



# Walk 13

## A street walk around Milford



-  ROADS
-  ROADS
-  FOOTPATHS
-  ROUTE OF WALK
-  PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND WOODED AREAS

**Map:** OS Explorer Map 145 - Guildford & Farnham

**Start:** Milford pay & display car park

**Grid Ref:** SU950422

**Distance:** Approximately 2 miles

**Refreshments:** The Refectory, Squires Garden Centre and Café at Secrett's Farm Shop.

## Directions

Leave the car park at the top end by the doctors' surgery.

*The general store on the corner was a land army hostel during the 2nd World War and was visited by Churchill. The doctors' surgery was built in the 1960's. A separate practice was operated by a succession of doctors at Wyndham Lodge in Church Road and is now the Hurst Farm Surgery in Chapel Lane.*

Cross and stroll down Church Road noting the following buildings and passing Milford Infants School.

*You are in the Milford Conservation area. There are several listed buildings along Church Road. Chilston Cottage and the cottages adjoining it, The Dormer and The Square all date from the 16th century although all have later extensions and alterations. Some of these show the typical Surrey tile hanging and galleted sandstone (insertion of decorative ironstone into the mortar). Afton Cottage, Middle Afton and Afton End date from 1898 and were designed by the famous Surrey architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.*

The Church of St. John the Evangelist is further on around the corner.

The church was built in 1837 at a cost of £940. Milford was part of Witley Parish and the vicar at the time was the Rev. John Chandler. Milford became a separate parish in 1844. Two windows in the church were designed by Sir Edward Burne Jones. In the churchyard is the impressive mausoleum to the Webb family who lived at Milford House from the 18th century until 1926.

Cross Church Road again and continue to the roundabout, passing on the right, Jubilee Field and on the left, the pedestrian entrance to Milford Lodge estate.

*This was once the main entrance to the dower house to Milford House. The dower house, which was an imposing building in red brick, was on the site of Pilgrim Court in the estate. The entrance and the remaining mature trees are all that remain of its former glory. By the 1950's, the house had been converted into flats, one of which was reputed by its owner to be haunted. It was later demolished when the then council estate was built. The name lives on in the block of sheltered accommodation.*

*Jubilee Field was purchased by the Parish Council in 1977 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.*

At the roundabout the road joining on the right is Cherry Tree Road.

*It was used for tank exercises during the 2nd World War when the Witley/Milford commons were used as an army camp.*

Take the first exit from the roundabout onto the A283. Continue along the road to Rodborough Technology College on the left by the pedestrian traffic lights.

*The school originally occupied some of the old army huts on Rodborough Common before moving to its present site in 1960.*

Just beyond the school is a wooded area called the Pleck.

*This name is associated with plague burial grounds. During wet periods of the year a pond forms to the right of the main path through. This naturally wet area was scraped in 1996 to encourage a pond to form and provide an improved wetland habitat. The land belongs to the parish and is maintained by Witley & Milford Parish Council.*

Cross the road at the lights, go back along the main road and turn left onto Milford Heath Road.

*The impressive house on the corner of this road, Blagdon House, was the original Milford Vicarage and dates to circa 1830.*

Take the first footpath on the right into a wooded area and very soon fork right. Pass Blackhill Pond on the right and at the next junction of paths bear right. Soon after bear left away from the A283 and follow the path through to the next road (A286).

*This area known as Milford Heath is also owned by the parish. The pond was a drovers pond, one of many provided along main roads to cool the wheels of carts and shrink them back onto their rims. Cricket has been played on the green for at least a hundred years. A new pavilion opened in 2000.*

Cross the A286 with care, turn right and then left into New Road. Continue up to the end of the road passing the Baptist Church on the right.

*Opposite the church is a house called The Saddlers where, in the early 20th century, the local saddler and harness-maker, Austin Denyer, lived.*

Turn right at the end of New Road and continue along to cross Cherry Tree Road at the traffic lights and then pass Lower Moushill Lane on the left.

*This walk can be combined with walk 3 at this point.*

At the traffic lights turn right and pass St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Pharmacy on the left.

*There is an interesting ornamental iron lamp outside the pharmacy with a central red glass bullseye in each face and coloured glass patterns bearing the lettering Dispensing Chemist. It is probably Victorian.*

Continue along to reach Milford Village Hall on the right and Secrett's farm shop on the left.

*The Village Hall was built in the 1930's and was designed by the famous arts and crafts movement architect, Baillie Scott, who was also working on alterations to Rake Manor. Its frontage is unchanged although there have been subsequent extensions and internal alterations.*

A popular farmers market is held monthly at the farm shop.

At the mini roundabout bear left towards Godalming.

*At the roundabout the substantial house on the left hand side, Hill House, was the home of the Young family and has also been a tea shop. Some Milford residents know it still as 'Dr. Graham's house' as the doctor practised from it until the Milford Crossroads surgery was built.*

Further along the left hand side of the road is Meadow Close, Turnpike Cottage and Squires Garden Centre (formerly Secrett's Garden Centre).

*The Meadow Close land was a plant nursery owned by the Young family. Some of the land was also used as workshops by a local mechanic and sign-writer, John Robert Chaplin, who later became the first employee at Weyburn Engineering at Elstead.*

*Turnpike Cottage pre-dates the 18th century turnpike roads by about 200 years.*

*The Secrett family started their retail businesses in Milford in the 1970's as an adjunct to their existing farming enterprise and were a major local employer. They continue to provide employment at the farm shop and pick-your-own site.*

Cross the road to The Refectory and return to the roundabout passing Milford House and Bargate House.

*The Refectory may have started life as a barn and at various points was an antique shop and a Tea room, before becoming a pub. Milford House was the home of the Webb family, the lord of the manor, from the 18th century until 1926. In the early hours of the New Year 1983, when it was an hotel, it was severely damaged by fire. The roof, the 18th century interiors and ornate staircase were all destroyed leaving only a brick and stone shell.*

*Bargate House was one of several properties in the area which were part of the Webb estate. At one time it was a branch of Lloyds Bank; notice the bank emblem in the frosted glass above the front door. It is built of Bargate stone which has been quarried in Surrey possibly since the 12th century. The stone was used widely in the surrounding areas and was favoured because it is a highly durable stone.*

At the roundabout turn left to return to the car park.

