



A walk between three churches in the Wallingford area.  
 Note: This route includes steps and uneven fields where there may be livestock grazing.

### St Peter's Church, Wallingford

1. Leaving St Peter's Church, turn right and walk to the main road.
2. Then turn right again, cross over the road, and walk over the mediaeval bridge. The twenty-two arches of the bridge are mainly eighteenth and nineteenth century, but contain some older elements.
3. Having walked over the bridge, cross the road again. Don't take the footpath immediately at the end of the bridge, but take the next one 50 yards further on, on your right, through the trees – marked 'To Ridgeway and Grimm's Ditch' on the small sign.
4. After approximately 80 yards, fork right on the footpath through the gate and into the field. (Don't turn into the next field on the right, but stay in the field you have just entered and keep to the right-hand edge.)
5. Go through the gate into the next field and follow the footpath until you arrive at a farm-yard.
6. Walk through the farm-yard, pass through the gate, and turn right onto the lane.
7. Pass the sign to Newnham Farmhouse on your right – Newnham Murren Church may be found hidden behind the conifer hedge to the right.

### St Mary's Church, Newnham Murren

8. Leaving Newnham Murren Church, turn right and continue on your journey, along the tree-lined footpath.
9. Go under the under-pass and continue straight on.
10. After arriving at the houses, take the footpath to the right marked 'To St John's Church'. Immediately bear Left, and walk through the atmospheric grounds of disused Carmel College. This was Europe's only Jewish boarding school between 1953 and 1997, when it closed. There are several listed buildings on the campus: Thomas Hancock designed the Grade II listed synagogue, amphitheatre and dining hall.
11. Take the right fork marked 'To Church'.
12. After 50 yards or so, there is a gate to the church under the trees to your left.

### Church of St John the Baptist, Mongewell

- The walk back largely retraces your steps, but has a short detour along the banks of the Thames.
13. Retrace your steps through the College, under-pass and farmyard.
  14. Just after leaving the farmyard turn left and take the footpath across the field (there is a footpath sign in the fence to the right).
  15. Walk the 164 yards to the river, and then turn right.
  16. Follow the river and footpath back to the bridge and into Wallingford.



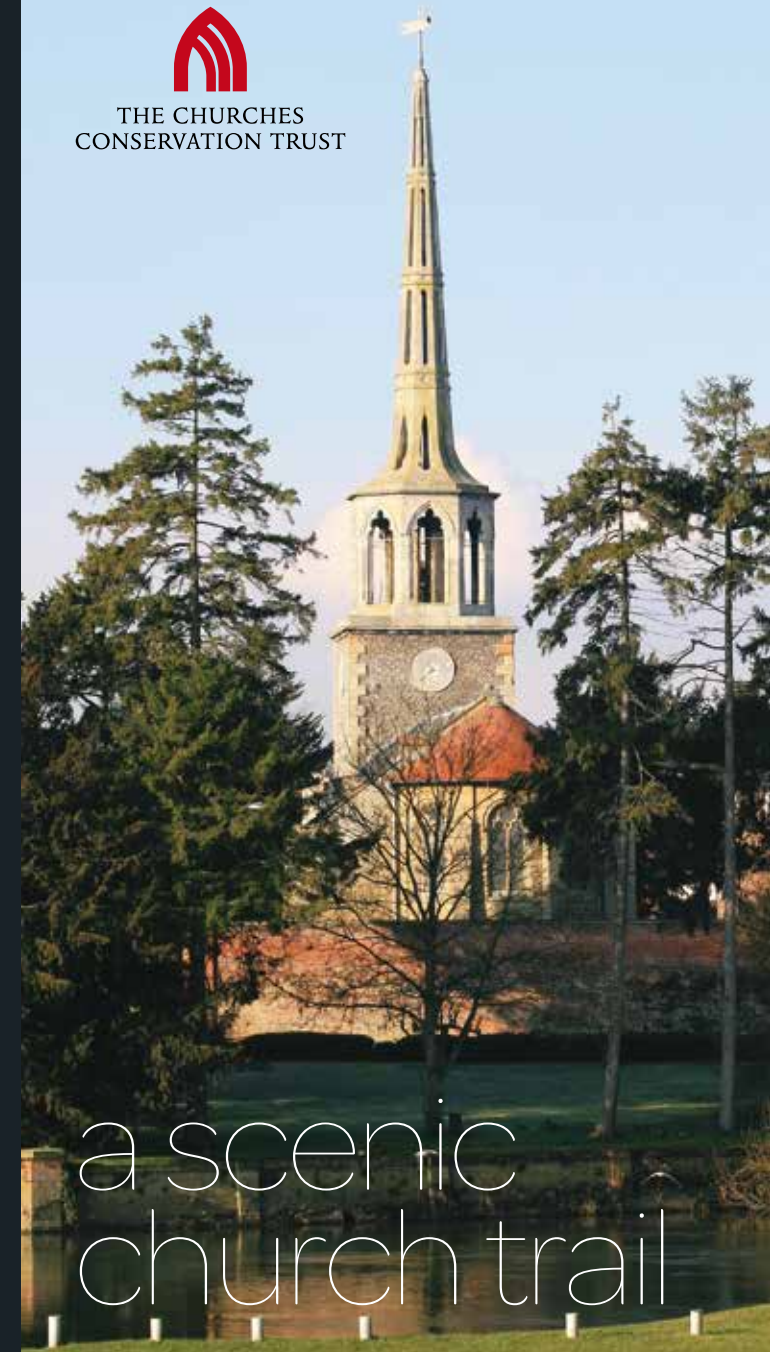
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THE CHURCHES  
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a scenic  
 church trail

A walk of two and a half miles taking in three churches in Wallingford.



# St Peter's Church

Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0BH

St Peter's was one of many medieval churches in Wallingford. In 1646, during the Civil War, the original church was destroyed by Parliamentary forces taking part in the Siege of Wallingford.



Money was raised for the rebuilding of the church between 1763 to 1769 and included the tower, nave, box pews and a three-decker pulpit.

The open work spire, designed by Sir Robert Taylor, was built in the 1770s, and still houses the original bell and clock.

Further renovations in 1850 reduced the pulpit and removed a gallery, and in 1904 added the chancel, organ chamber, font, and the windows with Maltese crosses.

The present organ is not original and comes from St James', Toxteth.

There are some memorials, including one to Sir William Blackstone, lawyer, judge, and Solicitor General, who was influential in the rebuilding of the church in the 1760s. He is famous for his Commentaries on English Law which were used in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the USA.



There is a fine plaster ceiling of octagonal panels.

The east window, titled 'Feed thy Lambs' is by Morris and Co.

The last service was conducted at St Peter's on the 29th June 1969, two hundred years to the day after it was first opened for worship.



# St Mary's Church

Newnham Murren, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BW

The church at Newnham Murren is mainly twelfth century – circa. 1120 – with a fourteenth century south aisle and arcade. The most obvious Norman features are the chancel arch and north door arch. Note also the re-cut (probably in 1849) Norman font at the west-end – traces of the original lock to hold the cover in place still remain.

The church was restored in 1849 with a new bellcote and west window, and the south aisle and north porch were rebuilt. The bellcote contains two bells, neither of which has an inscription. They may have been recast in the seventeenth century.

The chancel, together with the piscina, sedilia and double aumbry, is thirteenth century. The windows in the chancel and north wall of the nave are also dated to the same period. The other windows were installed in 1849. The stained glass in the east window is by Powell's. The altar is a seventeenth century communion table.

The roofs are of oak – that in the nave is fourteenth century, but the king-post roof in the chancel is sixteenth century. The fine panels in the oak pulpit are seventeenth century work.

In the east wall of the south aisle there is a squint or hagioscope (literally 'holy-sight') to allow those sitting in the south aisle to see the Elevation of the Host at the High Altar.



Also in the south aisle is a brass to Letitia Barnarde, who died in 1593. As is customary, she is shown with her children in prayer. Just above her hands is a hole from a musket-ball – probably fired by a soldier involved in the Siege of Wallingford in 1646 during the Civil War.

The harmonium, or reed organ, at the east end of the south aisle was made by the Hillier Organ Company of London, and has eleven speaking stops – it is sadly now unplayable.



# Church of St John the Baptist

Mongewell, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BU

The church at Mongewell is mainly twelfth century, with the nave and chancel built of flint.

Norman features include the chancel walls, the corbels set into the wall on either side of the chancel arch and the windows on the north and south sides. The chancel's wooden roof dates to the fourteenth century.

In 1791 the Hon. Shute Barrington, Bishop and owner of Mongewell House, partly rebuilt the church in the fashionable 'Gothick' style. He also added the west apse and the polygonal turret in brick. The architect may have been James Wyatt.

The tower was originally rendered, and was surmounted by a lead Covered cupola. There used to be a clock and single bell (16 1/2 " in diameter) in the tower – the bell bore, the date 1760. An earlier church inventory of 1553 shows that the church then had two bells.



The font, wrought-iron chandelier and neo-Norman zig-zag decoration in the chancel date from a restoration in 1880. Note the stone base of the pulpit – dating to 1880 – just inside the nave. Note also the memorial to the Frasers (inside the chancel), once owners of the manor, who also gave the stained glass in the east window.

The church became derelict in the early twentieth century, with the nave roof collapsing in the 1940s. In 1954 the chancel arch was blocked and the memorials and font were moved into the chancel.