

Travel Directions to Glasshampton Monastery

Glasshampton Monastery is ideally situated for a silent retreat – hidden in the depths of the Worcestershire countryside with wonderful views over fields and woods to the Severn River. However, this means we are a little difficult to find. Treat the journey as a kind of pilgrimage and you will arrive refreshed and ready for your retreat. If this is your first visit we recommend that you plan to arrive during the hours of daylight so as to find your way more easily.

By Public Transport

If coming by **train**, the best station to head for is **Worcester Foregate Street**. Trains from Birmingham New Street and London Paddington stop here. On leaving the station, turn left into Foregate Street, turn right at Macdonalds, and walk down into the **Crown Gate Bus Station**. Go to the bus stop at the top end of the central island (stand K) in order to catch the 294, 295 or 296 bus for Kidderminster or Bewdley via Stourport. Buses leave at 08.25, 10.33, 12.33, 14.33, 16.33 and 17.40 from Monday to Saturday. No buses run on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Ask for a ticket to **Shrawley**. The journey takes about 25 to 30 minutes. Look out for the New Inn on your left at the brow of a hill. The stop for the monastery is next, at the bottom of the hill, just before a small bridge. Here there is a track turning left off the road. Walk up this track for about a mile; the monastery is at the top of the hill towards the right. If walking up the track is a problem we can usually arrange to meet guests at the bottom of the track to give them a lift.

If arriving by **coach** rather than train, long distance coaches stop at Worcester Warndon Way, from where you can get a local bus to the central Crown Gate Bus Station.

If you want to get a **taxi** from the station, it is better to get off the train at **Worcester Shrub Hill**, which is outside the city centre, but where there is a taxi rank with taxis waiting most hours of the day.

On leaving, buses for Worcester pick up passengers at the bottom of the monastery track at 7.40, 9.57, 11.57, 13.57, 15.57 and 17.00. Please remember that no buses run on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

We are unable to collect guests from the stations at Worcester or return them to their trains ourselves.

By Car

If travelling via the **M5**:

Coming **from the North**, leave the motorway at **Junction 5 (A38, Droitwich)**, continue around Droitwich to the **A4133** via Ombersley, then at Holt Heath turn right at the **B4196** to Stourport via Shrawley. Continue right through Shrawley to the New Inn as above. At the end of the monastery track there is a sign which says: *Wulstans Farm and Glasshampton Monastery, No Access for Motor Vehicles*. This was erected by the landowner to deter casual motorists! Drive up to the monastery – it is a pot-holed track but quite navigable if you drive slowly – and park just inside or outside the monastery hedge. Cars which are particularly low to the road may struggle – leave the Aston Martin behind.

Sat navs can sometimes lead you astray around here. Some take you up Slade Lane, which is incorrect - take the next lane to the north, next to the bridge. The actual co-ordinates for our front door are: N.52° 17.962', W.2° 18.928', but inputting this may still leave you in the neighbouring village across a stream and through a wood. If you hear the words, 'You have reached your destination' when all you can see are fields, just keep going. You will eventually reach a destination; usually the right one. Near the end of your journey the track forks and a sign points the way to the monastery – take the road less travelled by.

Coming **from the South**, leave the motorway at **Junction 6 (A449, Worcester North)**, follow the A449 in the direction of Kidderminster, then turn off at Ombersley. At the small roundabout turn left onto the **A4133** towards Holt Heath, then as above.

If coming **by local roads**:

From the North, head for Stourport-on-Severn; then coming out on the A451 take the B4196 to Shrawley, turning right up the monastery track just past the first Shrawley Village sign.

From the South, head for Holt Heath, then take the B4196 as above.