

‘Heart speaks unto heart’: a pilgrimage with Dr Newman
A Pilgrim Way within the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Overview

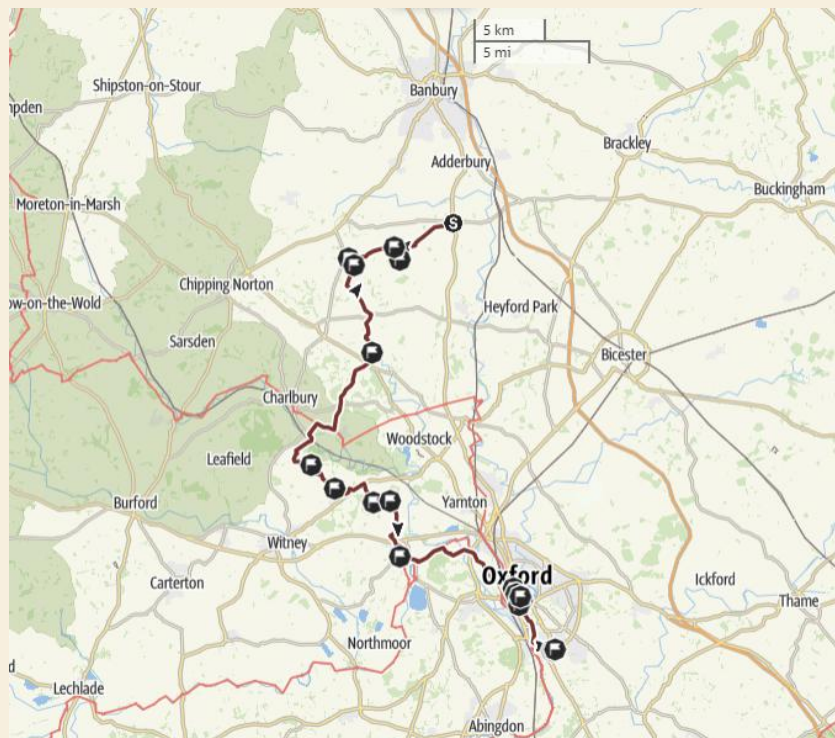
A pilgrim way following St John Henry Newman's spiritual path, from Evangelicalism, through High Anglicanism and finally to Catholicism. Newman (1801 – 1890) was an English Catholic theologian, academic, philosopher, historian, writer, and poet. He was an Anglican priest, and after his conversion to Catholicism, became a cardinal. He was an important figure in the religious history of England in the C19. The route was walked to mark Newman being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church on 1st November 2025.

The way starts at Deddington where Newman gave his first public address in 1825, via Over Worton, where he preached his first sermon as an Anglican priest. The walk continues through Oxford where Newman was educated, ordained as an Anglican minister and led the Oxford Tractarian Movement. The route ends at Littlemore where Newman founded a High Anglican church. Here in 1845, he became a Catholic.

This pilgrimage is an adaption of the existing Newman Pilgrimage which was created by Rev Hugh White and is based on the journeys Newman made as a young man from Oxford to Deddington. Newman walked the eighteen miles to Over Worton from Oxford, starting at 4am and arriving ‘punctually at the breakfast table’! Details of that pilgrimage can be found at: <http://www.newmanpilgrimage.org/>. Neither route follows Newman's probable path which is now a busy road.

The Outer Way

Total distance: 39.4 miles, Total walking hours: 15.5 hours



Total ascent: 1,270 ft, Route: Moderate



Stages: route, food & drink, accommodation and public transport

1. The Church in Deddington to Great Tew: 6.3 miles

Deddington can be reached by bus from Oxford and Banbury. The route is over quiet farmland and lanes. Public footpaths across some fields may be ploughed. There are pubs, cafés and shops in Deddington but no facilities enroute. There is a pub with accommodation in Great Tew and a café and delicatessen next door. There are occasional buses to Chipping Norton and Middle Barton from Great Tew.

2. Great Tew to Ramsden: 12.9 miles

The path crosses open parkland and countryside by quiet lanes and tracks. There are no facilities enroute until a pub in Finstock with accommodation in cabins. There is a pub with accommodation in Ramsden. There is a railway station in Finstock with trains to Oxford and bus stops at Fowler, Finstock and Ramsden.

3. Ramsden to Eynsham: 9.3 miles

The route is through countryside and small villages. There are pubs at Freeland and Church Hanborough and shops beside the A40 crossing. There are bus stops at Freeland on the A442 and in Eynsham. It may be possible to stay with the Anglican Franciscan Community of Saint Clare, in Freeland. There are shops, cafés, pubs and accommodation in Eynsham.

4. Eynsham to Littlemore: 11.4 miles

As far as Oxford much of the route is along the Thames Path. The Way passes through the suburb of Jericho and then through central Oxford. The Thames Path is rejoined south of the city until the A423 where the river is crossed and the path is through a housing estate to reach Littlemore. There are pubs at Wolvercote, Binsey, Iffley lock and opposite Newman College. There are all facilities in central Oxford including railway and coach stations.

Public transport links

Trains: <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>
Coaches: <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en>
Buses: <https://www.traveline.info/>
<https://www.mybusoxfordshire.org.uk/>

The Inner Way

Newman was a pilgrim in life, constantly searching for the truth. You can use this pilgrimage to reflect in his spiritual journey.

1. The Church in Deddington to Great Tew: Newman's first conversion

John Henry Newman was born in 1801 in London into a prosperous family. They were practising Anglicans and Newman became an avid reader of the Bible. At the age of 15 he had a life changing religious experience. Later he described falling 'under the influences of a definite Creed' which had the effect of 'confirming me in my mistrust of the reality of material phenomena, and making me rest in the thought of two and two only absolute and luminously self-evident beings, myself and my creator.' He would describe this as his first conversion.

2. Great Tew to Ramsden: Newman the Evangelical

In his final year of school, Newman underwent a kind of evangelical conversion. Evangelicalism emphasises the Bible as the sole, divinely inspired authority, the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection for salvation, the necessity of a personal, transformative spiritual rebirth, and active missionary work. Aged 16 Newman became an undergraduate at Trinity College, Oxford. After his studies he was elected to a fellowship at Oriel College and decided to take Anglican orders and remain celibate as a way of dedicating his whole life to God. In 1825, he was ordained a priest in Christ Church Cathedral and became curate of St. Clement's Church, Oxford. Newman was known for visiting his parishioners, especially the sick and the poor. He became a popular preacher at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, combining a great knowledge of scripture with a deep understanding of the human heart.

3. Ramsden to Eynsham: Newman and the Oxford (Tractarian) Movement

Newman's studies at Oriel included the Church Fathers, the teachers of early Christianity. This led him to understand the universal nature of the Church, and the line of apostolic succession which had preserved and transmitted the faith since the earliest days. In 1833 on a trip to Sicily, Newman became seriously ill with a fever and was close to death for 10 days. He considered this another great conversion as it led him to surrender himself even more to God. On his return Newman banded together with likeminded friends including John Keble and Edward Pusey. They believed that Anglicanism could be a 'via media' between what they saw as the errors of Protestantism and the excesses of Catholicism, but they despaired at the state of the Church of England. They promoted their views through popular pamphlets or 'tracts'. The first began with a challenge to the Church of England: 'Should the Government and Country so far forget their God as to cast off the Church, to deprive it of its temporal honours and substance, on what will you rest the claim of respect and attention which you make upon your flocks?' Between 1833–41 90 tracts were published. As Newman continued to study and teach Christian history and especially apostolic succession he began to reconsider his own hostility towards Catholicism.

4. Eynsham to Littlemore: Newman's passage to Rome

In Tract 90, published in 1841, Newman argued that the Thirty-Nine Articles, defining the doctrines of the Church of England, could be interpreted as compatible with Catholicism. Many at the university were outraged and the Bishop of Oxford called for the Tracts to end. Newman left Oxford for Littlemore, to live a quasi-monastic life with friends. Here, he continued to devote himself to study, fasting and prayer. In 1843 he resigned from St. Mary's Church, Oxford. He was now convinced that the Catholic Church was the one nearest to the spirit of early Christianity but struggled with aspects of Catholic faith that seemed not to be found in scripture, such as purgatory and papal supremacy. The result of his studies was his

great 'Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine'. He argued that for an idea to remain truly itself, it must be able to change and develop. Ideas and doctrines are 'living', not static intellectual beliefs or fixed rules. Rather they should live in the hearts of Christians and the body of the Church: 'To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.'

By 1845 many of those who lived in Newman's community had become Catholics, and on 8th October Fr Dominic Barberi, an Italian Passionist priest in England on missionary work, arrived and began to hear Newman's confession, which Newman continued the following day. He then received him into full communion with the Catholic Church. This lost Newman most of his Anglican friends, his family rejected him and he could no longer be a fellow at Oxford. Despite this he felt deep interior peace and wrote:

'I was not conscious to myself, on my conversion, of any change, intellectual or moral, wrought in my mind. I was not conscious of firmer faith in the fundamental truths of Revelation, or of more self-command; I had not more fervour; but it was like coming into port after a rough sea.' *Apologia*, p. 238

5. After Littlemore: Newman as a Catholic

In 1846, Newman was sent to Rome to further his studies and on May 30th, 1847, he was ordained a priest. He was attracted to a model of community life pursued by the Oratorians of St. Philip Neri. In 1848, with the approval of Pope Pius IX, Newman established the 1st Oratory of St. Philip Neri in the English-speaking world in Birmingham. The following year he founded a 2nd Oratory community in London. In 1854, he was appointed Rector of the new Catholic University of Ireland, now University College Dublin. He achieved much but struggled with the role, and in 1858 he resigned and returned to the Birmingham Oratory.

The next two decades of Newman's life were difficult. As editor of a Catholic periodical called *The Rambler*, he was attacked for advocating that the faithful be consulted on the definition of dogmas. Some bishops saw him as dangerous, and one reported him to Rome for heresy. For the next 8 years, Newman was under a cloud of suspicion. In 1864 Charles Kingsley, an Anglican clergyman, Cambridge Professor and author of the *Water-babies*, accused Newman of never honestly being an Anglican. Newman responded by writing his *Apologia pro Vita Sua* in which he gave an account of what led him to become a Catholic. His honesty and candour did much to restore his reputation amongst Anglicans and Catholics.

In 1878 Newman returned to his beloved Oxford for the first time in 32 years to receive the 1st honorary fellowship of Trinity College. Then in 1879 Pope Leo XIII, who admired Newman's fierce religious orthodoxy, appointed him a cardinal, a vindication of his loyalty to the Church. Newman chose as his motto '*Cor ad cor loquitur*', 'heart speaks to heart'. He asked to be allowed to remain living in community in Birmingham, and this was granted. He continued to write and to give spiritual guidance. When he died in 1890 tens of thousands lined the streets of Birmingham for the passing of his funeral cortege. He was buried in the Oratory's cemetery.

Newman's earthly pilgrimage was complete, but his intellectual legacy grew in influence within the Catholic Church and more widely. His work was influential during the Second Vatican Council. He was declared a Saint in 2019 and a Doctor of the Church in 2025.

For more about St John Henry Newman read '*John Henry Newman, A Mind Alive*' by Mgr. Roderick Strange. DLT, London, 2008.

Please use the QR code below to access www.pilgrimways.org.uk



Hearts in Search of God
www.pilgrimways.org.uk

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Key

Dundry	Place name in bold	DUNDRY	Signs in capitals
L	Left	R	Right
TL	Turn left	TR	Turn right
LHS	Left hand side	RHS	Right hand side
FPS	Public foot path sign	PBS	Public Bridleway Sign
X-roads	Cross-roads		

Stage 1: Deddington to Great Tew, 6.3 miles

NB Walkers do so at their own risk. Every effort has been made to make the directions accurate. Please let the Project Lead know of any changes. Please read and follow the [Countryside Code](#), preparation tips from the [Long Distance Walkers' Association](#) and the [Ramblers' Association safety advice](#). Check public transport timetables and opening times before setting off.

MOST IMPORTANTLY TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN CROSSING ROADS AND FIELDS WITH CATTLE.

Distance from start	Direction
0	<p>The Anglican Church of SS Peter & Paul dates from the early C13th. Its steeple and bell tower collapsed in 1634 making the church unusable for several years. At last King Charles I ordered the Diocese to raise the funds to begin the repair work and the church was rebuilt to its present form. On the west side of the tower are statues of SS Peter & Paul. Here, or perhaps in the Town Hall, Newman delivered his first ever speech, to a Church Missionary Society meeting on 19th September 1825.</p> <p>Outside the church TR, passing a Co-op on LHS, and cross to the old Town Hall. TL to pass the Unicorn Inn on RHS and soon TR along Hudson St. Cross the High St and follow the drive opposite between houses for 200 yds to reach a FP, continue ahead across fields. Pass through a band of trees and follow the path beside a line of telegraph poles on RHS. In a depression between fields cross a track, then a ditch and continue along the path as it veers L away from the telegraph poles. On the far side of the field with woods on LHS descend a few steps and follow the line of the FPS across the corner of the next field to a gap in the hedge. Pass through the gap and keep on heading for another gap in the hedge with a telegraph pole about 50 yds</p>

	on LHS. Cross a tarmac drive and keep on in the same direction across the next field. On the far side cross a track and veer L down a bank through a band of trees with a wire fence on RHS. Emerge in another field and continue L and downhill. On the far side TL on a field edge track with a hedge on RHS. At FPS TR down steps and cross a bridge and then a stile. In the next field veer L for a stile. Cross this and keep on in the same direction heading for the end of a hedge with a large tree 100 yds on RHS. Keep on here downhill into the field corner to reach a stile between telegraph poles.
1.9	Reach a lane and TL to cross a bridge and then TR on a lane signposted NETHER WORTON GATED ROAD. Walk through gates and keep on with New House Farm on LHS. Where the drive divides (gate ahead) TL and follow the drive to another gate to walk along a tree lined avenue. At a fork in Over Worton TR between white posts to pass a manor house behind a ha-ha on RHS. Go between white posts and TR towards Holy Trinity Church, Over Worton . The earliest record of a church here is from 1254. In the 1820s Over Worton's curate was the evangelical priest Walter Mayers, who had taught Newman classics at Great Ealing School. In 1824 Newman preached his first sermon here as a newly ordained Anglican deacon. In the 1840s the curate William Wilson, an evangelical whose family had owned the manor of Over Worton since 1799, had the medieval church demolished and the present Gothic revival building constructed.
3.5	On leaving the church TL and keep the church on LHS to reach a metal gate. Go through this into a field and keep on downhill. The path veers R to reach a gate. Through this, TL passing under telegraph wires to reach a gate. TR in the next field to rejoin the official line of the FP which veers L across the next field. The path may be ploughed, but head for a point in the hedge with a telegraph pole 150 yds on LHS. At FPS cross a bridge, go through a gate and keep ahead to a gate with a clump of trees on LHS. Go through the gate, TL and then veer R into the churchyard of St James', Nether Worton . This church is officially a chapel of ease. The structure mostly dates from C14 but the small 3-stage tower, built above the W end of the S aisle, contains the C13 doorway. Inside the bases of the octagonal piers on south side may be C12 and the trefoiled blind arches on east walls of aisles may be C13. There is a former school room next door.
4.2	Return to the lane and TR. At a T junction with the manor on LHS TL along a lane and follow this as it bends L. After 100 yds TR into a field and veer L, following an indistinct path (it may be necessary to follow the field edge). At a point in the hedge on the far side with a large oak tree 25 yds on LHS and go through the hedge over a footbridge and keep on veering slightly L. On the far side of this field go through a gate and pass through a band of trees and veer L uphill. On the far side go through a gap in the hedge and keep on into the corner of the next field. Go through a gate and keep on with a rough hedge on RHS. At a junction of tracks TR, go through a gate and keep on along a wide grassy track with parkland on LHS and fields on RHS. The track becomes a drive between houses, follow this to a lane.
6.3	TR to arrive in Great Tew with the Falkland Arms on RHS.

Stage 2: Great Tew to Ramsden, 12.9 miles

6.3	With your back to the pub TL and walk up the lane passing a green on LHS. Pass between thatched cottages and TL on a path. Emerge onto a lane and TL along the pavement. Soon TL on a tree lined avenue to the Church of St Michael & All Angels .
	There has been a church here since before the Norman Conquest, and the building today is a blend of different periods. The S doorway is Norman, and much is C13 & 14, with medieval wall paintings and decoration visible. There are stone effigies of a knight from ca 1320 and brasses from 1410.
	Return to the lane and TL. Where the lane forks keep L. After a few yds at the T junction cross the road and keep ahead on a drive which soon becomes an enclosed path. Descend gently to the corner of the field and at FPS TL along the field edge with a hedge on RHS. Pass a car park for SoHo Farmhouse on RHS and veer L with a wooden fence on RHS. Reach a lane and TR.
8.6	Where the drive to the farmhouse bends R, keep ahead on a gravel bridleway. Follow this to reach a concrete track. Cross this, TL and then TR to keep on along the concrete track in the same direction. At a band of trees follow the track as it curves R. At a T junction TL on a BYWAY. Follow this enclosed path to meet a road bend and keep ahead. Where a lane joins on LHS, TR onto a gravel drive. Pass a metal gate and go ahead across a field with FPS on RHS. Where the path becomes enclosed keep on with Abbey Farm on RHS. Cross a concrete drive and keep on. Where the path forks, TL up a bank to reach a field and TR. In the field corner pass through a gap in the hedge and keep on. Follow the path as it descends with a paddock on RHS to a path junction at Radford . Ignore FPS on LHS and walk uphill on the lane, passing a thatched cottage on RHS.
10.8	Pass a converted barn on LHS and immediately TL on a lane descending into a valley. With the Mill on RHS ignore FPSs and continue along the lane as it bends R. At the bottom of the slope TR on a drive signed to KIDDINGTON CHURCH, passing imposing gates. Where the drive forks take the R to pass the Hall and reach the church on LHS.
	St Nicholas' Church is a Norman foundation, and the original chancel arch is from that time. The church was rebuilt ca 1400. Renovations were undertaken in 1845, 1848, and 1979. The church is located on the grounds of Kiddington Hall.
	After visiting the church return to the drive and TL onto an enclosed path with the churchyard on LHS. At a gravel track TL passing a circular stone building on LHS. Cross a bridge and veer L gently uphill following FPSs. Pass through a gate and keep on as the track becomes enclosed. The track becomes a drive and reaches a lane with a stone cross on LHS. TR to the A44 .
12.4	Cross with care and go ahead on the single-track road. Where the road forks take the R uphill. With the imposing Kiddington Lodge ahead veer L on a drive across parkland towards trees. With gates to Big Park ahead carry on along the drive as it bends L then R. Cross the Shakespeare Way ignoring FPSs and continue along the drive to reach the B4437 .
14.6	Cross this and keep on with woods on LHS. Pass between 2 standing stones and with Newbarn Farm to LHS, keep on ahead on a path with a wooden fence on RHS. Cross the Wychwood Way and keep on through a gate to follow a path within woods. Follow this path in the same direction through woods and between fields. At a line of telegraph poles TR on the Oxfordshire

	Way (OW). At Hill Barn Farm Cottages TL downhill on a wide gravel track. At X-tracks leave the OW and TL downhill with a hedge on RHS. The track becomes a concrete drive. Continue to reach the road, here TL into the hamlet of Fawler .
17.3	At a bench and bus stop fork R downhill. Pass a bench and small picnic table on LHS. Go through a gate with an electricity substation on RHS and descend to pass under the railway line. TL to cross the river on a footbridge and then TR with the river on RHS. Soon after a metal kissing gate the path veers L up a dry valley ignoring turns to L&R. At a drive with a seat 'FOR THE WEARY WALKER' keep on up the valley. At a lane TR into Finstock . With a pub on LHS TL to follow a path uphill. At a gate keep on as the path follows a wire fence on LHS. At the top of the slope TR under telegraph wires. Where the hedge bends R by a telegraph pole TL across the field. On far side go through a band of trees and continue, heading for a large tree and telegraph pole. Here the path veers L to the field corner. Go through a metal gate and TR following a wooden fence on LHS.
19.2	Go through a metal gate onto Wilcote Lane . There is a bench on LHS. TR to visit the pub and church at Ramsden .
	The Church of St James was built in 1872 in the Decorated Gothic style. It stands on the site of a church of 1842.

Stage 3: Ramsden to Eynsham, 9.3 miles

19.2	Retrace your steps to the bench on Wilcote Lane . Do <u>not</u> follow the lane as it bends R, but TL into a field and follow a FP as it curves R just inside woods. Reach a dilapidated gate and walk on as the path skirts woods on RHS. At the field corner TL with a hedge on RHS. Cross a path under telegraph wires and soon veer R towards buildings. Pass a house on RHS and go through a gate into woods. Take a diagonal path through the woods to the far corner. Emerge on a lane at Wilcote . TL to visit the church.
	Wilcote is a hamlet in what was once Wychwood forest. St Peter's Church is built of limestone rubble with a slate roof. It is a small aisleless church dating from the late C12 with C13 & 14 additions. It was restored twice during the C19.
	After visiting the church retrace your steps. TL at FPS on a drive which curves R then L with a pond on LHS. Keep along the track through a gate and on between rows of trees. Pass a Lady Well on LHS with its circular stone walls.
	Holy wells are often associated with healing, but this one has an unusual tradition; 'Spanish' or liquorice water. Janet Bord records in <i>Holy Wells in Britain</i> (2008): <i>The one-time vicar of Wilcote, J.C.S Nias, informed me that when he first went there in 1956, 'numerous members of county families used to go to that well in Palm Sunday with jam jars containing crushed peppermint and (I believe) liquorish.'</i> According to the vicar: <i>'they pour water from the well on to this mixture which, they believed, would then be a specific for certain ailments during the following year.'</i> The name of the nearby Bridewell Farm hints at another tradition. A current custom is in evidence: votive ribbons. Perhaps the likely water quality makes this a safer option!
	Pass through a gate and keep on through a band of trees. Cross a farm drive and veer L in the next field. Cross another band of trees and keep on with Bridewell Farm on LHS. At a drive junction with trees ahead TL with the farm on LHS. With barns

	<p>ahead and on LHS, TR on a wide farm track and follow this with a hedge on LHS. Where hedge bends L veer slightly L heading for a church tower. On the far side of the field follow a narrow, soon enclosed, path, with Field Farm on RHS. Join the farm drive and keep on towards the church. TR into the churchyard to visit the Church of St Mary, North Leigh.</p> <p>St Mary's is an Anglo-Saxon foundation. In the latter part of the C12 the nave was abandoned and a new nave, aisles and chancel built in the Early English Gothic style. There is a C14 Perpendicular Gothic style chapel with fine fan vaulting. In 1864 the church was restored. The Norman font was reinstated and a C15 Doom painting in the nave uncovered and restored.</p>
21.9	<p>Leave by the other churchyard exit and TR and soon TL at FPS on an enclosed path. Pass under telegraph wires and keep on across the next field aiming for a gap in the hedge ahead. Go through the gap and cross the field to the far corner. There are 3 exits in the corner. Take the one on the LHS, pass through a metal gate and follow a narrow path through woodland with a fence on LHS. At the edge of the wood go through a gate and keep on with woodland on RHS. Reach a drystone wall on RHS and an enclosed path beside this to a concrete drive. TL on this passing Perrotts Hill Farm on LHS. Follow this as it curves L and reaches Boddington La. TR here to reach the A4095 and TL on the cycleway. Cross the main road with care and take the 2nd R turn, Wroslyn Rd, into Freeland. Follow the pavement to reach St Mary's Church, Freeland.</p> <p>St. Mary's is a Victorian Gothic Revival church. The altar, sanctuary and stained glass are beautiful and there are painted Stations of the Cross. Despite some utilitarian recent additions, it retains a High Anglican feel. The old parsonage is home to Anglican Franciscan Community of Saint Clare, a contemplative community of women founded in 1950. The Sisters have close (though informal) ties with Catholic Poor Clare communities in the UK and beyond. They run a guest house and sell cards etc.</p>
24.5	<p>Return to Wroslyn Rd and TR, passing a pub on RHS and then the Methodist church on LHS and TL down Pidgeon House La. Follow this lane with a stream on LHS, ignoring FPs to L&R. Arrive at Church Hanborough and TL to visit the church.</p> <p>It is reputed that the Church of St Peter & St Paul was founded by King Henry I in 1108. There is a Norman tympanum over the N porch, showing St Peter holding the keys, with the lion of St Mark and the Lamb of God. There are examples of C15 works in the pulpit and font, wall paintings in the Lady Chapel, and three medieval screens across the full width of the church.</p>
25.5	<p>Return to the road (picnic benches and pub opposite) and LR. Where the lane curves L veer R along a drive. Pass through a metal gate and follow an enclosed path. With farm buildings on RHS, fork L to a metal kissing gate and keep on with a hedge on LHS. In the field corner go through a kissing gate and keep on with a fence on LHS. Cross a farm track to a kissing gate and veer to L across the field. Pass through another kissing gate and TR on a drive with City Farm on RHS. At a drive T junction TL. After 400yds TR at FPS, with a hedge on LHS. Pass works on RHS. Go through a kissing gate, over a footbridge, and TR with a hedge on RHS. Go through another metal gate and follow an enclosed path in the same direction. At a major path junction with telegraph pole TL on an enclosed path. Reach the A40 and cross at the lights. Follow Spearacre La as it curves L. At a T junction with Hanborough Rd TR to the centre of Eynsham. Keep straight on as the road becomes Abbey Rd.</p>

28.5	<p>Arrive at the Catholic Church of St Peter, Eynsham on LHS. The site of the medieval abbey is behind the church.</p> <p>Eynsham Abbey was a Benedictine monastery between 1005 and 1538, perhaps built on the site of a C7 or C8 minster. In 1091 Bishop Remigius annexed Eynsham Abbey, with its revenues, to his new abbey at Stow in Lincolnshire. Eventually the monks returned and a consequence was that Eynsham Abbey was endowed with additional lands in the S. After 1109 the old abbey was demolished and then rebuilt. It flourished although there were probably never more than 25-30 monks. In 1538 the abbey was suppressed and some of the buildings wrecked. The estates were awarded to Sir George Darcy. The Earl of Derby later acquired the site. Stones from the buildings were used to build houses in the village. Today nothing of the Abbey remains, but in 1895 a Catholic mission was founded in Eynsham. In 1929 a parish was established, on a site close to the medieval abbey. The initial design was for a small Romanesque Basilica with the intention of re-establishing a Benedictine community. The foundation stone was laid in August 1940, but a war-time lack of funds and workers soon stopped building. A temporary wooden shed was built as a nave. A new design turned the church around, with a modern nave and new E end, with the earlier apse forming the new W end. The church was consecrated in 1986. The parish hall, called 'the Tolkien Room' was built in 1994 during the incumbency of the late Fr John Tolkien, son of Professor JRR Tolkien.</p>
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Stage 4: Eynsham to Littlemore, 11.4 miles

28.5	<p>After visiting the church retrace your steps. At a X-road TR on Church Rd to pass the Anglican Church of St Leonard on RHS. St Leonard's was built the C13. In the C15 the nave was rebuilt, a clerestory and north aisle were added, and a W tower was built. There are Mass dials on the S wall. The building has been restored three times.</p> <p>Pass the war memorial on LHS and TR into High St. Soon TR into playing fields with a stone wall on RHS. The abbey site is behind the wall. At a corner veer L to the corner of the playing fields. Cross a footbridge to reach the B4044 and TL. At the roundabout cross the first 2 exits and after the 2nd take a FP ahead with the B4044 on RHS. Pass a pub and bus stop. Ignore the 1st FPS on LHS, cross a bridge and TL on a short drive to enter a field. Veer sharp R, passing under power lines. On the far side cross a metal footbridge and TR. With curved benches ahead TR to cross above the weir and then the lock. TL on the towpath with the River Thames on LHS. At a metal gate TR briefly uphill and then TL through woods above the towpath. Emerge and keep on across meadows with Wytham Great Wood on RHS.</p>
31.1	<p>Go through a kissing gate and TR with woods on LHS. With a large metal gate on RHS follow the track as it bends L. After 100 yds TR through a metal gate and walk with a hedge on RHS. In the field corner go ahead, briefly along an enclosed path, and then through the next field. In the corner TL. After 10 yds TR over a footbridge and then TL to walk in the same direction but with the hedge now on the LHS. Cross a lane and walk on along a road signed PRIVATE WYTHAM MILL. Follow the road</p>

	between the mill buildings and then over a concrete bridge. Veer R on the field towards the far corner. Go through a band of trees, over a footbridge and through a metal gate. In the corner of the field, cross a drive and walk under the Thames Bridge .
32.5	<p>Follow the Thames Path, passing the ruins of Godstow Abbey and then Godstow lock.</p> <p>Godstow Abbey was built for Benedictine nuns. The church was consecrated in 1139 in the presence of King Stephen. The abbey was enlarged between 1176-1188 through gifts from Henry II as it was the burial place of his mistress Rosamund Clifford. At the visitation of the monasteries of 1535 the house was commended, but in October 1538, Cromwell's suppression commissioner arrived. The abbess Lady Katherine Bulkeley wrote to Thomas Cromwell, alleging that the commissioner and his henchmen had threatened her and her sisters with force to compel them to surrender the house. Although the nuns were sympathetic to the Protestant cause, and Cromwell connected to the Abbess, the abbey was suppressed in November 1539. In the process Rosamund Clifford's grave was destroyed. Today, an abandoned chapel and two walls are all that remain.</p> <p>Pass a pub in Binsey on RHS and keep on. With Medley Manor Farm on RHS, TL over a footbridge to an island. TR with moorings on LHS. After 200 yds TL over a bridge. In the meadows fork R on a gravel track.</p>
34.6	<p>At a car park take a road leading over a railway line and stream. TR to descend to the Oxford Canal towpath and follow this with the canal on LHS. Climb stairs to a bridge over the canal and descend. Walk along Canal St, passing the impressive Church of St Barnabas on RHS. At a T junction TL onto Nelson St and soon veer L onto Walton Cres. Cross the main road at a pedestrian crossing and keep on along Little Clarendon St. At Woodstock Rd TL to the Oxford Oratory.</p> <p>The Catholic mission in Oxford was begun by the Jesuits, centred on a temporary chapel of 1793 on St Clement's. The Jesuits tried to buy a site for a new church, and Newman purchased land to found an Oratory, but both ventures failed. In 1871 the decision was taken to build a new church on the Woodstock Road. In March 1871 a legacy of £7,000 was left by Baroness Weld. The site was purchased, and the foundation stone laid in May 1874. The church was opened in November 1875, with Cardinal Manning preaching. The church was decorated as benefactors made this possible. During the C20 the church gradually lost much of its splendour, as maintenance work fell behind. The Jesuits left in 1981, and priests of the Archdiocese of Birmingham looked after the parish until 1990, when St John Henry Newman's dream was at last fulfilled and the church was entrusted to the Oratorians of St Philip Neri. They began renovations in 2007.</p> <p>Return to Woodstock Rd and TR, passing on RHS the Dominican Blackfriars and then Pusey House, founded as a memorial to Newman's friend and collaborator in the Oxford Movement. Pass the Martyrs' Memorial and TL onto Broad St to reach Trinity College on LHS. If it is open, you can ask at the lodge to be directed to the bust of Newman in the gardens.</p> <p>Newman was an undergraduate and scholar of Trinity from 1816–22. His academic brilliance was recognised but he failed his finals due to nerves and overwork. Much later in 1878 he was elected as Trinity's 1st honorary fellow.</p> <p>Return to Broad St and TL. Soon TR on Catte St. Veer R to enter the N door of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin.</p>

	<p>A church was established on this site in Anglo-Saxon times. In the early days of Oxford University, the church was adopted as the first building of the university, and by the early C13 it was the seat of university government. St Mary's was the site of the 1555 trial of the Oxford Martyrs, when the bishops Latimer and Ridley and Archbishop Cranmer were tried for heresy. They were burnt at the stake at the site of the nearby Martyrs' Memorial. John Wesley preached in the church, until in 1744 he denounced the spiritual apathy and sloth of the senior members of the university and was not asked back. In 1828, Newman became vicar. In 1842, after the controversy over Tract 90, he retired to Littlemore and resigned as vicar the following year.</p>
	<p>Exit the S door and cross High St. TR for a few yds and then TL down Oriel St. The entrance to Oriel College is on the LHS. If it is open, you can ask at the lodge to view the stained glass dedicated to Newman in the chapel.</p>
	<p>In 1822 Newman was elected to a fellowship at Oriel College by examination. In 1826 he became a tutor and began to lecture and tutor students. He took this as a religious duty to guide the students. This led the College leadership to accuse him of having favourites and they refused to give Newman students from 1830. This gave him more time for study, and he discovered the Church Fathers, the teachers of early Christianity. Above the entrance to the Chapel is a small oratory, once part of a set of rooms occupied by Newman. A stained-glass window commemorating him was put in place at Easter 2001. Below the image of Newman are his motto: <i>Cor ad cor loquitur</i> ('Heart speaks unto heart'), and words from his memorial tablet at his grave: <i>Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem</i> ('Coming out of the shadows and reflections into truth').</p>
36.4	<p>Leave Oriel and walk ahead along Bear La and Blue Boar St to reach St Aldates. TL to reach Christ Church on LHS.</p>
	<p>Founded in 1546 by Henry VIII, Christ Church is uniquely a joint foundation of the university and the cathedral of the Oxford diocese. Newman was ordained as an Anglican deacon here in 1824 and as a priest in 1825.</p>
	<p>Return to St Aldates and TL, passing the Catholic Chaplaincy's Newman Rooms on RHS. Cross the river and, with a pedestrian crossing on RHS, TL to rejoin the Thames Path. Walk under the B4495 road bridge, pass a pub and Iffley lock.</p>
38.6	<p>Just before the 2nd (A423) road bridge TR on a cycle path, then climb steps to the walkway and TL. Soon after crossing the bridge TL between a pair of metal barriers and descend into woods. At the bottom of the slope veer R, keeping houses on RHS. The path curves L to join a track. TR on this to a gate. Pass through this and TR on Rivermead Rd. Soon TR onto Clinton Cl and, where this ends, keep on along a path to reach Thames View Rd. Soon after this bends L, TR onto a path between houses to reach Williamson Way. Where this ends in a cul de sac, walk along a path between houses. Emerge on Cottesmore Rd and TR. Soon TR on a footbridge over the A423. On the far side descend steps on LHS and follow Thompson Tce with allotments on LHS. TL onto Kempson Cres and at a road T-junction go ahead on a path through playing fields. On reaching Oxford Rd TR. After a junction on LHS, cross Sandford Rd to the Church of St Mary & St Nicholas, Littlemore.</p>
	<p>When Newman became vicar of St Mary the Virgin in Oxford Littlemore was a distant part of his parish. He decided to provide it with a chapel and school. St Mary & St Nicholas' church was consecrated in 1836 and the school opened in 1838. In 1842</p>

	Newman withdrew to Littlemore, where he was joined by likeminded friends. He subsequently gave up his responsibilities in Oxford and resigned his position at St Mary's. In this church on 25 th September 1843, Newman preached his last sermon as an Anglican priest, 'The Parting of Friends', voicing his despair at what he had come to see as the weakness of Anglicanism.
	On leaving the church TR and keep the church on RHS to reach a drive and TL along this. TL on St Nicholas Rd and then TR on Cowley Rd to reach the Catholic Church of Blessed Dominic Barberi on RHS.
	In 1935, a Mass centre was founded in Littlemore by the Salesians. In 1940, a house was acquired as a presbytery and a church-hall named after Newman was built alongside it. In 1960, the first diocesan parish priest arrived. The present striking modern church was opened in 1969. The dedication commemorates the Italian priest who received Newman into the Catholic Church at the nearby College. In 2005, a new hall and presbytery were built behind the church on the site of the former presbytery and Newman Hall.
	Walk a few steps further along Cowley Rd then fork R into College La , passing a pub on RHS.
39.9	Arrive at Newman College , on LHS, the end of your pilgrimage.
	Newman lived at the College from 1842–46, making it a place of prayer and study for himself and a group of friends. It was here on 9 October 1845 that Newman was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi. In 1987 the Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory entrusted the College to the care of The Society of The Work, and a community of the Society's Sisters live here. Newman's oratory is again a place of prayer and worship, with the daily office, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and regular masses. A collection of Newman-related literature has been built up in the room that was Newman's library. Visitors are welcome to visit and can also stay.