



Ogden Woodland Trail - Dec 2025

Getting there and parking

Ogden Water Country Park, Ogden Lane, Keighley Road, Halifax.
HX2 8XZ. Parking £1 donation. Meet at the bottom right-hand side of the main car park by the large notice boards.



Other Information

Walk length 2.6 miles.

Easy/Moderate Ability - Pathed walk with two bridges and one stile.
Some ascents and descents through the woodlands.

Walking Boots and Walking Poles are advised, especially in the autumn and winter.

Route Details and Reflections

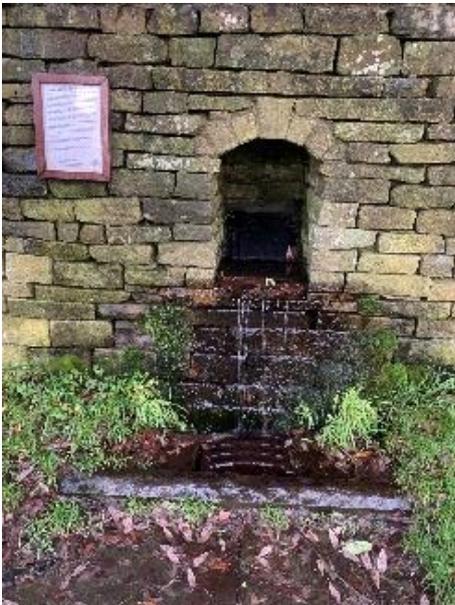
This walk was originally done in Advent. Perhaps as you walk you might think about the journey that Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem of c. 100 miles.

Start the walk at the bottom right-hand side of the car park wall to join the entry trail passing through the metal kissing gate.

At the first bend at the end of the fence, turn left to follow the fence round to your left. The pathway bends down towards the reservoir. At the reservoir path turn left (heading in the direction of the Visitors Centre).

On your left (behind the visitor's centre) you will see a green space, with picnic benches. Head left through the green space up to the top of the wall and you will see a well spring.

REFLECTION POINT 1 - Well Spring in Wall



- As you look around what do you notice?
- What can you hear?
- Think about the journey you are on and the evidence of water that you can see around you.
- Perhaps you might be thankful for the fresh water that you can easily have to drink.
- Think about those in other parts of the world who have no running water or even clean running water
- If you are doing this walk in advent, think about Mary and Joseph on their journey and the thirst they may have endured.

- As you look around, take a look at where the water comes from and how full or low the reservoir is depending upon the time of year.
- If you have a drink with you, perhaps you might like to have a sip of it and think about what it is doing as you drink it.
- Perhaps you might like to think about the story of the woman at the well and who it was that was asking for a drink.

READING:

READ: John 4:7-10 ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[1]) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

- Think about this passage for a moment and think about what might be meant by Jesus offering 'LIVING WATER'.
- Perhaps you might like to think about that a bit more as you journey on.

JOURNEY ON

Walk back to the reservoir and turn right (going back on your self). Continue with the reservoir on your left until you come to a green bridge. Stop before going over the bridge. ***Make sure there is enough room for people to get past safely.***

REFLECTION POINT 2



- Take a look around what do you notice?
- Notice the difference between the two volumes of water each side of the bridge, think about how much water is in them.
- Reservoirs are made to hold water and release water at appropriate times. Think about how someone is in charge of this, think about the responsibility that person has.
- Think about the things you are responsible for.
- You may not be responsible for making sure people have fresh water to drink, but the things you are responsible for also has an impact upon your own or someone else's well being.
- How does this make you feel?
- Sometimes we can become overburdened with responsibility, a burden we do not have to carry alone and can be shared with others.
- Jesus once said, 'Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' How does that make you feel?
- For a moment think about the things that you are burdened by.
- As you cross the bridge continue in silence and with each step let go of those things and give them over to God.

JOURNEY ON

Once over the bridge, immediately take the path uphill on your right. Stop at the the top to take in the view



Carry on along the path, that has now levelled out, and stop at the junction marked with a finger post. On the floor, to your right, you will find a footprint in a square stone.

REFLECTION POINT 3- Footprint in stone



- Be Still, take a look around, what do you see?
- Notice the footprint etched in the stone. As you look at it what do you imagine?
- Think about your own feet and how far they have carried you over the course of your life.
- Think of some of the amazing places you have been and the people you have met on those journeys.

- Think about how limiting life would be without the use of your feet.
- We often take our bodies for granted and only perhaps realise how fragile we are physically when something isn't working as it should. Think of those times when you have been restricted by the limitations of your body.
- Bring to mind again those occasions when you have been able to do something that your feet have enabled you to do.
- Be still for a moment and perhaps you might like to be thankful for what you have been able to do and experienced in your life.

JOURNEY ON

Still at the finger post, take the right path up hill towards *Giants tooth*.



Take in the views at then return back to the finger post.

Turn right, continuing on the original journey before the detour to the viewpoint.

On reaching the reservoir, do not return to the waterside, take the right path into the woodland, as shown on the image below.



On reaching the bench, take the path up to the right, see image below.



On reaching the gate, take the stile to the left of the gate and turn left onto the wide path down hill.

At the bottom of the decent, but before reaching the dam head, look up to your right and you will see a metal picture frame. Go up to the metal picture frame, taking care as you do so.

REFLECTION POINT 4- Picture Frame



- Take a look around without looking through the picture frame, what do you see.
- Have a look through the picture frame and notice how it changes your perspective.
- What do you notice in the landscape scene
- Now for a moment look outside of the frame (PAUSE)
- Now look again through the frame and pick something out in the scene that draws your attention. Think about what it is and why you might have been drawn to it.
- How does it make you feel?
- Do you see anything of God in this scene?
- How does that make you feel?
- Give thanks for an awareness of seeing something of God through this view.
- Lord God, we give you thanks for the wonder of creation and for showing us something new of your presence today. Amen

JOURNEY ON

Now continue across the dam back up towards the Visitor Centre (if open you can have a drink) or at the end of the bridge over the dam head, turn left to join a path which leads to a kissing gate that runs along the side of the reservoir.

Turn right as you reach a gap in the wall to take the path up the hill and back towards the car park. Note - This was your original entry point to the reservoir path.

At the apex of the fence on your right, turn right to head back to the car park.