

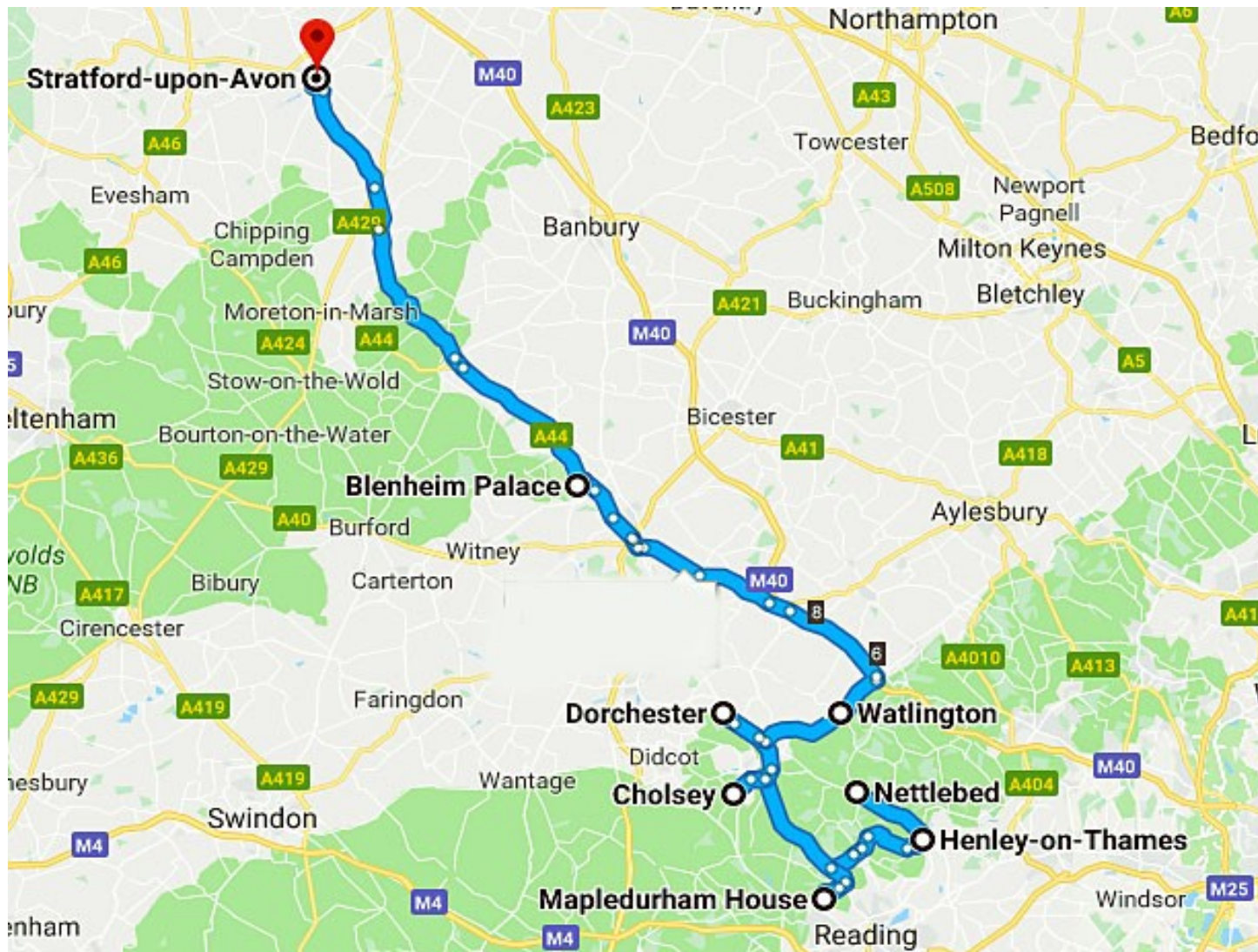


England 2018 – II

Shakespeare, Churchill and Midsomer



From September 30 to October 8, 2018, we travelled around in southern England, mainly in the area within Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath and Henley-on-Thames.



We visited Blenheim Palace and Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, but also places associated with *Midsomer murders* and *The eagle has landed*.



High Street, Nettlebed, with the 17th century The White Hart Inn.



Old inns you can't expect to be right-angled.





St Bartholomew, Nettlebed

MIDSOMER

'Midsomer Murders' Filming location

The White Hart Nettlebed

Used for the interior scenes of
the refurbished 'Maid in Splendour'
the site of the grisly murder of
barman Jamie Cruikshank
in the episode

The TV-series *Midsomer Murders* started in 1997, and take place in the fictitious county of Midsomer. Some of the places we visited have been seen in the series.



Henley-on-Thames is an old market town, and well-known for rowing.



St Mary the Virgin, Henley.



Obviously the area around Nettlebed and Henley has got a lot of flintstone.



St Mary's Church in Cholsey, where Agatha Christie is buried.

Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie (1890–1975) is one of the world’s best-selling novellists. She is the “mother” of *Hercule Poirot* and *Miss Marple*, and also wrote plays like *The Mousetrap*.





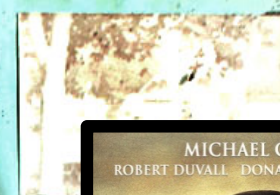
In Wallingford Corn Exchange they sometimes give plays by Agatha Christie, and the building has been used for several Midsomer-episodes as Causton Playhouse.



Our search for a suitable pub for a lunch meal lead us way out into the country. In the tiny village of Hailey outside Ipsden we found the very nice King William IV.



St Margaret's Church and the adjacent Mapledurham House have often been used in movies and TV-series, such as *Miss Marple*, *Inspector Morse* och *Midsomer Murders*.



Many sequences in *The eagle has landed* (1976) were filmed in or around St Margaret's in Mapledurham.



In the market town of Watlington they sell both healthy and not so healthy things.





A lot of beer and other drinkable fluids are transported.



The Six Bells in Warborough has often been used in *Midsomer Murders*.





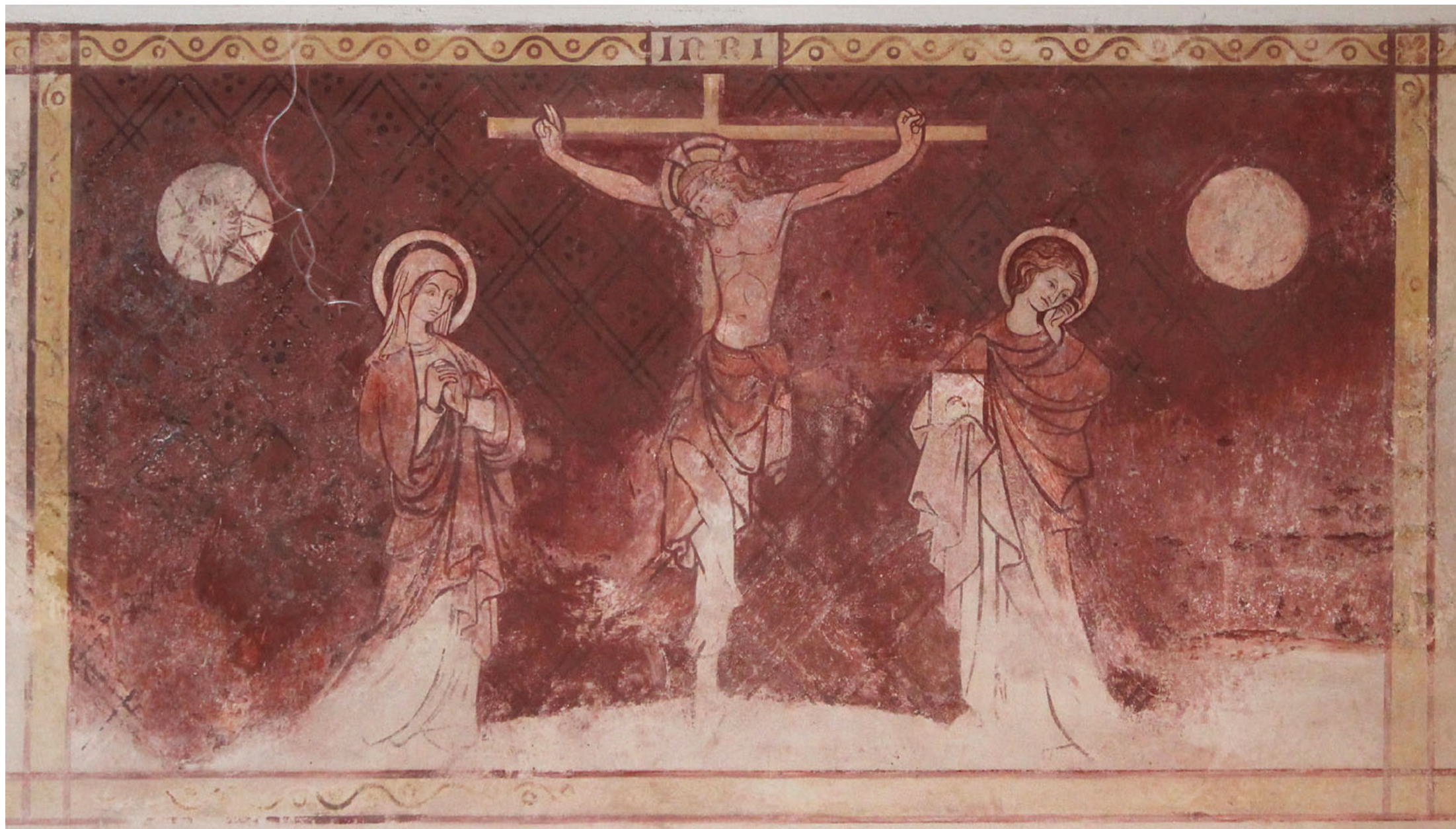
In Dorchester-on-Thames you can eat at the 16th century inn Fleur de lys.





The Abbey Church of St Peter and St Paul (Dorchester Abbey)
is from 1140, but its roots go even further back in time.





A 14th century wall-painting in Dorchester Abbey.



Blenheim Palace is the residence of the Dukes of Marlborough, and the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace.



Blenheim Palace was built in 1705–1722 as a reward to the first Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill (1650 – 1722), for his military achievements.
Detail of painting by John Closterman, ca 1694.

Sarah Churchill (right), Duchess of Marlborough and husband to John Churchill, was a very influential woman, especially through her friendship with Queen Anne.



George Spencer
(1739–1817) was
the 4th Duke of
Marlborough, and
great-great-great
grandfather of Sir
Winston Churchill.
Not so closely, but
still, related to him
was Princess
Diana.





In this room on November 30, 1874, the 20 year old Jennie Jerome Churchill had a son, Winston.

Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill had a long political career, including as Prime Minister 1940–1945 and 1951–1955.





Another well-known person, William Shakespeare, was born in this house on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon.



It was in here that Mary Arden in April 1564 gave birth to a son who was to be called William. The father was the glovemaker John Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare
was baptized in Holy
Trinity Church, and was
also buried here.





“This medieval font was in all probability the font where William Shakespeare was baptized on 26th April 1564.”

1564

April 3 Edwardus filius Thome Shespe

6 Benedicta filia Thome Flemming

22 Johannes filius William Brooks

26 Galielmus filius Johannis Shakspeare XXX

may 3 Humphredus filius William surge

24 Richard pynder

25 will Shakspeare went X

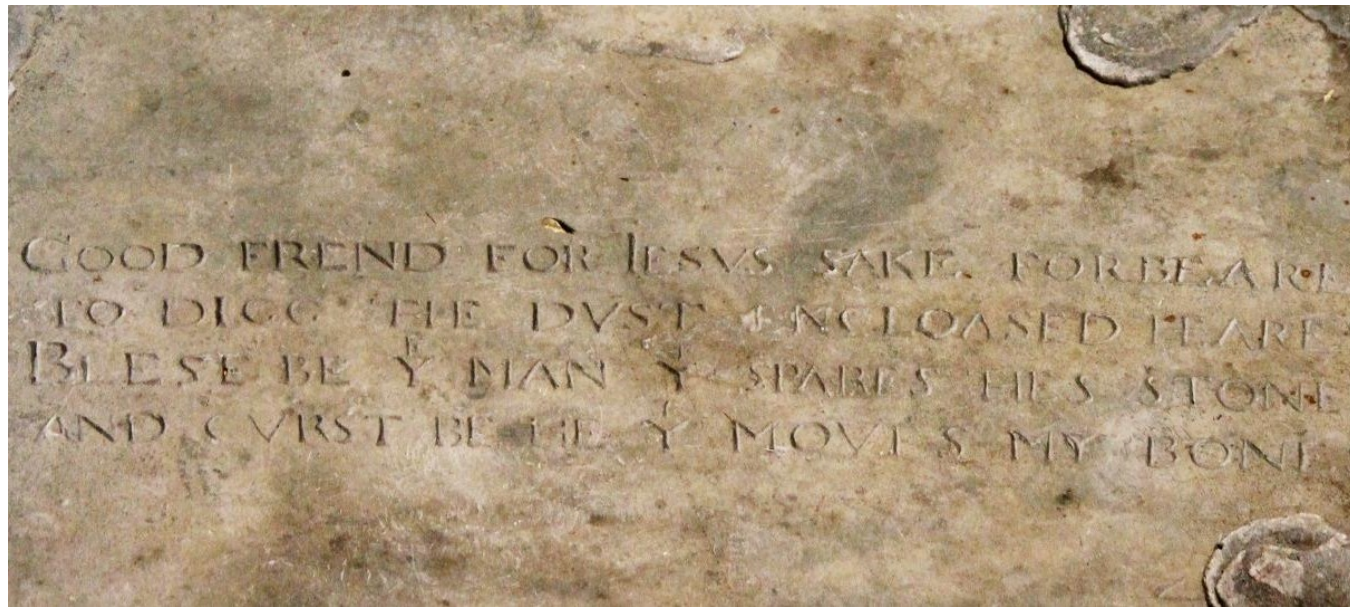
may 9 margret fillia Robert Sadgers / swange

11 sons twines of, will Shakspeare

In Holy Trinity's baptism- and burial registers William Shakespeare's baptism on April 26, 1564, and his burial on April 25, 1616 are noted.



**Good friend for Jesus' sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blessed be the man that spares these stones,
And cursed be he that moves my bones.**



Shakespeare's grave in Holy Trinity. Shakespeare had already in 1605 contributed £440 to the church, and was thereby granted to be buried in the chancel.



In this house lived a farmer's daughter named Anne Hathaway. In November 1582 the 26 year old Anne married William Shakespeare, 18. Six months later the couple's first child, Susanna, was born.









Thomas Nash, who married Shakespeare's granddaughter Elisabeth Hall, owned this house. Right next door stood the larger house that William Shakespeare bought in 1697 and called his home for the rest of his life.



The Garrick Inn is one of many older houses in Stratford, and has been an inn since 1718.



With our friends Lena och Lennart Persson in Anne Hathaway's garden.

Photo on first page shows Blenheim Palace.

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**/except insterted photo and dvd-cover from *The Eagle Has Landed*.*

*See also part I, *Walking along Hadrian's wall* and III, *Castles, churches and Roman baths!**