

## Reflection and Prayer

As you embark on the final stage of The Archangel's Way, the path wanders through more gentle surroundings, small villages, winding lanes and woodland paths along the river.

We draw closer to the busyness of the world as we enter the market town of Chagford at the end of our journey.

During this final stage thoughts might turn to the lives we are returning to.

We may have travelled alone or in the company of others.

We have followed the route but what journeys have our meditations, our prayers and our conversations taken us on?

Perhaps there have been unexpected moments of clarity or comfort?

Perhaps you are simply grateful to be refreshed after some time out.



Lord of every pilgrim heart,  
bless our journeys  
on these roads  
we never planned to take, but  
through your  
surprising wisdom discovered  
we  
were  
on.

Peter Millar. A Book of Blessings (2014)



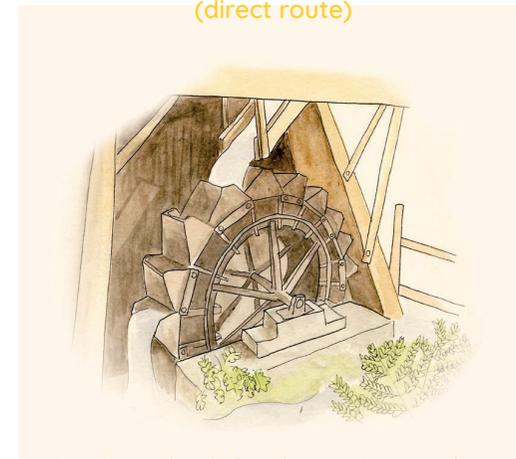
# The Archangel's Way

wander and wonder

## STAGE 5

St Mary the Virgin, Throwleigh  
to St Michael the Archangel, Chagford

(direct route)



'Look and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk in it,  
and find rest for your souls'

(Jeremiah 6:16)

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# STAGE 5

## Throwleigh to Chagford



Between Throwleigh and Chagford, there are two possible routes.

This card describes the more direct route, whereas Stage 5A (via Scorhill and Kes Tor) adds a detour via the Stone Circle and Kes Tor.

With Throwleigh Church porch at your back, take the steps up onto the grass path. This leads away from the church into the upper south east corner of the churchyard, where you exit via a metal gate.

An enclosed path takes you to some steps down to the road, where, opposite, you will see another wide track

Cross the road and take the track that will lead you to Forder along Deave Lane. This is an ancient byway (probably Death Lane) formerly used between churches and burial grounds, a "Way of the Dead". Continue until you reach the road where you turn left.

Stay on this lane until it takes you through Providence and alongside the Chapel on your left. A pleasant place to stop for a break with WC facilities to the rear.

Leaving the Chapel, shortly turn right down the footpath to Coombe.

After passing some cottages, the path joins a tarmac lane where you turn left. Cross a bridge and then turn right up a signposted track at Gidleigh Mill.

A long uphill stretch will bring you into Gidleigh where you turn right to reach the Church. This unassuming little church boasts a churchyard which is one of only a handful in the country with a watercourse flowing through it. A wonderful place to sit and reflect in almost perfect peace, save for the babbling water, the birdsong and the occasional tractor in the distance.

The church itself is beautiful in its simplicity, its glory being found in the many faithful worshippers who have gathered here over many hundreds of years.

When you can tear yourself away from this delightful spot, turn around and head back on the road, past the village hall to reach a T-junction.

Here, turn left to continue on the lane to Murchington, a small hamlet with some wonderful buildings.

Keeping straight on after the village, take the footpath on the right just as the lane forks right. This footpath is part of the new Dartmoor Way.

This path takes you down towards the River Teign, before swooping around to the left through the trees to emerge on the road to Chagford alongside Chagford Bridge.

Turn right and before crossing the bridge take the footpath through the gate on the left.

Follow the left-hand bank of the river along the well-trodden paths. Keep going, though some gates, passing the weir.

You will cross a footbridge, taking you across the fields to the right before joining the road at Rushford Bridge.

Turn right and then right again at the main road into Chagford. This will bring you into the centre where you turn left to reach the church.

St Michael the Archangel Church, Chagford is the end of The Archangel's Way.

Take time at this journey's end to reflect on the pilgrimage you have undertaken.

*What have you seen? Who have you met along the way?*

*What have you heard? What have you learnt?*

*How will this pilgrimage change your onward journey?*

May our God of the high moor,

of tor and of the singing rivers

guide you,

protect you

and inspire you

with truth, goodness and beauty

until your journey's end.

Amen

