

Penrhys Pilgrimage Way Llandaff to Radyr



Start: West Door, Llandaff Cathedral (CF5 2LA)

End: Windsor Road, Radyr (CF15 8BQ)

Distance: 2.5 miles / 4km

1. From the West Door of Llandaff Cathedral, go up the steps and turn right, going gently downhill along the lane. Go past the white building, Prebendal House.
2. You reach a turning point. Turn left into a wide path. This is the old Pilgrims Route. You will pass two benches that are set into the wall. In later centuries, this path was called Ffordd y Meirw (the Road of the Dead) because people from Llandaff North would carry their loved ones' bodies along it to be buried at the Cathedral.
3. Keep going until you see an old set of steps (hardly ever used) and the path going upwards. There is a sign at the top, with one arm pointing to Llandaff North. If you want to see Llandaff weir, you make a small diversion when you get to the top of the path. You turn hard right and follow the path a short way, until you can see the weir. When you are ready to return to the route, retrace your steps to the sign for Llandaff North.
4. At the sign, follow the larger path to continue walking parallel to the Taff. The path turns sharply left alongside the boundary of the Llandaff Rowing Club. This leads up to Bridge Road.
5. Turn right when you reach Bridge Road, cross the driveway to the Rowing Club and immediately after this, turn right again into a field and follow the path along the riverbank. The path passes a short, narrow track which takes you to the river side if you want to just stand and experience the view. Retrace your steps to the path.
6. Continue along the path, which passes two benches and returns you to Bridge Road.
7. Turn right.
8. You need to cross the road to enter Radyr Court Road. To do so safely, you can carry on over the river bridge and you will find a set of steps on your right which leads to an underpass. Or you can go a little further and use the zebra crossing.
9. Walk along Radyr Court Road. When the road curves to the left after about 650 yards (600m) by Gerddi Taf (Taff's Gardens), continue straight on, with the riverbank on your right. Shortly after you pass Gerddi Taf, the character of Radyr Court Road changes, becoming more rural. The road turns left just before a railway bridge.
10. Walk up the hill past Ty Isaf (Lower House). There is a motorcycle barrier across the road. Turn right into a footpath just before this barrier. If you wish to visit the Radyr Court Inn on Danescourt, continue up the lane, past the barrier. This road is an old path said to have been used by pilgrims. This lane is one of the best examples of a sunken or hollow lane in Wales. It

may have been eroded away by the constant passage of travellers or it may have been created to be at a lower level. The lane takes you to Danescourt Way. Cross over it to find the Radyr Court Inn and some shops, including a Post Office. The Danescourt stamp for the Penrhys Pilgrimage Passport is available in the Post Office. Radyr Court Inn is where the Mathew family used to put pilgrims up on the first evening of their pilgrimage. They were all fed. Depending on their social status, they were offered a bed or the barn to sleep in. The Mathew family were very influential in Llandaff, Radyr and Creigiau when the Penrhys Pilgrimage was most active. If you only wanted a short walk from Llandaff, there is a bus stop on Danescourt Way. To continue the walk, retrace your steps, cross the motorcycle barrier and turn left into the footpath.

11. Continue for about half a mile (500m). You will pass the site of the old Radyr Quarry, which was the source for Radyr Stone (a red Triassic conglomerate) from which many of Llandaff's historic buildings were constructed.
12. The path enters De Braose Close.
13. Almost immediately, turn right up some shallow steps and continue straight on. You will enter the Hermit Wood Local Nature Reserve. If you stop just after passing a wide footpath to your left, you will see the River Taff below you. You are walking on top of the river cliff. It is believed that a hermit called Tylyguay had a cell here near the Holy Well, Pistyll Golau. Legend has it that the well was created by St Cadog. The well has been hidden to protect it.
14. When you come to a Y-shaped junction, go left up the slope and continue left by a bench. You will have entered Radyr Woods.
15. Continue to a Radyr Woods Information Board. Just beyond the Information Board is an entrance on your right into Woodfield Avenue.
16. Turn right onto Woodfield Avenue. At the end, cross the road (Heol Isaf) and go into Radyr Farm Road. If you need to use a zebra crossing, when you come to Heol Isaf turn left and go up the hill towards Radyr Comprehensive School. Before you enter Radyr Farm Road, stop to look down Heol Isaf and spot Castell Coch in the distance. If you want your Passport stamped, Christchurch has one of the Radyr stamps and it is about 200 yards (180m) down the road from Radyr Farm Road. Retrace your steps to Radyr Farm Road.
17. Walk up Radyr Farm Road. Continue straight for about 200 yards (180m), crossing Clos Parc Radyr.
18. Turn right on a footpath just before a gate and stile. This takes you to Plas-Y-Mynach (The Monks Hall). Cross the road, and then go left to enter Llantarnam Drive, keeping the park to your right. Almost immediately, turn right into Drovers Way. Llantarnam Drive was named because of the link with the Penrhys Pilgrimage and the Cistercian Abbey at Llantarnam. Penrhys was a grange for the Abbey. A grange is an outlying farm belonging to a monastery.
19. Follow Drovers Way until it turns sharp left and take the footpath on the right between the houses.

20. At the end, you reach Windsor Road. Go left here to proceed to the next stage of the route.

To return to Llandaff, turn right and go down Windsor Road onto Heol Isaf. There are bus stops along Heol Isaf and you will find them whether you turn left or right. You need to be on the other side of the road to catch a bus going to Llandaff. To return to Cardiff Central Station, cross Heol Isaf and enter Station Road. Follow it down to the Railway Station.

With thanks to Janet Sully and all who contributed to mapping the route.

Reviewed: 28/02/2020