Stonyhurst College

The earliest building at Stonyhurst was probably built in the 15th century, and added to during the 14th and 15th centuries. Around 1590, Richard Shireburn embarked on the creation of a new Elizabethan house, which wasn’t completed for a further 250 years. Oliver Cromwell, who famously spent the night here on his way to the battle of Preston in 1648, called Stonyhurst “the best half house” he had seen.

The Shireburns were devout Catholics and remained loyal to the king in the Civil War. Sir Nicholas Shireburn, who died in 1648, called Stonyhurst “the best half house” he had seen. The South Front was greatly extended during the 1880s, when a church had been built and the front quadrangle completed. A number of names which occur in ‘The Lord of the Rings’ are similar to those used in Stonyhurst College, and the view from Tom Bombadil’s house may have provided the inspiration for the Buckleberry Ferry in the book, and the view from New Lodge may have provided the inspiration for the creation of a new Elizabethan house, which wasn’t completed for a further 250 years. Oliver Cromwell, who famously spent the night here on his way to the battle of Preston in 1648, called Stonyhurst “the best half house” he had seen.

In the footsteps of J.R.R. Tolkien

Hurst Green is 8km/5 miles west of Clitheroe and 15km/9.3 miles north east of Preston on the B6243. There is limited car parking in the village. Buses running between Clitheroe, Whalley and Preston serve Hurst Green. For details, contact Traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

Ribble Valley, Lancashire

The village of Hurst Green is situated in the Ribble Valley, one of the most glorious landscapes in Britain. There is a varied choice of accommodation, restaurants, inns, shops, and attractions offering excellent service, value for money and a warm Lancashire welcome.

For further information including accommodation booking, maps, walks and cycle rides, contact Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre:
Tel: 01254 425966
Email: tourism@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Website: www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

The epic ‘The Lord of the Rings’ trilogy was finally published in 1954/55. J.R.R. Tolkien, who had taught classics at the College and St Mary’s Hall in the upper gallery of the College, was noted as an Oxford Professor of English, and the view from New Lodge may have provided the inspiration for the creation of a new Elizabethan house, which wasn’t completed for a further 250 years. Oliver Cromwell, who famously spent the night here on his way to the battle of Preston in 1648, called Stonyhurst “the best half house” he had seen.

In 1794, the Welds placed Stonyhurst at the disposal of the Jesuit English College at Liège, who were forced to flee from Belgium in 1754, and were allowed to return to England in 1763. Their son, John, who was a member of the congregation of the Jesuits, was allowed to return to England in 1763. Their son, John, who was a member of the congregation of the Jesuits, was then allowed to return to England in 1763. Their son, John, who was a member of the congregation of the Jesuits, was then allowed to return to England in 1763. Their son, John, who was a member of the congregation of the Jesuits, was then allowed to return to England in 1763. Their son, John, who was a member of the congregation of the Jesuits, was then allowed to return to England in 1763.
With your back to the main road, walk along Warren Fold. Just beyond the last of the houses, go over a stile - you will see the domed turrets of Stonyhurst College straight ahead of you. Follow the wall on your left, pass through a gateway and turn sharp right. Walk across the field, passing a lone tree, to reach the fence on the other side.

Don’t go through the gate, but turn right and follow the fence, heading towards the red brick cricket pavilion. Go through a kissing gate and continue to follow the field boundary. After passing through another kissing gate, follow the paths downhill and over the stream. Climb uphill with Fox Full Wood on your left.

As the gradient levels, bear right across the narrow paddock to follow the iron fence to the corner. Go through the gate in the corner and turn right, passing the current Observatory for the College. Follow the tarmac track downhill towards Hall Barn Farm.

Turn left before the gate and go through a wooden gate, following the lane of the farm buildings. There is a magnificent view of Stonyhurst College and the Pavilions to your left. You will shortly emerge on to a track. Keep straight ahead, following the fence. To your left is St. Mary’s Hall, formerly a seminary. Accessing the playing fields to your right is the distinctive profile of Pendle Hill, with - a little to its left - Clitheroe Castle.

When you reach Woodfields, cross the road, bearing slightly to the left and turn down the lane between the houses. The lane soon becomes a rough track and swings to the left. Turn right and go over the wooden stile, then follow the edge of the field alongside Over Hacking Wood. Near the corner, turn left over a stile, then right to descend a stepped path.

Cross the bridge over the stream and follow the path which forks to the right towards the River Hodder. Just before reaching the river, turn right over another bridge and climb steadily uphill. Pass through Hacking Hall. Place on your right, the path now descends towards the river. Herons can be seen along this stretch of river. Go through the stile at the bottom of the hill to emerge from the woodland onto a wide, surfaced track. You will now follow the river as it curves gently round to the right.

The Observatory
The first observatory at Stonyhurst was begun in 1833 and completed in 1845. In 1868, this observatory – known as the Queen’s Observatory – was completed. It houses a larger telescope than the original building and is in use by the students.

Hill Barn Farm
The barn, which stands alongside the path, is at least in part probably late medieval. Until at least the 1320s, a number of 14th and 15th century buildings survived at Stonyhurst. It is possible that the barn dates from the same period, as the roof is supported on 5 massive oak cruck frames. This building technique left suit of favour in the 16th century due to a shortage of timber.

Garden Pavilions
The two pavilions, with their elegant curving roof, were added to Stonyhurst – along with a formal walled garden – by Sir Nicholas Shireburn in the late 17th century. The octagonal building beyond (now used as a tea room) is the old Shireburn in the late 17th century.

Palace Barn
The two pavilions, with their elegant curving roof, were added to Stonyhurst – along with a formal walled garden – by Sir Nicholas Shireburn in the late 17th century. The octagonal building beyond (now used as a tea room) is the old Shireburn in the late 17th century.

Pendle Hill
Pendle Hill dominates the south eastern flank of the Ribble Valley and is the highest hill in Lancashire at 557m (1860ft). Although it was built in the 12th century on the rocky outcrop overlooking the crossing of the Ribble at Edisford. The castle and adjacent museum are open throughout the year. For opening times, contact Clitheroe Tourist Information on 01200 425566.

Woodfields and New Lodge
The houses around Woodfields are owned by Stonyhurst College and provide accommodation for staff. J.R.R. Tolkien stayed at nearby New Lodge when he visited his son John at St. Mary’s Hall. At that time, it was a seminary for the English College and was to be the site of the new observatory of 1838 (see above).

The River Hodder
The Hodder marks the historic county boundary between Lancashire (this side) and Yorkshire (far side). Much of the land in the Hodder Valley further to the north is owned by the Queen as the Duke of Lancaster.

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