A large country house set in 25 acres of garden, field and woodland. Turn right into the footpath through bracken, follow this past the hedge to a stile down amongst trees (28), rejoining the path that brought you up from Mitchel Troy. Turn left by the finger post. The route goes through the private garden of Ivy Cottage, so please keep to the path by the boundary on the left, down steps, across a stream and up over a stile into a pasture field.

Follow the hedgerow on your left to astile in the corner. Go over this and, ignoring the stile immediately on the left, continue to follow the hedge to a stile down amongst trees (28), rejoining the path that brought you up from Mitchel Troy. Turn left by the finger post. The route goes through the private garden of Ivy Cottage, so please keep to the path by the boundary on the left, down steps, across a stream and up over a stile into a pasture field.

If you walk with a dog, please be aware that there is livestock in some of the fields and farmers will expect dogs to be on leads and kept strictly under control. Please follow the Country Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

The path to the right of the Penal1t Old Church wall and the recommended path in Caer Llan Woods are not Public Rights of Way and are walked with the permission of the land-owners. Such permission may be withdrawn at any time.

For your own safety, please comply with all notices erected by the Forestry Commission and their contractors at times of harvesting the woodland and by the holders of shooting rights when culling. It is extremely risky and your own responsibility if you ignore these signs.

It is strongly recommended that this leaflet is used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL14. Mitchel Troy Church Car Park (at SO492104) can be reached by bus numbers 60 and 83 on the Monmouth to Newport/Abergavenny routes. Contact Traveline Cymru on 0871 200 22 33 for timetable and bus stops.

The Mitchel Troy Community Group is not able to guarantee access to any of the Mitchel Troy Walks and is not responsible for their maintenance.

For further information, please contact Mitchel Troy Local Paths Group on 01600 715618 or look on the Paths Group page of www.mitcheltroy.com Any comments would be very much appreciated.

The photographs in this leaflet were kindly provided by Elaine Savage, Rosey Ringer and the Inn at Penallt, who retain copyright. The publication of this series of leaflets has been made possible with the aid of a Community Environmental Grant from Monmouthshire County Council and a grant from Mitchel Troy United Community Council.

Published by Mitchel Troy Community Group with assistance from MCC Countryside Service. Printed by Clarke Printers on recycled paper. March 2011
This is a walk shown to us by Jim, who has enjoyed leading friends through the bluebell woods above Mitchel Troy and around Penallt for nearly thirty years. This walk to enjoy in May though. With early spring flowers, autumnal colours and winter views, this is a walk for every season. It visits Penallt Old Church and the inn at Penallt (formerly known as the Bush inn - see below to check opening times), where a pub lunch or a picnic can be enjoyed before the walk back down to Mitchel Troy. At nearly ten miles, allow five and a half hours walking time with plenty more for lunch and admiring the views.

There is one steep ascent and then a moderate walk through woods and fields, across rolling countryside with wide views, before a slightly more gentle descent back down to Mitchel Troy.

From the church car park (1) at Mitchel Troy, go through the churchyard past the lych-gate, go down a stile and follow the old road running uphill next to a garden. At the top, turn left and bear left up to the main forest track. If you continue further, this is part of the Wye Valley Way, a public right of way which is currently the subject of a project to improve and mark the path and will be an entirely different walk, suitable only for those with via ferrata experience.

Follow this, ignoring the gate, up into the field for about 200 yards to a gate and a stile on the right just before a cottage (6). Through the gate, go round and up a stony gulley and over a stile leading into a field. Go on through a gate, past a converted barn and down an old green lane with some large oak trees, a gate past way down and walls of huge stones. At the bottom (8), next to a house, cross the track coming in from the left and go over the stile, continuing up through a young woodland on a permissive track and over a stile on to a road. Cross the road and continue up the stony gulley and path to another road.

The hill. Continue along this fairly level, although sometimes muddy, track for about a mile and three-quarters, ignoring all paths off to left and right and bearing right at the forest road. Look out for the spring flowers and deer, views to the left through the trees, including Troy Farm and Troy House below, as well as the remains of old limestone quarries. Near the junction with a footpath up from the fields, there is a huge horse chestnut tree (5). It is possible this is one of many planted in the reign of Charles II when Troy House was rebuilt as a wedding present for Charles Somerset, son of the Marquis of Worcester, and these woods were part of the parkland for the house.

Towards the end of the forest track, it bends sharply to the right and the Wye Valley comes into view. The path then rises to a gate and out of the woodland and into a field (6) with wonderful views along the Wye Valley and across to the wooded hills around Staunton. Bear right alongside a fence to a gate and then head up across the field towards the Church. The footpath cuts across the churchyard wall but by permission of the landowner, which may be withdrawn at his discretion, our route goes alongside the right-hand wall of the churchyard to a stone stile into the churchyard.

The Old Church (7) is well worth a look inside. There is a useful written guide on the site that may have seen worship for centuries before the Normans, as the very large yew tree suggests, the oldest parts date from the late thirteenth century. The dedication of the church is unknown but it may have been a chantry or hospital, as the road to St James’ shrine at Compostela. The path goes round through the copse and fields, following waymarks, to a lane and turn left. Walk a short way down the lane and then turn left onto a stile after the church. On the right is a bridleway by a large house with a Cornish granite cross. The path then leaves the churchyard and joins a bridleway through a field. Take the left fork and then follow the bridleway through the fields and the copse to the public right of way (the left fork), which begins with a stile and leads to a bridge. The right-hand path then joins a bridleway which goes across the pasture and down into a lane. At the lane end, take the footpath to the left following the bridleway to the lane. Cross the lane and continue on a bridleway which soon becomes a public footpath leading back to the church.

The inn at Penallt

www.theinnatpenallt.co.uk

01600 772765

Bar meals: Friday and weekends, plus Wednesday & Thursday in summer

12 noon to 3:30pm

The Church and along the pleased time pathway to the Church lych-gate.

From here, by the stone mounting block, bear left down the road for about 200 yards to a gate and a stile on the right just before a cottage (8). Through the gate, go round and up a stony gulley and over a stile leading into a field. Go on through a gate, past a converted barn and down an old green lane with some large oak trees, a gate past way down and walls of huge stones. At the bottom (8), next to a house, cross the track coming in from the left and go over the stile, continuing up through a young woodland on a permissive track and over a stile on to a road. Cross the road and continue up the stony gulley and path to another road.

The Church of the very large yew tree

Standing on the village green, with the pub behind, take the right fork up to the main road and continue up and over the stile next to the recently renovated chapel (12). Follow the path through the copse and fields, following waymarks, to a lane and turn left. Walk a house (13) on the right into woodland, keeping the wall on your left until a stone stile is reached. Here bear right onto a bridleway and then left looking out for waymarks high up on a tree (14). Continue along this path, near to possible quarries for mill stones for which Penallt was renowned, in to a stile with a large cross pointing to Monmouth Road, by Cae Caws Barn (15). Follow the direction of this footpath, through a gate and fields to a stone stile at the main road into Penallt.

Cross the road, turning left towards Penallt for about 100 yards to a metal stile into the field on the right (16). Follow the hedge on your left for four fields to a double stile. Turn right here with a hedge now on your right for two more fields. In the second field, head for the stile on the far side of a shallow brook. After the stile bear half left towards a difficult to see stone stile almost in the corner of the field (17). After this stile, turn half right to a wood and stone stile and then take one more stile onto the land leading to Lower Meend. Continue straight down the lane past Noddy’s (18) and out to the road. There are wonderful displays of daffodils in spring.

Cross the road and go over a stile heading for the barn of The Farm. Cross this stile on to a quiet road and turn left past The Farm, then onto the wooded hill. Continue on the road towards Tymawr Convent. Take the second stile on the right on the bend, just before Woodbine Cottage (19). Follow this footpath, with the fences on your right for two fields, past a small barn to a stile to the left of a gate. Turn left down to a stile about 100 yards from the left hand corner of the field. This takes you into a garden and past a house on the right and then along the lane to Five Trees (25). This lane commemorates the five trees that once grew at the junction of the four parishes of Penallt, Trellech, Cwmcarvan and Mitchel Troy.