

driveway. Go past Rockfield House and walk towards new houses built on an old MOD site. At the end of the driveway, turn left on the road and, after about 100 yards, take a footpath on the right.

Cross a stone stile on the left and follow the footpath downhill keeping the hedge on your left. Go through a kissing gate ahead of you and almost immediately over a stile to your left. Follow the path along field boundary to reach gate in far corner. Turn right and down some steep steps. At the bottom, turn right through a gate to visit **St Mary the Virgin Charlcombe**. At the bottom of the garden opposite the church is St Mary's holy well.

Coming out of the garden, go to the right and back through the gate. Ignore the steps to the left and continue along the path between wall and fence to reach Charlcombe Lane. Turn left on to the Lane and after about 200 yards, take the fork left marked unsuitable for large vehicles. At a T-junction, cross straight over the lane and go through a gate in the hedge opposite. Take the left hand path down the field to reach steps going down to another lane.

Turn left and walk along the lane for about ¼ mile. From here, you can see the cupola on top of Woolley church ahead of you and look across to Swainswick on the other side of the valley. At Crossleaze farm, turn right at a footpath sign. Walk down the drive and then follow grassy path over a stile. The path heads slightly right downhill under telegraph wires to a stile and footbridge.

Cross the Lam Brook and head straight uphill to a gate. Go back through Woodbine Cottage garden to Swainswick Church.



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

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



LAM VALLEY - LANSDOWN - CHARLCOMBE

Ancient churches, quiet gardens & a Holy Well

12 km (7.5 miles) / 4-5 hours - with the option of a shorter route of 5km / 1.5 hours

Start and Finish at Swainswick Church

Parking on lane near the church

Tea, coffee & toilet available at Swainswick Church

Terrain: lanes and footpaths, some steep & muddy

*"Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls."*

~ Jeremiah



This circular pilgrimage route takes in four tiny churches around the beautiful Lam Valley on the edge of the Cotswolds. Starting at St Mary's in Swainswick, the route crosses the valley to All Saints Woolley and St Mary Magdalene Langridge. From there it heads up and over Lansdown to St Mary the Virgin Charlcombe, with its peaceful garden and holy well, and back across to Swainswick.

The shorter route option follows the same paths to Langridge and then returns along the lane to Swainswick.

Directions

Walk out of **Swainswick churchyard** and follow the footpath sign across the driveway diagonally to your left. Go through the garden of Woodbine Cottage (there is a right of way) and follow the path to bottom right hand corner of the field below.



All Saints Woolley

Continue along the bottom of the field with the Lam Brook on your left. When you reach a footbridge, cross the Lam and follow the path uphill as it curves round to the right.

At a finger post, walk uphill along the right hand field boundary to a kissing gate. An enclosed path leads into the 'Doubly Thankful' village of Woolley. **All Saints Church** is on your right.

After visiting the church, walk up Church Street with the memorial garden on your right. At the top turn right along the lane. As the lane turns sharply right downhill, continue straight ahead along a footpath, through a kissing gate and into a field.

Walk along the top of two fields, keeping the hedge on your left. Then through a further three fields to a kissing gate. Follow the waymarked path down the hill to cross a brook, turning right to reach the lane.

Turn left uphill to visit **St Mary Magdalene Langridge**.

[For the shorter route, turn left out of the church and walk down the lane. Turn right at a T-junction and continue straight along the lane to Swainswick, ignoring a right-hand turn. At the edge of the village fork right, then right again down the steep hill back to St Mary's.]

Coming out of the churchyard, walk about 200m up the lane. Opposite a bungalow take a footpath on the left, through a kissing gate into a field.

Walk across the top of field with the fence boundary on your right, then through the next field, crossing small plank bridge. Head down the hill to cross another footbridge and then follow the path to the right, over second small stream.

Head straight up the steep field towards a fence. Continue with the fence on your right until you reach a gate into another field. Follow the path on uphill. Ignore a track curving round to the right towards farm buildings and head straight up to a gate in the wall. After a few yards the path meets a driveway.



Turn right along the driveway. Just before a cattle grid and the main road, turn sharp left on a path across the field, passing to the right of a telegraph pole. Cross a stone stile in the wall and turn left to follow the path along the wall, which then curves round to the right at a finger post. Cross a stone stile and head towards a working yard and house. Go through a gate and follow the path round to the right.

Cross the drive and continue on the enclosed path opposite into a field. Follow the path across 3 fields eventually crossing a stone stile with far reaching views ahead over Solsbury Hill and into Wiltshire. Continue on the path across the next field to a gate.

Go through the gate and follow the path straight ahead keeping the gravel driveway on your left, through some metal gates on to a tarmac