

The Bateman Walk

The path around the back of St Lawrence's was once the private 'Lime Walk' pathway, created by James Bateman in the 19th century for his family to attend church from his Biddulph Grange Estate.



St Lawrence's Parish Church

A church was situated on this site in 1190 AD. During the siege of Biddulph Old Hall, during the Civil War, the parish church suffered extensive damage. The church was largely rebuilt in 1833. Within the churchyard there are three listed monuments and the remains of a possible 15th century Weeping Cross. There are fourteen Commonwealth War Graves.

A First World War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated in the churchyard on the 4 June 1921 by the Right Reverend Bishop Taylor Smit, C.B., C.V.O., D.D., (Chaplain General to the Forces). The memorial was originally engraved with the names of seventy local men who died in the war, three others were added at a later date. It's made from Cornish granite and takes the form of a Celtic wheel-head cross with a knot-work design.

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St Lawrence's Church



Walk to St Lawrence's Parish Church

This is a gentle walk, following roads, starting from Biddulph Town Hall walking to St. Lawrence's Parish Church on Congleton Road.

The distance from Biddulph Town Hall to the Church of St. Lawrence's is 1 mile (1.6km). There are many interesting features along the way.

1. With the Town Hall behind you, turn right down Congleton Road. Walk past **The War Memorial ('Albert')** at the junction of Congleton Road and John Street and continue along Congleton Road.
2. At the roundabout cross Thames Drive, you'll see Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre on your right.
3. Continue to walk along Congleton Road. At the corner of Fountain Court you'll see a **Horse Trough and a Drinking Fountain**.
4. On the opposite side of the road, there is a **Milestone in front of 161 Congleton Road**.
5. Continue walking across Smithy Lane and Woodhouse Lane. Turn right to walk through **Woodhouse Burial Ground**, sited just off Woodhouse Lane (at the rear of the bowling green on Congleton Road).
6. A woodland path, known as **The Bateman Walk** connects the two burial grounds. Walk through the path to **St Lawrence's Parish Church** and Churchyard.

If you retrace your steps back to the Town Hall, you'll have walked for 2 miles (3.2km).

The War Memorial ('Albert')

This was the second memorial dedicated to the fallen of the First World War to be erected in Biddulph. The first was erected in 1921 in St Lawrence's churchyard.

You'll see a life-sized sculpture of a soldier leaning on a reversed rifle, with a jagged piece of rock carved behind, created in Italian Carrara marble by Jonah Cottrell, who had a monumental mason's yard on Congleton Road.



The soldier stands on a granite plinth, with the names of the seventy three fallen soldiers inscribed in gilt on the four sides.

It was unveiled by Corporal J J Gibson on the 29 April 1922.

Following World War Two, a granite plaque was placed at the base of the monument to accommodate the names of thirty nine soldiers who had fallen in that conflict.

At the end of the millennium a second granite plaque was placed which has the names of nine soldiers omitted from World War One, ten soldiers omitted from World War Two and three soldiers who fell in other conflicts later in the 20th Century.

The memorial is affectionately known as 'Albert'.

Horse Trough and a Drinking Fountain

The fountain is set on a rough-faced sandstone wall between two pillars, with a drinking trough for horses set into the wall to the south. The inscription on it reads '1861. For the refreshment of weary travellers. God speed them on their way. JSB' (James Bateman).

Milestone in front of 161 Congleton Road

The road to Congleton through Biddulph was turnpiked in 1770 and milestones were erected along this route by the Tunstall and Bosley Turnpike Trust. The milestone in front of 161 Congleton Road is one of a set of milestones running north to Biddulph from Newcastle under Lyme. It's carved from local gritstone, suggested to have been sourced from the Bridestone quarry. The inscription on both faces is very worn, but is believed to read 'TO CONGLETON 31/2 MILES TO MACCLESFIELD 11 MILES TO NEWCASTLE 9 MILES'.

There is another milestone outside 279 Congleton Road, which was abraded in 1940 as an official measure under The Removal of Direction Signs Order 1940 to counter invasion.

Woodhouse Burial Ground

Woodhouse Burial Ground was opened in the summer of 2014. It has a lawn style layout, with graves running foot-to-foot.

