

# Circular Cycle route around the Ten churches in the By brook Benefice

(Yatton Keynell, Biddestone, Slaughterford, North Wraxall, West Kington, Nettleton and Burton, Littleton Drew, Grittleton, Kington St. Michael, Castle Combe and back to Yatton Keynell)

**This will take an average cyclist about 3 hours to complete. It is approximately 30 miles long. If you stop off at each church and a break for coffee, lunch and tea it is a lovely day out.**

*Details of the history and features of each church can be found at <https://bybrook.org.uk/who-we-are/places/> This route was compiled by Pam Rawlins Church Warden for the 2022 ride and stride organised by Wiltshire Historic Churches. We accept no responsibility for your safety on this route but ask you to wear a helmet, take care when using busy roads and if you have any feedback or amendments please send them to [pamela.rawlins@pra-consulting.co.uk](mailto:pamela.rawlins@pra-consulting.co.uk). We hope you enjoy it.*

Start – **St. Margaret of Antioch church in Yatton Keynell. Church # 1.** See its 15C Tower. Leave the church front entrance gate and go down West Yatton Lane. At the end you reach a triangle. Turn left here and head towards the A420 at Giddea Hall. Be careful here as you cross over this very busy main road. Going over the curb directly opposite to proceed down the side of the *Crown Pub.* (closed at time of writing).

Take this Cuttle Lane into **Biddestone.** After the village sign keep going till you reach the main road into Biddestone by turning right. At the centre of the village turn right into Church Lane and head to the **Church of St. Nicholas Biddestone. Church #2.** Norman origins especially the South Door through which you enter.

Leave the church in the same direction as you arrived and retrace your steps back towards Yatton Keynell and turn again left into Cuttle Lane but this time when reaching the village sign turn left onto the Slaughterford Road towards **Slaughterford** village. Keep on going along this road, ignore any turning and eventually you down the hill till you reach the beautiful tiny village hamlet by the By brook River. The **church of St. Nicholas** is in the middle of a field on your left reached by a small gate. **Church # 3.**

Again retrace your steps leaving the church up the hill you came down but after the red telephone box you reach a lane on the left opposite a stile hidden in the hedge. Take this lane which will take you initially sharply up hill but then steeply down again to the village of **Ford.** Be careful on this road especially in wet weather as it has some brash, so take it steady and hopefully you have good brakes! At the bottom of this steep hill you reach another road – turn left and you shortly cross a bridge over the By brook taking you to the front of *The White Heart Pub.* At the T Junction (road to Colerne) turn right for a short way and then you will come onto the main A420 road at another T Junction. Turn left here towards Bath for a very short way until you come to the Old Coach road opposite just past the church of Ford which is no longer a church sadly but a house. This is marked as a by-way but it is cyclable if you go steady and mind the pot holes. To start with it goes sharply up hill. I had to walk past some lovely cottages and eventually it flattens out with good views.

At the end of the Old Coach road you come to a T Junction turn right towards the village of **North Wraxall.** The road bends and turns and then rises back up to the village centre where you will find the church of **St. James the Great. Church # 4.** Inside the church are some rare Jerusalem church wall paintings.

After resting here leave the church entrance and take the road on your right signposted Nettleton go along this road for a bit till you reach a T Junction. You have reached The Foss Way an old Roman Road to Bath. Turn right here till you reach a cross roads. Take the road opposite towards Mountain Bower (but you wouldn't know because the sign had fallen off at the time of writing). Just a short way down this lane you come to another direction sign – turn 1st right here (again sign missing) towards **West Kington**. This is quite a long road up and down but eventually brings you to the centre of the village opposite Plough Cottage. Turn right here over a bridge and the round and up the next steep hill climbing out of the village towards Nettleton.

As the road levels out at the top of the hill you reach Manor Farm and **St. Mary The Virgin West Kington Church** is reached via the drive leading to the Farm. **Church # 5**. As you get near the farm house turn right through the stable yard and the entrance to the church is just passed a menage.

As you leave Manor Farm stay on the same lane called Wood Lane for a while until you come to a left turn towards Nettleton. At the staggard cross roads go opposite on the road towards Burton & Badminton. Continue round the sharp turn to the left do not go straight on. At the end you reach Church Road. Chestnut cottage is opposite you. Turn left up the hill to visit the **Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Nettleton and Burton. Church # 6**. Which is in the village of Burton not to confuse you! Inside is circular Norman font.

Go back down the hill towards the B4039 main road which would take you back to Yatton Keynell if you needed to cut your cycle short. If not turn left onto the B4039 be careful here as it is a busy road and cycle up hill till you reach Acton Turville. As you reach the *Fox & Hounds pub* turn right towards the village centre signed posted Littleton Drew. As you reach the market cross turn right on the Littleton Drew road. Eventually you reach the village of **Littleton Drew and the church of All Saints** is on the right hand side. **Church # 7**. A lovely little church well worth the stop – they recently fund raised to add in 8 bells.

Continue along the same road till you reach a left turn (if you miss it you will find yourself going under the motorway bridge, if so turn around and retrace your route). This is the road to Fosse Gate. When you reach Fosse Gate cottage turn left on the road to **Grittleton**. As you approach Grittleton you will see Grittleton House wedding venue (previously a private school) on your right hand side, ignore that and you will see the **Church of St. Mary the Virgin** on your left hand side. **Church # 8**.

Leave the church going back in the direction you came but this time turn left down in front of Grittleton House on the road towards Yatton Keynell. But when you reach Foscode turn left towards East Foscode, keep going on that road till you reach a T junction. Turn right here towards Kington St. Michael. Keep on going till you reach Manor Close right in the village centre on the right hand side. This will lead you to the **church of St. Michael All Angels at Kington St. Michael. Church # 9**. Leave back through the church lychgate and onto the main road back towards Grittleton. Passed the Stanton turning on the right hand side and then on the left hand side you will see a road sign posted Easton Piercy take that road which will take you towards Castle Combe our last church you will be pleased to know.

At the end of the long Easton Piercy lane you reach the Grittleton to Yatton Keynell road. Don't turn right or left here into Yatton Keynell to complete the ten church go across the staggard cross roads along a zig zag lane which will take you to the B4039 again. When reaching it passed Westwell Cottage and Broom's Farm turn right and head towards Upper Castle Combe. As you reach Upper Castle Combe you will see a 20 mph sign (no coaches beyond this point) turn left down that lane which is the hill down into Castle Combe itself. (If you reach the coach park at the top of **Castle Combe** you have missed it.) Cycle slowly down the hill avoiding the many tourists and eventually you come to the centre of the village of **Castle Combe** and market cross. Reported to be the prettiest village in England. The **church of**

**St. Andrew** is tucked away neatly behind the village centre in front of the Manor House Hotel. **Church # 10.** Do visit this church because it has a faceless clock and history centre inside.

Retrace your steps back up the hill passing the two pubs on either side of the road – I had to walk back up there is no shame in that you've had a long day! At the top of the hill when you reach the B4039 again turn right and make your way back through Kents Bottom to reach the centre of the village of Yatton Keynell and back to the start. Well done.

*If you have enjoyed it – do let Pamela know (email above). Do pass this onto your friends and family and fellow cyclists. It could also be walked but would definitely take a day. If you wish to donate to any of the churches please feel free to do so, it does help with the fabric upkeep which is substantial in these historic buildings. There are normally donation boxes in each church. Or you can donate to St. Margaret's Church Yatton Keynell where Pamela is Church Warden. Go to <https://bybrook.org.uk/support-us/supporting-st-margarets-financially/>. Many thanks.*