

Walk the Netherexe Parishes Churches: Circular 3 Thorverton & Cadbury

The Netherexe Parishes - A Mission Community in the Diocese of Exeter

1. From Thorverton churchyard main gate [in the Bury] turn left and continue to walk along the Bury and out of the village until you come to a fork in the road [approx. 0.25 mile]. The right-hand fork is signed to "Fursdon House". Take the left-hand road signed to Cadbury [1a] and start climbing up to Cadbury Church, known locally as Milk Hill for 1.25 miles. This is a long, and in parts very steep hill, but do look backwards as you are walking [especially after passing a house called the "Glen" on your LHS] as there are wonderful views back down the lower Exe Valley. Continuing walking uphill, and as the road levels, pass Terley Farmhouse and then Cadbury House on your RHS.
2. If you wish to detour and walk up to Cadbury Castle, ancient hill fort, [2a] take the public footpath from the road corner where Cadbury House is located for fantastic panoramic views across mid-Devon to Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Blackdown Hills. If not, follow the road around to the left and St Michaels & All Angels at Cadbury will appear on your LHS after another 0.25 mile.
3. Leave Cadbury churchyard by the lower entrance, by Church Farm, and continue to walk down hill, following the road past Higher Coombe, Little Bowley, Greater Bowley and East Bowley farms. [This road eventually leads back to the bottom of Milk Hill and is known locally as the "Bowley Loop"]. After passing East Bowley Farm, after approximately 0.25 mile you will see thatched Parliament Cottage on your RHS.
4. You then have a choice how to return to Thorverton. You can take the footpath from the side of Parliament Cottage. This leads you downhill to a stream. Ford the stream [no bridge] and then walk uphill across the next field where the path continues through a gate and uphill along a double-hedged path [good views over Thorverton from this path]. Follow this path until you reach the road at Chapel Farm.
 - 4a. At Chapel farm, turn left and walk back along the road into Thorverton village.
 - 4b. Alternatively, you can carry on walking along the road back to the bottom of Milk Hill, turn right and retrace your steps along the road back to Thorverton.