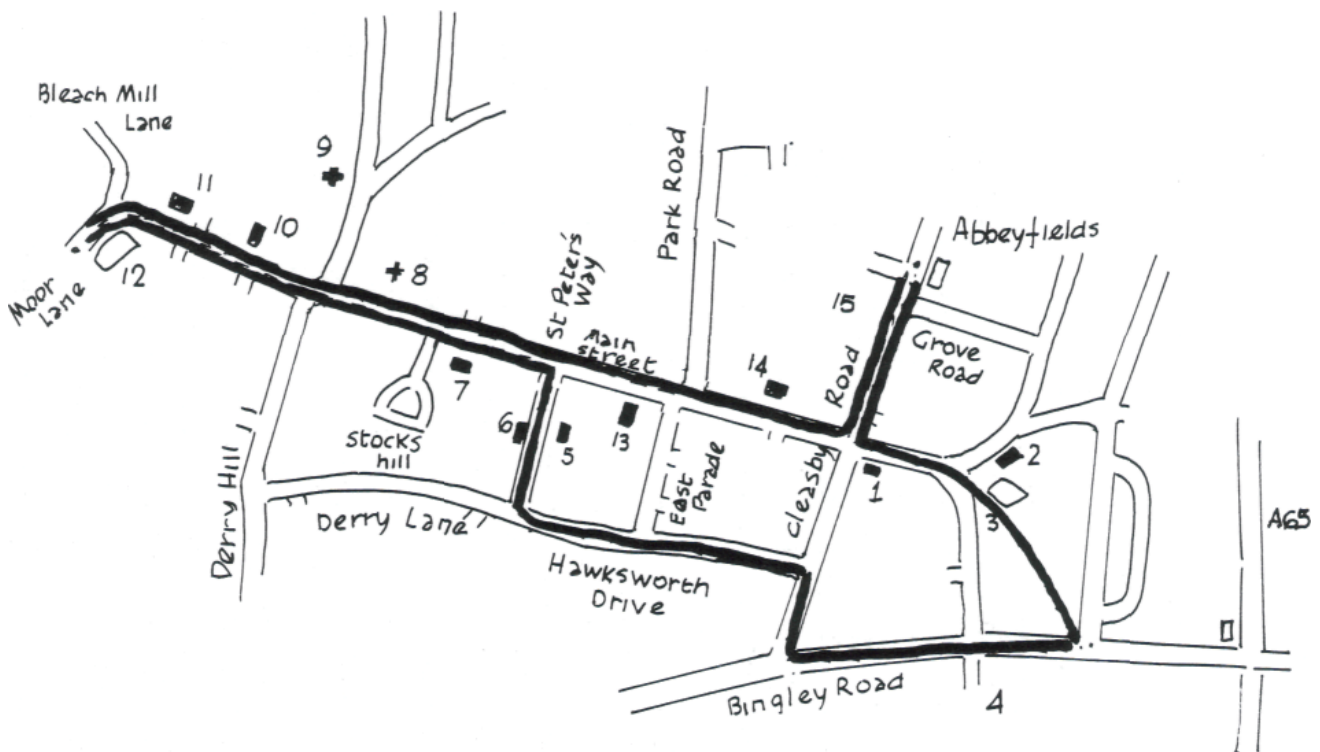


## Walk No 8: Menston Village

This walk is approximately 0.5 miles



This Short walk around parts of the village has been added to give an alternative to the more rugged countryside routes. It has been designed and tested with wheelchair users in mind, keeping as far as possible to the level. Included below the directions are some snippets of history relating to the buildings and sites passed on the way.



Menston's Two Methodist Churches - 1850, 1886

This walk starting from Abbeyfields in Cleasby Road takes you left into Main Street (1). Crossing Farnley Road into the park (2, 3) follow the path diagonally across the park.

Turn right and follow the boundary wall to the junction of Bingley Road and Main Street (4), cross into Bingley Road.

Take the first right into Cleasby Road and first left into Hawksworth Drive passing behind the school. Turn right into St Peter's Way (5, 6)

following the school boundary at the junction with Main Street turn left towards the older part of the village.

On the left you pass the old school house (7) a little further and on your right you pass the Methodist Chapel – above (8). Continue on passed the local pubs, the Parish Church (9), Fairfax Hall – left (10) passing the Fairfax Club towards Grange Farm (11) ending this part of the walk in Butterfield Gardens (12).



Retrace your steps back along Main Street and past the junction with St Peters Way passing in front of the school (13). On the left is the Library and Kirklands Community Centre (14). Continue along Main Street and turn left into Cleasby Road past 'Miss Porritts Field' (15) and back to Abbeyfields.

### Historic notes

- 1) Menston Pharmacy has been in existence for over 100 years. It celebrated its centenary in 1998.
- 2) Menston Hall This site was the original location of a Chapel of Ease for the church in Otley. In William the Conquerors time the administration for Menston was based here (known as Low Hall). It has been rebuilt several times. The Butterfield family purchased the property in 1914. In 1939 Clifford Butterfield converted the stables into an ambulance depot and allowed the hall to be used by the WRVS. It is now converted into sheltered accommodation for retired people.
- 3) The Playground Menston Community Association helped establish a group that raised funds to refurbish the equipment and surface in consultation with Bradford Parks and Recreation Department.
- 4) High Royds Hospital Ascough Fawkes sold the land to the West Riding County Council in 1896. The hospital took 2 years to build at a cost of £350,000. Between 1886 and 1901 the population of the hospital rose from 745 to nearly 2,000 patients.
- 5) Menston Primary School This more recent building was opened in 1967 as an Infants School with its own head teacher. More recently it has amalgamated with the junior school to form Menston Primary School.
- 6) St Peters Way apartments On the site formerly occupied by Heather Court. Heather Court was originally a residential home for older people, then a resource centre providing a range of services for the elderly.
- 7) The Old School House Built in 1831 by the Wesleyans as a Sunday/Day School and

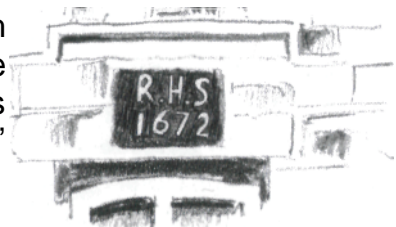
served as the Village Hall. It ceased to be a day school in 1894 when the new Elementary (now Primary) School was built. It continued as a Village Hall until 1907 and a Sunday School until 1933.

8) Methodist Chapel Built in 1886 to replace the first church erected by the Weslyans in 1826.

9) St Johns Parish Church Opened for worship in 1871 costing approximately £1000.

10) Fairfax Hall Originally Menston Old Hall, home of the Brear family before it came into the hands of Charles Fairfax in 1627. The hall remained in the Fairfax family until 1762 when ownership passed to the Hawksworths' and Fawkes with various tenants including Jennings and Popplewell. In 1896 Joshua Hart, son of the vicar of Otley who made extensive renovations and renamed it Fairfax Hall, bought the property.

11) Grange Farm The house was built for a high ranking church official, Robert Hitch, Dean of York and his wife Sarah; hence the carved stone over the door "RHS" date 1672. The end wall has bricked up windows as a result of the "Window tax" introduced in the reign of William and Mary (1689-1702).



12) Butterfield Gardens Named after the Butterfield family who at one time live in the nearby Roseville, later they moved to Menston Hall.

13) Menston Primary School Opened in 1894 as the New Board School. The building and furnishings cost £4900. In 1902 the West Riding County Council took over the running of the schools and they became known as Menston Council Schools.

14) Kirklands Community Centre Formally Fourness House. During the late 19th century the Exley family occupied the house. Prior to this the house and adjacent small holding belonged to Miss Mary Rhodes, her grandfather purchased the property from Tobias Fourness a yeoman of Wakefield.

15) 'Miss Porritts Field' Miss Porritt came to live in Menston in the late 1920's. As a permanent memorial to her parents, she gave this field to the village to be kept as an open space. It was later taken into Legal Trust, to be kept in perpetuity in memory of her parents. A rowan tree has been planted in the corner of the field in remembrance of Miss Porritt.