



Christian Aid Water Walk



The focus this year for Christian Aid week is access to water. The central story is Rose, who has to walk miles to collect water it is a six hour round trip on foot to collect water every day.

Click here for Rose's story: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

With the advent of climate change all of us have a responsibility to use water wisely and here in the west we know just how important water is to our health, food and economy. It drove the industrial revolution, through water mills and canals, then steam power. Today we can turn on the tap and get a glass of water any time, make a cup of tea or coffee, take a bath or shower after exercise or just to relax – consider how much water you use in a day, how many cups of tea etc. and then think about having to carry all that water for miles and how you are going to use it – cooking, washing, watering crops and so on.

A Walk to explore Cam and Dursley Water Sources

If we look at any ordnance survey map of Dursley and the surrounding area we see references to springs everywhere – the fact that there are Iron Age workings locally and the discovery of the Roman Villa at the Box Road development show that water has played an important part in this area and the development of settlement and community for centuries.

The average distance to a water point in the developing world is 8km or just under 5 miles. The route of this walk is just over 8km. This walk can be done as a whole or in sections, some areas are uneven and field walking, other areas are more accessible and on the level. The idea is that people

will do what they can, maybe discover something they were unaware of and reflect on how much we take water for granted. If able to you may want to consider carrying some water for a distance and ask people to sponsor you (say 1-8 litres?). **Donations to Christian Aid can be made using the Donations button on the link above, or via one of the Cam and Dursley churches.**

Parts of this walk are through residential areas, please be considerate of householders and others. When field walking, please observe paths and use the stiles and gateways. Parking in some areas is limited and so the following places are suggested for parking:

- The route starts at Halmore Mill (parking is available at Cam & Dursley Railway station, alternatively you could get a bus to the Station, Bus No 60).
- There are some areas that can be accessed from level walking near Middle Mills/ Tesco, Parking is available at Tesco or Cam Parish Council Offices (please note any parking restrictions).
- There is also parking in Dursley, (3 hours in Pulse Centre Car Park, 2 hours in Sainsburys or long stay in Long Street opposite The Chantry Centre and also at May Lane).

Please let someone know you are going and when you anticipate being back. Wear sturdy footwear, field walking can be muddy if wet and there are a few gentle slopes and stiles to cross, you may want a stick to support. Take a waterproof and drink/refreshments.

It should take you around 2– 2.5 hours depending on how fast you walk, how many detours/ stops for reflection you make – and how many people you meet along the way and chat to!

Walking Instructions/Maps

Turn left out of the station car park and walk a short distance on the road to the junction of Halmore Lane, signposted here and a short walk down the Lane will bring you to Halmore Mill, its location just over the bridge. Halmore Mill is private property run as a campsite, please observe it from a distance and be considerate, if you look up the drive you will see the old water wheel. There is an opportunity to view the River Cam from the bridge and play Poohsticks here!



Retrace your steps a short way back up the lane to the field gate with the footpath symbol and turn left into the field, on your right you will see the new Box road development, head towards the hedge along the bottom of the field and keep this on your left.

As you walk across the field you will see the weir and mill pond of Halmore. Most of the mills in Dursley and Cam were cloth mills and the water was considered particularly good and pure for the

production of cloth. Halmore Mill was however, a grain mill and was working at least into the early part of the 20th Century.



As you walk towards the new housing development you will see a tarmac path, which will take you past the site of the Roman Villa, this has now been covered over, but information boards tell the story and more can be found online here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpf80_GHPQw



The path now crosses a private lane to a farm, go straight over with the sub station on your left through the gate into the next field, the River Cam is on your left. The dismantled railway runs to the right and you will shortly come to the bridge that takes the railway overhead if you turn right here you will head into Draycott Business park, however we want to strike left, through the kissing gate and over the footbridge,



in the field take the path to the right hugging the hedge on your right hand side through which can be seen the trackbed of the railway, follow the field boundary to the end and then up to the left to a stile.



Over this stile it almost looks like we are in an old lane, follow this round the corner to the footpath sign and stile pointing left. Here you have a choice...



Continuing on the lane the field path turns into a tarmac track and the back of one of the Mills (known as Sundela or Sunbury Mill there is some interesting information available on their website about the history of the mill <https://sundeala.co.uk/sundeala-story/>). Following this through will bring you out into Courthouse Gardens and if you turn left at the end a short walk will bring you to Tesco.

Returning from the Sundela Mill to our field path we retrace our steps to the footpath sign and stile (we originally passed on the left and now turn right, follow the path to the right around the field



to the next stile, which we will go over and head across the middle of the field (you will be able to see St Bartholomew's Cam over the trees) Over the next stile and through a narrow tunnel of vegetation by the old railway will bring you out at Rackleaze Nature Reserve and the board walk. This is currently undergoing maintenance and is a natural marsh area, which should have pools of water. If you follow the board walk and path it will take you out by Cam Memorial Hall and once again it is just a short walk to Tesco's from here.

Returning to our field path we retrace our steps from the stile into Rackleaze back to the previous stile/gate – staying in this field and turning right, with the hedge immediately to our left we follow this path almost straight to the end of the fields



and then through a paddock towards Upthorpe Road, with houses on our right. Left, through the gate onto what looks like someone's drive and at the end take a sharp right down the hill which will bring you out near the Railway Inn.



Walk towards Cam and then turn left into Everlands and Cam Mills - here cloth is still produced for snooker tables and tennis balls have been made for Wimbledon.

Follow Everlands past the scout hut [it's possible to cut in by the Scout Hut and follow the river to the old railway footbridge but the path is uneven and you may prefer to remain on the road]. Continue until you see the old railway footbridge, turn left here and follow the path through the copse (crossing the river, which has reappeared) it brings you out in St George's Close and directly across the road is a narrow footpath, which will take you through to Church Road.



Turn right down the hill to the bridge. You can walk on either side of the river here as there are footbridges that cross, turn left to the new Estate and enjoy the level walking by the river,



before heading up Budding Way and round to a brick path which will take you through to the bottom end of Long Street.



Walk up Long Street towards the Chantry Centre, (which is the big cream building on the left hand side) just before you get to it you will see a footpath sign pointing down the lane to houses, turn left here and follow the path past the houses,



which will bring you to what is known as St Mary's Well, the Nuns or Dipping Well – this along with Broadwell would have been where the villagers would have come before piped water to collect their water. Continue to follow the path round [A turn up to the right will take you to Broadwell which can also be accessed through St James Churchyard and/or Silver Street.]

Our walk continues by turning left down Water Street, with the stream on your left.

Some 100m below the Broadwell springs there used to be a swimming pool in the mid 19th century, it was over 30sq m, varied in depth and was heated to 18 c. Due to lack of subscriptions it closed in 1880.

At the bottom of Water Steet, cross over Lister Road and continue down between the houses to join the Rope Walk,



this is a pleasant level route next to the River Ewelme follow this path with the houses on the right



then pick up the footpath that follows the stream following this.



At the intersection, here turn right then left towards the large tarmac area and manor houses, heading for the footpath sign in the corner that once again takes you by the River Ewelme on your left, then joining Ewelme Close and following the track at the end will take you up to Uley Road



and go up the flight of steps opposite, this will bring you to Rivers Mill and the Mill pond (the former Mawdsley's Factory – now housing).

Turn right over the bridge of the mill pond and follow the path through the houses, as you come past



The Mill pond bear left, joining the road and then bear right



take the path up past these houses



towards the wooded area with Highfields estate to your right, through the green rails, turn immediately back on yourself and go through the old iron rails into the wooded area onto the track with a green arrow sign head up the incline towards the open field in the distance you will see a building



– this was until 1934 the main pumping station for Dursley (built circa 1900) and finally decommissioned in 1953, the building was derelict for many years before being renovated as a private dwelling in 2012.

Continue to follow the path, which narrows into a wooded area before coming out onto an open track.



At the end go through the kissing gate and turn right follow the hedge and then over the stile joining Ganzells Lanea continue down the Lane and then take a right to come down past Castle Stream Farm, where the gate is.



This track leads down to Caswell Pumping Station built in 1935 to assist with the ever increasing demand for water, sited over Caswell Springs this pumping station used pumps manufactured by Listers for around 20 years before these were changed in the mid 1950's and diesel was replaced by electric motors. If you wish to take a look go through the second gate and explore. Otherwise turning left through the hedge and stone area follow the track across the field.



Which brings you to steps and a pathway through to Wordsworth Road, turn right onto Chaucer Road and then left onto Tennyson Road, follow this round to the right and then left onto Somerset Avenue, continue on Somerset Avenue down past Welling Close and turn right at the end onto Roseberry Road at the end of Roseberry Road a left will take you up Uley Road to the top of Bull Pitch and back into Dursley.

