

1 Halfpenny Bridge: This footbridge opened in 1863. The toll was one halfpenny, and the original toll house remains at its southern end. Fourteen years after it was built, the bridge collapsed under the strain of large crowds crossing towards what is now Bear Flat for the 100th anniversary of the Bath & West Agricultural Society Show. As the bridge fell into the river below, sadly eight people lost their lives. The bridge was rebuilt within a few months and strengthened in 1992 so it's safe to cross now!



2 Jacob's Ladder: This narrow, stepped pathway is the shortest route to Alexandra Park and is known locally as Jacob's Ladder. This may be a reference to Bath Abbey since the first sight most visitors have of the Abbey is the western façade, with its unique ladders of angels. It is said that the plans behind this design were first thought up by the Bishop of Bath, Oliver King, who one night had a dream about angels ascending and descending above him.



3 Alexandra Park: When you reach the top, the viewpoint gives one of the best views of the City. The park was opened in 1902 and was named after Queen Alexandra, King Edward VII's consort. Roger Bannister, the first person to run a mile in under 4 minutes, went to nearby Beechen Cliff School and may well have trained in this park. Take time to see the park and its views east as well as north. It has an excellent children's play area too.



4 Magdalen Gardens & Magdalen Chapel: As you cross Magdalen Gardens, take time to look down on St Mary Magdalen Chapel. Built in around 1100, it was used by pilgrims making their way to Glastonbury. It was rebuilt in 1495 and restored in the 18th century and is one of the oldest buildings in Bath. Next door is the former leper hospital originally built in the 12th century but rebuilt in 1761.



website: <https://www.magdalenchapelbath.co.uk>



5 Beechen Cliff woodlands: The well-maintained path winds its way through the woodlands of Beechen Cliff - so tranquil, so close to the city.

Midnight on Beechen – Thomas Hardy

On Beechen Cliff self commune I

*This night of mid-June mute and dry;
When darkness never rises higher
Than Bath's dim concave, towers and spire,
Last eveglow loitering in the sky*

*To feel the dawn, close lurking by,
The While the lamps as glow worms lie
In a glade, myself their lonely eye*

On Beechen Cliff:

*The city sleeps below. I sigh,
For there dwells one. All testify,
To match the maddest dreams desire:
What swain with her would not aspire
To walk the world, yea, sit but nigh*

On Beechen Cliff:



6 St Mark's Road: St Mark's church, built in 1832, is now a thriving community centre. The two-storey houses on the south side date from around 1830 so just qualify for the Georgian period. The houses on the north side are from the Victorian era. Don't miss the former Temperance Hall built in 1847 which has been reinvented as an 21st century escape room!



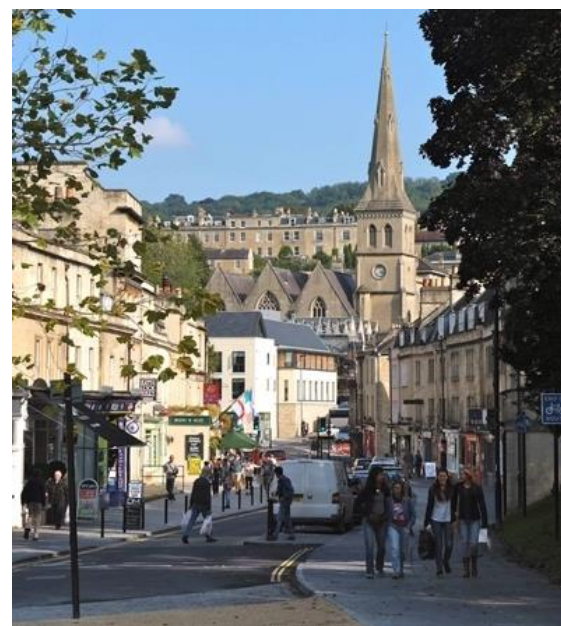
7 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings: Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge, why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and independent shops.

- two gift shops
- food and flower shops
- four pubs and restaurants
- two cafés/delis
- three takeaways, and
- two mini markets.



Claverton Buildings were built in 1770 and Widcombe Parade a little later. A fairly complete Georgian shopping street.

website: www.widcombeassociation.org.uk



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