

Leaving the parkland, turn right • just beyond the cattle grid, signposted *Lowther 1*. At a T-junction on a bend, turn right • signposted *Lowther ¾*. Pass the houses of Lowther Newtown on the left, go round a bend, and enter a stretch of woodland where the entrance to the Lakeland Bird of Prey Centre is passed on the right. Around another bend enter Lowther village.

This model village was built originally for the Lowther Estate workers.

At a T-junction turn right • and after a short distance the A6 is met at another T-junction. Turn right • along the A6 towards Shap. **CYCLISTS TAKE CARE ALONG THIS SHORT SECTION OF MAIN ROAD.** Go through the village of Hackthorpe and continue along the A6 for about ½ mile, keeping close company with the M6.

On crossing the motorway turn left • signposted *Gt. Strickland ¾, Morland 4*. Descend the hill to pass under the west coast mainline railway and then climb the hill into the village of Great Strickland. Immediately on entering the village fork right • by a telephone box. The signpost for this junction is at the far end of the grass triangle. Follow this lane, signposted *Little Strickland & Shap*, until the village of Little Strickland is reached. This is now the home of Thrimby church (*see note - **About the church**).



St. Mary's Church, Thrimby is seen as the village is entered. Turn right • and then left • to find parking round the corner on the verge opposite the church gate.*

About the church ...*

In 1814 Lord Lonsdale was instrumental in moving Thrimby Church from an area needed for agriculture to its present site in Little Strickland. The church is much involved in village life and has a small happy congregation. It holds 3 or 4 services each month.

... further visitor information available in church

Trail from St. Mary's Church, Thrimby to St. Michael's Church, Shap

Go straight on out of the village, ignoring the left turn back to Great Strickland. At a cross roads turn right • signposted *Shap*. Descend the hill and cross the M6 motorway. Turn left immediately • signposted *Southfield*. Follow this lane until a T-junction is reached. Turn right • and on a clear day the view ahead to the Haweswater Fells and the High Street ridge is outstanding. Descend to meet the A6 and turn left • for *Shap*. **CYCLISTS TAKE CARE ALONG THIS SHORT SECTION OF MAIN ROAD.** Follow the main road for ½ mile into the village. Turn left • opposite the Bull's Head pub, signposted *Crosby Ravensworth*. Go uphill for 250m and the entrance to St. Michael's Church is on the right, around a bend.

This Church Trail leaflet has been produced by:

The Carlisle Diocesan Officer for Tourism

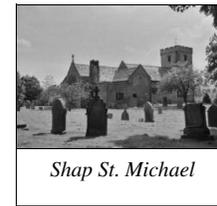
Miss Jenny Bate

Nelson House, Kaber, Kirkby Stephen. Cumbria. CA17 4EF.

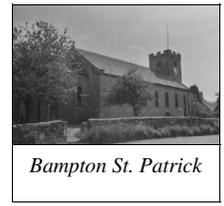
Tel: 017683 72361

E-mail: tourism@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

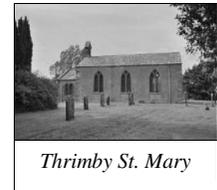
To whom any comments or enquiries can be addressed.



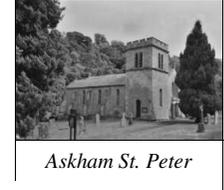
Shap St. Michael



Bampton St. Patrick



Thrimby St. Mary



Askham St. Peter

SEARCH for the CHURCH

✠ *in Appleby Deanery* ✠
The Diocese of Carlisle

Church Trail

No. 3

**Exploring the valley of the River Lowther,
Askham, Lowther Park, and the
limestone country surrounding Shap**

Spectacular views of the Haweswater Fells ...
... and peaceful country churches to visit

*18 mile circular touring route
to drive or cycle*

visiting four Parish Churches

Shap - Bampton - Askham - Thrimby

“Search for the Church” Trail No. 3

visiting churches at Shap, Bampton, Askham & Thrimby (Little Strickland)



St. Michael's Church, Shap is found by turning off the A6 in the village centre onto a lane signposted Crosby Ravensworth. (Opposite the Bull's Head Inn) Go uphill for 250m and the entrance to the churchyard is on the right.

About the church ...

Sited c750 AD, stone built 1150 AD. Served by Canons from nearby Abbey c1250-1540. Underwent various changes, culminating 1898-9 in almost total rebuild - Norman arcade retained. Many notable & interesting features. Churchyard closed 1981; Mardale graves in new churchyard. Other historic sites in vicinity. Walks magnificent views Kidsty Pike, High Street etc.

... further visitor information available in church

Trail from St. Michael's Church, Shap to St. Patrick's Church, Bampton

Leave St. Michael's Church & go downhill to the A6. Turn right • and after a short distance fork left • signposted *Bampton, Haweswater & Shap Abbey*. Stay on this road passing a left turn to *Keld Township* and then a left turn to *Shap Abbey*. (The ruins of the Abbey stand in a beautiful setting, and are well worth a visit, but this adds an extra mile to the route - Cyclists beware the descent to Shap Abbey is steep!)

The High Street range stretches out in front with the pointed top of Kidsty Pike easily identifiable. Around this area the scenery is typically limestone with the distinctive dry stone walls much in evidence.

Pass a left turn for *Rosgill* & go straight on • for *Bampton*.

As the road begins to descend into the valley of the River Lowther, there are striking views of Haweswater and its dam to the left. This reservoir supplies water to the Manchester area.

Ignore a right turn to *Knipe & Whale* and go straight on • into the delightful village of Bampton Grange.



St. Patrick's Church, Bampton is on the left, just past The Crown & Mitre pub. There is a church car park on the left, before the bridge over the river.

About the church ...

Rebuilt 1726/7 on site pre-dating 1170 - interior reordered 1885 - Grade II listing. **Nave:** oak arcade in Renaissance style; Jacobean pulpit cut down from 3-decker; font dated 1662, but believed c12th; Millennium window nearby. **Chancel:** communion rail c18th or earlier; reredos English oak with holly inlay, carved vines on pillars, 1885. Pre-Reformation stone piscina in south wall of sanctuary; stained glass Ward & Hughes, London, 1885/88.

Bells: 2 x 1729, 2 x 1779, tenor believed c16th.

... further visitor information available in church

Trail from St. Patrick's Church, Bampton to St. Peter's Church, Askham

There are two options for the route to Askham :

(1) The busier road continues over the river bridge and bears right • signposted *Helton, Askham & Penrith*. At the post office/village shop go straight on • signposted *Askham & Penrith*. Follow this road to Askham village .

(2) **The recommended route takes a quiet country lane affording wonderful views across the valley of the River Lowther to the High Street ridge.**

The route is retraced a short distance back towards Shap. On the edge of the village turn left • signposted *Knipe & Whale*. Soon a cattle grid is crossed onto the open fell of Knipe Moor; the land here is part of the Lowther Estates.

By the cattle grid, on the left, are 2 large granite boulders, which look incongruous in the surrounding limestone landscape. These "Shap erratics" were deposited by a melting glacier thousands of years ago. Similar large, smooth boulders may be noticed elsewhere along the route. On this quiet lane the views across the valley of the River Lowther to the High Street Fells are outstanding. Loadpot Hill (the large dome) is the final high point on the High Street ridge walk before the ground drops away to the north.

Ignore an unmarked lane that goes off to the right and go straight on • downhill. At a telephone box turn right • through a gate. This is signposted *Whale & Lowther*. After a short distance the road goes through another gate (sometimes left open). Climb the hill and then descend gently into the valley bottom, ignoring a right turn to *Whale*. The road crosses the River Lowther and after a further ½ mile arrives at a T-junction. Turn right • signposted *Askham & Lowther* and follow this road to Askham village.

Turn right • by Askham Post Office & Stores (before the Queen's Head pub is reached) signposted *Lowther 2* and descend the hill passing the Punchbowl Inn on the right.



St. Peter's Church, Askham is at the bottom of the village on the right, just before the road bridge over the River Lowther. There is parking space on the left, opposite the church gate.

About the church ...

Built in 1832 on the site of an old church, it sits beside the lovely River Lowther. The font is dated 1661. A stunningly beautiful set of altar frontals show Christian symbols and local views. Do visit! Alfred Wainwright wrote "*O, the prettiest village in Westmorland*".

... further visitor information available in church

Trail from St. Peter's Church, Askham to St. Mary's Church, Thrimby

Go straight on • over the river bridge and climb the hill.

The road now passes through the parkland surrounding Lowther Castle and the ruins can be seen to the right. This was the ancestral home of the Earls of Lonsdale.