

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. NICHOLAS,
ABBOTSBURY

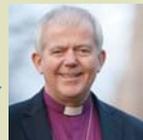
The modern Saints window (East end of South aisle) shows St Catherine (a link to the hilltop Chapel) and St Nicholas, patron Saint of sailors - appropriate for this former fishing and seafaring community. *Reflect on the life of St Nicholas, who wanted his acts of loving kindness to remain anonymous, yet became one of the most popular saints, whom we know as Santa Claus.*

The Church's richly decorated and appointed furnishings, the Chancel's plaster vault, the 10 Commandments reredos, and the great brass chandelier are all the result of the generous gifts of the Strangways / Horner / Ilchester patronage. *Praise God for artists, musicians and poets who through their works capture a glimpse of the glory of God.*

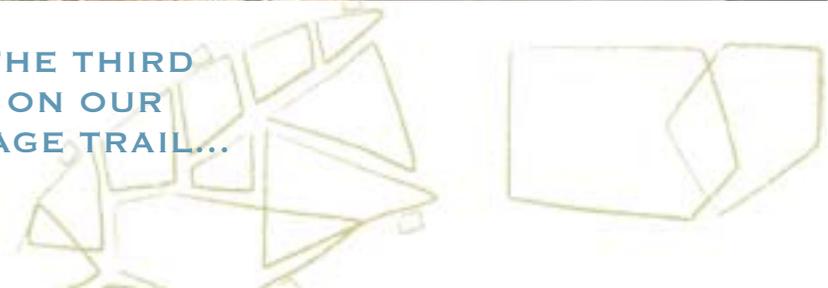


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NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY



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



St Nicholas Church, Abbotsbury stands on ground once belonging to the medieval Benedictine Abbey of St Peter. The remains of the Abbey still dominate the atmosphere of the village, whether it be St Catherine's Chapel on the hill, or the mighty Tithe Barn down towards the Fleet and the sea.

In the Porch stands the effigy of an early Abbot reminding us of all who have served God in this place.

Take some time to give thanks for people who in previous centuries, and now, devote their lives to understanding the mystery of God.

"It is exasperating to be called so persistently when the last thing we want to do is get up and go but God elects to keep on haunting like some holy ghost".

(Thomas John Carlisle)

As you enter the church may you hear the Risen Christ's words, "Peace be with you"! The richly ornamented Jacobean pulpit bears witness to the Civil War with its two bullet holes.

Is there something you regret or would like to make your peace with God for; things that you find hard to forgive and forget ...

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.



After all the transformation that this church and its surroundings have witnessed, the words of St Benedict bid us welcome and inspire us on our way: ***"Dear friends, what can be more delightful than the voice of the Lord, inviting us? Behold in his loving mercy, the Lord is showing us the way of life. Clothed then with faith, and with the gospel as our guide, let us set out on this way of life"***

Look at the stained glass: the beautiful weeping Virgin Mary (15th century) in one south window has been re-assembled from windows of the Abbey Church..

Pause here to pray for loved ones who have died and to give thanks to God that even in the midst of death is the hope of the resurrection.