

# 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. ALDHELM'S,  
WORTH MATRAVERS

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the chapel fell into disrepair, with records stating that some of the roof had collapsed. Although not the owner at that time, William Morton Pitt of Encombe House began some repairs to the building. Encombe was bought by Lord Chancellor Eldon (John Scott first Earl of Eldon) in 1807, and on his acquiring the Renscombe Estate in 1811 too, repairs to the chapel proceeded with the bulk of the major work being done in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

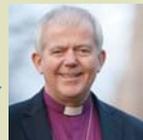
*Reflect on the lives of those people who restored the Chapel, and encouraged its use as a place of worship.*

*Praise God for stone-masons and builders, who through their work capture a glimpse of the glory of God.*

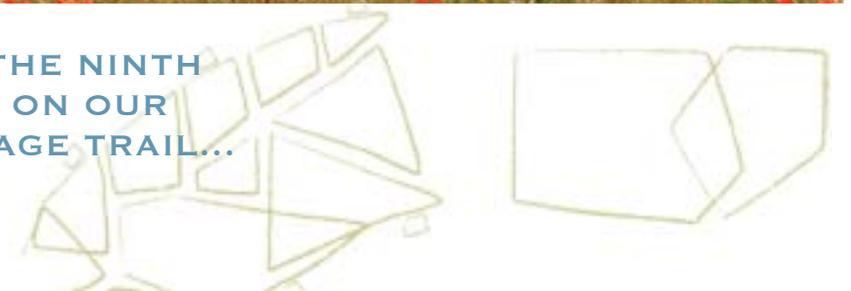


SALISBURY DIOCESE

NICHOLAS HOLTAM, BISHOP OF SALISBURY



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



**St Aldhelm's Chapel** is dedicated to St Aldhelm, first Bishop of Sherborne, and stands 108m above the sea on the exposed and rugged cliff top. Beautiful 12<sup>th</sup>C roof-vaulting, medieval graves outside the walls, and the circular earthwork enclosing it, suggest that it has always been a religious building.

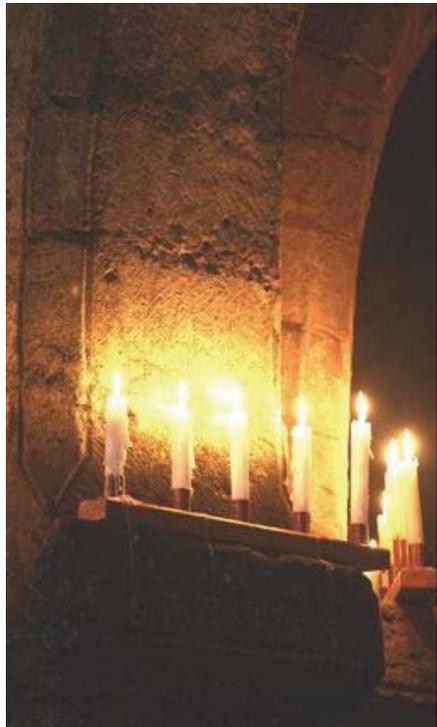


The first historical record of the chapel's existence is in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), when a Dorset historian noted that St Aldhelm's Chapel and St Mary in Corfe Castle were each served by a chaplain paid fifty shillings a year by the Crown. That increased to 20 shillings during Edward I's reign in 1291. But by 1428 there were no inhabitants there..

*Pause here to remember the faithfulness of those who kept this Chapel as a place of worship over the centuries.*

The Norman chapel was originally a chantry, where a priest would celebrate a mass for the safety of sailors, and it may have been used for rest and prayer by kings who often hunted in Purbeck. By 1625 it seems to have been sold, and was no longer used as a chapel.

*We too, pray for those who go down to the sea in ships, and make their living in the deep waters.*



The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Dr. Rowan Williams consecrated the new altar on 4 July 2005, as part of the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of St. Aldhelm's consecration as Bishop of Sherborne. *Stop here to remember St Aldhelm, whose faith transformed the lives of people who had not heard of Christ: and pray our lives may be changed by our pilgrimage.*

At Easter, the special service begins with the dawn light, celebrating the risen Christ, who has overcome death.

*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.*