

Description of Walking Route

The walk begins at the original town centre at the crossroads (now the pedestrian crossing) by the Ecumenical Centre. Walk down Church Green West and turn down Church Road. Towards the end of Church Road on the left is the former Post Office. This was built in 1888, and refurbished as the County Court in 1990. Returning up Church Road on the left, facing Church Green West is the former Scientific and Literary Institute. Dated 1885, this was built by G.H. Cox of Birmingham.

Turn left back into Church Green West and continue until Easemore Road is to the right. To the left the range of buildings are the former Smallwood Hospital. This is dated 1894 and was built by William Henman. Turning right into Easemore Road, the first original building you will pass is the Masonic Hall on the left. This was formally the Unionist (Conservative) Club and is dated 1908. Continuing down the road, to the left is the Baptist Chapel and adjoining Sunday School which was built in 1922-3 and replaced the previous Chapel in Ipsley Street.

Opposite the Baptist Chapel you will see Archer Road. Take this road and follow it, bearing left into Queen Street. To your right is an Inn, the Queen's Head (rebuilt 1935). Continue along this road and, at the junction, turn left into Grove Street. On your right you will see the Palace Theatre. The theatre was built in 1913, by Bertie Crewe, and was extended circa 1960s and 2000s.

Turn right into Alcester Street and continue to the junction of Market Place and Church Green East. To the right, up from the Library is a building which was the Royal Hotel (now just a bar), rebuilt in 1897 it was the principal hotel in the town. To the right, across the junction, is Peakman Street. This contains the Sportsman's Arms (1854) and, at the junction with Church Green East, is Webb House, which is a fine example of 18/19thC building.

Walking along Church Green East there are many examples of fine 19th Century Buildings. These have mostly been converted to Estate Agents and Offices but formally contained a wider range of commercial premises. To the left, in the Church Green, are the Band Stand and the Fountain. The bandstand was built in 1898, with alterations in the mid and late 20th century. The Fountain was donated in 1883, by Mr. Richard Smith Bartleet, magistrate and sometime Deputy Lieutenant of Worcestershire.

Turning back to the beginning, there is the large presence in the town centre of St Stephens Church.

In earlier times Redditch had only a Chapel, but by 1851 it was decided to demolish this and to build a more substantial parish church in Gothic style. From that date Chapel Green became known as Church Green, and the area was further improved by the planting of more trees. The new church was consecrated in July 1855.

Continue past the Church to return to the start.

HistoryWalks

around Redditch

Town Centre Walk

This is a walk around the town centre and includes many Victorian and Georgian Buildings.

Distance: approx. 1 mile (1.5km)

**Terrain: Urban footpaths. Some road crossings, moderate traffic
Car Parks in Kingfisher Centre and throughout the town**

The town centre is dominated by St Stephens Church which was constructed in 1853-1855. Within this area is the public library by the John Maplin design group (1975), the former Smallwood Hospital (1895), the former Literary and Scientific Institute (1885), the fountain (1883) and the bandstand (1898).

Church Green East has the best run of properties with a range of 19th Century buildings.

Opposite the Town Hall (1982) is the Palace Theatre, a rare survival of a Bertie Crewe designed theatre. Built in 1913, the interior has been recently renovated to recreate its original glory.



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