

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

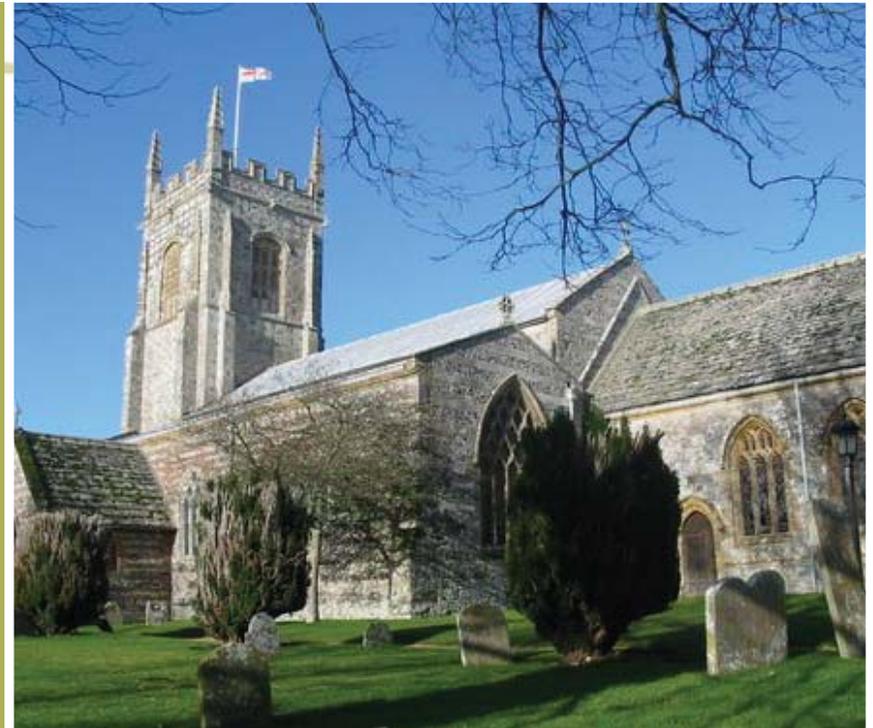
ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST,
BERE REGIS

Cardinal Morton's mother was a member of the powerful Turberville family who owned Bere Regis manor in the C13th. They died out in the C18th for lack of a male heir. They inspired Thomas Hardy's novel, 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles.

Reflect on these past families, who faithfully worshipped here, were Christened, married, and buried. They, too, loved this Church, as do those now who live and worship here each Sunday

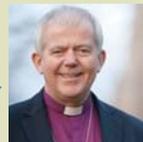
In the South Aisle look at the heraldic emblems in the Turberville Window; and the Turberville tomb where the "sand martin" holes which Hardy describes can be clearly seen. Bere Regis is the Kingsbere of Thomas Hardy's Wessex novels.

Praise God for writers whose gifts reflect a glimpse of the glory of God.

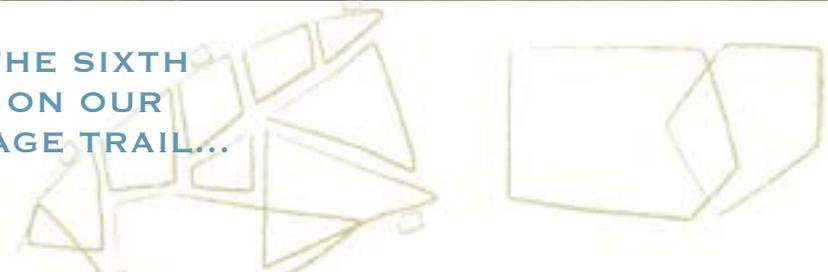


SALISBURY DIOCESE

NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY



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



St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis stands on ground that was once a Royal Manor. There was a timber place of worship here before 1,000 AD, when a stone building replaced it. In the West Tower is the Norman font, which is still used regularly for Baptisms after 900 years of initiations into the Christian faith.



The magnificent nave roof of c.1485 was the gift of Cardinal Morton, who was Lord Chancellor, and Archbishop of Canterbury, under Henry VII. The roof is famous for its full-sized, carved and painted figures of the Apostles. Starting from the N.W. corner the figures follow from left to right around the church. This gives us: 1, Andrew; 2, Bartholomew; 3, James (John's brother); 4, James; 5, John; 6, Judas Iscariot; 7, Lebbaeus (or Judas the brother of James according to St. Luke's gospel); 8, Matthew; 9, Philip; 10, Simon Peter; 11, Simon Zelotes; 12, Thomas.

Look out for Andrew (1), a fisherman, wearing what could have been the 15th Century version of a sou'wester, and John (5) and Matthew (8) the two Gospel writers among the twelve, holding their books.

Pause as you look up at the gloriously carved roof, to think of all the thousands of people who have sat and stood to worship in this Church. We give thanks for those who've shown us what it means to follow Jesus.



See if you can spot the unusual carvings on the columns of the South Aisle. We guess at the 12th beliefs which created them: there is 'headache', 'toothache' and more! *Pause here to pray for loved ones who are ill, or who have died; and to give thanks to God for all that is good in our lives.*

As you walk round, look at the stained glass windows: the sequence of principal events in the life of Christ - the order broken only by the main West Window which shows biblical scenes involving John the Baptist.

Pray that we may always move forward from our old ways, to grow in the image of Christ.