

Historic Towns & Villages

Broughton

The Village on the Turnpike to London



Until about 2004, Broughton was only a street of houses with a couple of outlying farms and a small church but that street, London Road, had been part of an important route from Northampton to London. In the early eighteenth century it had been a turnpike road with a tollgate close to the site of the Broughton Hotel.

In the early twentieth century it was safe to pose for a photograph in the road outside the school because by then there was so little traffic – stage coaches had gone and motor transport had not arrived. A hundred years later children were able to pose in the same place because London Road had become a quiet dead end.

St Lawrence's Church is no longer a parish church but since 1987 the Churches Conservation Trust has maintained it and cared for its magnificent wall paintings. These are probably fifteenth century and were originally teaching aids for the poor and uneducated. Obliterated at the Reformation, they were rediscovered during mid-19th century restoration. The Pietà shows the mutilated body of Christ in his mother's arms. Note the elegant young men in fashionable hats and hose.