



## Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council



### Short circular walk *from* Chillerton Directions: M & J Farmer

An interesting, short, circular walk that passes the lovely old church of St Olave's in Gatcombe, which is well worth a visit. There are also several old cottages to see and, maybe, a red squirrel or two. In Spring there is a carpet of Wild Garlic in the wooded area descending to St Olave's Church.

There is also some farmland on the return leg.

**Access:** Brook Lane, Chillerton PO30 3BR  
**Grid Ref:** SZ 49196 84391  
**Distance:** 2 miles      **Time:** Allow 45 minutes  
**Difficulty:** Generally an easier walk with two gentle hills  
**Terrain:** Woodland footpaths, some quiet roads and farmland.  
Some paths can be very muddy after heavy rain.  
**Stiles:** None      **Gates:** None  
**Dogs:** Advisable to be on leads through Gatcombe Village  
**Bus:** No. 6 Main Road Chillerton (Newport/Ventnor)  
**Parking:** Chillerton, Main Road  
**Bicycles:** Not suitable for footpaths on this route.  
**Toilets:** None      **Refreshments:** None

#### Route:

- A** Take footpath G8 over the brook and up Brook Lane.  
At the top of the hill carry straight on, ignoring bridleway on the left.  
Continue up hill on G11 turning left at the top and following the winding path.  
At a post in the middle of the path, descend through the wood.  
*(Spectacular carpet of wild garlic in Spring)*



- B** Arrive at St Olave's Church Gatcombe.

**St Olave's was dedicated in 1292 and served the Estur family as a chapel to Gatcombe House. Today it is noted for its stained glass windows - dating from 1865 and 1866 - by William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Ford Madox Brown and Edward Burne-Jones who were all prominent members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.**

**There is a wooden effigy of an unknown knight of the Crusades, located at the north side of the altar. The knight is carved with an angel by his head and a dog by his foot. Although there are no written records of its origin, it is old enough to have been one of the members of the Estur family.**

**The roof of the pointed, arched doorway was created in 1910 from re-used timbers from H.M.S Thunderer, a warship which fought at Trafalgar.**

**The church is mentioned in 'Isle Of Wight: Buildings of England (Pevsner Architectural Guides: Buildings of England)'.**

Leaving the church gates behind you, proceed straight ahead along the road to Gatcombe Village.

*On right, amongst tall trees, is the shortest footpath in the parish G25 (no longer marked) but good for spotting red squirrels.*



*At a cottage on the right are vintage garden items for sale.  
In the wall on the corner of Rectory lane is a Victorian post box*

Carry straight on, ignoring Rectory Lane on right, to the o pass the old Parish Hall  
*Ignore Bridleway G6 on right (opposite a seat)*

**C** At Snowdrop lane turn left, on Newbarn Lane (Byway G7b Shepherds Trail.)  
Carry on until you reach a **T** junction.

**B**

Here, turn left to follow the wide track up through Farmland on Bridleway G6  
Carry straight on uphill, (Note Chillerton Mast on the right)  
Ignoring two footpaths on the right, continue gradually downhill on G8.

At the bottom, turn right down Brook Lane to the start point.



Chillerton & Gatcombe  
Parish Council



### Gatcombe Circular Walk (including Snowdrop Lane)

Directions: R Payn

The first part of this circular route is along a flatish road, starting from the medieval church of St Olaves. It passes through the small hamlet of Gatcombe before continuing along a sunken lane. There is a gentle slope from Snowdrop Lane onto the chalk track of Bridleway G10 with views of Gatcombe and the hills behind. The final part of the route involves a descent down Rectory Lane back to Gatcombe Road and St Olave's Church.

**Access:** St Olave's Church, Gatcombe

**Grid ref:** SZ492 851

**Distance:** 2 miles      **Time:** Allow 45 minutes

**Difficulty:** A fairly easy walk with gentle hills. The first part of this walk may be walked from St Olave's Church to Garstons, and back, by those with restricted walking ability or for those who may need to use a wheelchair.

The full, circular walk has been undertaken, successfully, with a sturdy buggy.

**Terrain:** Quiet roads and wide farmland tracks.

**Stiles:** None      **Gates:** None

**Dogs:** Advisable to be on leads through Gatcombe Village.

**Bus:** No 6 (Newport/Ventnor) Close to Newport/Chillerton Road and Gatcombe Road

**Parking:** Gatcombe Road opposite St Olave's Church

**Toilets:** None      **Refreshments:** None

#### Route:

A

From St Olave's Church take the road into Gatcombe.

*On the right, hidden in the undergrowth amongst tall trees, is the shortest footpath in the parish (G25) (no longer marked) but good for spotting red squirrels. Gatcombe is a hamlet of scattered cottages and houses.*

Carry straight on, ignoring Rectory Lane on the right, and passing the old Parish Hall.

Also, ignore Bridleway G6 on right (opposite a seat)

B

At Snowdrop Lane the Gatcombe Road curves to the left to become Newbarn Lane. Here, continue straight ahead, instead, to pass Snowdrop Cottage on the left. The banks on either side of the lane soon rise and the lane continues under a tunnel of trees and bushes with much evidence of badger digging. The lane heads towards Garstons

C

At the end of the lane, with Garstons in front of, turn right onto the stony farm track. You may be able to spot an old wooden Byway sign, in the hedge next to Garstons but also look out for a yellow arrow on a post which points in the direction you need to follow. You will now be on Bridleway G10 (Unmarked)

When the hedge on the right runs out, a cross roads of paths is reached. To the left is the very old G6 Shepherd's Trail to Carisbrooke and Newport. Continue straight on to the downward chalk track, signed G10.

*To the right in the valley below you will see that you are walking in parallel with Gatcombe Village Road and its small number of houses. You should also be able to see Gatcombe Church tower.*

- D** The track comes to an end at a tarmac lane (Rectory Lane/Doctor's Lane) – unmarked). Turn right onto this lane and commence your walk downhill. Look through the trees on the left to the old Rectory, a handsome building with south facing views to Chillerton.

As you near the bottom of the lane you will cross a small stream, a tributary of the river Medina, to reach the T junction with Gatcombe Road. Turn left, past the red Victoria Regina postbox and pretty thatched cottage, then continue on the lane rising up to Saint Olave's Church gate, from where you started this walk.

