



**Oxford Diocese Pilgrim Project:**  
South Newington Parish Church  
OX15 4JF

Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/south-newington-st-peter-ad-vincula](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/south-newington-st-peter-ad-vincula)



You might also like to visit other nearby churches in the Pilgrim Project:

**St Michael, Stanton Harcourt**  
Shrine of St Edburg

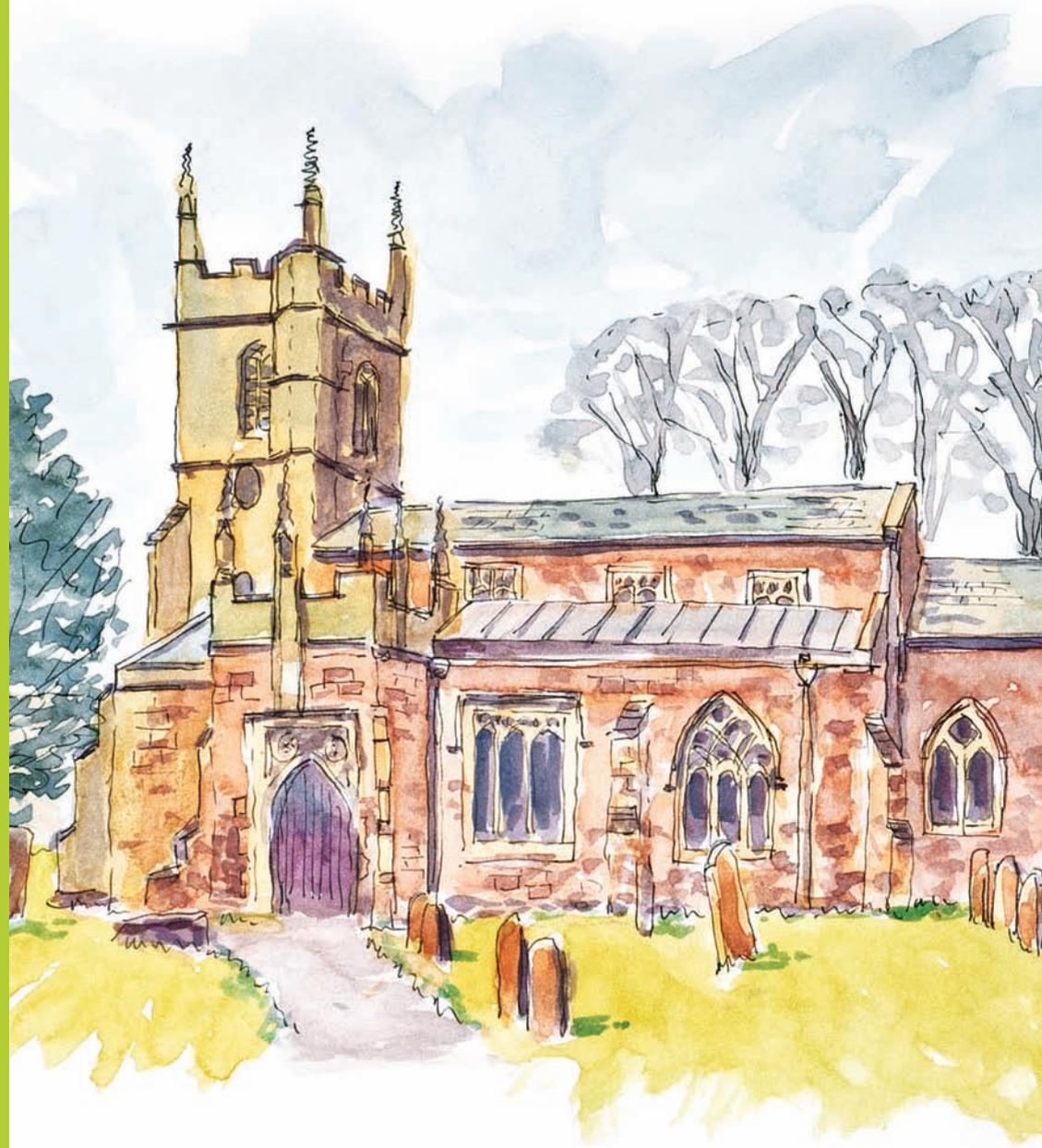
**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, North Marston**  
Shrine of John Schorne

## PILGRIMAGE PRAYER



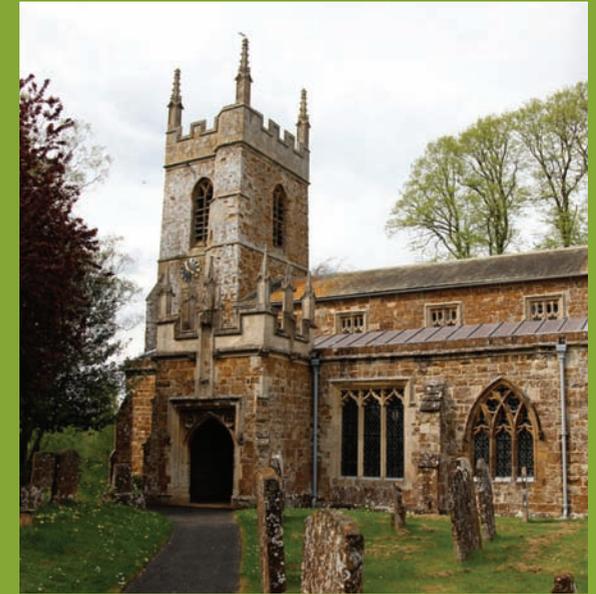
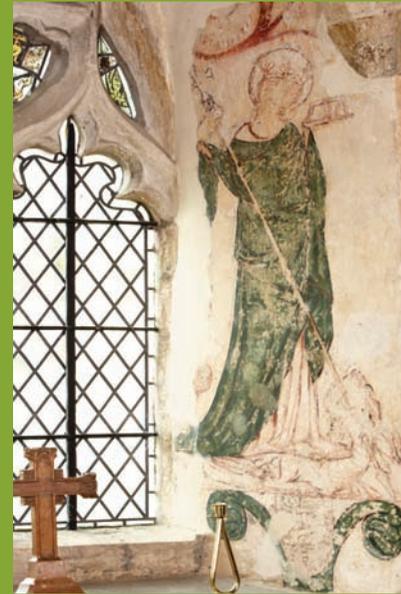
Pilgrim God, You are our origin and our destination. Travel with us, we pray, in every pilgrimage of faith, and every journey of the heart. Give us the courage to set off, the nourishment we need to travel well, and the welcome we long for at our journey's end. So may we grow in grace and love for you and in the service of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford



## ST PETER AD VINCULA, SOUTH NEWINGTON

**South Newington parish church** is one of only 15 in England dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in chains). Before the dissolution of the monasteries it was under the control of the Benedictine Abbey at Eynsham. It is most famous for its exceptional medieval wall paintings, described by Pevsner as the finest in Oxfordshire. The paintings were hidden under whitewash for many centuries and only revealed in 1893.



The porch, with its battlements and pinnacles, has a fine doorway, gargoyles on the outside, and above the doorway, a sundial and niche which may once have contained the statue of St Peter. *As you think about 'St Peter in chains' pray for those who are in prison and those who work with them. You may like to remember especially prisoners of conscience.*

As you enter the church, facing you are two surviving Norman arches. Above them and to the right is a series of paintings of the Passion of our Lord. While not the paintings for which the church is famous, these are nonetheless interesting work from the 15th century. *Reflect on the Passion of Christ. Give thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus.*

Through the Norman arch, you will enter the north aisle. The walls are embellished with unique paintings, executed in around 1330. No other parish church has such a collection. The first painting shows the martyrdom in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170 of St Thomas à Becket. Most paintings of Becket's face were destroyed on the orders of Henry VIII in the 1530s, but this one escaped because of a painting of St George and the Dragon which by then covered it.

To the right is a unique painting of the martyrdom of Thomas Plantagenet, second Earl of Lancaster, who was executed in 1322 for leading rebellion against Edward II. *Pray for those caught up in war and political turmoil across the world today.*

Further on you will find certificates of burial in wool hung on the wall, dating from a time when it was obligatory to bury people in woolen shrouds. *You may like to call to mind those you have loved who are no longer with us. Give thanks for their lives.*

On the splay of the windows to the right of the proclamations is the next of the 14th century paintings: the Annunciation in the top half with a representation of St James underneath. Next you will see the exceptionally fine Virgin and Child. On the south splay of the east window you can see St Margaret of Antioch, patron saint of childbirth, slaying the dragon. *Give thanks for the motherhood of Mary. Pray for all mothers, particularly those who are struggling to care for their children.*



High up, at the east end of the nave, you can see the Virgin Mary and St Michael, 'weighing souls'. Above the chancel arch you can see the remains of the 14th century 'Doom' or representation of the Last Judgement. *Pray for anyone you know facing serious illness or even death today, particularly those who are frightened.*

A more detailed guide to the church is on sale.