

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 the 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 *Invictus*. 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 'wendy'.

