

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. CANDIDA AND THE
HOLY CROSS
WHITCHURCH
CANONICORUM

Look for beautifully carved choir stalls and barrel roof; the tomb and effigy of Sir John Jeffrey; the tomb of John Wadham (related to Wadham College, Oxford's founder), and a modern brass to Sir George Somers (founder of Bermuda).

Pause here to think of all the generations of children and adults who have come in through this doorway, at each stage of their lives - coming to praise God and glimpse his glory.

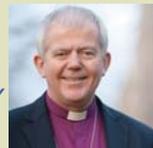
Outside you can find an ancient carving of an Axe and Ship (symbols of this forestry & fishing area) a carving of the Holy Grail Chalice, and a statue of St.Candida.

As you prepare to leave, reflect that Christ is always with us - throughout the whole of our life.

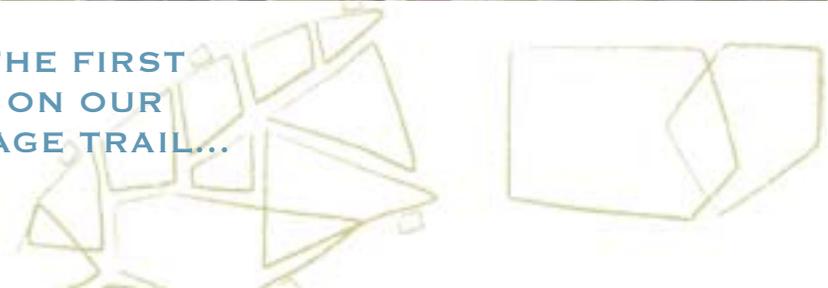


SALISBURY DIOCESE

NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY



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



Whitchurch Canonorum

This splendid parish Church, the “Cathedral of the Vale”, is in SW Dorset’s area of outstanding natural beauty, Marshwood Vale. Pilgrims’ paths throughout southern England lead here.



King Alfred the Great’s youngest son Ethelwald inherited the parish in 881. William the Conqueror appointed his chaplain, Guntard: he and monks at St.Wandrille’s Abbey, Normandy, erected the 11thC building. Inside the 15thC porch, there is a Norman doorway, South aisle, arcade and font. The Chancel was lengthened in the 12thC, the collapsed northern arcade and transepts rebuilt. The magnificent tall tower was added in the 14thC.

Take a moment to give thanks for all the stonemasons, glaziers and artists who in past centuries captured a sense of the glory of God.

Legend says St. Wite was a Saxon woman hermit, killed during a 9thC Viking raid at Charmouth. St. Wite’s Well is said to have healing properties, particularly for eyes. St. Wite (St.Candida)’s shrine is - apart from Edward the Confessor’s royal tomb in Westminster Abbey - the only relic in its shrine to have survived the Reformation. **Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**



St.Wite’s Well (also on the pilgrim’s trail) is a mile away in Morecombelake. Follow the road beyond Whitchurch Village Hall: cross over the A35, along a narrow lane: sign to the Well on the left: 200 yards of rough track, on National Trust land. Please drink the pure water, and use it for healing if you wish: **“Shalom, it is the Lord who heals us.”**

A 13thC base, with 3 oval openings where pilgrims placed injured parts of the body in hope of a cure, rests on a 14thC Purbeck marble coffin. Many visit to ask for healing. There are special cards here for you to write your own prayer request. **Pause here to pray for healing and wholeness for those you love, and to give thanks to God that even in the midst of suffering there is hope.**