

Walk Number 1

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Welcome and walk 1

Round the Town

A circular walk through the streets and fields of Malpas.

This short walk through the streets of Malpas will take about 30-45 minutes, giving you a real feel for its past.

Access to all the fields is by kissing gates.

Download the pdf file at the bottom of the page for further clarity.



A map of the town centre with some of the local footpaths.

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From the Cross, walk up the right hand side of Church Street to the house with sandstone pillars.

1. The Market House was built in 1762 by local landowners, the Drakes, as two shops with living accommodation above. It faced out onto the town's large market square.

Go up the church steps and into St Oswald's Churchyard. Walk Two tells you more about the church's history.

**From the churchyard, you can look across to the buildings on Church Street.
Look out for a mythical creature on one of them.**



A picture of the Gryphon crest found on the Print House on Church Street

The Gryphon

The Gryphon is the symbol of local landowners, the Cholmondeleys, who were descended from the original Barons of Malpas.

It can be found on the Old Printing House which was built for the Steward of the Cholmondeleys in 1733. The building later housed a printing press.

Follow the path through the churchyard and fork left at the church door. Exit the church yard to street level and continue down Church Street.

2. The Cholmondeley Alms Houses were founded in 1636 by Sir Thomas Brereton to support six poor persons of the parish, who were chosen by the Marquis of Cholmondeley. Look for their crest above the central door entrance.

3. The Tithe Barn is a 17th Century timber framed building which was converted into a house in the 20th Century.



A picture of the Tithe Barn located on Church Street

Continue down Church Street past Hayside Walk and cross the road by Clare Cottage. Turn left on to the public footpath (marked by a finger post)

This is locally known as Boughey's lane after the owner of the shop, now demolished, which stood on the corner.

Pass through the kissing gate and turn left. Keep to the side of the field as you walk around.

4. The Captain's Field, so called after Captain Ethelston who allowed the people of the town to use the field for sports.

Through another kissing gate you enter a second field.

5. Ten Tree Field.

The name does not refer to the number of trees but comes from the word tentre, as in tentre frame which was used for drying cloth.

At the top of the field, a gate will let onto Parbutts Lane and back up to Church Street.

The lane is named after Thomas Parbutt whose headstone is in the churchyard.

To complete your walk, continue round the field's edge. Leave the field by the kissing gate which takes you across a small paddock between wooden railings, and via a curved grass path onto Old Hall Street. Turn left to walk back towards the Cross.

6. Directly opposite you are the houses of Chapel Rise, built on the site of the 1892 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

7. The Old Hall was the home of the Breretons. **To the Manor Born**

The Breretons were the Lords of the Manor until the late 17th century.

It is said that they could ride from Malpas to Chester without ever getting off their own land.

The present Old Hall dates from 1768 when the original hall was burnt down.

In the 16th century, the Breretons kept a fool called Thomas Boswell to entertain them.



A picture of The Old Hall located on Old Hall Street opposite the Co-op convenience store

8. Anvil Cottage, and the old Smithy garage, soon to be a co-op store, mark the site of the town's Blacksmiths forge.

9. The Crown was a coaching inn – in the 1830's coaches from London and Shrewsbury passed through Malpas daily on route to Chester.

10. The Red Lion, recently refurbished as The Lion was another coaching inn, and now has a 1920's façade. King James VI of Scotland (James I of England is said to have stayed here.

Published by Chris Whitehurst

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