

Start from the Market Place (for details see Walk 1). Walk up Stert Street.



[Stert Street](#) is one of the very early streets in Abingdon. Pre-Roman remains have been found in the area. It is named after the River Stert, a watercourse that is now culverted but originally ran along the east side of the street. The [culverted river](#) now runs under the pavement and part of the roadway on the east side of the street.



[St Nicolas' Church](#) will be on your right. It was built by the Abbey just outside the Abbey precinct towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century to provide a place of worship for the Abbey's servants and tenants.



[No. 3](#), on your right, close to [St Nicolas' Church](#) and the Market Place, was originally built by Abingdon Abbey in about 1470 as part of a development just outside the precinct wall.

The blue plaque on No. 39 on your right (Masons) commemorates [John Alder](#) 'the lucky cooper' and his spectacular lottery win in 1767.

The Oxfam shop on your left was once the headquarters of the corn and coal merchants [R S Langford and Sons](#). Their name is still above the shop front.



On your left you will pass [No. 52](#) also known as The Knowl. The façade is an 18<sup>th</sup> century re-fronting of a much earlier building. It was the home and office of the architect [J G T West](#) for over 45 years from 1885.

At the T-junction turn right up the Vineyard. The name denotes the area that was once the medieval Abbey's vineyard. Hidden behind the buildings on your left is what is now the [Fitzharris Estate](#), a residential development built in the grounds of Fitzharris House, now demolished.

On your left you will pass St John's Almshouses, built in 1801 to replace the earlier building on the Guildhall site when that was taken over by the school.



The Catholic church of [Our Lady and St Edmund](#) is on the north side of the junction with the Radley Road, with the associated school buildings extending up the Oxford Road. The church, cloister and presbytery, which you can see from the Radley Road, were completed by 1865 and the first school buildings by 1862. The architects were [William Wilkinson Wardell](#) followed by George Goldie. [Sir George Bowyer](#) was the major donor.



To reach the ruins of [Barton Court](#), burnt down during the Civil War, turn right down the Radley road and right again into Audlett Drive. At the pelican crossing turn left down the footpath which soon opens into a carpark. Cross this bearing right and turn right by the notice 'Nos. 28 -45'. The ruins are in the green space to your left beyond the trees.

Retrace your steps to return to the Market Place. .

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