

Begin at St.Cyr's Church, one of only three churches in England dedicated to this saint. If you are lucky, you may hear the church bells as, after a lapse of several years, St Cyr's now has its own team of bell ringers.

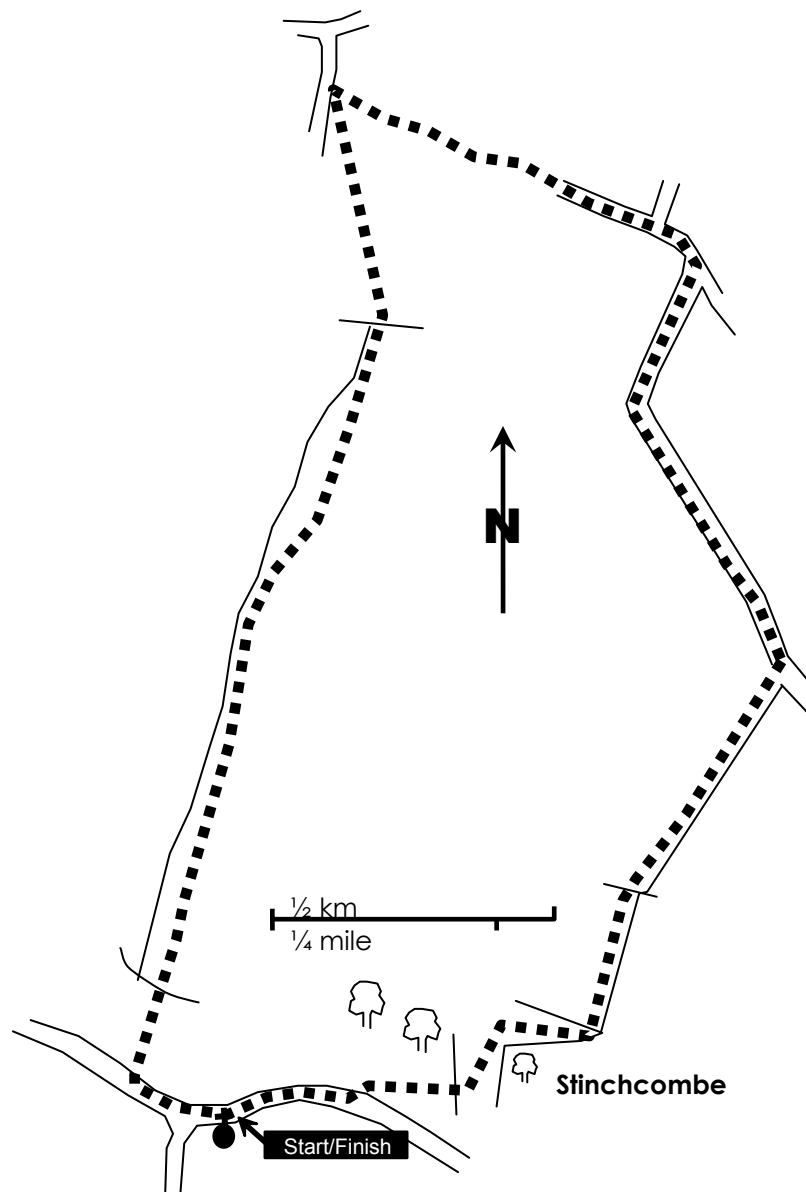


The church's name is unusual. St. Cyr was a young boy, martyred with his mother in the 3rd century AD, and you can see a statue of him in a niche as you pass by the church. The statue was put there to mark the Millennium and villagers helped to raise money for it. There was probably a church on this site about the time of the Nor-

man Conquest but none of it remains. The present building is a pretty, traditional village church, whose tower and porch date from 1630. An extensive restoration of the building was begun in 1854 funded by the local landowner and incumbent Sir George Prevost, the Reverend Issac Williams and others - all participants in the revivalist Oxford Movement.

At the foot of the steps with the church behind you, turn right and proceed up the road. 45 metres / 50 yards past the first farm gateway, take the footpath on the left, go up the bank and over the stile. There is a steep access to this stile.

Proceed diagonally up the field (there may be cattle here) to the gate/stile. At this point, pause to look back at the view down towards the



Church and the lower part of Stinchcombe. Sometimes this gate is open and at other times it is closed. Please leave it as you



find it and continue diagonally. Keep the barbed wire fence on your right and carry on round to the corner of the field and past

the Millennium Oak, complete with plaque at ground level. This commemorates its planting in 2000 as one of Stinchcombe's contributions to the Millennium celebrations.

At the end of the field, take the stile to the left and proceed along the edge of fields. Continue over two further stiles keeping the hedge on your right. This takes you to the Rugby/Cricket Club. A game may be in progress: take time off to watch and admire the backdrop of Stinchcombe Hill. If the bar is open you'll be welcome to buy a refreshing drink.



Continue over the stile, through the car park, over another stile and onto a bridleway. Turn left and, after 180 metres/200 yards, follow round to the right until you reach a T junction with the road. Turn left and continue straight on, past a house called Clovergate on your left, and down the bridleway. This is part of the old Berkeley to London road which continued up and over Stinchcombe Hill - quite a thought if you were driving or travelling in a stagecoach.



At the bottom of the hill, just before the tarmac road, go over the stile to your left and carry on diagonally up the field to the large ash tree and stile. Cross over the stile and then follow the path across 2 fields with stiles, keeping parallel with the M5 and taking in views of the Berkeley

Vale and across the River Severn to the Forest of Dean.



The landowner has various breeds of sheep and cattle and you may be fortunate enough to encounter some Gloucester Cattle. When you come to a gate ahead with no stile, go through (making sure you shut it!), down the slope and over another stile and up to the iron gates. Take the stone step through the wall to the left. Then, turn left up the road to the War Memorial and your starting point.

The War Memorial was designed by Mrs. M. St. John Mildmay of Drakestone House in Stinch-



combe with wording chosen by Sir Charles Prevost who lived in what is now Yercombe Lodge above the village. The village Pound and the Stocks were once situated where the War Memorial stands.

Before finishing your walk, it is worth turning right at the War Memorial and proceeding along Wick Lane for a short distance to see a Drinking Fountain on your left, erected in 1887, and the Old Parsonage, which is now a private house. Until 1813, the Old Parsonage was referred to as "the Church House" and there are suggestions that it may have been used in pre-Reformation days for the serving of Church Ales and other entertainments.



Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village

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A short walk around Stinchcombe, across fields and along bridleways. Some stiles have no access for dogs and the route is not suitable for push-chairs.

The walk is generally easy, but there is one rough downhill track which can be very muddy and slippery in wet weather

Start: St Cyr's Church

Refreshments:

Available at the Rugby/Cricket Club if it is open



THE MILLENNIUM OAK