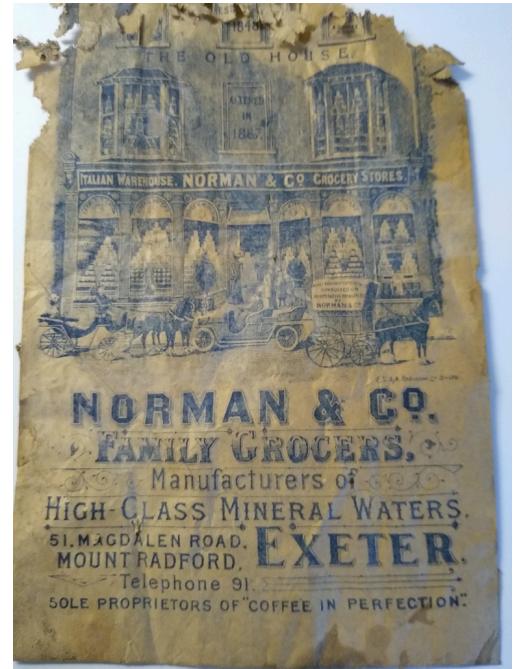


St Leonards walks. A figure of eight stroll.

Approx 45 minutes, 4000 steps/ 1.25 miles

1. Walk along the Magdalen Road towards the Mount Radford Inn

Magdalen Road and Street have existed for centuries, and appear on old maps as a road heading out from the city towards the, then, village of Heavitree. Magdalen Road was separated from Magdalen Street with the building of the ring road in the 1960s. A variety of shops and business has existed here since Victorian times when, from the 1830s onwards, new house building expanded the parish of St Leonards from a small hamlet of just 133 inhabitants in 1801 to a suburb of 1499 in 1851. Look at the granite kerb edgings in front of the shops. Some still retain the cast iron holes in which the poles of the shop awning



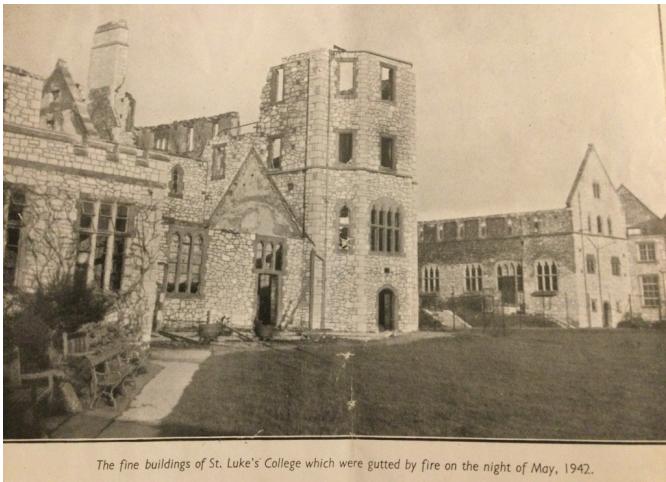
The Mount Radford Inn There has been a pub on this site since the mid 19th century. Its current name refers to the Mount Radford Estate recorded as existing in 1570, and bought by John Baring 2nd in 1755. In the late 19th century the landlord was John James Norman who also ran a grocery shop in what is now Budgens. The family continued to run a grocery shop into the 20th century.

2. Cross over College Road and continue walking along Magdalen Road, passing the carpark of St Luke's Campus.

In a corner of what is now the car park were the **Magdalen Gallows** (or Maudlin Drop/ Magdalen Drop) - Exeter's main execution site. The last execution there took place in 1818. Across the road is a white-painted, art deco building - **Zenith House**. Built in 1933, it was a garage and car showroom before being converted into housing in 2005-2007.

3. Turn left into Baring Crescent

Baring Crescent is named after Sir Thomas Baring, a wealthy Exeter merchant. Members of the family founded Barings Bank. The houses were built by William Hooper who built many of the houses in St Leonards in the 19th century. Building started here in 1818 and twelve houses were completed by 1828. Described as 'superior cottages' when built, they had eight bedrooms, a butler's pantry, housekeeper's room and wine cellars! Nos 1, 4, 6-12 are Grade 2 listed. Three houses were burnt out in the Exeter Blitz (May 1942) and two modern houses now occupy the former bombsite. The private, communal gardens are maintained by the residents. Currently an annual plant sale in aid of Hospiscare is a popular and successful community event, held in the garden in May.



4. *Walk around the Crescent to reach Heavitree Road. Turn left and just after the first set of traffic lights turn left again, into the arched gateway giving entry to the frontage of St Lukes Campus, University of Exeter.*

As you pass it, take a look at the **information board** about the college giving a map and information about the campus. You could extend this walk by exploring more of the campus.

St Lukes College was founded in 1839 as a Church of England, Teacher Training College and moved to its present site in 1854. It became co-educational in 1966 and became part of the University in 1978.

It now houses the School of Sport and Health Education, the Graduate School of Education and the Medical School.

The original building of grey, Torbay limestone with Bath stone dressings was designed by John Hayward, who also designed the Royal Albert Museum in Queen Street. In the 1942 bombing raids the college received a direct hit and much of the original building was destroyed. You may be able to spot the difference in colour between the original stone and that used in the rebuild.

5. *Go through the main doorway into the quadrangle, turn left, go down the steps and follow the path round, signposted 'To the car park'.*

Notice the different architectural styles of the buildings surrounding the lawn. These reflect the different stages of the college's expansion. The brick **Hughton Building** on the left side of the quad was built in 1938, the **Giraffe House** ahead of you was built in 1967 and **South Cloisters** on the right hand side of the quad, was converted from student accommodation to a teaching block via an extensive modernisation and the addition of two new floors in 2014.

6. *Carry on straight ahead to the rear car park and exit through the main carpark entrance. Cross Magdalen Road and enter Marlborough Road by the large cedar tree on the corner. Follow Marlborough Road to the end, where it meets Wonford Road.*

Marlborough Road has an interesting variety of housing styles. The first stretch consists of large 4/5 bedroom, semidetached houses built circa 1903. Before the bend are large Victorian terraces with decorative plaster work on the upper storey. At the dogleg bend in the road (caused by following historic boundaries) are some late 20th century houses, while nos 57-67 are a terrace of Grade 2 listed houses dating from circa 1840. The garage doors of the final house in this terrace are decorated with large stencils of the bird graffiti art that appeared around the city during the covid years.

7. Turn right into Wonford Road and continue to its junction with St Leonards Road.

64-58, 50 and 52 Wonford Road are all listed buildings.

St Petrocks Close, on the right, provides charity homes for the elderly. The land to build these was purchased by the St Petrock and Heavitree Parish Lands Charity in 1949 and building began in 1951. The charity administers several alms houses throughout Exeter.

13/15 Wonford Road. This pair of Grade 2 listed houses – originally called Bellair Villas – were built circa 1840.



8. Turn right into St Leonards Road

St Leonards Road was originally cut as the entrance drive to Mount Radford House. Land from Radford Estate was sold to speculative builders (especially the Hooper family) following the death of John Baring in 1816. The large cedar tree on the corner is a remnant from the grounds of the estate.

Many of the fine houses on either side of the road as you head back towards the Mount Radford are listed – no 23,21,17-13,9-3 (odd) 30-18,10, 6-2 (even). The Victorian author George Gissing stayed in No1 and wrote about a 'flowery, bowery little suburb'. It's assumed he meant St Leonards!

9. Turn left at the top of the road, back to the Magdalen Road shops.

Take the opportunity to survey the shops from this side of the road. Note the roof finial above the cheese shop. Original Victorian buildings can still be recognised above the shop level and bomb damage, replacement building identified by their 1950s architecture. The small cluster of shops on this side of the road was a dairy (Bastones) for nearly 50 years, from about 1895.

