

Start from the Market Place (for details see Walk 1). Walk down the High Street and then Ock Street as far as Conduit Road.



Turn right up Conduit Road. Set into the wall of [Tomkins Almshouses](#) on your left is the Carswell fountain. It was built in 1719 in Ock Street, close to the other side of the almshouses, and water collected on the higher ground to the north was fed to it to [supply](#) this part of town. It was in use until 1874 and originally contained a tin-coated copper basin. The fountain was moved here in 1947. Carswell is an obsolete name for a watercress stream.



Continue up Conduit Road. On your left you will pass an infants' school built in 1865 and designed by the young architects Dolby and Spencer. [Trinity Church](#), on your right, was built in 1873 as the new Wesleyan Methodist church to replace an earlier smaller building in Ock Street. It was designed by the Reading-based architect W H Woodman.

Continue to the junction with Park Road. What you see ahead was open fields until 1859 and was largely in the ownership of Christ's Hospital, the major local charity. Now, across the road, you see the start of Albert Park on your left and the grounds of Abingdon School on your right. The development of this area followed a reform of Christ's Hospital's charter.

A school had been associated with the [Abbey](#). It was re-founded by John Roysse in 1563 with a schoolroom in what is now the [Guildhall](#) and moved to its present site in 1870 in buildings designed by Edwin Dolby.



Cross to Park Crescent ahead of you and continue a short distance to the [Conduit House](#) on your left. This small stone building once housed a cistern for collecting the water from one or more of the local springs. For over 150 years it fed the Ock Street Carswell fountain but it is much older than that. It had been owned by the Abbey, possibly for its own water supply.

Continue round Park Crescent with its Victorian villa residences built largely between 1860 and 1890, many designed by Dolby. The park itself is D-shaped and was laid out in the 1860s following a design competition. Continue to the entrance to the park at the top of 'D' and walk through the park to the memorial to Prince Albert, dedicated in 1863.



Continue through the park to [St Michael's Church](#) on Park Road. The church was built in 1867 at the instigation of the [Revd Nathaniel Dodson](#) to serve the growing population to the west of the town centre. The architect was G G Scott.

From the church turn left along Park Road and then left again at the junction with Victoria Road and Park Crescent. The rows of terraces on Victoria Road and the roads off it were developed at the same time as the villas around the park to provide good quality housing for 'artisans and labourers'. Turn left at Bostock Road and continue back to Conduit Road.

Retrace your steps to return to the Market Place.

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