

Walks around Otley

The Village sign includes references to Bartholomew Gosnold, the discoverer of Cape Cod and the founder of Jamestown, Virginia. Bartholomew was responsible for introducing wheat grain into the New World and is represented on the sign by a wheat sheaf and also by a reproduction of the ship which took him to America on his voyage of discovery.

Otley Hall former home of the Gosnold family, is a stunningly beautiful 16th century moated Hall. Still a family home, it is set in 10 acres of tranquil landscaped gardens. A Grade 1 listed building, the house is a perfect example of unspoiled late medieval architecture. Particularly impressive are the Great Hall and Linenfold Parlour, both of which look out onto the Rose Garden. Otley Hall gardens open from May-September on Wednesday afternoons between 12pm and 5pm. Admission £2.50 - please pay at Hall.

The Parish Church. St Mary the Virgin was built in the 13th century in the gothic style. The tower houses a peal of six bells which are regularly rung for services. Notably, the vestry houses a full immersion baptistry which was installed by the Victorians. This can be viewed on request, but is open during Open Churches week. The Church is surrounded by rolling countryside and an extensive network of rural footpaths. All visitors are very welcome.

The White Hart public house (circa 1844) is the only pub in Otley and is a freehouse serving food. It has a large modernised open-plan bar with themed food nights, quizzes and occasional music. Since November 2009 the pub has been run by two couples from the village, one hands on and the other more advisory and the village has got the pub that they want. The beer is good (Gary, the landlord is a Victoria man) and the food too.

Otley Baptist Chapel was constructed in 1800. The original chapel was very small, the remnant being the north wall of the current building. The 1830 chapel had a gallery on all sides, the north arm of which was located behind the pulpit and accommodated the choir. This arm has long since been removed, but the stairs to it remain. The two entrance doors on the façade have been replaced, as has the window shutter. Internally, part of the gallery was rebuilt in 1868 and the pulpit in use is C20 matching the stepped pulpit to the rear which is later C19 in date.

Otley Primary school is a very small rural primary school. The school building dates back to about 1912 but was modernised and extended in 2003.

Otley Village Stores & Post Office is an integral part of the village and has seen many changes. The most recent owners Andrew and Penny along with their friendly team have transformed this simple village shop into an award winning, thriving hub and centre point to the village.



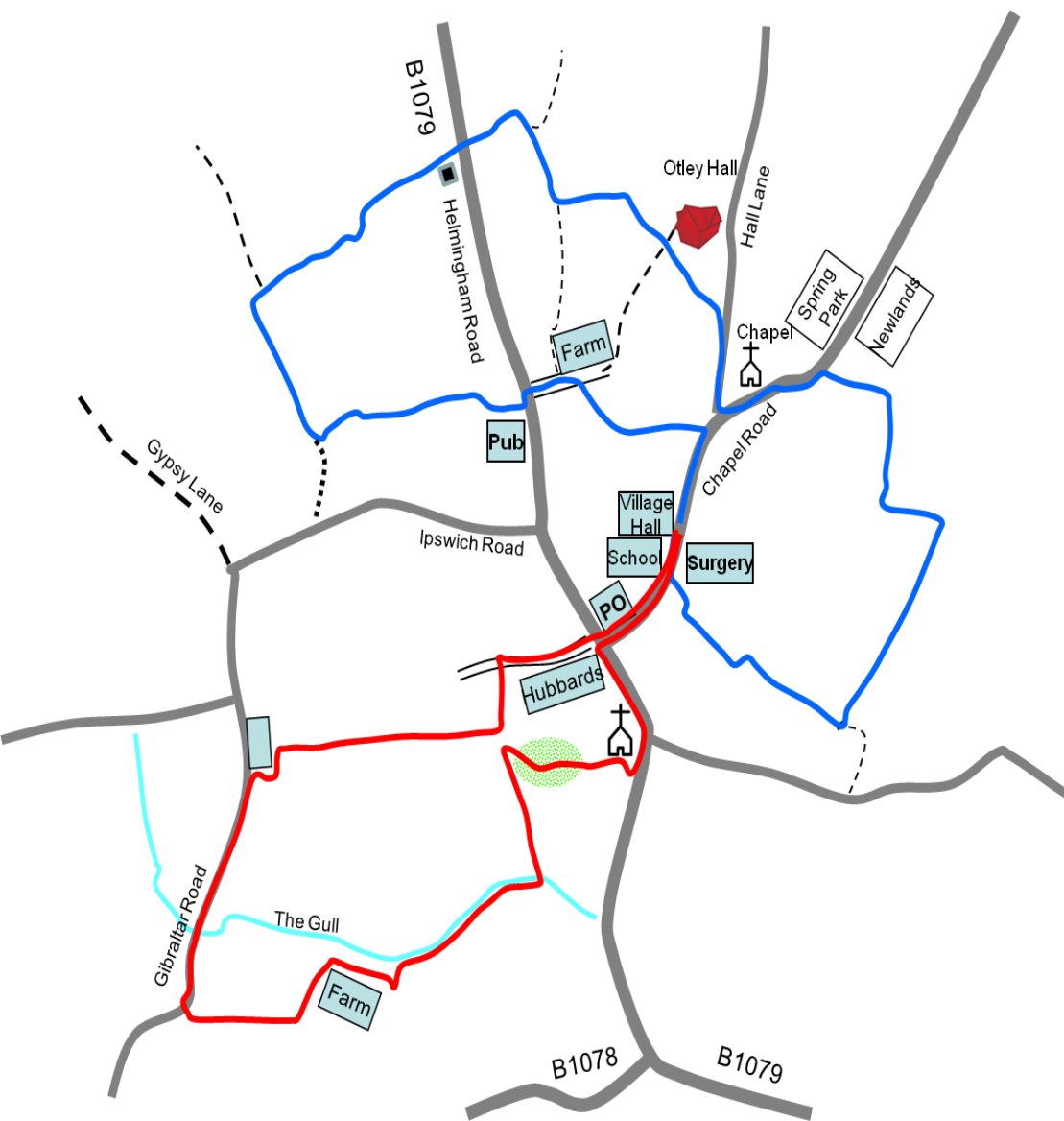
Includes two guided walks of approximately 3 miles each along field paths and wooded areas with places of interest along the way. Suitable footwear is advisable in wet weather.

Published by Otley Parish Council—our thanks to Phil Quilliam.

Price 50p



Keep your dogs under close control
Keep to public paths across farmland
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
Take your litter home



Walk 1 (Blue) 3.6 miles

From the Village Car Park, turn left and walk up Chapel Road approx 100 yards. Turn left at Glebe Cottage (signposted). Walk across the paddock area, taking care with the electric fence until you reach the farm drive. Turn left down the drive and cross over Helmingham Road onto the footpath. Follow the path along the right edge of the field, over a small bridge and then continue until you reach a finger post. Turn right and walk until you reach a small gap in the hedge. Go over the small bridge and turn immediately right. Follow the path alongside a ditch until you reach cottages on the Helmingham road. Cross over the road and go straight onto the footpath. At the end of the hedge on the right, turn right towards Grange Farm. Walk halfway to the farm and then turn left through a gap in the hedge. Walk along the field edge towards Otley Hall. Cross over the small footbridge at the end of the field and turn diagonally right across the small field. Go through a gap in the hedge, emerging on a green lane at the corner of Otley Hall grounds. Keep straight ahead with the Hall on your left and go through a gap in the hedge onto Hall Lane. Turn right down the lane to the road junction, and turn left up Chapel Road, passing the Baptist Chapel. Turn right onto the Bridleway past a bungalow called 'Dunfarmin'. At the large ditch, turn right and continue with the ditch on your right to the end of the field and up the hill. Turn right at the gap in the hedge and walk along the top of the field with good views over Otley. At the gate, go into the paddock, walk along the right edge of the field and out at the kissing gate at the end. Turn left and follow the path down the hill and then up towards the Doctors surgery, emerging opposite the school. Return to the Village Hall car park.

Walk 2 (Red) 2.7 miles

From the Village Hall car park, turn right down Chapel Road to the Post Office. Cross over Helmingham Road and walk down the lane next to the Hubbard's factory. On reaching the field at the bottom, turn left and follow the field edge and cross a ditch over a wooden footbridge before the junction of paths. Turn right up the hill and follow the field edge path to Leasland cottages and Gibraltar Road. Turn left along the road, down the hill and up to a sharp right hand corner (good views of the Church here). Turn left and follow the path across the field and down towards Gull Farm. At the farm lane, turn left and walk through the farmyard with the house on your right. Walk down through the field and then turn left onto the path which follows the Gull (a small stream). With the stream on your left, follow the path downhill and then turn left into the wooded area at the signpost. Walk down the steps, over the bridge at the bottom and up to the bottom of a field. Carry on with the field on your left until you reach a wooden footbridge on your right. Go over the bridge, follow the path through the trees and up the hill to the Church. Walk through the churchyard and down the drive to the gate. Turn left along the road and back to the Post Office. Turn right up Chapel Road and back to the Village Hall car park.