

OLYMPIC PILGRIMAGE TRAIL “SEEKING GOLD”

PILGRIMAGE PRAYER

Holy God, you are the source of our life and the goal of journeying. Guide us by your Holy Spirit along the pilgrimage of our lives. Strengthen us when the road is tough, let us not forget you when the path is

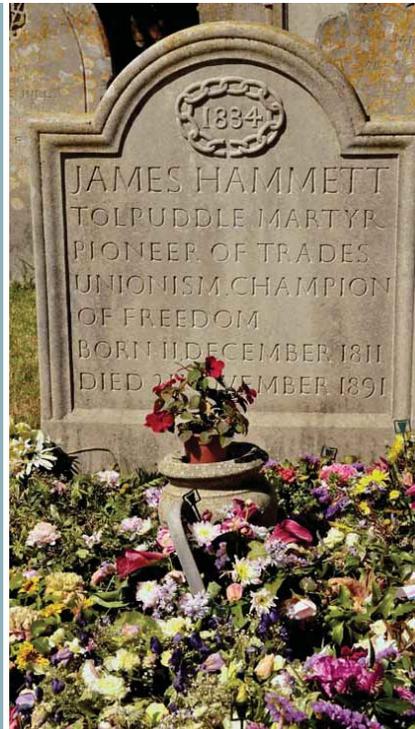
smooth; and may we share your love with companions along the way. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Nicholas Holtam,
Bishop of Salisbury

ST. JOHN'S,
TOLPUDDLE

North of the Tower is a headstone (by engraver, Eric Gill) grave of James Hammett [1811-1891] the only Tolpuddle martyr to return to live, and die, in the village after transportation.

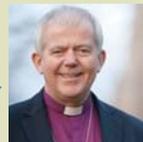
George Loveless, a local Methodist preacher was leader of six farm labourers all sentenced to seven years deportation in 1834, after Dr Warren, then St John's Vicar, went back on his promise to uphold an agreement on pay levels. In 2010, after 200 years of divided Christian witness in Tolpuddle, Rev Benny Hazlehurst, then St. John's Vicar, invited the Bishop of Sherborne, and the Methodist Chair of the Southampton District, to sign a Covenant: a new commitment to work and worship together regularly. *Praise God for all friendship, tolerance and forgiveness.*



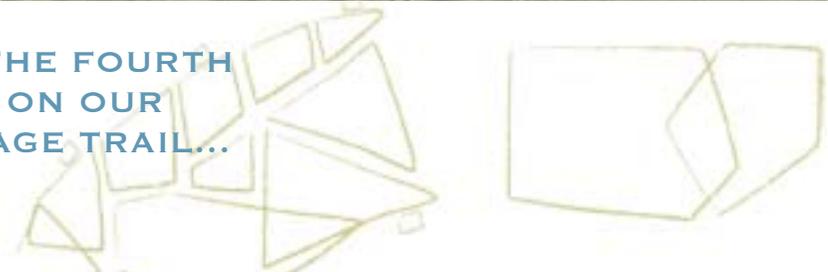
SALISBURY DIOCESE



NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY
Churches together in Dorset



THIS IS THE FOURTH
CHURCH ON OUR
PILGRIMAGE TRAIL...



St John the Evangelist, Tolpuddle

Our parish Church is one of the ten Pilgrimage Churches in the Diocese of Salisbury, and we link up with the Methodist Chapel and Museum in Tolpuddle as a part of the Diocesan Olympic Pilgrimage Trail, "Seeking Gold".

As you enter our 12th Century Church, you will see the font where children and adults have been baptised for 800 years – the beginning of our Christian journey of faith.

You may like to pause and pray for all new beginnings: giving to God all the things that trouble you.



Along the North wall [ahead of you] you can see a blocked-up doorway: this was called the 'sin door' and was opened during christenings to let out the evil spirits!

Give thanks for all the people who have encouraged us in our lives.

There are steps in the North Transept, which would have led to the rood screen (a Medieval tracery partition between the people and the altar) which would have held an ornate carving of the Crucifixion.

Pause here to think of all the people who have over the centuries worked here for the glory of God

Look out for the 12th Century Purbeck marble tomb of Philip the Priest. Much of the surface has flaked off, but we can see the priest is lying in his stone coffin: his hands were probably joined in prayer. No-one knows who he was, but the inscription reads: *"If any lover of Christ should see this tombstone, Let him say, Grant rest, O Christ, to Philip the priest".*

All but one of the four bells in the 13th Century tower were recorded in a 1552 inventory: and today it is considered remarkable that they have survived.

We stop to think of the bells ringing out over all these centuries, across Tolpuddle's fields and cottages, and give thanks for this land and the people who live here.