



VIA BEATA

A way of blessing

Banham Way-Station

This triptych, carved by Steve Eggleton, is based upon the parable that Jesus told about two sons of a wealthy land owner, the younger one of whom demanded his inheritance in cash. He set out upon a journey and in no time had squandered the lot. Finding himself obliged to look after pigs to earn himself a crust, and being driven by his hunger to contemplate even eating the pigs' food, he decided to return home.

"I will beg forgiveness and ask for a job as a slave" he said to himself, "at least I will have a roof over my head and I will have enough to eat."

His father loved him however and was looking out for his return. On seeing him returning, and while he was still a long way off, he ran to meet him and embraced him. He ordered that he be given beautiful new clothes to wear and a great banquet was put on to celebrate his homecoming.

You can read this story in Luke's Gospel chapter 15, verses 11-32. Jesus tells this parable to illustrate how eager God is to respond with grace when we come to him in repentance, whatever we have done.



The **Via Beata** was launched in the Summer of 2009.

It is on course to become a complete trail of Christian artworks stretching across the UK from East to West at its widest point.

Artworks which communicate the Christian Gospel are being commissioned and set up in situations where people can stop and meditate upon them.

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