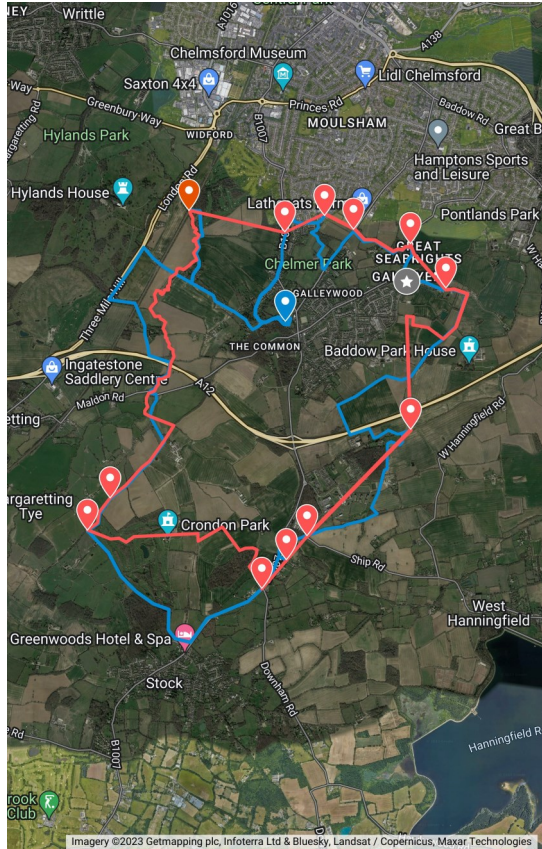


# Walking the Boundaries

Discovering the boundaries of the parish of  
St Michael's Church, Galleywood



Boundary lines in red, walking lines in blue

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, a walk has been devised which allows us to walk much of the parish boundaries including passing the boundary stones which are still visible. The walk is around 13.7 miles but there are opportunities to split the walk into different sections.

For this reason, the walk will start at boundary stone ten and walk to one before walking the South and East side of the Parish.

Whilst instructions were correct at time of publication, St Michael's Church takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the directions. Walk at own risk, taking particular care near busy roads and on uneven ground.

Recommended trainers or walking boots depending on recent weather but above all – enjoy the walk!

Distances and approximate times and listed in blue throughout.

## Starting point:

This walk can start at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Galleywood where there is some parking on the common. **Boundary Stone no. 9a** has been moved there and is located in the Churchyard by the vehicle access gate.



Walk through the churchyard to the footpath gate on the north boundary, turn left along the former racetrack and at the Horse and Groom pub turn right into Horse and Groom Lane. Turn right into Goat Hall Lane and then left into Galleywood Road.



Continue along Galleywood Road for about five minutes until you come to the bottom of the hill (opposite Fowler Court). On a white stone wall beside an industrial unit is **Boundary Stone no. 10.**

*1.5 km – about 20 mins. Just under 1 mile so far.*

Continue up the hill, crossing the road and turn into Linnet Drive, right into Osprey Way and follow the road round into Goshawk Drive. Opposite no 101 would have been the next boundary stone (no. 9) but this was removed when the houses were built.

*2.3 km – about 30 mins. 1.4 miles. (Running totals)*

The boundary continues through the gardens so we will double back, crossing the road into Kestrel Walk, through a footpath into Chelmer Park and taking the path (left) around the perimeter (passing through the fenced football and hockey pitches), until reaching the road. Turn left into Beehive Lane. Continue along Beehive Lane until you reach Deadmans Lane (on the right).

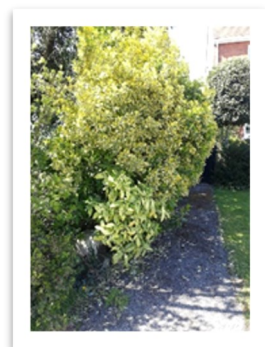
Outside no. 302 Beehive Lane (grey weatherboard house) is **Boundary Stone no. 8**. Turn right into Deadman's Lane which forms the border with Great Baddow Parish.

*3.7 km – about 50 mins. 2.3 miles.*



At the other end of Deadman's Lane, is Watchouse Road and hidden in the laurel, outside no 194 is original **Boundary Stone no. 7**.

*4.5 km – nearly an hour gone, and almost 3 miles.*



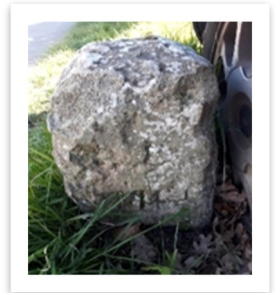
Turn right along Watchouse Road and on the corner just after Great Seabrights barn on the left by the open field. The church parish boundary was altered in 1978 when the parish of Moulsham, St. Luke, was created and the new boundary goes directly from this corner to a point where footpath 29 (a bridle way) and Brooks Lane intersect. (See second picture on next page).

The original **Boundary Stone no. 6**, was about 100 meters further up the road, but it is now missing. Reports from 1955 indicate that there was a search for this stone but this was unsuccessful. The boundary goes across the fields but as this is not a footpath, we have to walk along to Pipers Tye then turn left into Brook Lane to rejoin the route.

At this stage you have walked for an hour, covered 3 miles and we can take a break by the grassy patch where the roads meet. It will also be possible to either leave the walk here, or join it here, if the full walk is going to be too much. The next natural stop off point will be at the Ship Pub on the Stock Road, which is a further 4 miles to walk, mainly through smaller footpaths going through fields. Let's take a 15 minute break here.

Passing Rignalls Lane continue along Brook Lane.

Outside no 6 on Brook Lane is **Boundary Stone no. 5** although, like Boundary Stone No. 6, it is no longer on the Parish Boundary.



Continue along Brook Lane, past the derestricted sign and just after this is the junction point where the Parish boundary meets Brook Lane.



*5.5 km. About 90 mins including stops. 3.5 miles completed.*

Continue along Brook Lane and then turn right into The Chase. Stay on the track, through gate onto gravel track (marker post) until the bend and then bear right onto the grass track between the vines. Continue straight ahead at the junction keeping ditch on your left. (The right hand path is the real boundary but the real boundary takes a 90 deg turn to the South part way along and then there is no way through along the boundary line). *However, this track on the right hand side takes you back to Rignalls Lane if you wish to finish the walk at this stage.*

If you wish to continue, go straight across the track, continue along the track, across the junction and continue up a slight hill. Turn right across the footbridge, across the next footbridge, up steps and continue with the ditch on your right. Ignore the paths to the right. In the field corner, go through gap, turn left immediately, leaving the hedge to the left, continuing on grass track and following footpath signs. Continue and turn right towards the footbridge. Cross the A12 using the footbridge.

Turn left, walk alongside the paddock. At footpath sign turn right on footpath through kissing gate and follow around the paddock. Go through kissing gate and continue walking passing a footpath on your right hand side, until you come to a bench on the right hand side. Here is **Boundary Stone no. 4**.



*9.1 km and over two hours gone. 5.7 miles. There is a bench so take a break or go far a short walk further along the path to 'Churches View', a viewing point where several Parish churches can be seen.*

At this stage you can't follow the exact boundary across the fields so retrace steps to footpath you have just passed (now on the left hand side)

Go over a stile, continue on enclosed path. Continue over a stile and along enclosed path for some distance. Cross over a stile, continue straight ahead on field.

Go over footbridge, continue on enclosed path. At junction, turn left . At open fields, turn right along footpath, the mesh fence is still on your right hand side. Continue for some distance until you reach the road.

At road junction is where **Boundary Stone no. 3** used to be.

*11.1 km – About 2 hours and 30 minutes walking so far. 6.9 miles.*



Turn right along road (the actual boundary continues across country). At the road junction you reach the Ship Pub. Time for a break – you are about half way there.

*11.5 km completed. 7.1 miles.*

*At this point you could also cross over the road and get a bus back to Galleywood, depending on the time of day you are walking.*

Continue along Stock Road (left) taking care of the traffic. At Foxborough Chase turn left along the public bridleway and by the first house on the right is **Boundary Stone no. 2** (dated 1874).

*11.7 km completed and only 5 minutes since you finished lunch! 7.3 miles.*



Retrace steps to the road and continue along Stock Road. You will have to walk single file for much of this.

On the corner of Downham Road you reach all that is left of **Boundary Stone no. 1**.

*12.2 km. 15 minutes post-lunch. 7.6 miles completed.*



There are no boundary stones along the south or east sides of the Parish boundary. The south side takes a convoluted route through fields and the Crondon Park golf course, but there are no footpaths on the South side. It is possible to walk part of the east side of the Parish boundary, close to the river Wid, which is our longest boundary.



Continue along the road taking the next turning after the Crondon Golf Club entrance, Crondon Park Lane and follow the St Peter's Way footpath (signposted).

*13.2 km. 30 minutes post lunch. 8.2 miles.*



Continue along the lane, ignoring the footpath off to your left and follow the road as it bears round to the right.

Opposite the red brick house (on your right), take the broad path on your left (following the St Peter's Way sign) downhill. Cross the wooden bridge and continue straight ahead alongside the golf course. At the end of the golf course, carry on along the path, into an enclosed path leaving the golf course behind you. *14.6 km. 9.1 miles.*

Cross the stile and at the road turn right. The south-east corner, the furthest most point of the Parish boundary, is where the road bears round to the right (bollards on the left).

*15.3 km. 9.5 miles.*



Continue along the road. As the road turns sharp left, there is a bridleway straight ahead which you need to follow passing the stream and metal railings. The bridleway continues up a slight hill. Continue straight ahead on the track along right hand field edge.



*15.8 km. 9.8 miles.*

At the field corner, continue straight ahead and at road, turn left along road. (The Parish boundary continues straight ahead for about 100 metres until it reaches a small stream, then goes down the stream towards the river Wid.)

At road junction, turn right, cross stream (the Parish boundary).

*16.7 km. 10.4 miles.*

Continue along Swan Lane and at the end turn left onto Maldon Road.

*17.2 km. 10.7 miles.*

*If at this point you want to return to the Church, turn right instead and take the road uphill back to the Church.*

If continuing, go over the bridge which crosses the River Wid (on our actual boundary). Immediately after the bridge, turn right onto a signposted Bridleway. At the marker post, turn right across ditch and follow the path which takes you along the river Wid, under the A12. Turn left on the track uphill and then turn right to re-join the Bridleway following the left hand field edge keeping the ditch and brambles on your left.



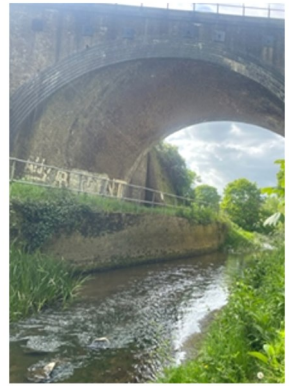
In the field corner carry straight on into an enclosed path leaving a high wooden fence on your right, Continue straight ahead onto a driveway. (You can see the river Wid, the actual boundary, off to the right). Walk under the railway bridge past gates and turn right on the verge along the A414 (take care). *19.1 km. 11.9 miles.*

Walk along the wide grassy (and fairly rough) verge of the A414 for about 700m before turning right into Private Road. *19.8 km. 12.3 miles.*

Continue on Private Road, going under the railway and crossing the River Wid, to Butts Way – where you have a choice to make! *20.5 km. 12.7 miles.*

## **Dogleg to the last point on the parish boundary**

If you wish to visit the last point on the parish boundary, turn left into Butts Way (off Private Road), and at the end turn left towards the gate and into a footpath to the right of the gate. Turn left after the gap and follow the path which takes you along the river. Cross a footbridge into the woods and continue until a clearing with mounds appears on your left-hand side. Take a footpath on the left by the first mound and follow the path between these mounds until you arrive at the river opposite the brick railway bridge. This is the parish boundary. Retrace your steps and re-join Butts Way turning left at the end to re-join Private Road. This section will take around 30 minutes to walk. *22.7 km. 14.1 miles.*



Continue along Private Road and at the end continue straight ahead up Bekeswell Lane until you see the Horse and Groom pub (on your left). Turn left onto the grass track (the former race course) leaving pub on the left and after a short distance take the grass track on the right-hand side that leads to the Church.

*22 km total. 13.7 miles*

*Or, with the dogleg, 24.1 km. 15 miles.*

