

What is '*Beating the Bounds*'?

'*Beating the Bounds*' is one of the very ancient traditions linking church and state, at least at the local level. First recorded in Saxon times, it was a way to mark and remember the boundaries of the parish, which was (and in some cases still is) also the boundary of the civic ruling body.

On a given day, each year, a group of residents would walk around the recognised boundary path, led by the priest and council chairman together with members of their respective bodies. At various given places there would be markers, and these would be '*beaten*' with branches and prayers said.

To ensure that the boundary was remembered and passed down the generations, often boys would be given a token '*beating*' at, or over, the markers. Fortunately, this practice died out with time!

In Lechlade it isn't known how long the practice lasted, or indeed whether it was ever carried out. The one thing we do know is that it would only have involved the church parish boundary. This is clear because the church boundary passed through four civic county areas – Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire – with a total length of around 25 miles.

We are planning to recreate this walk, on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

We'll do it in five stages, asking anyone interested to agree to just one stage of about five miles.

We will start at about 11.30am and the Lions' bus will be available to get participants to their starting points or back from their finishing points as necessary.

We would also ask if you might be able to get yourselves sponsored for the Jubilee charities: the Memorial Hall, the Children's Playground and St Lawrence Restoration Fund.

Look out for more information on posters around the town. Please contact [David](#) if you would like to participate

After the walk, we will all meet at the new Memorial Hall for tea and cakes.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.