

# HERITAGE WALK 2 DUPATH WELL



Continue walking along Tavistock Road, pass Ginsters factory and at the roundabout cross towards the garage and go down the lane to the right of the garage. Walk along this quiet lane as you go out into the country. When you get to the junction turn left, as you walk downhill there is the farmyard of Dupath Farm ahead of you. Go straight across the yard to the fenced lane that leads to the well. (A car park is indicated within the farm yard for those unable to walk to Dupath).

Dupath is an oratory or baptising well and is the largest and most impressive well house in Cornwall. There can be little doubt that the waters here were revered for many years before the spring was sanctified with a formal chapel. The chapel is believed to have been built by the monks of St. Germans in the early 15th century. A spring which rises under the east wall overflows a trough, and enters the open archway of the chapel,

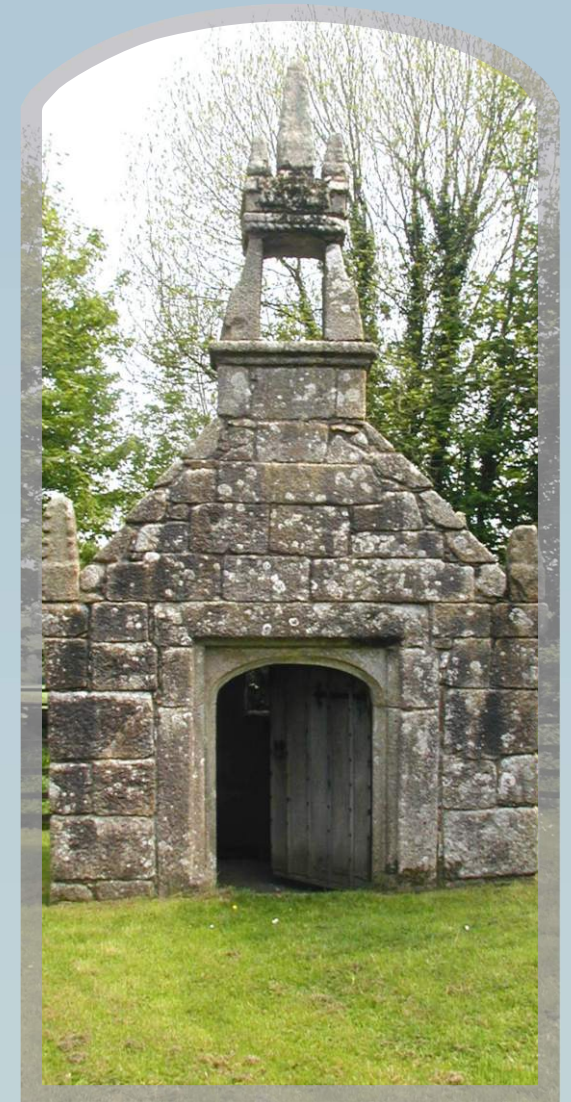
spreads itself over the floor and passes out below a square-headed window of two lights, and two openings in the sides at the opposite end.



There are the remains of a simple bath for the purpose of immersion. The roof of the chapel is very impressive and is made from long stones laid to run the length of the building, overlapping one another and supported in the interior by the arch which divides the nave and chancel. The doorway faces west. On the exterior roughly decorated turrets adorn each corner, and above the entrance is a steeple-like structure. The building is crowned by an ornamental bell-cote.

The chapel was rediscovered in a state of disrepair by a local antiquarian, the Reverend H. M. Rice. The good reverend then set about restoring the structure to the excellent state that can be seen today. Today the site is managed by the Cornwall Heritage Trust, and the well is in the guardianship of the Secretary of State.

Retrace your tracks back through the farm yard and up to the junction. If you wish, you can take the footpath opposite, go along the track and then through the copse almost to the road. From here you have a lovely view of the town and beyond. You are not advised to take this public footpath out onto the A388, but retrace your steps and then take the same route back into town.



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Photographs and script by Lynda Small, Town Clerk.

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# CALLINGTON



## HERITAGE WALK 2: DUPATH WELL

*Length of walk approximately 4.5 kilometres or 2.5 miles.*

A level walk suitable for the less abled, last section to chapel has an incline and may be muddy.

**Transport.** This walk starts from the Car Park in New Road Callington or the free car park in Saltash Road can be used. The bus stop is also in New Road.

**Public Conveniences.** The only public conveniences are in New Road, Callington.

**Refreshments.** There are several cafés, inns and food retailers in Callington.

**Further information.** If you walk out of town towards Liskeard you will see the Callington Heritage Centre in Liskeard Road on your right hand side. It is open Fri. Sat, & Sun. 1000-1600hrs every weekend from Easter to the end of October and Bank Holiday Mondays. Further information on locations featured in this walk are available. The Town Hall, in New Road keeps a selection of leaflets on other interesting walks.

From New Road walk back towards the A388 and carefully cross the road towards the Police Station. The modern Police Station and houses at the corner of Saltash and Tavistock Roads were put up after the old Church of England primary school was demolished in 1966 (with much press publicity because of its decrepit condition and the Government's reluctance to provide the funds for a new school).

The old school was built in 1841 as the National School, on land given by the lord of the manor at that time, Baron Ashburton. The site had been the Sheep Fair in the days when wool was a very important commodity and flocks were kept on all the unenclosed common land. In those days Callington Common stretched from Kelly Bray to Fullaford; it was not enclosed until 1864.

and the congregation moved either to West End or Launceston Road. At the same time the building was purchased by the Loyal Victoria Lodge of Freemasons for £1,000, and the organ for a further £300. The Freemasons let off the ground floor to St. Mary's Parochial Church Council as a hall, and to the Primary School as a canteen until 1965. Since then it has had a variety of uses.



Further along the Tavistock road on the right you will come to a chapel. The Independent Methodist Chapel was originally in Chapel Street and moved to this new chapel in 1853. The seating capacity was 400, and it had the usual form of hall with galleries and pulpit. In 1879 a large schoolroom and utilities were erected behind the chapel. In 1907 the Society became part of the United Methodist Church.

In the 1948 church plan it was listed as licensed for marriages. In 1953 the Chapel was closed for worship,



DUPATHWELL