

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

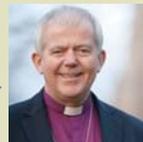
ST. NICHOLAS,
MORETON

Lawrence of Arabia's burial place:: Lieutenant-Colonel T E Lawrence, C.B., D.S.O., was a British Army officer renowned especially for his liaison role during the Arab revolt against Ottoman Turkish rule of 1916–18. The extraordinary breadth and variety of his activities and associations, and his ability to describe them vividly in writing, earned him international fame as Lawrence of Arabia. In 1935 he was living incognito at Clouds Hill - a private soldier at Bovington Camp. He was killed in mysterious circumstances on his motorbike. His funeral was held in Moreton Church, among dignitaries including Mr & Mrs Winston Churchill, Bernard Shaw and Augustus John. *Reflect on the life of T.E.Lawrence who tried to become anonymous, yet is forever remembered for his courage and his ideals.*

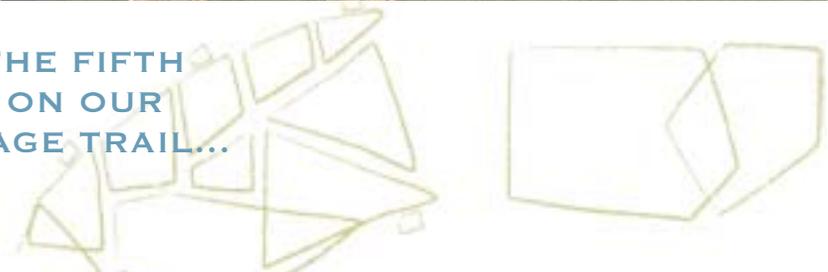


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NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY



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



St Nicholas Church, Moreton - the first Church, in 1190, was dedicated to St Magnus: it was rebuilt in 1410 and again in 1733, and dedicated to St Nicholas. People come from all over the world to see the amazing engraved glass windows by Sir Laurence Whistler, and the grave of Lawrence of Arabia in the churchyard.



On entering the church there is an immediate sense of unexpected light. In 1940 a bomb blew out the Church's north walls and windows: restoration took 10 years. Laurence Whistler, a new glass engraver, was commissioned to design the apse windows. He completed 30 years' work in 1990: uniquely, Moreton has all its 12 windows engraved.

The apse windows were engraved in London to Whistler's design, on one side of the glass only. Each outer panel shows lit candle flames bearing towards the central dove, and the middle panel has emblems of the passion. He himself engraved on both sides of the glass to create the three-dimensional effect - see the Four Seasons Window (1974); the Trinity Chapel Window (1982) in memory of an RAF pilot; and the Galaxy Window above the west door (1984) with a spiral galaxy between Alpha and Omega contains stars turning into flowers, space walkers, chromosomes & sheaves of corn.

Give thanks for the artists and dreamers who see the whole beauty of God's creation.

In all the transformation that this Church bears witness to, the inspiring words of St Benedict accompany us on our Pilgrim Trail: ***“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”***

In the centre of the church is the font, the bowl of which is said to date from the 12th century. It is in its original position, which would have been near the north entrance of the 15th Century Church. ***Pause here to give thanks for our own Baptism, and pray for all those who have been Christened in this place.***