

## **Circular Walk from Canada Life Building to Parkfield and return**

With Canada Life Building behind you, turn left along Mutton Lane and at the junction turn left on to High Street.

### ***Princes Parade***

St John's C of E Church parsonage was located where Princes Parade now stands. Erected in 1846, it was demolished in 1935 when the new vicarage and Princes Parade were built. This new vicarage was demolished about 1993 when the Canada Life car park was extended.

Continue walking along High Street past the BP petrol station with its M&S food shop until you reach an attractive Victorian building.

### ***Ladbroke School***

The Park ESC, most recently a student learning centre, was the original Ladbroke School. It opened as an infant school in 1861 and remained a school until 1998 when pupils transferred to the new school in Watkins Rise. Originally called the National School, it was renamed Ladbroke School in 1938 after a farm occupied by Richard Ladbroke in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The farm land was developed for housing a few years earlier. At the next junction turn left into The Walk.

### ***The Walk***

The road was originally a footpath and this may have given rise to its name. The Walk could also refer to 'the walk from the village to the train station', although

the lower part of The Walk does not follow the original footpath.

### ***The Nursery***

The children's nursery at the corner of The Walk and the High Street was once the Westminster Bank, built in 1927.

### ***St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Church***

In 1913 Fr. George Preston was inducted as Vicar at St John's Church, sited where the current War Memorial now stands. He decided that a new church was needed and by 1914 £3000 had been raised. The foundation stone was laid by Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig Holstein, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1914.

A year later, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1915, the new Church of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Potters Bar, was consecrated. Faced with fine grey stone, it was designed by J.S. Alder in partnership with Fr. Preston who insisted on the organ loft, a proper vestry and a choir-room. It was tall and wide, light with great windows, a raised sanctuary with marble paving, a stone altar under a baldacchino, and a chapel of Our Lady for the reservation of the Holy Sacrament. The font, fine stone pulpit and organ were brought from St John's Church.

The church hall was built at the same time as the church at a cost of around £2000. It was refurbished in 2010. Continue along The Walk passing St John's House, the St John's Ambulance base, and Parkfield Medical Centre.

### ***Sports grounds***

On the opposite side of the road Watkins Rise leads to the new Ladbroke School and Potters Bar Football Club. Formed in 1960 as Mount Grace Old Scholars, the football club dropped 'Old Scholars' from the name in 1984, adopting their present name in 1991.

Nearby, Potters Bar Tennis Club courts originally belonged to St Mary's Church, part of land bought in the 1930s for the church by Fr. Robinson.

Founded in 1871, Potters Bar Cricket Club, occupied various sites before moving to its current location on the left of The Walk in 1931. The Bowls Club is tucked away on a corner of this site. Cross The Walk and take the footpath that runs beside the tennis courts into Parkfield.

### ***Parkfield***

Parkfield estate's eastern boundary was close to the present High Street. It was not until around 1770 that evidence refers to Richard Plaistow and his 'new erected messuage or tenement'.

Six years later he acquired further land and reference was made to 'All that new erected Capital Messuage or Mansion House with Backhouses, stables and other office there adjoining... and two parcels of land lately converted into gardens'.

During Richard Plaistow's time the property was known as Easy Lodge, but from 1791 to 1800 evidence suggests that Daniel Carpenter was the occupant,

possibly while 'Oakmere' was being built. In 1803 Easy Lodge became known as Cedar Lodge and by 1859 Parkfield, at which time the Victorian addition had already been made to the house. The house was demolished in 1934.

#### ***Air raid shelter***

Continue to the end of the path, at Billy Lows Lane. On the left, there is a low brick building. It is believed to have been an Air Raid Warden's post from the Second World War. It was intended to accommodate about 50 people from families in the surrounding area. In 2007 a restoration project began to bring the shelter back into use as a community facility. One half of the shelter has been converted into a parks office. It is hoped that the other half will become an educational resource for the community.

#### ***Parkfield statue***

Now, retrace your steps noting the Parkfield Statue to your left across the hay meadow. Carved from a complete oak trunk by a local artist in the early 1990s, its figures depict all life that depends on the tree. At the Byng Drive gate turn left onto the Diamond Jubilee Cycleway created in 2012.

#### ***Roman kiln***

Close to the path, on the right, a Roman kiln was excavated in 1953-54 while an archaeological survey was carried out with local schools in 2002. There is an information panel giving details nearby.

#### ***Japanese garden***

To the left is the Japanese garden which has a magnificent Japanese Maple, planted in 1990, as its focal point. Originally created between 1859 and 1892 as the 'Rock Garden' it was renovated in 2007 to improve access, clear water channels and add new plants.

#### ***Lake***

Further along the path on the left is the lake. It is linked to the Japanese Garden pond by a waterfall. The lake is managed to provide a wildlife habitat. Pass the huge Cedar-of-Lebanon tree, exit the park and turn right onto the High Street.

#### ***Parkfield Parade***

Shortly, you reach a row of shops. Parkfield Parade was part of the boundary of the original Parkfield estate. Continue along High Street, cross The Walk, and retrace your steps, to return to Mutton Lane.

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The Potters Bar Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Brian Warren and the Potters Bar Museum in the compilation of the original pamphlet 'Jubilee Walk 3' now updated for this edition celebrating The Potters Bar Society's Diamond Anniversary in 2021.

#### **The Potters Bar Society**

Founded 1961

Affiliated to:

The Campaign to Protect Rural England,  
London Green Belt Council,  
Open Spaces Society, Communities 1st

## ***The Potters Bar Society***

*Registered Charity No. 1087470*

**[www.pbsoc.org.uk](http://www.pbsoc.org.uk)**



### **Diamond Anniversary Walk 3**

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***Protecting the character and  
amenities of Potters Bar***