

Turn right out of the churchyard and follow the road on, ignoring the Priory Road cross roads and you will come to

### **St Helen's Church, Ranworth.**

A must see is the Antiphoner, an illuminated manuscript dating back to the 15th century. There is also a wonderful rood screen. For those prepared to climb the tower, the best view in the Broads awaits.

In summer a detour via the nature trail to the visitor centre and then a boat trip to the village staithe will provide a different perspective on Ranworth. Otherwise turn left out of the churchyard and walk to the village using the marked walk. At Broad Lane cross the road and take the boardwalk to the Staithe. A no through road takes you between the store and the car park bordering the north side of South Walsham Broad. At a fork in the paths, turn to the right and follow for half a mile. This joins the road on a bend; turn left into Common Lane and head for South Walsham.

When you reach a "T" junction turn left and follow the road past the Ship Public House and you will find the joint churchyard for the churches of **St Mary and St Lawrence, South Walsham** on the left. Two churches on one site is an unusual but not unique occurrence. Two parishes join here possibly because the site is high and above the risk of flooding.

**St Mary's** is a 13th/14th century church. Before entering the church take time to look at the porch which has a representation of the annunciation with Mary on the left hand side and Gabriel on the right. Between the windows above is a niche showing the coronation of the virgin. Inside the rood screen has an inscription in a mixture of Middle English and Latin seeking your prayers for John Galt, a serf freed in 1437 and his wives. Some of the windows on the south side of the church have the mark of the William Morris workshop. Also look out for the Astronomy window, a glorious blue design.

**St Lawrence's** was used for services until the 1970s when the tower collapsed and it was declared redundant. Restoration in the 1980s saw it reopen as a centre for training and the arts. It now provides a wonderful calm space. Outside is a sacristan's garden created and tended by volunteers. It is planted with herbs and scented plants that were used for medicinal purposes.

From the church turn left and walk along the road to the first crossroads. (Take the road to the left if you wish to visit Fairhaven Gardens and tea shop). Otherwise our route takes us to the right, down Hare Fen Lane, a private lane, which will lead you between meadows with grazing highland cattle. Follow the footpath sign into Hare Fen wood to the right and follow the woodland edge, emerging back onto the lane.

Turn right, signposted Austin Wood. Past a farm the lane turns into a footpath. Follow along the edge of fields and then turn left along the field boundary and then right towards the new woodland, planted in 2008 as part of a Norfolk County Council scheme. In the centre, you will find an impressive cube sundial.

Follow the path to reach the main road and cross to join the path left and then turn right and follow the track to the end. On reaching woods, turn right towards Millenium Wood either taking a wheelchair friendly path or a path slightly to the left of this to take you through a clearing to see "Burlingham Henge", a project by local children. Both paths emerge at the same point in Burlingham Green.

Turn right onto the road and walk on until the road makes a sharp turn to the right. At this point take the track signposted Jary's Wood that leads straight ahead. Go past the barns and follow the track around to the right and then left. Follow the track to enter the next woodland with a small clearing filled with wildflowers. By a belt of trees the path turns to the right through Adam's Wood before meeting the road. Turn left onto the road. From here you have fine views of Hemblington Church. Take the next road on the right to complete the walk.

## Refreshments:

### **Hemblington**

All Saints Church, Hemblington: DIY tea and coffee

### **Ranworth**

Ranworth Church Visitors Centre

### **Ranworth Staithe**

Granary Stores and Tearooms,  
The Maltsters Public House,

### **South Walsham**

The Ship Public House and Restaurant  
Fairhaven Gardens

## Toilet facilities:

All Saints Church, Hemblington  
St Lawrence's Church, South Walsham.  
St Helen's Church, Ranworth.  
Public toilets, Ranworth Staithe

For more information see :-

[www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk)

[www.broadsideparishes.org.uk](http://www.broadsideparishes.org.uk)

For information on Burlingham Woodland walks, please visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

Information on Burlingham Walks sundials  
[www.sundialtrailsoftheburlinghamwalks.wordpress.com](http://www.sundialtrailsoftheburlinghamwalks.wordpress.com)



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## **Heritage Walk 1**

### **Hemblington Church via Panxworth, Ranworth and South Walsham Churches**

#### **A circular walk taking in 5 churches**

#### **Walking 3.5 hours - add extra time to visit churches**

#### **8miles/13kms**

#### **Start : All Saints Church, Hemblington**

This is a humble church with a round tower which contains an important 15<sup>th</sup> century wall painting depicting the life of St Christopher (a good starting point for any journey!) and an octagonal font carved with 16 saints and martyrs.

The fields around the church provide a hunting ground for marsh harriers, buzzards, and barn owls. Brown hares are often seen dashing across the fields and deer are also seen. In summer listen out for yellow-hammers, skylarks and turtle doves.

Turn right out of the churchyard and walk down the hill. At the junction turn left. Just before the lay-by and the farm entrance turn right and walk uphill on a track. The farm over to the left of the track is Wood Farm, and contains the old tithe barn. Look out for alpacas in the fields.

Walk on past Jary's meadow and the hide at Walsham Fen. Turn left along the road through Panxworth. Take care as this is quite a busy road. Continue on past Panxworth Ironworks 1869 (now a home) Before reaching the road junction, turn right down the drive of Cottenham Barn. Follow the footpath sign, keeping the pond on your right and barns on your left. Then pass behind the building, following the footpath sign to reach the remains of

#### **All Saints Church, Panxworth**

The history of this ruin is quite interesting. Renovated lavishly in the Victorian era, the congregation was too small to maintain it and in the 1970s it was declared redundant. All that remained was a pretty tower, which after being struck by lightning in 2006, has been sensitively repaired.