

# **The Iffley lock & church walk**

## **Description:**

- In this walk, you will travel down the river to Iffley lock and visit St Mary the Virgin Church.
- Time: 2-3 hours
- Distance: 7.3km

## **Map:**



## **Route:**

- Start at the WOCA community centre and face the Botley Road. Exit the grounds and turn left, then immediately cross the road to Osney Island. As soon as you enter Osney Island, turn left towards the river and follow the path.



- From here, simply follow the river down to the lock.



- Continue down the river for about 1.5 km until you reach a major road on a bridge. Cross the road using the pedestrian crossing and you will see that the river path continues in front of you. Continue to follow the river path.

- From here, continue to a small stone bridge and take a short detour to the right (this is optional - feel free to skip it by continuing to follow the path). You will arrive at what was once an outdoor pool!



*At the outdoor pool, can you spot the ladders where people would have climbed out of the water?*



*At the outdoor pool, there is a sign associated with fishing. Who made the sign?*



*answer: Thames angling association*

- Keep following the footpath and pass the Isis pub. You're almost at the lock.



*Feel free to stop at The Isis for a drink!*

- Ahead of you should now be the lock, pass through it and cross the bridge to your left.



- Now head up the slope and and when you reach Mill Lane turn right and continue along it. It will take you to St Mary the Virgin Church (will be on your right). Please stop to take a look inside!





*At the church, how many different creatures can you spot at the door?*



- After exiting the church, continue straight ahead along Church Way for around half a kilometer, then turn left down Meadow Lane







- Continue down Meadow Lane until you reach the B4495 (you will know it when you see it - it is a big road) and use the pedestrian crossing on your left to get to the other side.
- There will be a ramp taking you down to the river directly in front of you. Go down it and you should recognise where you are! Turn left and then it is simply a matter of going back the same way you came and following the river.



### History:

#### The church:

- St Mary the Virgin Church was built in 1175-1182 by Robert de Remy (the Norman lord of the manor), and is a great example of romanesque architecture.

- The beakheads at the west end are a typical Norman design, and can be found all over England, and supposedly the outer ring of these are symbolic of evangelism.
- The south door of the church is surrounded by many fantastical creatures and is clearly the work of a master mason. In fact, the church is referred to as "the finest example of a Norman church in England".

### Iffley Lock:

- Built in 1632, but since converted to a weir, as a new version (the current version) was built in 1924.
- There is also a replica of Cambridge's "Mathematical Bridge" built here.

