you turn round to latch the gate, take in the view of the Uldale Fells and Binsey with Skiddaw rising behind.* Proceed along the left-hand side of the next field.

At the corner go through the left-hand of two gates into a green lane between high hedges, and follow this until it leads past farm buildings into the village of Blennerhasset. *On your left you pass a house with a pointed central window; this was the old Congregational Chapel. The Winder Cottages have initials, text and date 1678.* Go ahead to the crossroads.

Blennerhasset to Bothel – 3 miles

Go straight across, signposted “Threapland 2½ , Arkleby 2¾”. Pass on your left the Blennerhasset Evangelical Mission, a corrugated iron building, and the Village Hall, and leave the village over a little tributary of the Ellen.

Follow this very quiet road for about a mile. *Accompanied by goldfinches and yellowhammers in summer, you soon pass the Mechi Farm, the interesting history of which can be read about in Geoffrey Bremner's book 'Blennerhasset'. Opposite the farm, across the fields to your right you can see Whitelees Wood with the line of the old railway running in front of it. Further along the road the coloured houses of Harriston can be seen ahead right, and Aspatria with St Kentigern's Church is on the horizon. The large pale rectangular buildings are the cheese factory.*

At the end of a long straight stretch of road, before a power line crosses the road, look out for a “Public Bridleway Bothel” sign and go through a gate hidden in the hedge on the left; this and the next section can be tricky in tall summer vegetation. Walk along the right-hand edge of the field and around a left curving kink, but where the field boundary goes off positively to the left, look on your right for and go through a gate. Cross a bridge over Gill Gooden and go up a steep concrete ramp and through a gate.

Turn left, signposted “Public Bridleway Bothel”, and proceed, with the gill on your left, to a gate. Head half right across the next field keeping a sycamore with four trunks on your right. Go through a gate and keep to the right-hand side of the next field but at the first corner go between stone gateposts (no gate). Turn left on a farm track to the ruined buildings of Gillgooden.

With ruin on your right and gate post on left, pass into a field and go up the slope ahead, parallel to the trees on the left but in mid-field. *At the top of the slope, turn round for a view of Criffel beyond Aspatira.* Carry on in the same direction, south-east, down the other side of the little hill to a gate in a corner.

Turn half left and head east across the field to where a boundary fence turns sharp right. The next bit is easier done than said. Imagine following the fence on your right to a corner and turning left to keep the fence on your right until you come to some big trees. Instead of doing this, cut off the corner and head straight for the trees, near which you will find a gate tucked away in a recess of the field. Go through the gate into a stony track between hedges.

The track climbs. Where it turns left keep to the lane, ignoring the Public Bridleway sign. *View back to Criffel.* There is a brief respite before the track resumes its inexorable upward gradient for a further three-quarters of a mile. *There may be water running down quite a length of this track so it could be icy in winter.* At the road turn left into the village of Bothel.

Bothel to Torpenhow – 2¾ miles

Opposite St Michael's Church of England Primary School turn right, signposted “Cockermouth 7½, Keswick 12½“. Pass the village hall (*new in 2015*) and at a junction carry straight on uphill. *In front of the new housing of Old Chapel Close there is an old milestone “Carlisle 18 Wigton 8 Cockermouth 7½” - was this narrow village lane once the main road?*

Where School Lane comes in from the left, go round right-hand bend. Take the first turning on the left, Park Road. *There is a GR post box in the wall on the right.* Walk down to the main road (A595) and WITH CARE cross over and go straight ahead, signposted “Public Bridleway Whitrigg, Stangerhill”, down a slope with Beck House on your right. Cross the beck on a stone slab bridge and go ahead up a stony track.

At a three way split, keep to the middle track through a gate. Keep to the track along the left-hand edge of the field and then into a short length of wide green lane between fences. Emerge into the next field and go straight ahead uphill with hedge and fence on your right. *At the top of the field there is an excuse for a breather as you turn round for a splendid Solway view.* Ignoring a footpath sign which points left to “Whitrigg”, keep straight on, signed “Stangerhill”, through a gate into a pasture field and continue uphill along the right-hand side with fence on right. *The Western fells come into sight on the right and wider Solway views are obtained as height is gained.*

At the top where the fence turns sharp right, turn left with a stony bank on your right for about 50 metres, and then turn through a gap in the bank. Turn half left across the corner of rough pasture among gorse bushes to a gate. Turn half right and go diagonally down the field, south-east, heading for the bottom right-hand corner. The old stile was by the gate in the corner, but look out for the new stile in the right-hand fence a short distance before the corner. The strand of barbed wire beyond is covered with yellow pipe at the strategic point. *Binsey and Skiddaw can be seen ahead right.*

Go half left across the field to a gate in the bottom corner. *Notice the red sandstone gatepost with markings – has it been recycled?* Go along the edge of the next field with fence on your left, but at a gateway on the left, turn left into a green lane.

At T junction of tracks, turn left. *At the point where the track curves and begins to descend there is a good view of the Solway plain.* Keep on the track as it goes downhill, ignoring a track which comes in from the left.

At the road turn right for a few metres then left at a “Public Footpath” sign into a wide green lane between hedges. At the end of the green lane, go through a gate into a pasture field, turn left, and follow the edge of the field with fence on left. At the corner of the field, go through a gate. *There is another great view taking in Criffel, the Solway Firth and plain, the Pennines, and, immediately below you, Torpehhow with its church at the right hand end of the village. Can you see where you started at Allhallows Church?*

Turn half right and head in the direction of some large farm buildings below you, going diagonally across and down the slope to a stile next to a large tree. Over the stile go half right, but do NOT go right into the corner by a copse on the right. Instead head for a stile towards the right hand end of the first line of hawthorns at the bottom of the slope. There is no fence so the stile is superfluous, but it puts you in the right place to go ahead to the stile in the second line of hawthorns, where there is a fence, and a strand of barbed wire with the barbs thoughtfully removed.

Keep along the right-hand side of the field to the farm buildings where you can duck under a vehicle barrier or go over a stile onto the farm access drive, and so ahead into Torpenhow village street. Cross the road and go up the slope on the right to arrive at the church of St Michael & All Angels.

Revelation Chapter 12 verses 7-9

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

COLLECT FOR ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS – 29 SEPTEMBER

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted
the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,
they may help and defend us on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BINSEY TEAM MINISTRY

(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