

## The Old Debtors' Prison

From at least 1675 until final closure in 1855 Devon County Debtors' Prison occupied this site. Now only the archway entrance remains as part of a car sales-room. In Victorian times, debtors were of two categories: those who had people who could pay for their lodging, and those who were destitute: the paupers. There was neither doctor nor chaplain.

(what3words: **lawn.giant.chart** )



**Matthew 6:14-15**

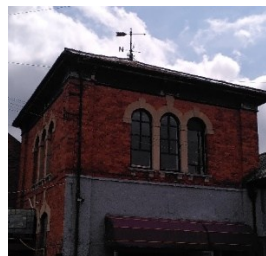
***For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

Loving Father, whose Son was unjustly ill-treated and put to death, forgive us when we are unjust towards our fellow human beings, in what we think, and say, and do. We thank you for legal systems that strive to make a just society. We pray for your blessing on prisoners everywhere, especially for those unjustly detained; for prison workers and for all who work for reform and mental health in penal institutions. **Amen**

## The Old Pumping Station

This ornate Victorian building was constructed in 1867 to house the steam pumping engine for water from a well, dug here, to supply St Thomas with its own supply. The water was pumped up to a covered reservoir, still in use, on the west side of Dunsford Road. The site is now in use as a car-wash.

(what3words: **logs.wake.reduce**)



**Isaiah 44:3**

***For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.***

Creator God, we thank you we have access to clean water. We thank you for the Victorian visionaries who enabled safe water to be supplied to even the humblest houses. Forgive us when we take for granted the water in our taps and showers. Bless the endeavours of everyone working towards clean, disease-free water for every single person in the world. **Amen**

## The Old Workhouse

St Thomas Union Workhouse was constructed in 1836 at a cost of £11,000. Built in the 'Hanoverian' style it housed 430 paupers. Behind the grand facade, the Y-shaped buildings, in three wings, accommodated the destitute poor. In addition to the original chapel, the Victorians later added an infirmary. In 1948 this building became the NHS Redhills Hospital, which closed in 1990. It has now been converted to residential use.

(what3words: **bake.weds.entertainer**)



**Deuteronomy 15:11**

***Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'***

Lord of All, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own, look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger or without the basic necessities of life. We pray for people who do not have enough to live on, and for people who do not have anything at all. Bless everyone working to give them help, food, water, medical services, shelter and hope. **Amen**

## Exeter Asylum

The foundation stone for what was known as the City of Exeter Lunatic Asylum was laid by Rev James Manning in 1803. This new building of three walled courts and three gardens, along with five indoor galleries, provided accommodation for seventy patients. Unusually for its time, its constitution stated that inmates were there to be cured of their conditions rather than being considered hopeless cases. The hospital closed in 1869, and Bowhill Primary School now stands on the site.

(what3words: **terms.void.remain**)



### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

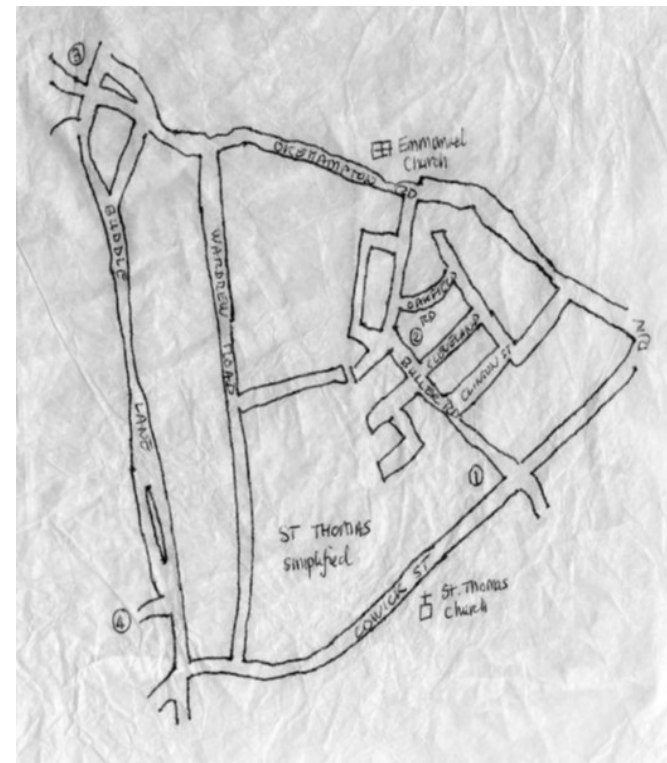
***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.***

Gracious God, who heals us and comforts us in our sorrows, be close to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Bless and strengthen all who minister to others in illness or distress. Grant us the grace to be channels of your love and hope to those most in need.

**Amen**

## Historic Sites Directions

- 1 Begin in Cowick Street at the precinct traffic lights junction. The Old Debtors' Prison archway is on the corner, next to Hospicecare.
- 2 Walk along Buller Road with the Lucombe Oak pub on your right. Pass Clinton Street and Cleveland Street on your right and Nelson Road on your left. At the 5-road junction is the Old Pumping Station.
- 3 Continue walking along Buller Road until it meets Okehampton Road. The former Emmanuel Church is opposite. Turn left here. Cross Okehampton Road at the pedestrian crossing and carry on walking (gently uphill) on the right-hand pavement. Pass the general store and Post Office and the end of War-drew Road on your left. Fork right up a small road, blocked off for traffic. This leads directly to the front of the Old Workhouse.
4. Return to the small road and turn right. In a few yards you will meet Exwick Road. Turn left and go straight across the crossroads onto Buddle Lane. Follow Buddle Lane, passing the Green gables Inn on your left. Turn right and Bowhill Primary School will be in front of you. The historic site of the Exeter Asylum is under the playground, but there are some signs it was once there if you look carefully.
5. To return to this walk's starting point, walk back to Buddle Lane and turn left onto Cowick Street. Walk along Cowick Street until you see St Thomas Church on your right.



## Prayer Walk

### Four Historic Sites

### in St Thomas