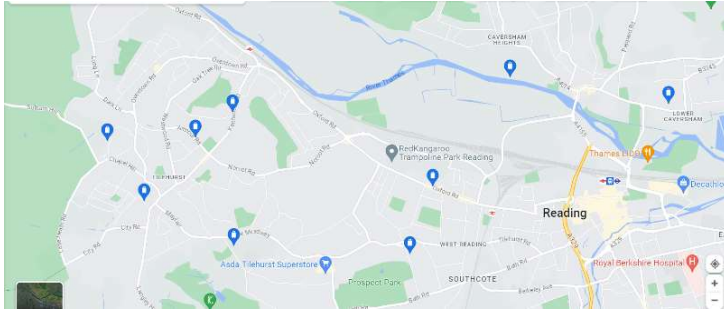


A Walk from Caversham to Tilehurst



Part 1: Caversham

Start in Caversham (on the right of the map shown above) at the **Church of St John the Baptist**, *below left*, in St John's Road (RG4 8EB), built in 1887-88 to designs by G. Fitzwilliam and Edward Prioleau Warren. Walk westwards along Gosbrook Road and you will pass first **Caversham Methodist Church**, *below centre*, built in 1898 to designs by local architect (and sometime County Surveyor) Joseph Morris, and then, on the corner of Gosbrook Road and Prospect Street, **Caversham Baptist Church** (RG4 8LB), *below right*, designed in 1876 by Alfred Waterhouse, the architect of Reading Town Hall.



Carry on into Church Street, turn right at the lights, and after passing the old gateway into Caversham Court Gardens, a footpath on the left will take you to **St Peter's Church**, *below left* (RG4 7TH), the original medieval parish church of Caversham, and containing work from all periods from the 12th century to the 20th. Exit from the churchyard into The Warren and turn right towards St Peter's Hill. Almost opposite (slightly to the right) is a footpath to The Mount. At the end of The Mount turn left into Albert Road. In half a mile you will reach **St Andrew's Church**, *below centre* (RG4 7PL), designed in 1910 by local architects James Haslam and Frederick Ravenscroft.



Turn left into Harrogate Road, and at the end left again into Woodcote Road. This will take you back to Caversham centre; on the way you will pass the red-brick **Caversham Heights Methodist Church** (RG4 7BG), *above right*, designed by William Ravenscroft (father of the Frederick we met earlier) in 1908. Back in Caversham, cross Caversham Bridge into Reading for the second half of our walk.

Part 2: Reading and Tilehurst

This starts at Emmanuel Methodist Church, 448 Oxford Road (RG30 1EE) which is a couple of miles away on foot – or you can take the bus!

On foot: walk over Caversham Bridge. At the roundabout beyond it, turn right, along Richfield Avenue. Continue under the railway bridges (by now the road has become Cow Lane), and when you reach the mini roundabout, veer left into Beresford Road. At the end, turn right into Oxford Road. The church is a little less than half a mile along, just beyond Battle Library.

By bus: catch the bus (service 22 or 23) to Reading Station, and change there for a bus (service 15 or 16) along Oxford Road. Alight at West Village/Tesco.



Emmanuel Methodist Church, *left*, is a new church, built in 2005 to replace two previous west Reading churches, Oxford Road Church and Elm Hall. It was designed by Alastair Watson.



After Emmanuel, carry on along the Oxford Road a little further until you reach Wantage Road, on your left. Walk up here, turn left into St George's Road at the end, and you will shortly reach **English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church** (RG30 2EB), *left*, a striking red-brick building of 1925/26, in an Italianate style with a lofty campanile, designed by J.H. and W. C. Mangan.

Your route now takes you along Tilehurst Road (with Prospect Park on your left) and The Meadway for about 1.5 miles. Just after the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints you will reach Routh Lane (on the left). A short way down here is **St Michael's Church** (RG30 4JX), *below left*, a medieval church much restored by G.E. Street in the nineteenth century. Return to The Meadway and continue walking west. A little way after the junction with St Michael's Road (a roundabout) a lane on your right leads up to **The Gate Community Church** at 384 The Meadway (RG30 4NX), *below right*.



Carry on along The Meadway. At the end turn left into Park Lane, and almost immediately right into Berkshire Drive, where you will find **St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church** (RG31 5JJ), *below left*, a modern building opened in 1976. Not far away is another modern church, **St Catherine of Siena**, with its beehive-like tower (Wittenham Avenue, RG31 5LN), *below right*. To reach this continue down Berkshire Drive, turn left and immediately right into Warborough Avenue, and take the second left.



Retrace your steps to Park Lane. Turn left, walk past Park Lane Primary School until you reach **Tilehurst Methodist Church** in School Lane (RG31 5WJ), *below left*. Shortly after this turn left down Armour Road to find the delightful **Tilehurst URC Church** (RG31 6HN), *below centre*, designed by the Reading architects Charles Smith and Son in 1888. Return to School Lane and turn left into Kentwood Hill. Our last stop is **St Mary Magdalene's Church** (RG31 3DR), *below right*, dating from 1962 with later additions.



This walk is around 11.5 miles in total (if you walk all the way) and takes in 15 churches if you tick off all those mentioned which is helpful if you are being sponsored per church visited. They may not all be architectural gems but are important centres in their communities and it is an interesting and enjoyable walk nevertheless!