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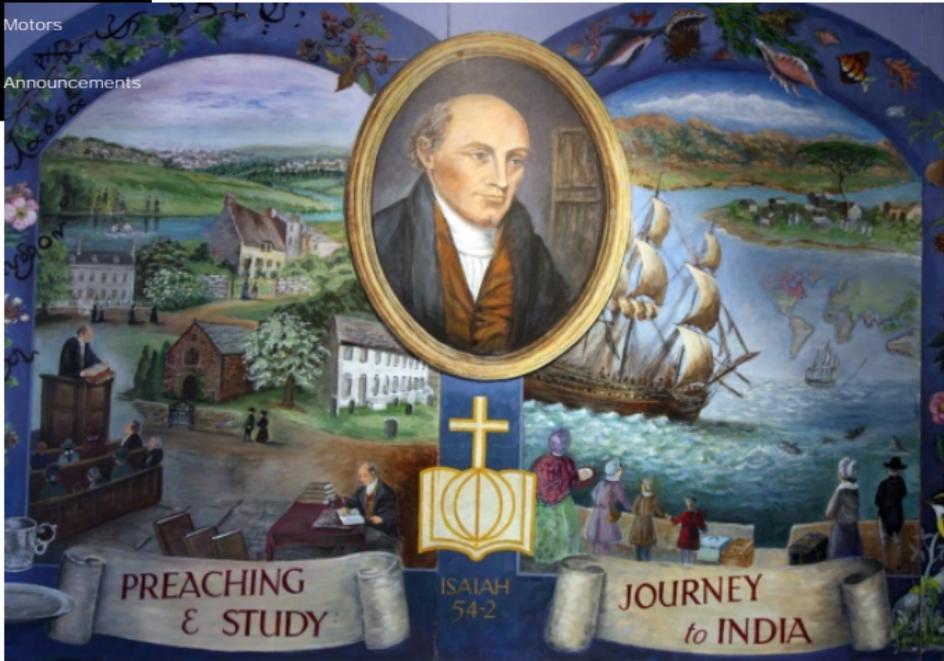
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## Celebrating Carey – man on a mission

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William Carey Cottage, Moulton.

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HE is often referred to as the first "modern missionary", but it was in Moulton that famous non-conformist preacher William Carey first put into motion his plans for his overseas mission.

As it nears the 250th anniversary of his birth, the village has planned a series of celebrations of the gifted preacher, linguist and botanist, including putting a plaque in Northampton Station, and we look back at his eventful life.

William Carey was born in the village of Paulerspury, near Towcester, on August 17, 1761, the son of a parish clerk and schoolmaster, where, as a child, he loved reading.

At the age of 14, he moved to Piddington as an apprentice to Clarke Nichols, a cordwainer.

Here, William became one of the church leaders and developed the personal faith that would take him around the world.

At the age of 19, he married Dorothy Plackett, his employer's sister-in-law, and had his first daughter, Ann, who sadly died before her second birthday.

He began to study Latin and Greek and would walk miles to hear preachers. In 1783, he was baptised in the River Nene in Northampton by John Ryland.

But in the spring of 1785, the village schoolmaster left Moulton and William moved there, taking his shoe-making tools with him.

Nearby, was a small dilapidated baptist meeting house, where William was welcomed by the Baptists, who asked him to give them his free Sundays, and he was soon asked to be their minister.

While there, he had three sons, and also learned four more languages – Hebrew, Italian, Dutch and French – and undertook teaching Dorothy to read and write.

He would also travel to Kettering every fortnight to sell shoes and worked on his garden – he would become a recognised botanist.

It was also here that he first started to think about going out into the world as a missionary, and he made a wall map that became a mission document.

Margaret Williams, curator of the Carey Experience in Moulton, said: "He taught his wife and small sons about how to read and write here, but what was really concerning him was that nothing was being done about the needs of the world.

"He talked to other people about what could be done to take the gospel message elsewhere.

"He always said: 'expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.'"

Current minister of the Carey Baptist Church, the Rev David Gamston said: "Up until this point, the only missionaries were Catholic. he was the first modern missionary and that's why he is so important."

William's next step was to move to India. he sailed off in 1793 learning Bengali on the voyage

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there, taking his family with him.

The first seven years were difficult, with financial hardships and opposition from the British in India, and the death of his son Peter and Dorothy developing a mental illness.

Margaret said: "While in India, he pioneered women's education.

"He was a social activist. he campaigned against slavery all of his life and against widow burning and infanticide.

"He also translated the whole of the Bible into six Indian languages and parts into 29 others.

"He was very good at getting people on board and involving them in his projects.

"Despite all his talents, he was a humble man who believed all people were equal in the sight of god."

While in India, he also introduced The Mission Press to communicate and the steam engine for paper milling, established schools for European and Indian children, higher education at Serampore College and introduced libraries.

David said: "It was here in Moulton he had the vision to take the gospel to the world and this all started. That's why people come here and the missionary movement started.

"People still come from all over the world to see the village where it all began."

William Carey died aged 72.

The Carey Experience is on show in Moulton. further information can be found at: [www.thecareyexperience.co.uk](http://www.thecareyexperience.co.uk)

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