

Start from the Market Place (for details see Walk 1). Walk down East St Helen Street to St Helen's Wharf.



From St Helen's Wharf [St Helen's Church](#) is on your right. It was built close to the confluence of the Ock and the Thames. It grew from a 13th century tower, nave and north aisle by the addition of further aisles, making it wider than it is long. The Lady Chapel has a remarkable medieval painted ceiling.



Walk along the river as far as the entrance into the churchyard next to [The Old Anchor](#) pub and enter the churchyard. [St Helen's Churchyard](#) is unique in containing three sets of almshouses.



[Long Alley](#) almshouses on the west side are the oldest and date from 1446. They were built by the Fraternity of the Holy Cross soon after it gained its charter. The thirteen rooms and central hall were accessed from an external gallery. The paintings are early 17th century and are by [Sampson Strong](#).



[Twitty's Almshouses](#) on the north side date from 1707. Charles Twitty, originally from Abingdon, left the money to build them in his will to house three men and three women.



[Brick Alley](#) almshouses on the south side date from 1718. They were built by Christ's Hospital, a major Abingdon charity, to replace much earlier almshouses on the same site and accommodated eighteen people. (The number of rooms is apparent from the windows overlooking the Wharf.)

All three sets of almshouses are still in use today though the accommodation has been modernised.



The [organ blowing chamber](#) is near Brick Alley. It was built in 1927 to house the electric fan that supplied air to the organ. The design by the Abingdon architect [J G T West](#) closely echoes that of Brick Alley.

Leave the churchyard by the archway entrance near the church tower and turn left up West St Helen Street. The area immediately to your left was once occupied by a major 19th century clothing factory owned by [John Creemer Clarke](#).



On your right you will pass [No. 48](#), one of the few surviving early houses in the street.

To return to the Market Place continue up West St Helen Street, then turn right into the High Street and continue to the County Hall.

We'd welcome your comments on this walk. Please give your feedback [here](#).