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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Start/End      | Car park at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Whixall |
| Grid reference | SJ 51779 34808                                     |
| Distance       | Approximately 3.5 miles                            |
| Time           | Approximately 1.5 hours                            |
| Terrain        | Flat walking on mainly quiet lanes                 |

**St Mary's Church of England:** Red brick with sandstone, a brass plaque in the chancel records that the church was built in 1867 in recognition of John Allen, Vicar of Prees and Archdeacon of Salop. Note the hexagonal font dated 1608. The churchyard has two Commonwealth war graves, one from each World War.

From the car park, turn right, passing Whixall Social Centre, then turn right at the end of Church Lane. Go straight on at the Braynes Hall turning. At the Bostock Hall crossroads, turn right (signposted Welsh End, Whixall Moss and Whixall School) and right again at the T junction (signposted Whitchurch).

*Bostock Hall was built around 1550 by Robert and Anne Bostock, but the site is much older being the site of a manorial house from the period 1200-1400. The Hall was demolished in the 1960s.*

You will soon reach the red brick of Welsh End Chapel on your right.

**Welsh End Methodist Chapel:** The first chapel on this site was built in 1829 on a piece of land purchased from The Pheasant Inn for five shillings, followed by a number of re-builds (the first in 1859) and renovations during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The chapel has its own burial ground. A pipe organ was installed in 1957.

Continue for another 100 yards or so, and turn right immediately after the telephone box and post box. On the right is Rowan Cottage.

*This is where the first Methodist meeting took place in Welsh End. In 1822 some young people were on their way to a Camp Meeting at Waterloo when a terrible storm came over and they got drenched. They turned into a "Preaching House" at Welsh End, now Rowan Cottage, to dry their clothes by a peat fire before journeying on to the meeting at Waterloo. From this Meeting requests were made for Services to be held in Welsh End.*

At the top of this lane, turn left onto Sandy Bank, and then right at the next junction.

This brings you into Hollinwood. On the right, opposite the community notice board and picnic bench is the former Hollinwood Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, currently being converted into a house. Opposite the green, turn right towards Stanley Green. Continue down this road and after Higher House Farm buildings, you will see the United Reformed Church.



**United Reformed Church (now closed):** In 1870, the present congregational chapel replaced the old chapel built in 1805. The two chapels were built at right angles to each other. A quirky historical fact is that this chapel was one of the first buildings in Whixall to benefit from electricity. In 1931, some 35 years before electricity was available throughout Whixall, the chapel happened to be close to an electric cable (belonging to the North Wales Electricity Board) which ran from Whitchurch to Wem. The chapel has a lovely rose window above the entrance and some interesting graves in its well-tended churchyard.

From here, continue past the large oak tree on your right and take the next right to a mini-roundabout. Go straight over; into Church Lane once again, continue past Windmill Gardens and you will soon be back at your car.



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