



Pilgrim Paths

Chipping Norton Deanery

Hook Norton To Great Rollright Circular Walk 5 miles

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place

This leaflet offers Bible passages and reflections to accompany your journey, with suggestions of places to pause. You may not be used to this type of walking, so when the text suggests a prayer, feel free to use this in a way that seems right for you. Please allow much more time than you would usually spend on a walk to be able to pause and take in the suggested ideas. We would think you need three hours or maybe longer.


The circular walk includes some road walking, footpaths through fields and up hills, negotiating stiles and kissing gates.

St. Peter's Church, Hook Norton

Preparing : Inside the Church

St. Peter's church was first recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 922 AD. The current building includes a chancel dating back to the 12th century.

The 11th century font is a stunning example of early carving - worth a look



Can you spot
The pilgrim
crosses on the
outer door



Pause Here

As you leave the church, PAUSE to notice the pilgrim crosses carved into the stone shafts surrounding the outer door. They are thought to date back to early pilgrims leaving home to travel to the Holy Land.

Pray

Pray for all those who enter and leave through this space that they may find peace and blessing. Thank God for the witness of this place, at the heart of the village community; a place used in times of joy and sadness, a gathering place for entertainment and celebration. as well.



The Walk . . .

The walk will take you up and over the hill, down into a small valley and then up again to Great Rollright, before returning over the hill again.

Psalm 121 has a good beginning for us;

*I lift up my eyes to the hills,
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip –*

Pray

**“Chin-up,” we say.
But often that’s not enough.
We need help from another source.
Give us a larger vision, God of all,
And as we journey on,
Be with us on our way.**





Starting Out . .

With St. Peter's at your back, **cross** the road and go down the path to the **left** of the Sun pub. Cross the stream, called the Rop, at the bottom, and **walk up** Burycroft Road which bears round to the **right** at the top of the hill. Just beyond the last house on your **left** you will find the **D'Arcy Dalton** footpath sign. Taking this path, pass through two sets of green metal gates, and then bear **half right** to two stiles which lead to allotments. On the far side of the plots, turn left and walk down a steep narrow path to another stream.



Go over the stile at the stream, then **follow** the footpath up to another stile in a wire fence at the top of the hill to the left of a clump of trees. This stile may have a loose step. Don't fail to **PAUSE** and look back to see a panoramic view stretching from the brewery to the piers of the old viaduct, with the tower of St. Peter's prominent in the centre.

*He who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over us
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

Pray for all those who live and work here.
Especially for those making their new homes here,
that they may find a warm welcome in this
beautiful part of God's world.





Continue . .

Bear half **right** and follow the footpath to the tarmac road.

Turn **left** and follow the road round to the **right** until it makes a sharp **left-hand** bend. Go right at this point onto a footpath signposted **Great Rollright**. Pass through a double metal gate straight ahead and then turn sharp **left**. Keeping the hedge on your **left** to the end of the first field, follow the track through the next two fields to where the path merges with a bridleway/farm track.

The Lord watches over you-

Pray for all those who work the land in all weathers. Thank God for the wonders of His creation entrusted to us. Listen for the skylark and enjoy the company of the dog walkers.



Continue on the bridleway for approximately 250 metres until it veers through a gap in the hedge, and then go half **left** on the signed D'Arcy Dalton path to Great Rollright.



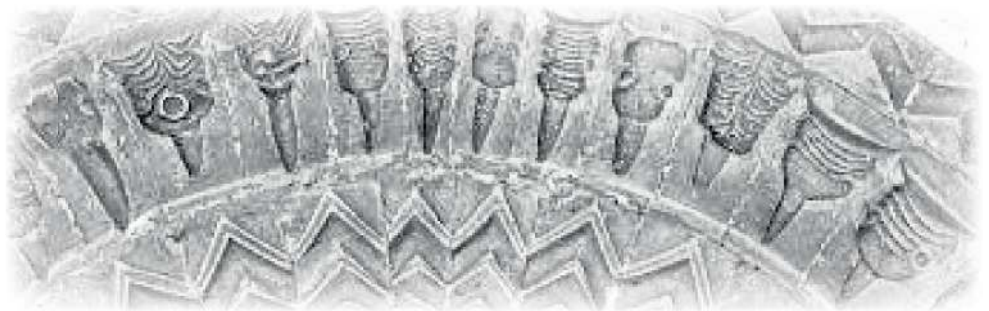
Continue

The path **crosses** a metalled road (note the box on a pole providing sanctuary for birds), goes diagonally across the corners of two fields and crosses another. You will by now have seen Great Rollright church in the distance.

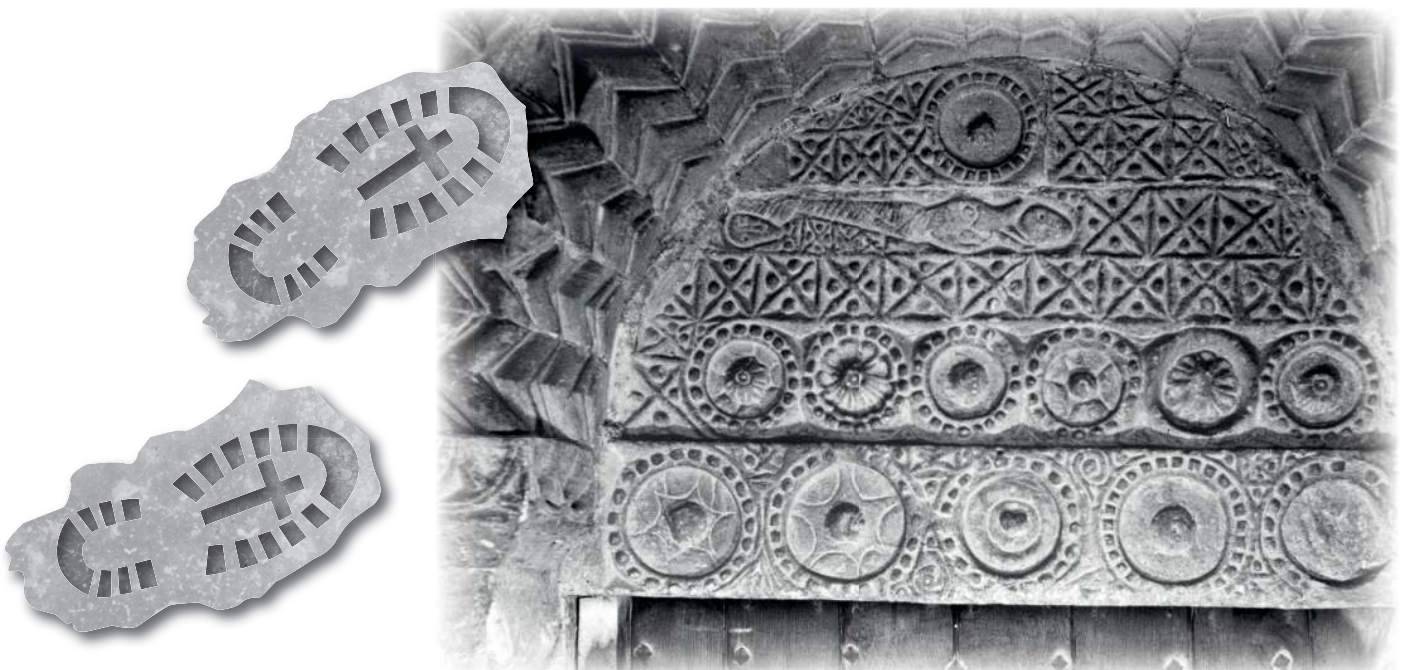
The path in the final field drops down to **cross** a small stream by a footbridge and can be muddy. From the **kissing gate** at the end of this field, cross the road and enter St. Andrew's churchyard.



St. Andrew's Church



Enjoy the **Norman arch** and the **beakheads** over the church door before entering. It will be deliciously cool on a hot day.





Pause Here

*The Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

Church buildings have always provided a place of shelter and sanctuary.

Pray for those who need a place of shelter in our turbulent world; the homeless, the refugees, orphans and the abused.



Leave the churchyard by the same gate but turn **right** on the road to Hook Norton. As you climb up from the little valley, note the lovely old house beyond the ponds on your **right** that is the former home of the author Penelope Lively called Duck End.

Pray for those who make their living creating art in a variety of forms, such as; writing, music, dance, art and design.

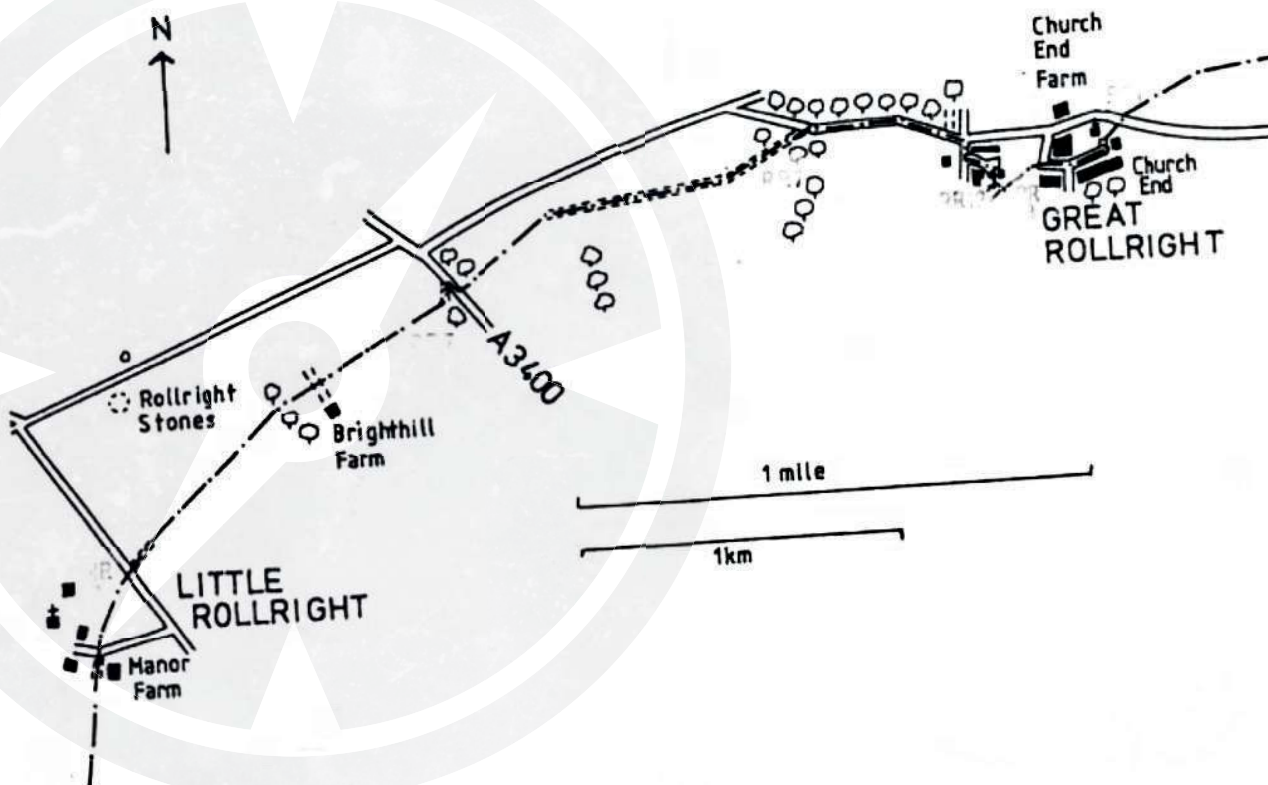




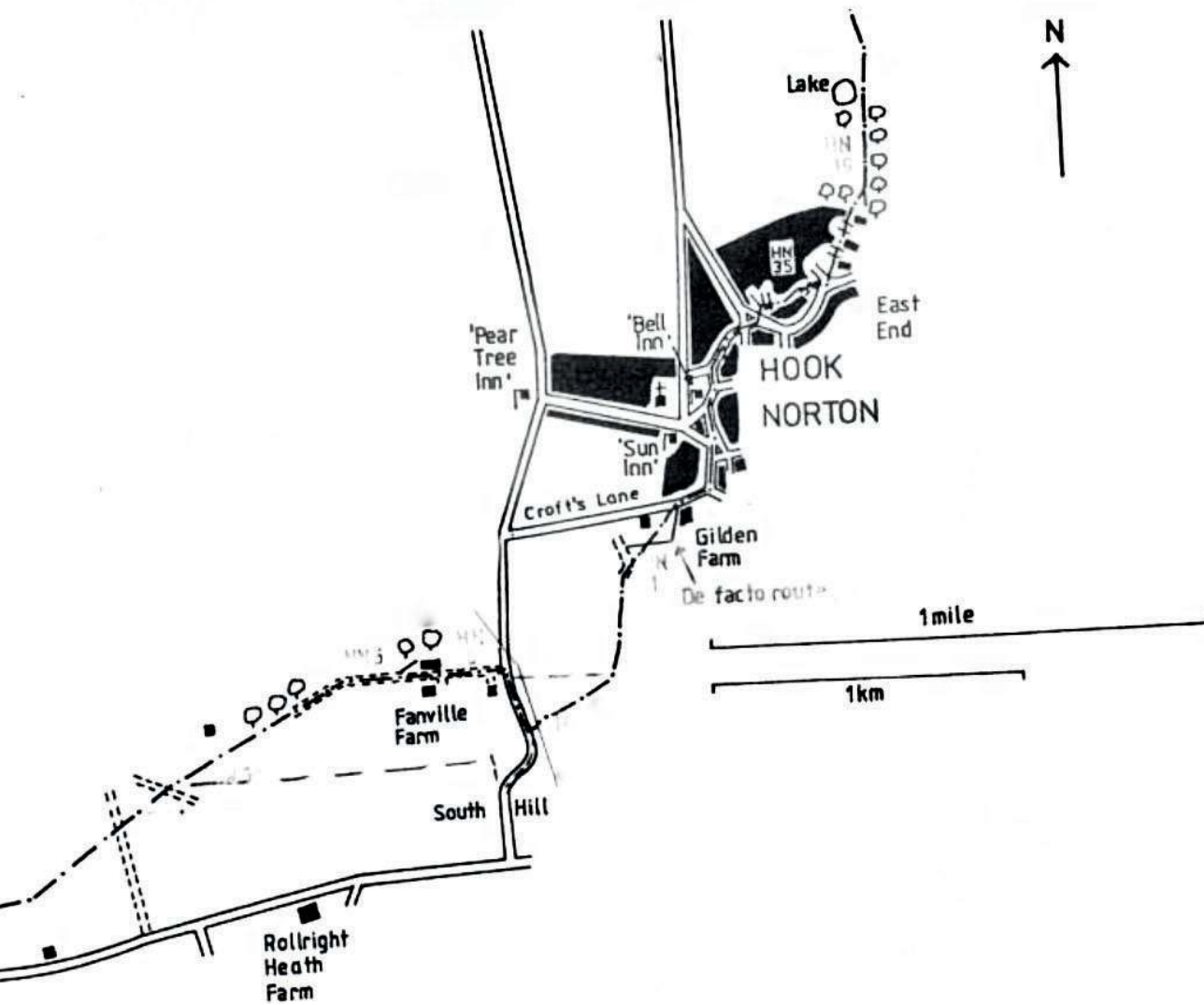
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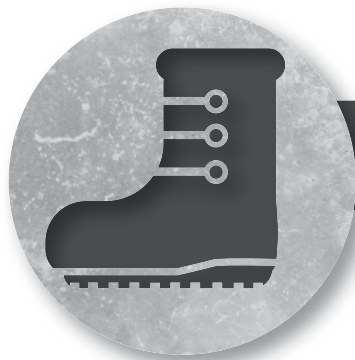
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MAP 6



Pilgrim Paths





Continue . .

Continue on this road for a further 800 metres, passing an isolated new house on your **left**, and turn **left** on an unsigned single-track road that is marked by a line of young beeches.



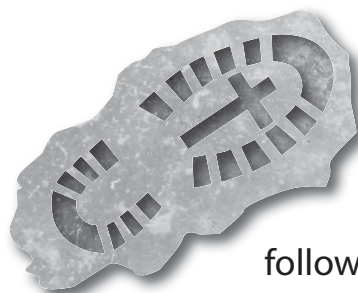
Pause Here Turn up this track and **PAUSE** Here, the track seems to disappear off into the distance.

Pray

Pray for those who are starting out on a new venture; a new place of work, a new relationship, a new set of circumstances - or for those with a long journey ahead of them -

Turn Right

On reaching the point where your outward route crossed this road, turn **right** and re-join the footpath for **200 metres** but, on reaching the farm track/ bridleway again, **cross** it and go **straight** ahead on a footpath (St. Peter's tower can be seen and used as a guide post).



Cross the field and head **north-east** through the hedge, following the path. Bear **left** into a hawthorn-shaded way, emerging onto a farm track. Follow this track until just after the buildings on your **left** when, turning **left** through a gate, you continue **diagonally** across a field, then a woodland belt and another field to reach the Hook Norton road again. Turning **left** and **crossing** the bridge, follow the road for 200 metres, then turn **right** into Croft Lane which eventually becomes Burycroft Road.

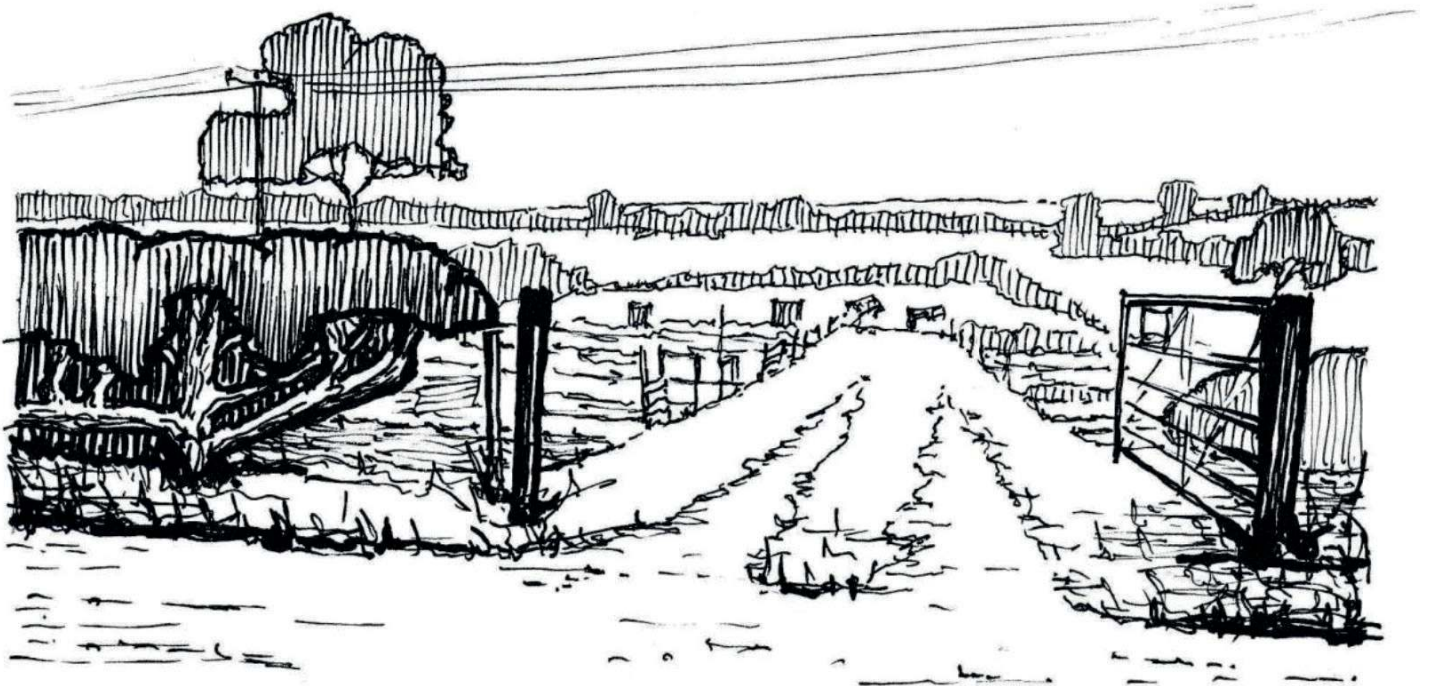




Looking Back . .

As you look up to your **right** hand you see the stile by the clump of trees where you first looked back, after climbing the hill out of 'Hooky'?

Look for these **twisted tree trunks**. They are the remnant of an ancient example of hedge laying. Live trees are cut and bent in such a way that the tree remains alive but forms a natural fence.



Pause Here

Pause here to the **left of the gate** into the allotments and spend a few moments in quiet thinking about this walk and how you have journeyed. What have been the moments that you would like to remember?



Psalm 121



Here are the last verses of the psalm:

*The Lord will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.*

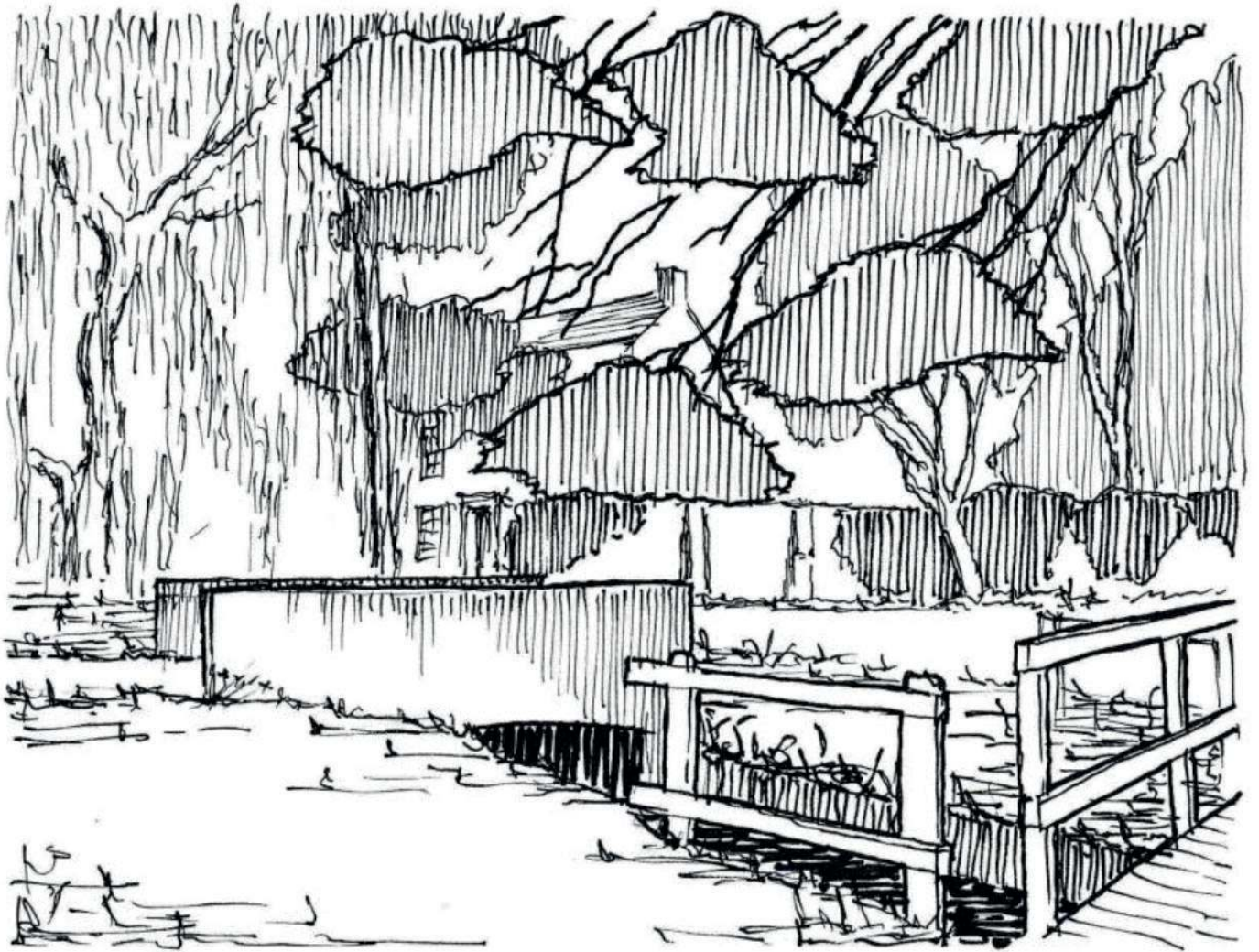
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Continue until you once again meet
your outward route where you will
retrace your steps over the Rop.





Pause Here

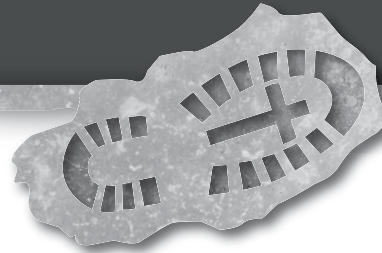
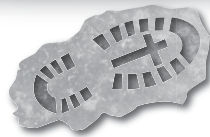


Prayer



Eternal light, shine in our hearts;
Eternal goodness, deliver us from evil;
Eternal power, be our support;

Alcuin (York Scholar, friend to Charlemagne, late 8thC)



Return . . .



back up Bridge Hill to St Peter's Church.



Can you spot

Bus service

488 Banbury to Chipping Norton

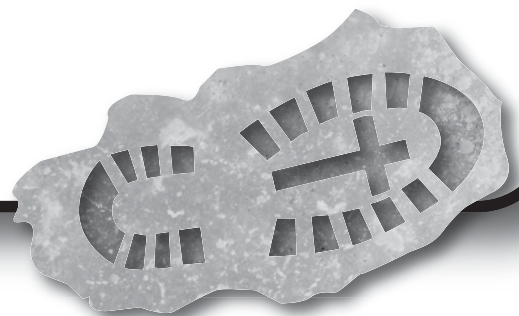
Refreshments

Coffee in St. Peter's Tuesday and Saturday 10am to noon
The Sun, The Pear Tree pubs and the Brewery Visitor Centre

Parking

On the main road opposite The Sun

Notes



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