

Four Parishes

Distance 9 miles

Time 4 hours

38 stiles

Directions

Maps: OS Explorer 258 and 244

Starting at the Village Hall car park, cross the road to the Green Man and continue on over the bridge and up the hill. After 300m take the road left to All Saints' Church. On entering the churchyard turn right and follow the path to the gate behind the church.

Go through the gate, turn right and walk down the hill to a double stile next to a farm gate. Climb over these stiles and go straight on up the rise before climbing two stiles to cross an old track. Turn half left and cross the field to a stile in the field boundary.

Climbing over this stile go straight on to a second stile to the right of a farm gate. Cross the stile and turn half left, then it's a short walk across a field to the gap in the hedge (2). Go through the gap into a large field and walk towards the red brick buildings of Beacon Bank Farm on the horizon.

The footpath runs through the middle of the field to a farm gate on the opposite side. Go through this gate and turn half right and it's a short walk to another farm gateway. Pass through this and turn half left, climbing up the hill to a stile in the top left hand corner of the field some 20m to the left of a grey concrete bund (3).

Climb over this stile and turn right following the footpath with the fence on your right over two more stiles. Then left and follow the footpath down the hill to a stile near the far right hand corner of the field 200m to the right of Sandon Wood Farm.

Cross this stile and go straight ahead down a short track leading to a stile to the right of a farm gate across the track. Climb this stile and follow the track into an open field where you bear half right to a stile in the opposite field boundary.

Crossing this stile follow the path half right towards a red house in the distance to reach a farm gate in the far field boundary, some 50m to the right of the brook.

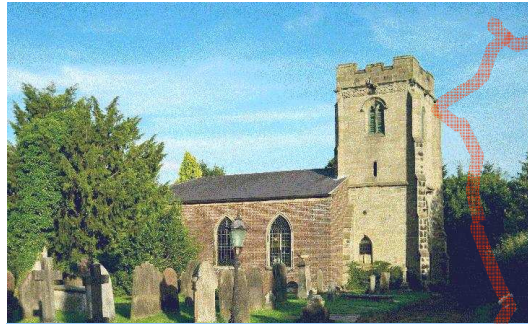
Pass through the gate and turn left over a small bridge across the brook. Turn right to walk along a narrow field crossing two stiles at the far end of the field. Follow the footpath which bears left across the field, passing to the right of two small houses to a stile that leads into the driveway serving the two houses (4).

Cross this stile and turn right to the gate across the drive. Go through the gate and turn left to follow the track leading to Sandon Parish Church. Part way along you pass a distinctive black and white house before the lane bears right to All Saints' church, Sandon (5).



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After viewing Sandon church, retrace your path back along the track until you reach the black and white house. Now turn right through the gate beside the cattle grid to follow the lane, past the moated farm house and up hill. Part way up the hill, before reaching a gate across the track, there is a footpath sign and a stile in the bank to your right. Climb over this stile and walk straight ahead up and over the hill.



All Saints' Church, Milwich

At the top of the hill you pass Trentham Tower on your left hand side (6). This pavilion was originally part of Trentham Hall. It was brought to Sandon Park by Lord Harrowby in 1912 following the demolition of Trentham Hall. Carry on past the tower, heading downhill towards the power station on the horizon you cross a farm track to arrive at a stile beside a farm gate.

Climb over this stile and walk straight ahead with the field boundary on your right to a small bridge across a ditch. After crossing the bridge turn half right and walk along a narrow field to a double stile in the opposite field boundary. Crossing these stiles, go straight across two fields to find a stile to the right of the pond at the far side of the second field.

Go over this stile and follow the left hand field boundary to another stile. Cross this and take the footpath to the bridge across Gayton Brook. Then follow the path with the brook on your left until you reach the field behind Gayton Parish Church. In the right hand corner of this field there is a gate leading into St Peter's Church yard (8).

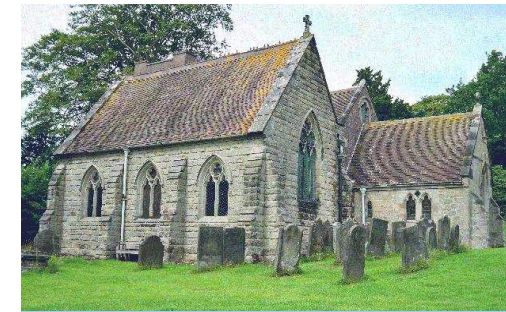


All Saints' Church, Sandon

After looking round the church leave from the front entrance and turn left into Church Lane following the lane as far as the ford. Take the gate on the right just before the ford and go along the path and over the stile into a small field. There is a stile opposite which leads into Wetmoor Green lane. Cross the stile into the lane turning left over the bridge to follow the road to Brook Farm.

Where the lane forks, follow the lane to the left of Brook Farm towards Hartley Green. After about 0.5km the track bears right past Hartleygreen Farm (9). About 300m further on turn left along a short track to a gate across the lane. Go through the gate and follow the track towards Old Gayton Gorse.

Passing a second gateway continue straight on until the lane ends at a fence with a stile beneath a large oak tree. Cross this stile and walk straight on to the stile opposite. Climb this stile and go straight on down the hill to cross the bridge over Gayton Brook (10). Turn left to climb a nearby stile then right along the field boundary until you reach a stile leading into Wallbrook road. Cross this and take the road opposite, Hawkins Lane, to Fradswell.



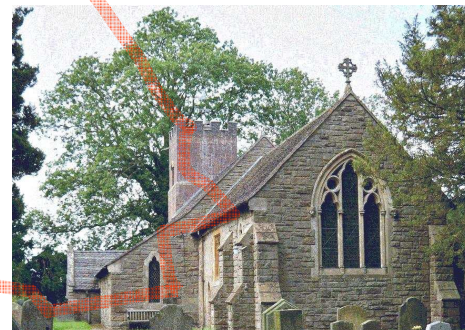
Saint James the Less, Fradswell

When you reach the T junction turn right and follow the road past Fradswell Hall until you see a driveway on your left leading to the church of St. James the Less (11). After viewing the church return back down the drive to and turn left along the road.

After some 200m, where the road bends to the right, go straight on taking the track to the left hand side of the stream for about 50m to a footpath sign and stile on your left. Crossing this stile and follow the footpath half left to a farm gate in the far left corner of the field. Go through the gate and follow the footpath along the field until you pass the gardens and out buildings of a Fradswell Hall on your left (12). At this point bear left to a stile in the opposite field boundary.

Cross this stile and turn half right to walk diagonally across the field to a stile at the far corner. Cross this stile go straight on with the field boundary on your left over two more stiles. After the second stile keep straight on, now with the field boundary on your right. Cross the double stile followed by a single stile at the far side of the field then go straight across the field to the bridge across Gayton Brook.

After the bridge turn half right when it is a short walk to a stile leading into Wallbrook Road. Turn right along the road to the T junction with the main road back to Milwich (13). Follow the road left for about 100m past the Wheatsheat to a footpath sign pointing left to a stile. Cross this stile and walk straight ahead to enter a long narrow field. Walk down this field with the boundary to your right to a stile on your right.



Saint Peter's Church, Gayton

Cross this stile and walk down the hill to the stile in the opposite left hand corner of the field. Climb this stile and follow the left hand field boundary to a second stile. Cross this walk straight ahead with the field boundary now on your right. Keep straight on over the next stile then following the fence on your left to a stile leading into the road through Milwich.

Turn left and follow the road back past the Green Man Pub to the village hall car park.