

Gough Walks no. 5. From here to eternity

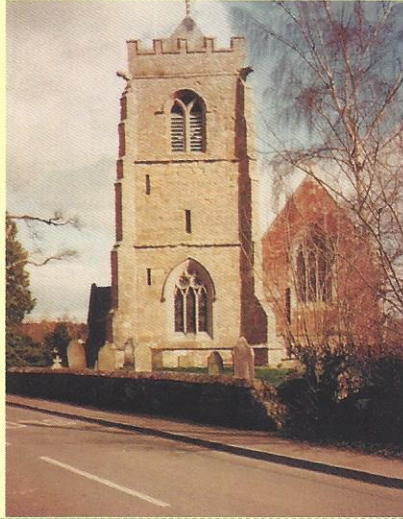


Richard Gough was Churchwarden of Myddle Church, such a quiet, peaceful place or so one would think. One of the Rectors (at the time of the Civil Wars) was a Dr. Richardson. "When he preached he always wore a dagger at his girdle under his upper garment."

Ownership of the pews could also be contentious!

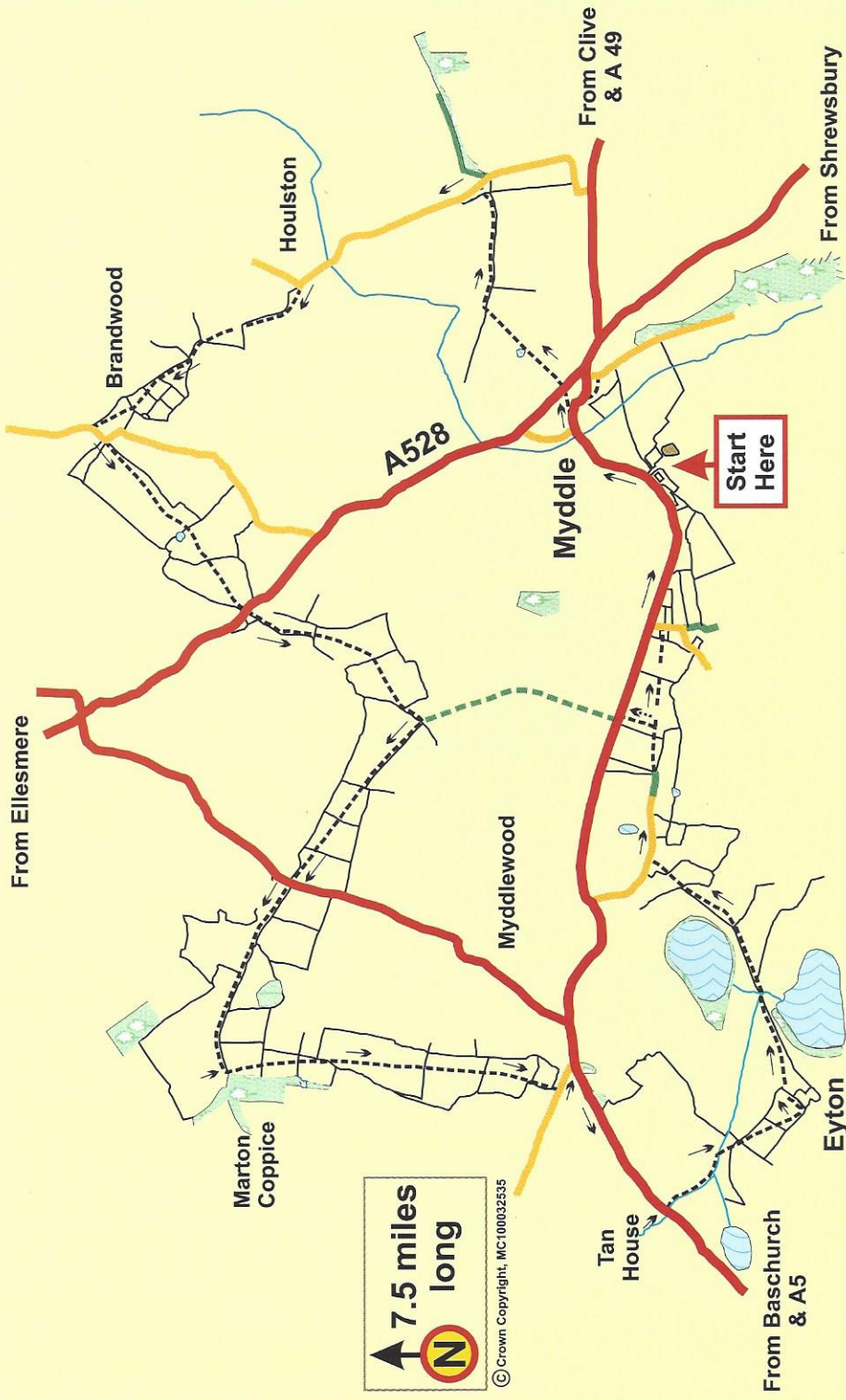
"there happened a difference beetweene John Downton, of Alderton, and William Formeston, about the right of kneeling in the sixth peiw on the south side of the north isle, and John Downton putt a locke on the pew dore, butt William Formestone, at Marton, who claimed a share in that seate, came on the Lord's day following, and giveing the peiw dore a suddaine plucke, broake off the locket."

On our walk today we will hear of love, murder and intrigue.



When Gough was in school at Broughton, there was a very dull boy in the class who lived in Houlston, of whom the teacher (Mr. Sugar) said, "hee had noe gutts in his braines, but it seems hee had geare in his britches, for hee got one of his uncle's servant maids with child"

The same family in Houlston included a young man called James. He fell in love with a sister of his next-door neighbour, a beautiful gentlewoman of good parts and education. James' father wouldn't agree to the match, and did what he could to stop it. But "love will cause boldness though attended with danger, for this young James was endeavouring to come to his Mistress, and passing through some out buildings that he might not be seen, he got a fall and broke his thigh and died."



From Ellesmere

Brandwood

Houlston

A528

Myddle

Myddlewood

Marton
Coppice

Tan
House

From Baschurch
& A5

Eyton

From Clive
& A 49

From Shrewsbury

Start
Here

7.5 miles
long

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Park in the lane beside the Church. Walk down through the village, past village hall and pub, before taking the footpath which you see straight ahead. (The road curves to the right at the foot of Myddle Hill - you don't!) Over the A528, through the kissing gate and cross the field. In the next field turn right. At the end of the field go through the copse and turn left. Pass Houlston Manor cross over Myddle Brook and soon you will come to a stile on your left hand side. Cross this and a number of other stiles until you come to Brandwood. Go past the house, then over two stiles into a lane.

Turn left, then in a short distance cross a stile facing you. Keep going across these fields to the main Shrewsbury / Ellesmere Road. Cross the road and climb the stile to the left of the house called Greenfields. Go through this narrow field then over another stile and bridge. Cut diagonally across this field to a stile and sleeper bridge. In the next field you will find a hard surface track coming up from Myddlewood Farm (four fields meet at this point). Turn right and go through five small fields to the Baschurch to Burliton Road.

Cross the road and cut across the fields (keeping the hedge on your left) to the corner of a small wood called Marton Coppice. At the wood turn left and follow the bridleway that takes you 3/4 mile through fields to Marton. At the road turn left and after 100 metres turn right towards Baschurch along the B4397

Proceed with caution along this road until you come to the Tan House, on your right hand side, in a dip, by a brook. The Public Footpath is back up the road 50 metres with a stile at the top of a bank opposite a smallholding. There is, however a permissive footpath through the gate opposite the Tan House. Follow the brook across this field until you reach a sleeper bridge. Cross it, and climb diagonally to your left towards Eyton Farm. Just short of the farm turn left in front of an old chicken shed. After passing the shed, cross the stile and cut diagonally to the long hedge, keeping it to your right. At the corner of this field there are three gates and a stile. Cross over the stile and keeping the hedge on your left hand side continue (over stiles and bridges) until you come to a narrow lane.

Turn right along the lane, into a green lane, then at the end just keep going. There are several choices now. You can either follow one of the footpaths to your left, to the Myddle - Baschurch road, or keep going, until you pass through a chicken run, into a minor road. Turn left, and then in 50 metres you join the Myddle road, again. Turn right, and in ten minutes you will be back at the church!

Myddle Wood, between Myddle and Marton, was such a stately wood, that, it was said, a man might have gone along the road from Myddle almost to Marton, on a bright sunny day, and would not have seen the sun for the branches and leaves of trees, above three times in that space of ground. This wood was felled in the time of the Darbys.

Native wit was found in Myddle. Richard Clarke lived in Myddle Wood. In the Civil War whilst still a boy he joined the Parliament side. He carried letters to spies in the enemy camp. He put on an old ragged coat, and went as a beggar boy. He took a short stick with a hole bored in the end to hide the letters and a peg to seal it. "and that end he putt in the dirt." If he met soldiers, he would throw his stick at birds, so that it went over the hedge, and then run to get it. When he came to the opposing Garrison, he would 'beg' from door to door until he came to the place where he was to deliver the letter. He would tell the maid he wanted to speak to her Master, for a friend. When the Master came, he would give him his stick, and go to clean the stable until the master brought his stick, and then return, begging as before.

"There is a little brook on the West side of Myddle parish which rises near Petton, and passing on the Southeast, it divides Myddle parish, from Baschurch parish, and comes over cross the lane that leads from Marton to Weston Lullingfield, from this lane it passes through meadows (still parting the said parishes) and comes to a lane that leads from Marton to Baschurch, at which place it has got the name of the old Mill Brook. For it is likely that a mill stood here formerly, but now there is onely a tan house, which was first erected by Richard Acherley, great grandfather of Andrew Acherley now living." (1700)

Eyton - A murderer's dog.

Hugh Elks knew that a neighbour who lived in Eyton had a lot of money in the house. So, with others, wearing masks, came to Eyton one Sunday morning. They entered the house and found a servant maid who was making cheese. Elks tried to tie her up but she saw under his mask, and said, "Good Uncle Elks, do mee noe harme." Upon which he pulled out his knife and cut her throat. His gang fled away to Baschurch, and Elks, seeing he was alone, fled likewise and took no money, but in his haste, shut the door after him and left his dog in the house. He ran to Petton Church.

"When people came from (Myddle) Church to Eyton, they found the girl dead, and Elks' dogge in the house almost bursted with eating the cheese. They followed the dogge, who brought them to Elks his house, and upon this, Elks was apprehended on suspicion. The next day the Coroner summoned his inquest, and Elks stifly denied the fact, alledging that hee was at Petton Church that morning; but a servant maid of John Ralphe's of Marton witnessed, that shee heard the town feild gate at Marton clapp, and lookeing through a window out of her master's house, shee saw Elks comeing from that gate about the mydle of service time. But Elks pretended that it was impossible to see the town feild gate through any window in that house; and thereupon the whoale Jury came from Eyton to Marton, and then the mayd shewed them through the window the town feild gate, and thereupon the Jury found him guilty of the murder. Hee was after found guilty upon his tryall att Shrewsbury, and was hanged. Thus ended the family of the Elks in this parish."