

'IT'S YOUR ROUND' ROUTE

Circular scenic three churches walks from The Packhorse Inn, Moulton



THE THREE CHURCHES CIRCULAR WALK

1. Turn left out of the Packhorse Inn on your way to the Packhorse Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right along Brookside, walking beside the River Kennett. Just before the Old Flint Bridge, notice the old rectory school on your left, dating from 1849. Keep on this road until you reach the churchyard.

2. Go through the gate to enter the churchyard and pass St Peter's Church. Cross a stile behind the church and walk up through the trees to another stile at the top. Bear right across the fields. On clear days, Ely Cathedral is visible on the horizon to your left.

3. Reaching a road, turn right. Keep straight ahead when the road bends, walking between

the hedges of the Gazeley Stud, where mares and foals can be seen. Continue on this path to All Saints Church and walk around the rear of the church to emerge by the Gazeley village sign and the Chequers pub.

4. Walk down Higham Road, opposite the church, and bear right following the Icknield Way waymarks at Tithe Close. Walk between the houses and follow this path across the fields and into Bluebutton Wood. Where the path turns sharply right, look for a footbridge in the hedge to your left.

5. Keep on the Icknield Way as it winds through two more woods, emerging beside a wide field. Walk along the edge of the field, up through the trees to reach a crossroads. Turn right here and climb to St Mary's Church, with Dalham Hall visible behind.

6. Pass through the metal gate opposite the church and walk down through an avenue of chestnut trees to Dalham village. Go through a kissing gate and turn left, noting the large conical red-brick malt kiln standing beside the road. If you are ready for lunch, a short walk along this road leads to the Affleck Arms.

7. Cross the white footbridge to your right and follow this path beside the River Kennett. Reaching a road, turn right across Catford Bridge. Now turn left on a wide bridleway to return to Moulton at St Peter's Church.

8. Cross the Old Flint Bridge and walk across the green to reach Dalham Road. Turn right along this road. A gate opposite the post office leads to the recreation ground and back to the village hall.

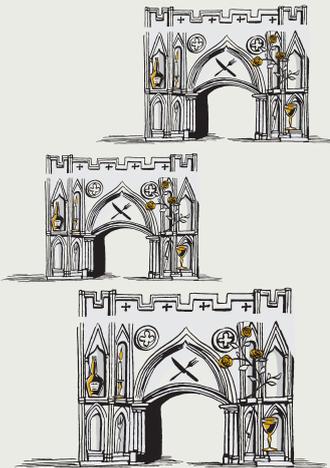
AROUND AND ABOUT

Points of interest along the route



THE PACKHORSE BRIDGE

This medieval bridge across the River Kennet lies on the ancient route from Bury St Edmunds to Cambridge and spans a distance of over 20 metres. It is perhaps not strictly a packhorse bridge since it was wide enough to take carts: it is now used only by pedestrians. The river has shrunk in size since the bridge was built in the 15th century. While a single arch would have been suitable to span a narrow stream, if used over a wider stretch this design would have created an inconveniently steep slope at both sides. At Moulton a series of smaller arches was therefore used to carry the road on a more manageable slope.



ST PETER'S CHURCH MOULTON

The parish church is dedicated to St. Peter as can be deduced from the unusual weathervane on the tower in the form of a large fish. There was a church here in Norman times and over the centuries the church has been extended reflecting different architectural styles. Only a little of the 12th century stonework remains and the tower dates from the early 14th century. The front stalls on both sides of the chancel incorporate four mediaeval poppyhead bench ends. These have animal armrests, which include a unicorn and a rabbit.

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH GAZELEY

One of the most significant medieval survivals here is not easily noticed. This is the range of 15th Century glass, which was reset by the Victorians high in the clerestory. This seems a curious thing to have done, since it defeats the purpose of a clerestory, but if they had not done so then we might have lost it. There are angels, three saints and some shields. The Saints are an unidentified Bishop, the hacksaw-wielding St Faith and St Apollonia, who was invoked by medieval people against toothache.

ST MARY'S CHURCH DALHAM

The present church of St Mary the Virgin Dalham took over six centuries to reach its current state. Every century is represented in the church's fabric or artefacts since it was built in the early 14th. On the site of a saxon church mentioned in the Domesday Book. Traditionally constructed of flint and stone, Fine wall paintings were displayed above two arches on the north side of the nave and above the chancel arch; they have recently been conserved.

OUR INNS



THE PACKHORSE INN MOULTON

The Packhorse Inn a modern pub with rooms in the heart of a picturesque village and the famous horse-racing community of Newmarket.

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