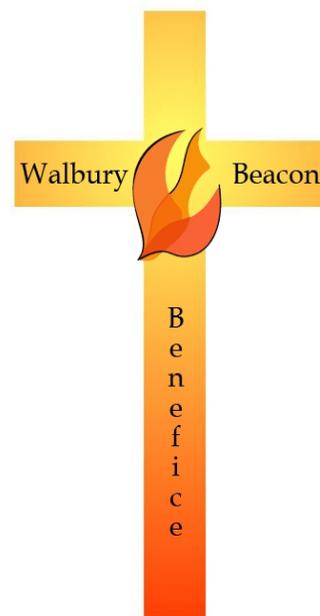
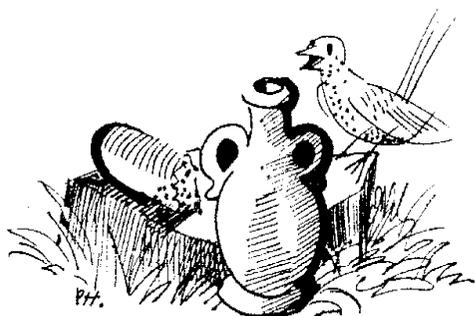


Finally into the uplands, the highest spot in the Benefice On the south side sits the little church of **St. Swithun, Combe**. Nestling on the Hampshire side of the hills, Near Walbury Beacon, (the highest point in Berkshire and the South East), it has been described as 'lying in a tree shrouded cradle'. Not always peaceful - for here troops practised for 'D' Day on the hills. There has been a church here since saxon times and the font has a saxon bowl. One of the three bells dates from 1430. Dedicated to St. Swithun as it was once in the Winchester Diocese. St. Swithun was a humble, kindly man. In this beautiful, lonely place, where prayer has indeed been valid for many centuries.....

*Pray that we too may be known for our faith, humility and kindness  
(Of course asking God to forgive our many failures)*

WE THANK YOU LORD FOR ALL THAT WE HAVE SEEN  
FOR THE BEAUTY OF YOUR CREATION  
BLESS THE PATH WE NOW TAKE  
AS WE RESUME OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY



# Walbury Beacon Benefice

## **PILGRIMAGE TRAIL**

T.S. Eliot described Little Gidding as 'a place where prayer has been valid'.  
Prayer has been valid in the Walbury Beacon Benefice churches for many centuries.

We invite you to make a pilgrimage journey  
around our Benefice

LORD SHOW US THE WAY  
BE OUR COMPANION  
AND TEACH US TO SEE YOUR PRESENCE  
IN ALL THAT WE EXPERIENCE

**St. Mary, Kintbury** is the easiest to reach by public transport. There was a 'holy place' here mentioned in 933. Jane Austen worshipped here when visiting. In modern times it contains a statue from the marian shrine in Medjugorje. In 1830 villagers were caught up in the Swing Riots. Bad harvests, machines taking over jobs, starvation and low wages led to riot. One rioter, William Winterbourne, 'a decent, working man' was hanged despite pleas from all quarters for mercy. The vicar brought his body home, buried it and paid for a memorial stone. Once a year on the anniversary of his death, people gather to remember him.

*Pray for those who fight for justice .  
Give thanks for our own family , homes and friends.  
For however imperfect, the 'Welfare State'*

A few miles eastwards we come to **St. Mary, Hamstead Marshall**, set away on a hill overlooking the water meadows. Historic indeed. Next to the church is the site of the castle where William Marshall was born. Edward 111 passed beneath the church door to hear mass. In the twentieth century during WW2, the American 'Screaming Eagles' were based in the park preparing for D. Day. This church has seen important influential people and fighting forces.

*Pray for all in positions of power, that they realise the responsibility they have for the lives of others  
(This church now closed)*

A walk across the park emerges opposite **St. Michael, Enborne**. A fitting dedication for this little church, with pastoral views of Beacon Hill, stands on the edge of a battlefield. Here came the King, Prince Rupert. Close by fell Lucius Carey, Viscount Falkland, in the churchyard is thought to be a mass grave for the fallen.

Before the civil war began the founder of Little Gidding, Nicholas Ferrar, came as a small boy to be educated. The father of Jane Austen's great friends, Martha and Mary Lloyd, was Rector and has a monument within the church. The Napoleonic wars featured in their lives. Dedicated to St. Michael long before these events and remembering that St. Michael fought evil....

*In this beautiful peaceful place we pray for all affected by war for peace, in our hearts our, lives, our world.*

Travel on by road or footpath to **St Laurence, West Woodhay**. Built in 1882. of local flint and bathstone, the central crucifixion in the east window is by Edward Burne-Jones. The nave windows portray the Te Deum. 'We Praise Thee O God' In this quiet peaceful place we do praise God for the peace and beauty, that surrounds us.

*Pray for our environment, for conservation projects, our wildlife, animal charities. God's glorious creation.*

Onwards and upwards to the church of **St. Michael, Inkpen**. Restored in Victorian times in the Anglo Catholic Arts and Crafts style. Look at the wall painting, the angels. One of the glories is the enchanting carved font lid. 'In praise of water'. Water has a major role in major faiths. It cleanses, heals. The symbol of humility when Jesus washes the disciples feet.

*In humility, pray that we may be cleansed and enabled to lift up for healing those who are in distress*