

There has been a church on the site since Domesday. It was a place of pilgrimage and you can see the Holy Well behind the church which is reputed to be a healing well especially with regard to the eyes. The church was damaged in 1402 when Owain Glyndŵr defeated the English forces of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of the March at Pilleth.



Distance : approximately 50 miles.

Refreshments : Knighton.

Inns like The Harp at Old Radnor, The Crown and the Red Lion on the A44.

Tea and coffee making facilities at The Pales.

Picnicking at Old Radnor or various areas in the Radnor Forest (along the A44).

Fuel : Knighton

Once you have taken in the church (which has recently been restored) and the view and pondered on the 1402 battle, return to the B4356. There are three alternative routes back to Knighton.

Route A : You can turn right and retrace your route to the A488, turn right and follow this to Knighton, taking in the Bleddfa Centre for the Creative Spirit on your way back.

Route B : You could turn right from the church on to the B4356 and follow this to Whitton, turning left at the crossroads on to the B4357 and then left at the end of the road towards Knighton.

Route C : Alternatively you could travel along the road to Presteigne and explore another border town, before taking the B4355 through Norton to Knighton.

FOUR CHURCHES AND A MEETING HOUSE:

ROUTE 1



Cascob



Old Radnor



Llanfingel Nant Melan



The Pales



Pilleth

From the clock tower at Knighton

....go down the hill and take the B3355 towards Presteigne, taking in the lovely late Victorian architecture on the left hand side. After 1.9 miles, turn right along the valley, following the B4357 through Whitton, across a crossroads, over the packhorse bridge and after 3.2 miles, at the crossroads, turn right and follow the road to Cascob. Continue on this road which is narrow and has passing places but you reach Cascob Church after a further 2.2 miles.

Follow the road round to the back of the church where you will see two gates and a footpath sign. Open the gate to the churchyard and park on the hard standing, making sure to close the gate behind you as sheep graze in the churchyard.

You will not be disappointed. The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Cascob dates from the 13th century and has a 14th century tower.



From St Michael's, retrace your way back to the B4357 and turn right. Continue on this road for a further 1.3 miles to the Beggars Bush crossroads, turn right here to Kinnerton. Follow the road into the village and take a left turn towards Walton. Continue along the road for 2.4 miles. You will see a crossroads and a white

farmhouse on the left. Opposite the farmhouse look into the field and see the prehistoric standing stones.



Continue along the road in the same direction until you reach the A44, turn left but before you do, look at the church dominating the skyline. That is St Stephen's, Old Radnor – our next stop. After turning left, follow the A44 until you see the 40 m.p.h. sign into Walton. At the staggered junction turn right by the Crown Inn and climb the road to the church. Skirt around the church to the entrance where there is parking.



St Stephens dates from the late medieval period and boasts a Tudor interior with its original 16th century organ and beautiful 15th century screen. The font pre-dates the Norman Conquest. It is as well to check that the church will be open at your arrival. The vicar can be contacted on vicar@thekingtonparishes.org or 01544 230525.

Before going to the next church, you might like a little detour to the waterfall at Water Break its Neck [see route 1(a)]

Now return to the main road and turn left on to the A44 and follow this for about 5 miles to Llanfinghangel Nant Melan. At first glance St Michael's looks like a Norman church with some lovely dog-tooth patterns over the doorway and an apse in the east. However, it was built in 1846, replacing a previous building and was probably modeled on Kilpeck

There is no parking at the church, although you may ask at the Red Lion adjacent to the Church to park in their car park.



Once you have sojourned at St Michael's, continue on the A44 for about 5 miles until Llandegley. There you will see a staggered junction, take the right hand turn and follow the brown signs to The Pales. Brown signs will direct you but if not follow this road for just under a mile and then, before a pink bricked farmhouse, take a track to the left. Follow this up the hill for about half a mile and on the left you will see the Quaker Meeting House called The Pales. To park, continue beyond the meeting house and you will see a small quarry on your right where you can park.



This two roomed meeting house is the oldest Quaker Meeting house in continuous use in Wales and one of only two with thatched roofs. It is a simple but tranquil building and you are invited to walk around the vegetable garden and take in the views as well as use the facilities (there are toilets as well as tea and coffee making facilities).

From the quarry where you have parked continue on the same road, passing through two gates. You (or your co-driver) will have to open and shut the gates and then you continue along the road, winding to the A488. Here turn right on to the common land and then pass over the cattle grid, following the road towards Knighton. As you go through Monaughty, you will see a right turn to Presteigne (B4356). Follow this road for just under a mile and you will see a signpost for the Battle of Pilleth on the left. Take this bumpy track up to the steps of the church of Our Lady (St Mary's) of Pilleth and park.

