

WALK 3

OLD RECTORY LOOP

0.8 miles/1.3 km : 20-40 minutes

generally level, 3 stiles



- 1 From the Crown & Anchor pub car park turn left onto the road heading towards Buttermere. Immediately on the left is the 16th century Rose Cottage with its later well-winding gear outside it. Twenty metres further on turn right along Church Lane. Thirty metres further on there is a public bridleway sign to the right. Turn right through the gate marked Humphrey's gate, unless you decide to view the church, after which visit return to the gate.

The church was built by Henry of Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror and powerful Bishop of Winchester, who owned the village. The tower of the church is reputed to have been built in 1349 as a thanksgiving for the village surviving the Black Death.

- 2 Cross to the gate on the far side of the field and turn right onto the track known as Field Lane. After about 70m you reach the tarred road into Ham. Take care crossing the road to the stile immediately opposite.
- 3 Cross the stile and continue slightly right on a less distinct path (to the right of the farm track that runs diagonally across the field) 100m to another stile. Cross the stile and enter the beautiful wooded grounds of the 17th century Old Rectory. The rectory was sold by the church in 1933 and is a private residence. Follow the path skirting to the left of the pond ahead of you and stay on the path to the left, until it meets another stile.
- 4 Cross the stile and continue along the farm track to your right across the field until it meets another track.
- 5 Turn right following the track to the tarred Spray Road, where you turn right to head back to the Crown & Anchor.