

The early village of **Gamlingay** grew around a 20 acre green. Throughout the Middle Ages it was a large and prosperous village with a market every Tuesday, but a disastrous fire in 1600 destroyed 76 houses; the village declined and the market moved to Potton.

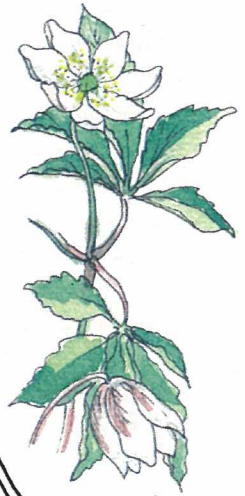
Legend has it that Dick Turpin often rode Black Bess along **Park Lane** which formed part of the old road to York.

The **Church of St John the Baptist** was built in various stages between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. Subsequent neglect however, led Henry Cockayne Cust (both the Squire and Rector) to find it in a "most lamentable state of neglect" in 1806. He undertook major restoration work which continues to this day. The Celtic cross found in the churchyard is dedicated to his eldest son.

Also buried there is **W.E. Henley** and his daughter **Margaret**. Henley was the nineteenth century poet and man of many letters, remembered most for his work 'Invitus'; his daughter is said to have inspired the character of **Wendy** in J.M. Barrie's 'Peter Pan' by describing him as her father's "fwendy"!



Wood Anemone



Church of St John the Baptist

War Memorial



The name **Clopton** (town of the hill farm) commemorates an earlier Anglo Saxon farm on the hill to the north.

**Potton Wood** is an ancient woodland of the wet ash-maple type. Evidence of ridge and furrow farming techniques can be seen beneath the trees. The ground flora and rides are rich in species such as Bluebell, Dog's Mercury and Wood Anemone.

The path through the wood is available by agreement with the Forestry Commission; it is not a public right of way.

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1: MILE 1: KILOMETRE

KEY	
	Footpath
	Byway
	Bridleway
	Roads
	Circular Route
	Railway
	Woods/nature areas
	Stile
	Kissing Gate
	Gate
	Church

