

9. Number 2 Church Walk is a 17th century farmhouse and attached are two early 19th century cottages. Shortly after the start of the iron railings are two cottages, numbers 7 and 9. Built in 1821 these formed the original Methodist Chapel, closed in 1895 upon the completion of the new Chapel on Duffield Road. Where sections of the railings are missing it is possible to see the cut holes in the sandstone blocks, where the puddled lead which held the uprights, still shows.

10. The area near the lamp post is reputed to be the haunt of Allestree's ghost. The iron bollards at the end of Siddals Lane - otherwise known as Monks Way - were probably to prevent animals from straying into the churchyard.

Lych Gate



11. Enter the churchyard - 'Gods Acre' and follow the path round the large 1000 year old yew tree near the south porch of the church. Before reaching the yew, parallel with the seat is a small sandstone memorial dated 1702. This is the churchyard's oldest known headstone. St. Edmund's church dates from around 1200AD although there were possibly earlier chapels on the site. Most of the existing building dates from 1865/6 when the church was largely rebuilt. It is worth looking at the tower and the Norman doorway. If you wish to enter the church, it is normally left open during the day.

12. From the porch, take the path which starts under the yew tree and goes through a gap in the south boundary wall (close to the grave of the Rev Frith, the first vicar of St. Edmund's). This old track is reputed to have been used by the monks of Darley Abbey to reach The Chapelry of St. Edmund's. Although this is not a public right-of-way it may be used to leave the Churchyard.

13. Follow the path down to Kings Croft, turn right and cross St. Edmund's Close to the triangle. This contains the old school built in 1854 and now converted into houses. Keeping the school on the right, walk clockwise around the triangle. From the junction with Robin Croft Road the Allestree Recreation Ground can be seen on the left. A plaque on the Recreation Ground gatepost commemorates the giving of the land to the villagers by the Gisborne family. It reads:

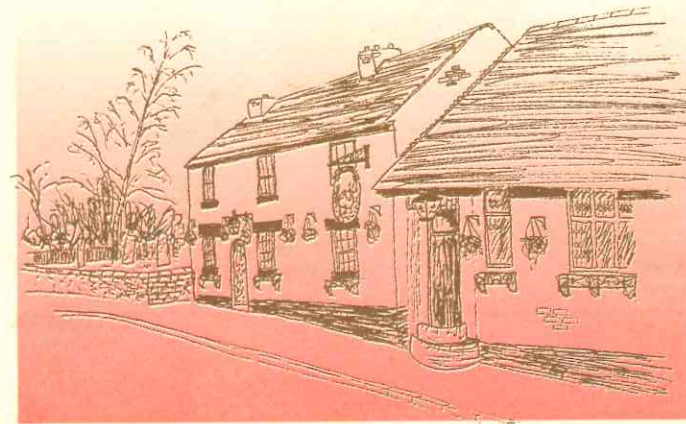
This Ground was presented to the
Parish of Allestree by
Col. L.G. Gisborne C.M.G. &
Captain Guy Gisborne M.C.
as a Memorial to the Men of this Village
who gave their lives in
The Great War 1914-1918
and whose names are inscribed on the
memorial in the Churchyard

Looking over the bowling green can be seen more evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

14. Turn sharp right around the school and continue to the 'T' junction. Opposite is the Red Cow Inn. Its original section, to the left, is late 18th century in origin and is characterized by the dog tooth eaves and sash windows. To the side of the door is a free standing wrought iron foot scraper. The village stocks once stood nearby and the mortuary is believed to have been behind the Inn.

15. Continue towards the church. The eye-catching lych gate has a shingle roof surmounted by a 'cross fleurie'. The cottages on the right are late 18th or 19th century and, opposite, numbers 11 to 19 a range of late 18th century buildings. Note where the post box used to be on the wall of no. 13. The Memorial Hall on the corner, once known as the Village Institute, was given to the parishioners by Sir Henry Raphael in 1904.

Red Cow Inn



16. Turn left, back along Cornhill, keeping to the footpath, pass the car park entrance and continue for about 50 yards to the group of three buildings on the left. The thatched Yew Tree cottage, the furthest building, is thought to be 17th century although the cast iron window frames are more recent. The three storey house to the left is believed to be an old farmhouse dating from the early 18th century. Between the two, Eliza's Cottage with its stone mullion windows dates from around 1800 and used to be the schoolmaster's house.

You can now return to the car park and maybe explore the natural beauties of Allestree Park.

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Allestree Village Walk



The Parish Church of St. Edmund

Allestree Local Studies Group