

Route suggestion

Starting from the car park at the rear of **the Church of St Mary with St John, Great Brington**.

The east window of The Adoration of the Lamb is by Morris and Co in 1912, and is a memorial to Countess Spencer.

The spectacular Spencer tombs date from the early 17th century through to the 19th and include works by Jasper Hollemans, Nicholas Stone, John Stone, Nollekens, Flaxman and Chantrey. The church also contains the tomb slab to Laurence Washington, ancestor of George Washington.

Travel down the road known as Althorp Tree Alley. This takes you past Althorp House and its grounds, which contain the resting place of Princess Diana.

Continue on the road until you reach the junction with Port Road. Turn left into Port Road, passing the Dovecote and Dovecote Laundry, heading into Upper Harlestone. Turn left onto Dave Brickwood Way. Continue until you reach the A428 and turn left. The Fox and Hounds pub is on your right. Continue until you reach Church Lane on your left. Go down Church Lane until you reach **St Andrew's Church Harlestone**.

This is lovely little church in the heart of the English countryside.

William Peverel was a Tenant in Chief for King William I and was one of two Chief land owners in the village at the time of the Domesday book in 1085 and St. Andrew's is mentioned. He founded the Priory of Lenton and gave it the advowson of St. Andrew's Church (the right to appoint priests and take a share of the tithes, a right exercised until the Priory's destruction in the Reformation in the 16th Century).

Return up Church Lane back to the A428. At the crossroads go straight over towards **Church Brampton**. On the fork in the road you will find **St Botolph's Church**. Take the left-hand fork (Church Lane) to find the entrance.

The large porch is the oldest part of the church, the arms over the door being those used by King Edward III in the earlier part of his reign and combine English lions with French Fleur de Lys, helping to date the building at c1340. The font was carved locally for exhibition at the Great Exhibition in 1851 but was not completed in time.

The tower now contains five bells as a fifth bell was added in 1996, the other four being cast between 1607 and 1628. The wooden coffer which you will find immediately opposite the entrance door in the direction of the clergy vestry is older than the building and is an outstanding example of 13th century ironwork.

There are some outstanding stained glass windows in the church, one of which was presented by the 5th Earl Spencer in memory of his Land Agent, John Beasley, who was churchwarden for 27 years in the 19th century.

Continue on Church Lane, turn left onto Holdenby Road and continue until you reach East Haddon, passing Holdenby House en route. Continue onto Main Street. St Mary the Virgin Church is on your right. **The Church of St Mary at East Haddon** is a Grade II*, medieval parish church of twelfth to fourteenth-century origin, substantially restored in the nineteenth century.

At this point you have two options:

Option 1: Return to Great Brington to make a circular route. Go back the way you came down Main Street, turning right into Church Lane. Continue to the A428, go straight over and continue on the road until you reach Great Brington church.

Option 2: Continue to **Ravensthorpe**. Turn right out of East Haddon Church, along Main Street and take the first right onto Ravensthorpe Road/East Haddon Road. Continue into Ravensthorpe, turning right onto High Street. Turn left into Chequers Lane. Follow Chequers Lane round and you will see the church in front of you.

Iron Age and Roman pottery have been found around the village, indicating a possible settlement. By the time of the Domesday Survey, a settlement of either Anglo-Saxon or Scandinavian origin was recorded.

St Denys Church Ravensthorpe was built in the 13th Century on a site believed to have been in use since the time of William the Conqueror.

Leaving the church, turn right onto Church Hill, and then right onto Coton Road, continue on to Ravensthorpe Reservoir where you can have a well-earned rest!

Approximately 12 miles. 1.5 hours for both routes.