

# Leonard Stanley village trail



A short walk around the picturesque village of Leonard Stanley featuring places of natural and historic interest

**Your walk starts at St. Swithuns Church. Features of interest and walk directions are shown on the map inside.**

## **THE CHURCH AND GREEN**

**(1) St. Swithuns Church.** Walk through the lych gate, where the first part of the burial service used to be conducted. Inside this 12th century priory church you can see "Old Solomon", an unusual clock. Outside the north door is the tomb of the Clutterbuck family, whilst to the right is a Norman arched doorway with the remains of a stone coffin nearby. Note the 12th century carving of a bull's head on the tower.

**(2) The Jubilee Oak** on the green was planted to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

**(3) Priory House** was once the manor house. It was rebuilt by Robert Sandford in the mid 18th century. The Sandford coat of arms is on the front of the building. There is also a listed double privy outside.

## **GIPSY LANE**

**(4) The cemetery** has been in use since the 1930s, providing a place of peace and tranquillity.

To the left of the lane is a **(5) mixed orchard** of local fruit varieties planted in 2007. Opposite is an older orchard with some new replacements. It is the home of little owls which can often be heard.

The stream alongside Gypsy Lane begins as a spring below Stanley Wood and flows down to meet the Bitton brook at Seven Waters. Grey wagtails can often be seen around the water.

*Turn left at the footpath sign; the path runs straight across the field. Ahead there are views of the Church of All Saints and Selsley Common, and to the right Stanley Wood. These beech woods are managed by the Woodland Trust and can be accessed on foot via Gipsy Lane or Marsh Lane.*

Look for the Gloucester Cattle. They are black/brown with a white tail and underside. Having Gloucesters in the herd allows Church Farm to produce Single Gloucester cheese.

*Cross the stile and turn left into Marsh Lane.*



Goldfinch

## **MARSH LANE**

Here the hedges provide cover for many small birds. Song thrushes can often be heard. Dozule Close is named after Leonard Stanley's twin town in Normandy, France. Annual exchange visits take place.

**(6) Highborder Lodge**, formerly Marsh House, was built in the early 19th century. Look for the parapet and the porch with Doric columns.

## MARSH ROAD

Whilst not on your route, Marsh Road does offer a brief diversion. The village workhouse was once situated here. **(7) The Village Hall**, originally the National School, was built in 1850. Children were taught here until the 1970s.



Song Thrush

## CHURCH ROAD

*Leaving Marsh Lane, turn left into Church Road.*

**(8) Glebe House** and **The Old Vicarage** were built in the 18th century. Note the yew trees growing on the former church land. Yew represents renewal and rebirth, as it can grow new trunks from its root bole. Sometimes the smallest British bird, the gold crest, can be seen hopping amongst the branches.

**(9) Church Farm House.** Note the oval owl windows with the initials J.S., for John Sandford and the date 1688. Owls were encouraged to enter the building to eat the mice which might destroy stored cloth.

The row of 17th century cottages overlooking the green includes **(10) Church View**, once the Cross Keys Inn, where the Cloth-makers' Society held meetings in 1783.

*With St. Swithuns Church now on your left, head right at the war memorial into The Street.*

## THE STREET

### **(11) The War Memorial**

occupies the area where the Market Hall once stood.

### **(12) The White Hart**, the

only remaining hostelry, was built in the 18th century. The

artist Sir Stanley Spencer stayed

here circa 1940 and painted landscapes of the area.



Serotine Bat

### **(13) Rhymney Cottage** was once the parsonage.

The 14th century **(14) Mercer's House, Weaver's Cottage and Vine Cottage** were originally one cruck-framed building, which was later faced in stone with mullioned windows. It served as a weavers' cottage and survived the Great Fire of 1686.

**(15) Chapel House** belongs to the 17th century with 18th century windows and porch. The horse chestnut trees have been trained into a hedge by pleaching.

Approaching the end of The Street, look for the **(16) playing field** on your right. This was once a marsh, where withies were grown for weaving. Now drained, it provides football and cricket pitches and tennis courts.

## BATH ROAD

Townsend House, now **(17) The Grange and Clutterbuck House**, is a late 16th century clothier's house. Some stone mullioned windows remain; the others being 18th century sash windows.

**(18) Wesley's Tump.** John Wesley is said to have preached here under some elm trees.

## SEVEN WATERS

Seven Waters gets its name from the series of seven ponds created by the Bitton Brook and a tributary. The lowest pond once drove a fulling mill. The houses in Seven Waters are a mixture of buildings, spanning 400 years.

**(19) Tannery House** was built in 1770 for the surgeon James Clutterbuck. Later there was a tannery next to the site, producing leather for harnesses.

## CHURCH ROAD

*Walk back towards the Church.* From the entrance to **(20) Priory Farm**, view the end of the Medieval tithe barn. The weeping willow and ancient pond is the subject of a painting by Sir Stanley Spencer.

*We hope you have enjoyed your walk.*

To find out more about the village, go to [www.leonardstanley.org.uk](http://www.leonardstanley.org.uk)



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