



At the bus shelter in front of the village hall, follow the footpath leading up the left hand side of the rugby field. Stay close to the hedge on the left: the Rugby Club has asked that people do not go onto the pitches.

Cross over the stile and turn left, keeping the hedge on your left. At the end of the first field, bear slightly right and cross over the stile in order to continue on in the same direction, still with a hedge on your left. After the next stile, turn right and walk up between the hedges. You will see the 'Millenium Oak' planted by the village to mark the millennium. There may be cattle in this area and the next couple of fields, so keep to the paths and leave gates in the same position as you find them.



Where this tongue of land joins the field (A), bear left diagonally. Keep to the left of the electricity pole, go down a rise and then over the stile on your right (B). It leads into a field which descends fairly sharply but from which you get a good view of the lower part of the

village and the Severn Valley with the Forest of Dean beyond.



Follow the path down-hill. Halfway across the field, when the hill has levelled out, look for a stile in the left hand hedge (C).

Go over this and down the steps to the lane. Take care here: it can be slippery and it leads directly onto the lane.

Turn right along the lane and walk to St. Cyr's Church (D), one of only three churches in England dedicated to this saint. If you are lucky, you may hear the church bells. The church has six bells and, after a gap of several years, now has a regular team of bell ringers. The church's name is unusual. St. Cyr was a young boy, martyred with his mother in the 3rd century AD, and you can see a statue of him in a niche as you pass by the church. There was probably a church on this site about the time of the Norman Conquest but none of it remains. The present building is a pretty, traditional village church, whose tower and porch date from 1630. An extensive restoration of the building was begun in 1854 funded by the local landowner and incumbent Sir George Prevost, the Reverend Issac Williams and others - all participants in the revivalist Oxford Movement.

Walk to the War Memorial which was designed by Mrs. M. St. John Mildmay of Drakestone House in Stinchcombe, with wording chosen by Sir Charles Prevost who lived in what is now Yercombe Lodge above the village. The village Pound and the Stocks were once situated where the War Memorial stands.

Turn left along Wick Lane for a short distance until you come to the Drinking Fountain on your left, erected in 1887, and then enter the churchyard walking past the Old Parsonage on your right. Until 1813, the Old Parsonage was referred to as "the Church House" and there are suggestions that it may have been used in pre-Reformation days for the serving of Church Ales and other entertainments.

You can finish the walk fairly quickly by following directions in the final paragraph. For a longer walk, follow the path halfway up the churchyard and then take the footpath on your right between two yew trees. After going through the gate, carry on straight ahead, keeping the hedge and fence on your right. Climb over the stile in the right corner of the field, cross in front of the cottage and through the little gate (remembering to fasten it). Climb over the stile ahead and go through a pair of gates into the next field. There may be ponies in any of the fields from this point until you reach the wood behind Piers Court. Please make sure all gates are left shut behind you.

Carry on straight ahead in the same direction across three small fields and stiles. After the third stile **(E)**, go left up the hill, keeping the water trough and fence on your left and then over a stile near the top of the hill. Bear left and climb another stile at the top of wooden steps. Turn diagonally left and go through a pair of gates. Walk diagonally right up a small rise and then straight ahead under electricity wires.

Go over a stile in the hedge on your right and enter a small wood. Bear left, following a path which soon joins another path which hugs the fence on your right. Carry on in the same direction and go through a kissing gate. Follow the path which runs close to a hedge on your left. You will see Piers Court and Stinchcombe Hill behind it. Piers Court was built at the end of the sixteenth century and the house was used by the royalists in the



civil war. It was the home of Evelyn Waugh, the author of 'Brideshead Revisited', for nineteen years.

As the hedge starts to bend left **(F)**, go right diagonally across the field, just to the right of a large oak tree, towards Piers Court, keeping to the path. Turn left at the tarmac drive. Exit onto The Street via the pedestrian gate immediately to the left of the main gates of Piers Court. Cross over Church Lane and walk up The Street until you reach the village hall on your left.

*If you want to do the shorter walk, walk up the path until it turns to the left at the top of the churchyard. Go through the gate onto the footpath and walk straight ahead up the hill, keeping the fence on your left. Carry on, climbing over two stiles (they are rather awkward and high), and you will soon see Piers Court, built at the end of the sixteenth century, in front of you. The house was used by the royalists in the civil war and was the home of Evelyn Waugh, the author of 'Brideshead Revisited', for nineteen years. Walk down to the tarmac drive in front of Piers Court, turn left and exit via the pedestrian gate immediately to the left of the main gates. Cross over Church Lane and walk up 'The Street' until you reach the village hall on your left.*



Walks around

# Stinchcombe

One of a series of rambles in and around the village

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*This walk connects two of the three main areas of the village. It starts at the Village Hall, goes through the Churchyard and crosses fields beside Piers Court. The walking is mainly easy underfoot but there is a sharp descent, which can be slippery, directly onto a lane, so walking boots (and perhaps a stick) are advisable. There are a number of field gates and stiles (some a bit awkward), so any accompanying dog needs to be small and agile*

**Start:** Stinchcombe Village Hall



Piers Court

45 mins

2.75 km

1.75 miles



BRIDESHEAD REVISITED