

Canterbury Churches Trail



Canterbury
Environment Centre

CHAS SCANS

Between 1977 and 2002 Canterbury Urban Studies Centre and Canterbury Environment Centre published around 30 guides and city trails describing various aspects of Canterbury's past. Both organisations were based in St Alphege church.

Between them they produced 14 titles in the 'Trails' series, and a further 16 titles outside the main series. All are now out of print and many are difficult (a few impossible) to find through normal second hand sources. Many contain information that is not readily available in other printed or on line sources.

CHAS (Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society) is scanning a selection of these publications for uploading to the CHAS website as PDFs. In this way a new generation of readers and researchers can have access to this unique resource.

A full list of these publications appears on the CHAS website:

<http://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk>



Canterbury Churches Trail

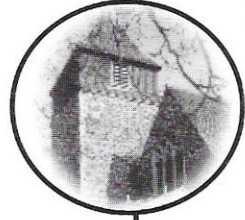
Written by Derek Crabtree and produced by
The Canterbury Environment Centre, with
grateful thanks to the following people:-

Christiane Crabtree
Margaret Sparks
Philip Bunce
David Utting
Carole Zepler
Jan Stewart

(Background picture of
The Canterbury Environment Centre)
Published 2002

City Centre Route

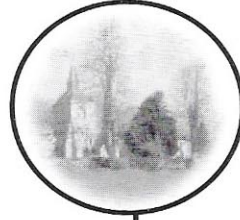
1. Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury
2. St. Andrew's United Reformed Church
3. St. Margaret's Church (now The Canterbury Tales)
4. St. Mildred's Church
5. Holy Cross Church (now The Guildhall)
6. St. Peter's Methodist Church
7. St. Peter's Church
8. St. Alphege Church (now The Canterbury Environment Centre)



Thomas More's Route

(North - West)

9. Church of St. Nicholas Hospital, Harbledown
10. St. Michael and All Angels, Harbledown
11. St. Dunstan's Church
12. St. Stephen's Church



Augustine's Route

(East - South)

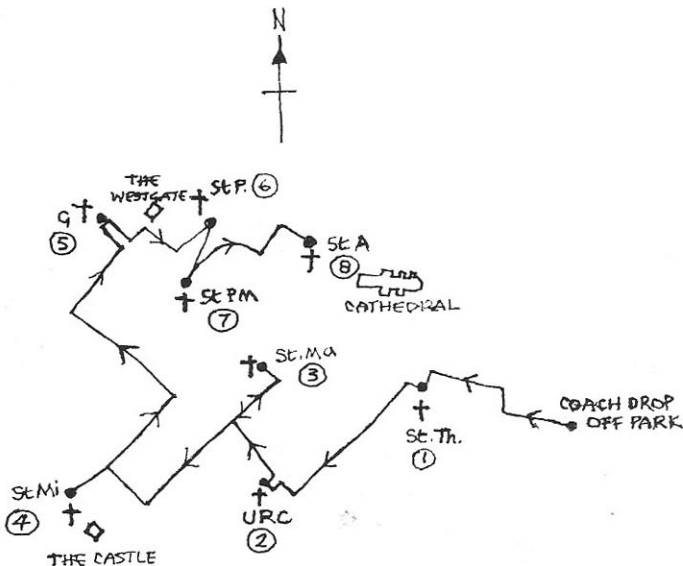
13. St. Paul's Church
14. St. Gregory's Church (now Canterbury Christ Church University College - Music Department)
15. All Saints' Church
16. St. Martin's Church
17. St. Mary Bredin Church
18. Canterbury Baptist Church



City Centre Route Map

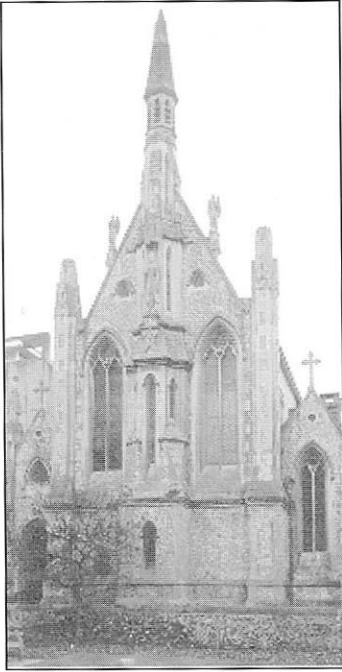
City Centre Route

1. Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury
2. St. Andrew's United Reformed Church
3. St. Margaret's Church
(now The Canterbury Tales)
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Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury

Burgate, Canterbury



Fronting on to Burgate, yet set somewhat back from it, and standing in close proximity to the isolated tower of the demolished church of St Mary Magdalene, St. Thomas's was built in 1876, running north - south instead of east - west as would be usual. It was extended on the east side in 1963.

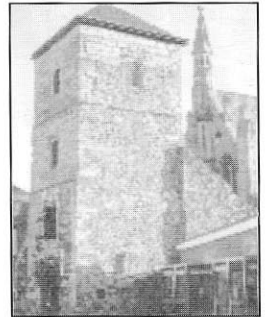
Its "west" front is dominated by what at first may appear as a prominent central buttress, which, as it rises, has window lights, the figure of a bishop and finally culminates in a bell turret above the central gable, which is also flanked by pinnacles.

Externally this is the most distinctive, and arresting, feature of the building, which is of rag stone - the original side walls have been wholly masked on the north side by a chapel with a hall above.

Internally the overwhelming impression is of the powerful nave arcade, where corbels with heavy foliage decoration mark the springing of the five arches and support the open wooden roof.

Below the colourful east window is an elaborate reredos.

The side Chapel of the Martyrs holds two authenticated relics of St. Thomas Becket, the only ones still preserved in Canterbury.



Open: daily 8.00 - 17.00

Parish Office: Tel. 01227-462896

e-mail: St.Thomas.Canterbury@talk21.com

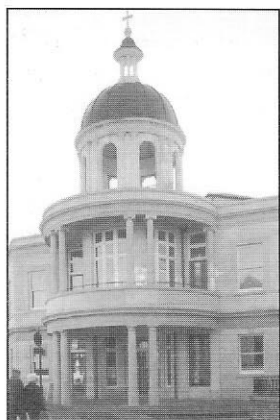
St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Watling Street, Canterbury

In 1948 building commenced on a Congregational church at the junction of Rose Lane and Watling Street, which was to replace a church of the Countess of Huntingdon Connexion on that site, destroyed in the blitz in 1942. (In 1939 Canterbury had two Congregational churches, one Independent and one Countess of Huntingdon Connexion.)



Not dedicated until 1972, it had by then



become the home of the United Reformed Church, created in 1966 by the union of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church with the Watling Street Congregationalists. The Presbyterian Church had stood at the approach for the East Station and was demolished in 1968. As part of the Whitefriars Development, the church was demolished in 2001. It was a fine example of the search for functional simplicity and unfussy design, which was a feature of much post-war design, and its demolition represents a loss to Canterbury's recent architectural heritage.

Its replacement, dedicated in 2001, on the other side of Watling St. certainly stands as an addition to the Canterbury skyline, with its contrasting columned circular façade and cupola and the square 'tower' which, imaginatively, gives light to the spacious central body of the church below. Along with a well-proportioned and airy large hall which flanks the central space, a wealth of offices, small meeting rooms and catering facilities must make this new building a matter of envy to congregations working with older, less accommodating 'plant'.



Open:

When the office is open:

Tue & Thurs 10.00 -12.00

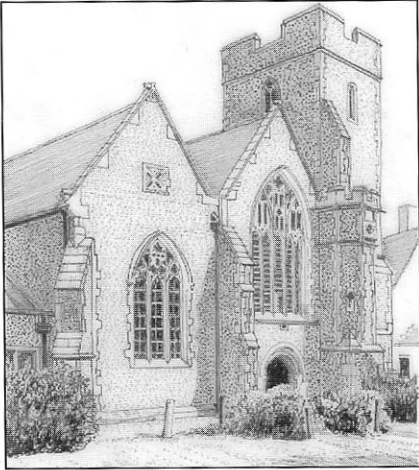
Mon, Wed, Fri 10.00 - 14.00

Tel. 01227-464643 or 464772

e-mail: cybarev@hotmail.com

St. Margaret's Church

(now The Canterbury Tales)
St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury

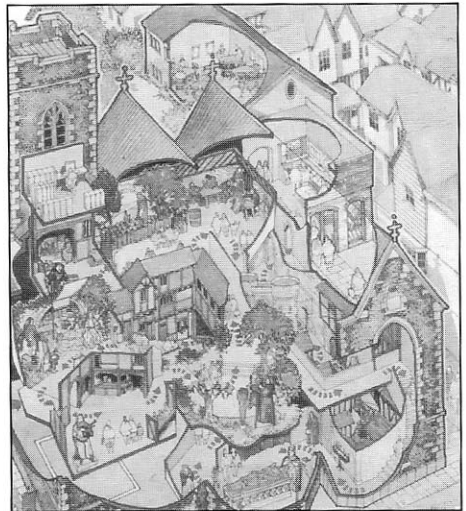


Truncated by the widening of the street in which it stands, and now presenting on to it the shallow polygonal apse with which George Gilbert Scott replaced the chancel in 1850, St. Margaret's was made redundant in 1983, having for a time served as the chapel for the deaf.

It is now occupied by The Canterbury Tales recreating the experiences of fourteenth century England. Scott's apse makes a pleasing addition to the street scene, and entry to The Canterbury Tales is by a fine mid twelfth century door at the west of the nave.

As often in Canterbury, this church is of knapped flint.
The Canterbury Tales:

open:	1.2. – 1.7.	10.00 – 17.00
	2.7. – 2.9.	9.30 – 17.30
	3.9. – 28.10.	10.00 – 17.00
	29.10. – 31.1.	10.00 – 16.30
	Tel. 01227-454888	



St Mildred's Church

Stour Street, Canterbury



Not made conspicuous by a tower, which was demolished in 1836, and tucked away in the shadow of the ruined castle and close to the busy Rheims Way ring road, St. Mildred's might well be missed by the visitor to Canterbury, which would be a pity, for it is well worth a visit.

As with other churches in the city, its foundation goes back to Saxon times, and when one moves to view the south wall of the nave one is looking at the complete wall of the nave of an aisleless Saxon church, with beyond it the start of the Saxon chancel. The quoins (corner stones) of that nave are of massive proportions, and were probably taken from the ruins of Roman Canterbury, and the west wall is also Saxon.

The north aisle is Early English at its east end, Perpendicular at the west, and at the east end are lancet windows which previously lit the base of the tower, which then spanned the aisle.

A very noteworthy part of the building is the fine crown-post roof in the chancel.



In 1512 a chapel was added on the south east side of the chancel to commemorate Thomas Attwood, four times Mayor of Canterbury, and with a name which still features in local government of the city. (As in other family chapels up and down the country, one can smile, indulgently, at the fireplace which saved the family from the worst rigours of worship in an unheated church!)

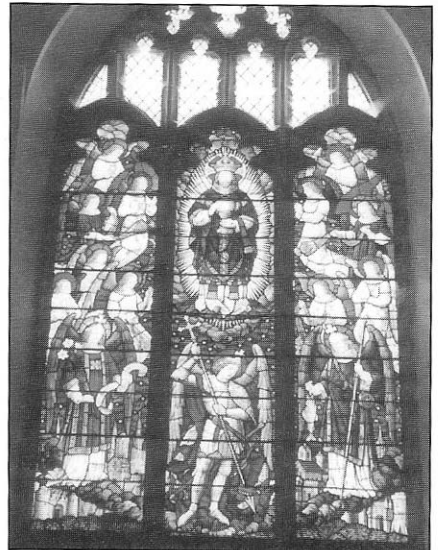
In the south wall one can see a tablet memorial to Thomas Cranmer, nephew of Archbishop Cranmer.

The church also has some good examples of funerary hatchments.

Open: May – end of October, whenever possible

Tel. 01227-462395

e-mail: davmon@eastbridge.fsnet.co.uk



Holy Cross Church

(now The Guildhall)
Westgate, Canterbury

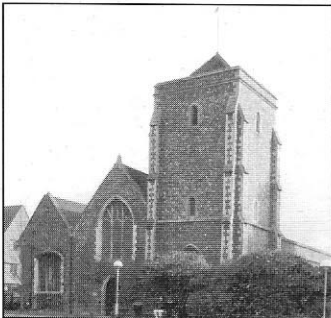
Standing immediately by the Westgate built by Archbishop Sudbury in 1380, Holy Cross, also built by Sudbury, replaced a church which had stood atop the old Westgate.

After serving for a brief period in the 1960's as chapel to the newly established University, Holy Cross has, since 1978, been

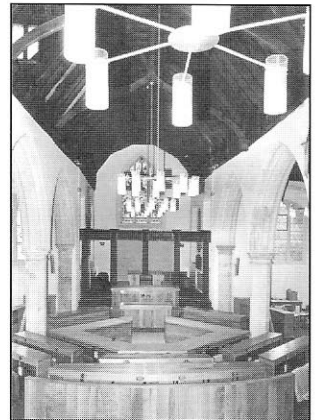
the council chamber of the Canterbury City Council, and is not open to the public. In contrast with the rag stone of the gateway, the church is of knapped flint with window tracery which represents major restorations in the latter half of the nineteenth century.



plan - nave with aisles, chancel, south porch and south west tower, well-viewed from within the Westgate Gardens.



Times for council meetings open to the public are posted at the entrance, or arrange a visit with the City Council.
Tel. 01227-862000st.



St. Peter's Church

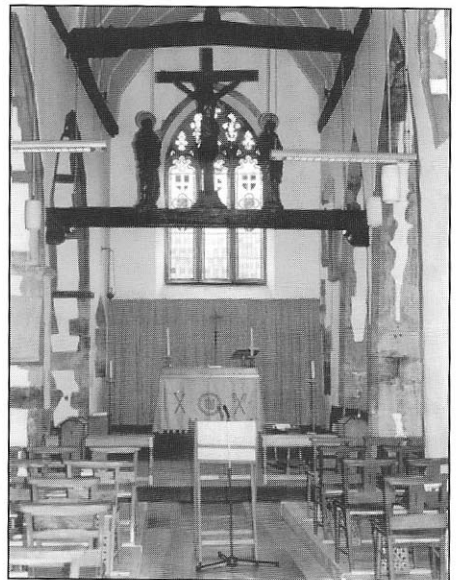
St. Peter's Street, Canterbury

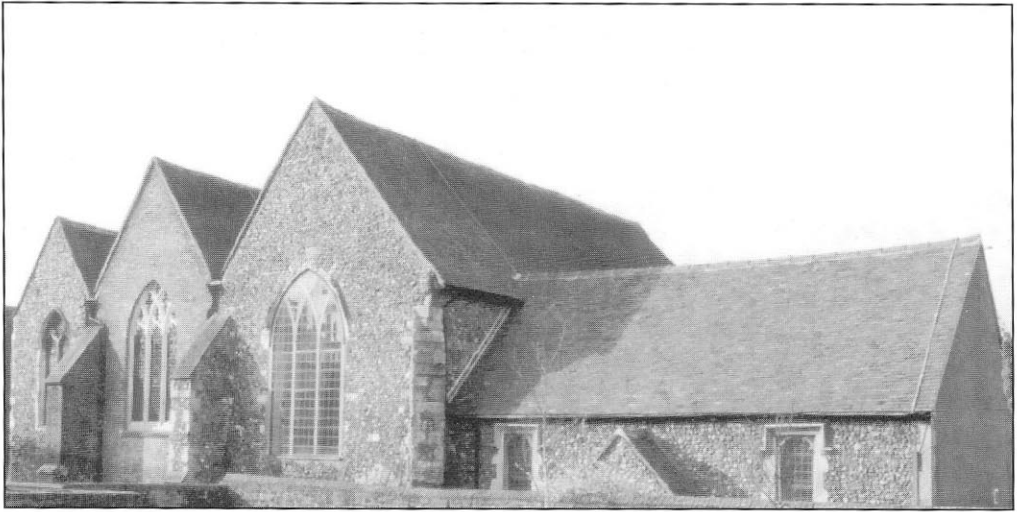


Standing slightly back from the street, St. Peter's hardly dominates it, yet it is the only one of Canterbury's churches to remain standing in the main thoroughfare, the historic route from London to Dover. Unpretentious, but at first glance at its slender tower, abutting on St. Peter's Lane, shows that it is another church of early foundation.

The tower dates from the eleventh century, as do some of the pillars in the nave arcade. Beside the tower is a south door of Early English design. Readily visible in the tower are Roman tiles, clear evidence of the early date of the church. Internally whilst the nave and chancel remain of a, more or less, steady width, both north and south aisles grow in width (the north aisle is wider). These changes in width become quite visible in the view of the east end from outside, its three gables different. In the south arcade vestiges of a rood loft are to be seen, but there appears not to have been a chancel arch.

The church is endowed with two piscinas, the provision made for the washing of the holy vessels at the time of the mass or eucharist, both of them in the Perpendicular style. The tracery of the east window is of the fourteenth century. On the north of the sanctuary there is an Easter Sepulchre, a quite common feature of churches in the later Middle Ages,

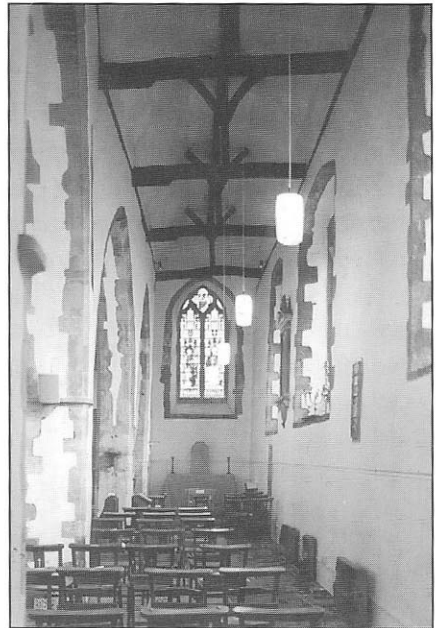




in which the bread consecrated on Maundy Thursday would be kept for veneration until Easter Sunday.

In the north aisle one sees a memorial to Huguenot families who settled in the parish, as elsewhere in Canterbury, during the sixteenth century. (This serves to remind us that in the Cathedral the western crypt was dedicated to French Protestant worship from the time of Elizabeth I, but since 1893 services have been held in the Black Prince's Chantry Chapel.)

The orientation of the church follows the line of Roman streets in the city, and there are Roman tiles to be found in a Norman sepulchre, which contributes to questionable speculation that St. Peter's might be co-temporaneous with St. Martin's in its origins.



Open: Easter – end of October,
10.00 – 17.00

Tel. 01227-462395

e-mail:

davmon@eastbridge.fsnet.co.uk

St. Peter's Methodist Church

St. Peter's Street, Canterbury

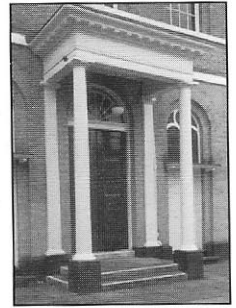
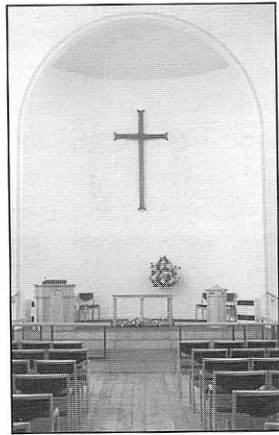


Standing back from the main thoroughfare of St Peter's Street, but visible from its forecourt, the Methodist church, with its proudly proclaimed date of 1811, must be regarded as a building to be treasured in a city which has many such.

Its façade in distinctive yellow brick has a classical dignity and serenity about it, an interesting foil to so many of the other churches we take in on this walk of medieval or nineteenth century Gothic. Nor does its interior fall short of our expectations after the façade. It immediately conveys an impression of spaciousness and light, which has been greatly enhanced as a result of a most

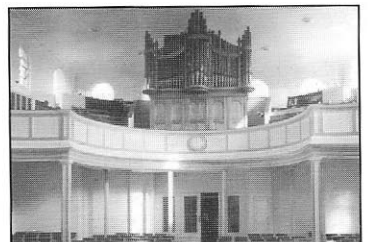
sensitive restoration and refurbishing in 1998. In the course of this the organ has been re-positioned at the west of the gallery, which encircles much of the church.

Against the shallow apse in which hangs an arrestingly simple wooden cross, there are lectern, font and communion table, the focal points of unbroken Christian tradition, in light wood, against the background of rich blue carpet. Seats in the gallery of a curiously antiquated design were lost in the refurbishing – but can one lament this antiquarian loss in the light of the overall gain?



Memorial tablets, tombs – none! But the church can boast of a table on which John Wesley wrote. Both for its architecture and its associations this church is not to be passed over lightly by any on this Canterbury Churches trail.

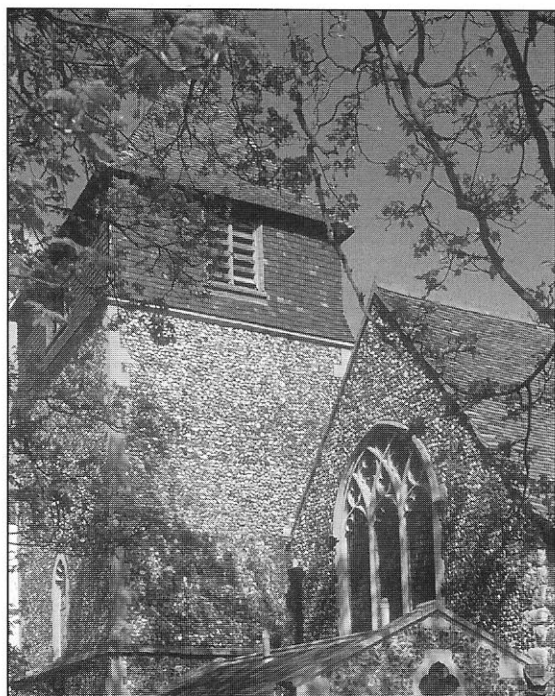
Open: Wed 10.00 – 12.00,
access through church hall
Tel. 01227-456359 (Church Secretary)



St. Alphege Church

(now The Canterbury Environment Centre)

St. Alphege Lane, Canterbury



Dedicated to the Archbishop of Canterbury martyred by the Danish invaders in 1012, the church of St. Alphege has been the home of the Canterbury Environment Centre and its precursor, the Urban Studies Centre, since 1982, the church having been declared redundant in 1982.

The church has its unassuming east end on Palace Street, one of the most interesting and busy streets of the city. Its north wall, culminating in its tower, was modestly rebuilt in the major rebuilding of 1888, at right angles to the thoroughfare in quiet St. Alphege Lane.

Like others in the city, the walls are of knapped flint with stone dressing, and the tower is finished with wood cladding.

Already in existence by 1200, the present appearance of the church is essentially that achieved during the thirteenth century, by which time the north aisle had been added to the main nave and chancel, terminating in the tower at the west.

Entry to the church is now by the arched door set in the base of this tower, originally the sole entrance was the door on the south side. Of this major



addition one lancet window remains towards the east of the north wall, otherwise the windows represent various later modifications. The arcade, five bays, of Kentish rag was in progress of building in 1468, and the east windows are of slightly later date. There is no chancel arch to interrupt the progression from nave to chancel, but there are the remains of the entry to a rood loft on the north side, with a pleasing hood-mould.



The fine late medieval archway and steps in the north wall led to the vanished wooden rood screen, which may have been given by John Caxton, brother of the famous printer. His rebus (a tun or barrel under the letters CAX) has been inserted into the rector's stall and is all that remains of his gift of new desks and seats for the chancel in late fifteenth century times.

Now, stripped of pews and other church furnishings, the interior conveys an impression of spaciousness, heightened by the four crown-posts of the nave roof. Still in position is the fine Perpendicular font, of traditional octagonal form, with a Jacobean cover suspended from an elaborate bracket.

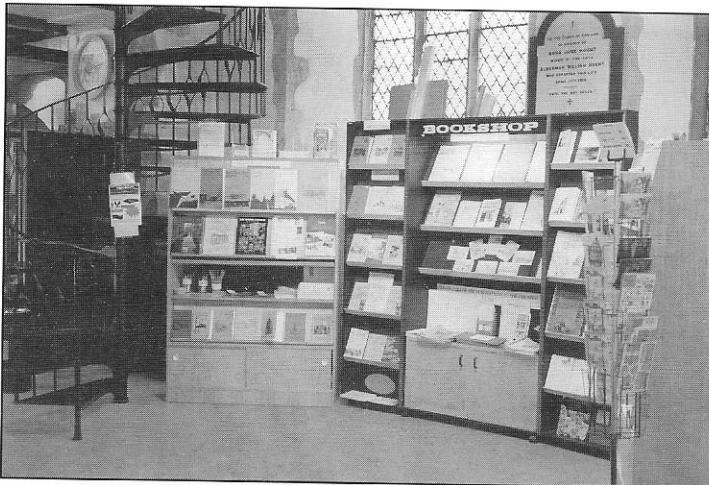
St. Alphege – now The Canterbury Environment Centre, open:

Tues – Fri 10.00 – 17.00

Sat 10.00 – 16.00

Tel. 01227-457009

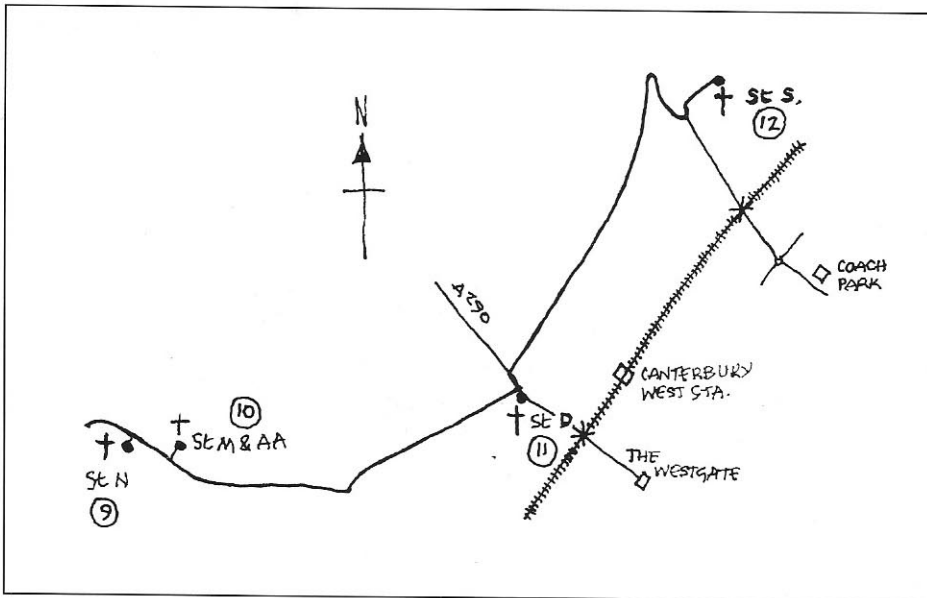
e-mail: canten@talk21.com



Thomas More's Route Map

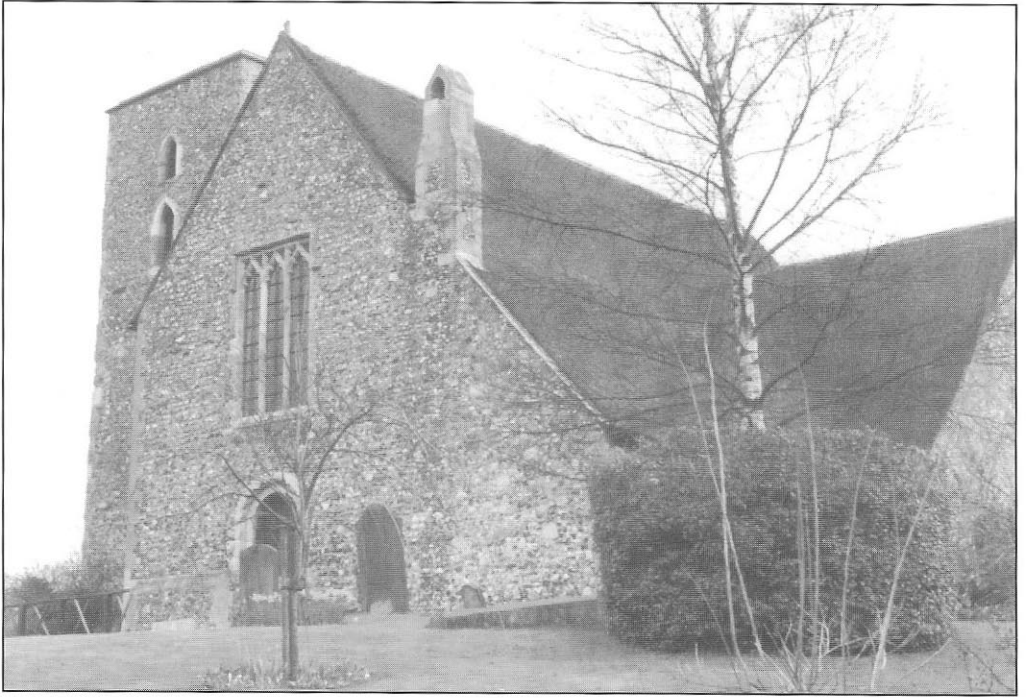
Thomas More's Route

9. Church of St. Nicholas Hospital, Harbledown
10. St. Michael and All Angels, Harbledown
11. St. Dunstan's Church
12. St. Stephen's Church



Church of St. Nicholas Hospital

Summer Hill, Harbledown

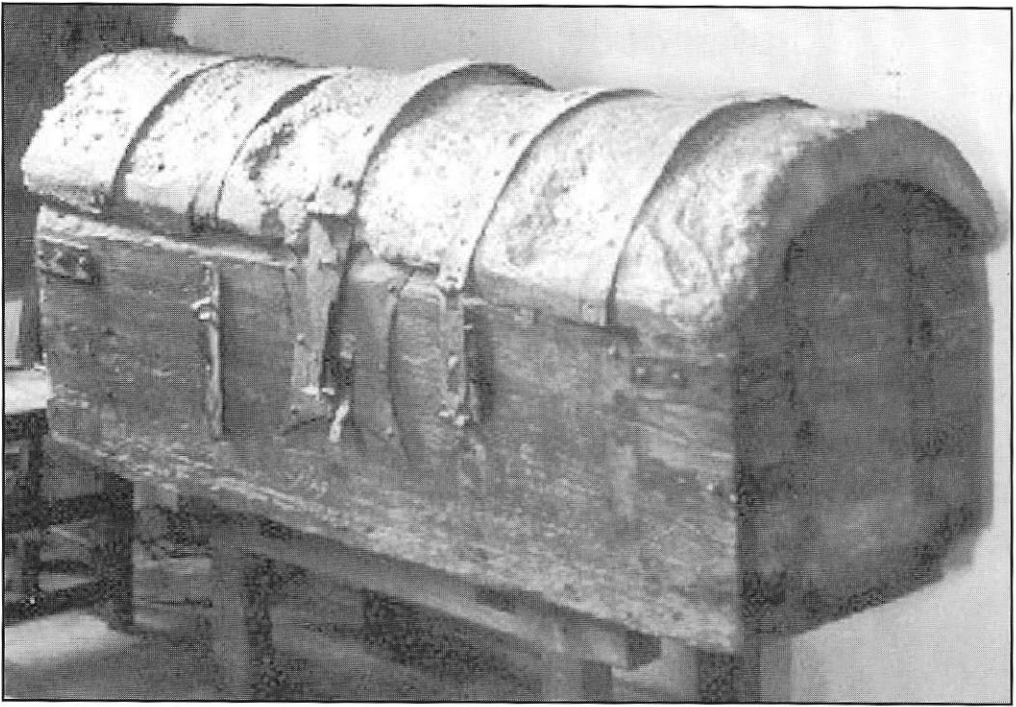


For those prepared to extend this walk around the churches of Canterbury there are good grounds for doing so out to Harbledown, a mile or so to the north west of the city centre: not least for the view which it gives of the Cathedral, a sight which must have brought refreshment to weary pilgrims.

Descending the hill to the west, we come upon the Hospital of St. Nicholas, where Archbishop Lanfranc founded a hospital or colony for lepers about 1084.

With the disappearance of leprosy its use was changed into a hospital for old people, as it continues, with a row of Victorian almshouses looking on to the church.





The church presents a west front of striking appearance: a high gable below which is a three light, square headed window of Decorated design above a Norman door with continuous zig-zag ornament – and flanking this, set back along the north side, the solid mass of the simple tower.

That external simplicity and sense of strength find their counterpart in the interior, where the nave opens through two round arches into the north aisle, with a beautifully crisply carved capital on one column, reminiscent of some of the fine work found re-used as infilling in a bay of the Cathedral cloisters and now displayed in the crypt of the Cathedral.

Two simple bold pointed arches lead into the chapel and aisle on the south side. In the chancel are fragments of early wall paintings in the splay of the windows and on the walls.

The church retains much of its early character and is well worth the walk to visit it.

Open: on request

Tel. 01227-464658

(Miss Jill Rayner

5, St. Nicholas Hospital)

St. Michael and All Angels

Summer Hill, Harbledown



The parish church of St. Michael and All Angels is again deeply characteristic of the rebuilding, and enlargement of churches in Canterbury, as elsewhere, in the nineteenth century.

The original church is represented by the south aisle, containing vestiges of Norman work and the remains of an early piscina and a chapel. The remainder of the building as we see it now, nave and chancel, is the work of a rebuilding in the 1880's, which occasioned the demolition of the then existing north aisle, porch, west gallery and vestry. The result of this rebuilding was the creation of a church with a sense of spaciousness and proportion.

The building material is flint as in other Canterbury - and indeed Kent - churches.



Although set on the hill which immediately leads down into the city, the church does not dominate on this advantageous site, from which pilgrims would have had their first near sighting of the Cathedral, their destination.

Open:

Sat and Sun 14.00 – 17.00 in August

or contact Tel.: 464117

e-mail: michael@summer-hill.freeseve.co.uk



St. Dunstan's Church

St. Dunstan's Street, Canterbury

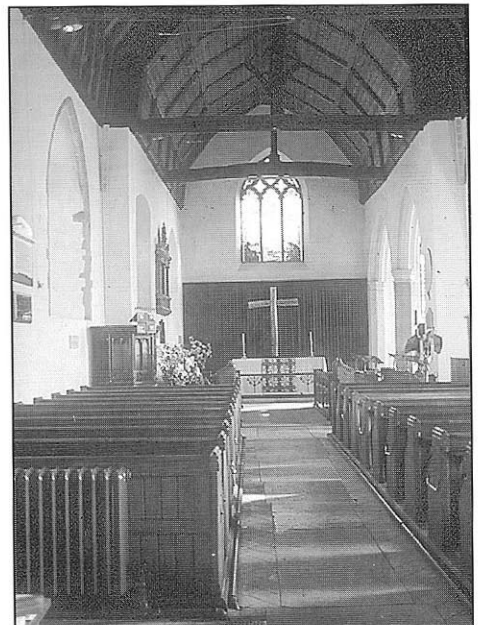


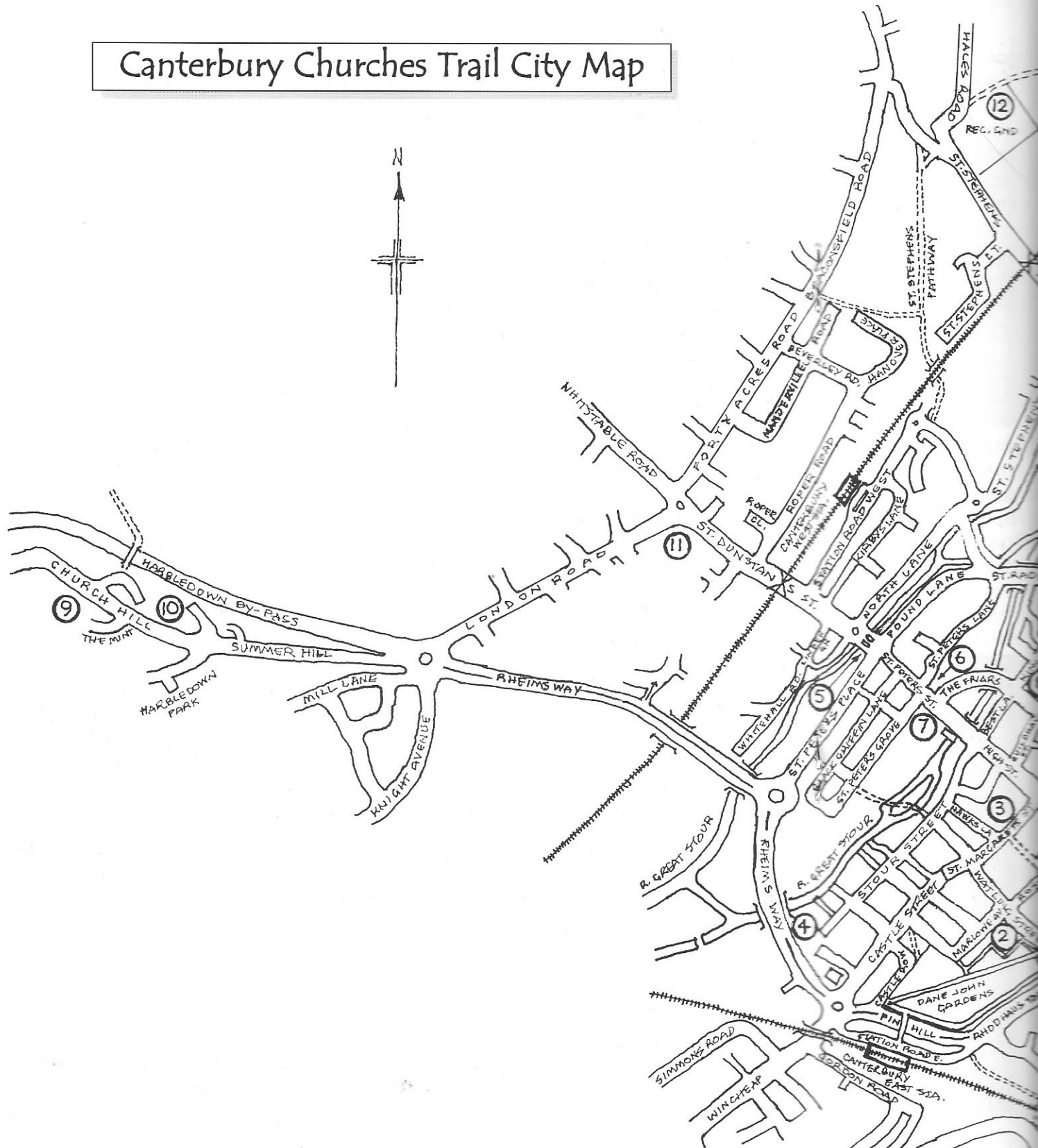
Standing on higher ground to the north of the city centre, some three hundred yards beyond the Westgate Towers, in the angle formed by London Rd. and St. Dunstan's Street, is the church of St. Dunstan.

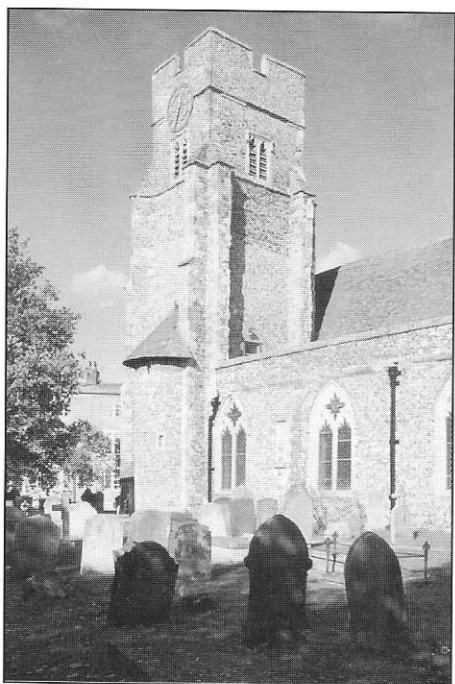
It is a church which has association with two momentous events in the history of the country. For it was from here that Henry II, disrobed, made his way to the Cathedral in 1174 to do penance for the murder of Becket. Here, too, in a vault, is the head of Thomas More executed by Henry VIII on July 6th, 1535 for following his conscience, as had Becket. More's daughter Margaret had married William Roper, whose family house stood in St. Dunstan's Street (only the gateway now remains), and she it was who brought the head to Canterbury to be placed in the Roper tomb in the church.

The church presents its north side to the main thoroughfare to Whitstable, with its west tower fronting on to London Rd.

In origin it was an aisleless eleventh century Norman building, of which the north wall of the nave and chancel is the only visible remaining part. To this were added in the fourteenth century the south aisle, tower and the Roper Chantry Chapel of St. Nicholas.







Of the Chantry Chapel all that visibly remains are the arches which lead from the main body of the church. The chapel was refaced around 1542 with brick, giving an incongruous and misleading impression on the exterior, the rest of the church being mainly in unknapped flint, with occasional Roman tiles. The west door and window are Perpendicular dating from the fifteenth century. The Trinity Chapel by the north porch was built in 1330 (now a vestry).

Internally the church conveys an impression of spaciousness and light, with its Decorated windows in the south aisle and its quite striking arcade of Perpendicular arches dividing nave and south aisle. The nave and chancel have a unifying crown-post roof. The vaulted

area under the tower at the west end is dominated by a splendid tall, pinnacled wooden font cover, and there one can also see a fine, if somewhat worn, muniment chest in which parish records were stored.

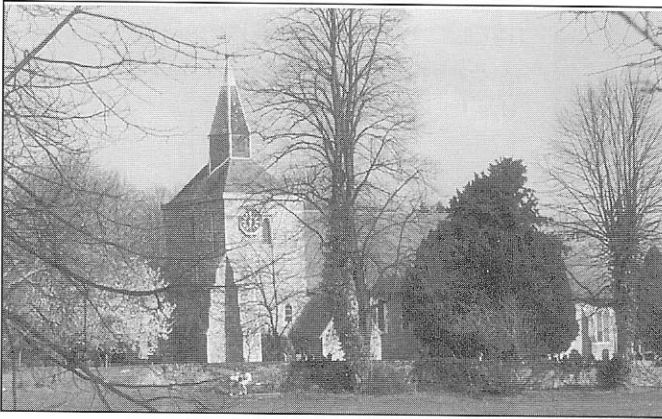
The Roper chapel, more harmonious and integrated internally, as well as containing the much damaged Roper memorial, is dominated by three fine, if very different, windows dedicated to St. Thomas More. That dating from 1984 has ecumenism as its theme, movingly underlined by the small roundel which depicts the moment when Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Robert Runcie prayed together at the Martyrdom in the Cathedral on the occasion of the Pope's visit in 1982.



Open: daily 8.00 – dusk
Tel. 01227-463654
e-mail: maurice.worgan@virgin.net

St. Stephen's Church

Hales Place, Canterbury

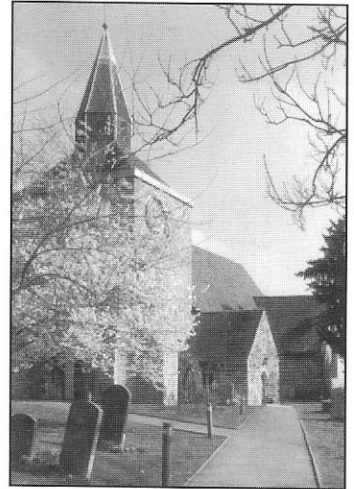


A walk of 15 minutes from the city centre, St. Stephen's lies sheltered by trees from the main road, and has happily managed to retain many of the aspects of a village church.

Recent excavations occasioned by restoration suggest that the

present church, Norman in origin, may have replaced an earlier Saxon one.

The solid west tower, with powerful buttresses is carved out of the west end of the nave of Anselm's church of c1100, and culminates in a squat wooden spire. The door in the tower is of characteristic romanesque chevron design, whilst that entered by the later south porch has a finely chip carved tympanum of diaper work. (Recent restoration work, removing the Victorian floor level, has restored the original proportions of the porch doors.) Internally the most striking feature of the church are the two wide Romanesque arches which give into the transepts and serve to unify the chancel with the nave; it is assumed that they represent re-using of stone, presumably from Archbishop Baldwin's abortive attempt to found a



college of canons in Hackington, to rival if not replace the monks of Christ Church. At the west end of the nave one sees two original window openings. Later lancet windows are set asymmetrically in the nave.



The windows in the Early English chancel are in contrast symmetrically placed, and have black shafts lending emphasis to them. The tracery was renewed about 1400. The large Perpendicular east window is flanked by two small lights of the fourteenth century.

A much re-worked screen separates the south transept, the Manwood Chapel, from the crossing re-furbished by Sir Roger Manwood, whose tomb of 1592 fills most of the west wall is undoubtedly one of the most distinctive treasures of the church. His life-size bust in his judicial robes stands in a niche, below which, on a mat, lies a quite realistic carving of a skeleton – a superb memento mori! Unifying both nave and chancel ceilings are strong wooden tie beams resting on the top of the walls.

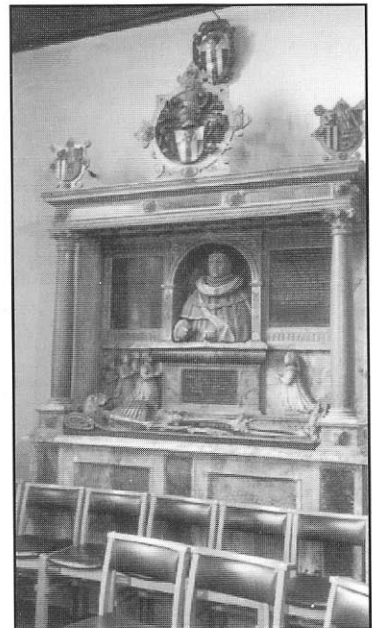
One awaits with interest the outcome of the assessment of the archaeological discoveries made during the recent works.

Open:

Wed. 10.30 – 12.00 (there are plans to have the church open more)

Parish Office: Thurs., 9.30 – 12.30

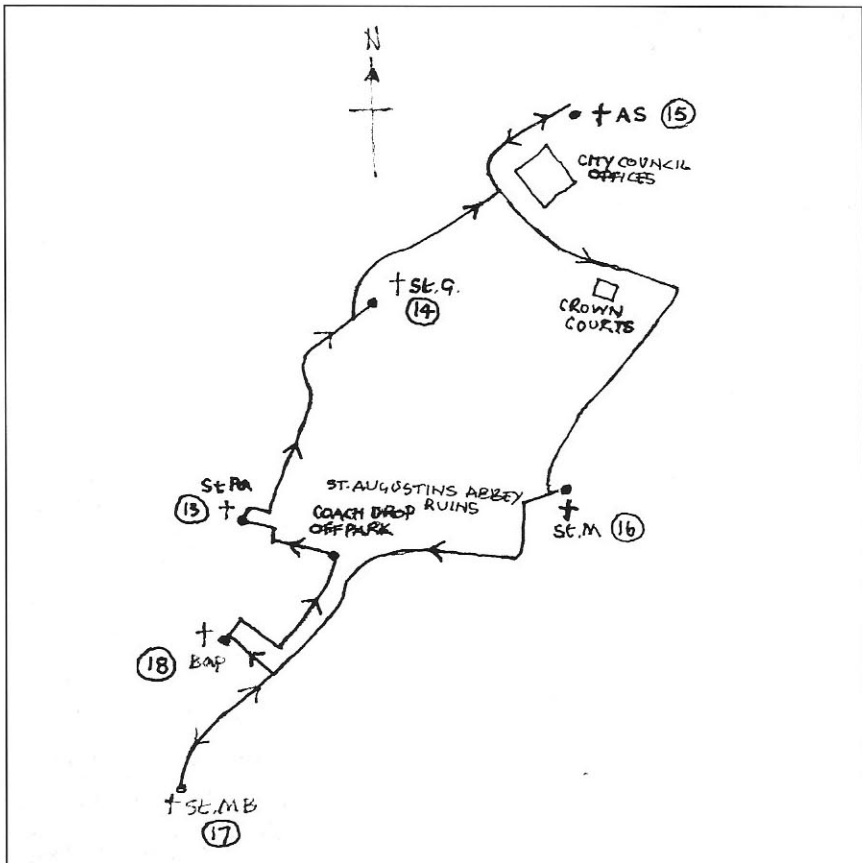
Tel. 01227-471290



Augustine's Route Map

Augustine's Route

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14. St. Gregory's Church (now
Canterbury Christ Church University
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St. Paul's Church

Church Street St. Paul's, Canterbury

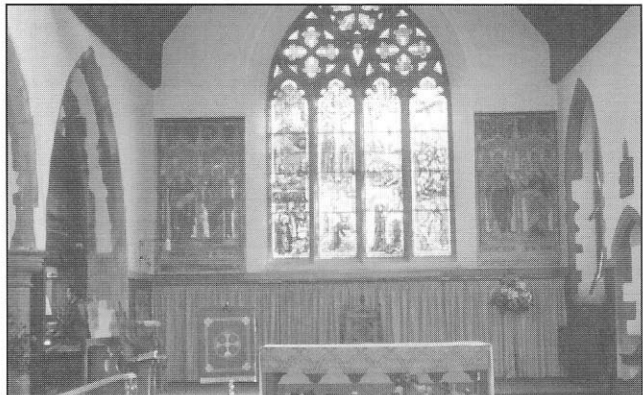


Standing in a street which ends with a gateway of St. Augustine's Abbey, the north wall and north-west tower of St. Paul's are a prominent part of the approach to that ancient but much changed structure.

The church itself is the result of major changes carried out in the nineteenth century by that great preserver, but also major transformer, of the English church scene, Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Internally the church has a quite wide, spacious appearance, very much the outcome of the major re-building completed under Scott in 1856. This re-building was not the first to have been carried out on what had in origin been a simple small twelfth century church, which is now represented by the north aisle as far as the organ, which stands in the area of a chancel added by Hamo Doge in the late thirteenth century.

The wall facing Church Street very clearly marks this addition in the transition from irregular rough stone and flint to finely knapped flint at the east end. To the west a tower was added, and in 1320 a south aisle and chancel, this last continuing as the present chancel. Scott's re-building was to take out the south wall and add the present south aisle, carrying it beyond the then length of the church and creating the west front as we have it today,





further incorporating the base of the tower into the building. Scott added to the height of the tower, again in the good quality knapped flint work.

All the Decorated windows date from the Scott re-building, giving a degree of uniformity to the building. Re-organisation of the sanctuary and crossing carried out in 1985 has added significantly to the sense of space in the church.

In the interior the most conspicuous feature is the reredos of mosaic installed in the chancel, whilst on the south wall of the chancel, below the south east window, is a memorial to John Twyne (1501-1581) who served as Mayor of Canterbury and Headmaster of the King's School.

In leaving one should note the bust of Sir Edward Master, buried here in 1690, which is above the outer door in the porch.

Open:
When Church Office is open
Mon., Wed., Fri.
10.00 – 12.00
Tel. 01227-768072



St. Gregory's Church

North Holmes Road, Canterbury



No longer in use as a parish church, St. Gregory's now serves as a splendid concert hall for neighbouring Canterbury Christ Church University College, which means that viewing the interior is confined to attendance at the superb concerts which the College mounts there.

The present building is by that great master of English church architecture of the nineteenth century, Sir George Gilbert Scott, and is in the Decorated style. Drawing on the local tradition, the church makes much use of knapped flint.

With no tower but a bell gable above the chancel arch, it seems to nestle amongst the trees of the surrounding graveyard, almost apologetically.

Built as a memorial to Archbishop Howley in 1848, its dedication to St. Gregory reflects its proximity to the site of the Priory of St. Gregory (Northgate), one of the lost, important religious houses of the city, excavation of whose site has contributed significantly to our knowledge both of life here in Canterbury and, more generally, in medieval times. The north aisle is under the same roof as the nave, with the chancel of a lower height.



Little change has been made internally to the church for its present use, taking the form of a gallery inserted into the aisle, but visibly intruding only on the first two bays of the nave.

Freed of church furnishings the elegant simplicity of the four arch arcade of Early English design and the strongly defined chancel arch in similar style can be appreciated.

It is a delight to enjoy the sense of space conveyed by this wholly Victorian church.

For access contact
 Music Dept., Canterbury Christ Church University College
 Tel.: 01227-782502

All Saints' Church

Military Road, Canterbury



Over the centuries Canterbury has lost quite a number of its medieval churches, some as a result of 'improvements' to the city's streets, some due to redundancy and of course some to bombing in the Second World War.

One such church was that of All Saints in the High Street, which was in existence in 1166, had its tower demolished for street

widening in 1769, was rebuilt in 1832 and demolished in 1937. In 1970, with the very considerable reduction of the army barracks, the dedication of All Saints was transferred to the former garrison chapel, which, with internal re-organisation, was to become the church of a parish of that name.

The building itself is an unremarkable Victorian Gothic one, characteristic of many, save, perhaps, in not having a tower.

It is an aisleless hall, which as the parish church has been divided to give a spacious open church at the east end, with a simple tall screen in the sanctuary creating a chapel behind, and at the west end an area dedicated as a church hall.

Those visiting it will gain from its original interior area some impression of the size of the garrison stationed here (was attendance compulsory?) and of Canterbury's past as a garrison town.

Open: Tues 10.00 – 12.00,
Wed. 12.30 – 13.00,
access through church hall.
Tel. 01227-463505
e-mail:
sjones@canterbury.clara.net



St. Martin's Church

North Holmes Road, Canterbury



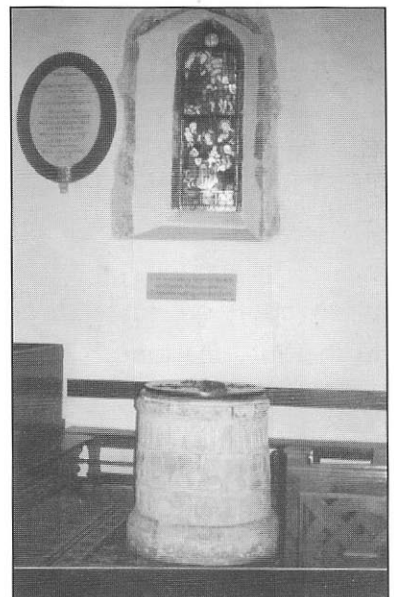
Standing on a hill some half of a mile south east of the Cathedral. Saint Martin's is the oldest church in the country where there has been worship continuously from the sixth century.

There are strong

grounds for believing that parts of the present church are indeed where Queen Bertha worshipped before the arrival of St. Augustine in 597.

The low, wholly unpretentious tower at the west end is fourteenth century, but the nave and chancel immediately reveal their very early origins, with Roman bricks interspersed in courses in the stone blocks of the nave, and the same Roman bricks are found in the western part of the wall south of the chancel. It is most likely that these represent the remaining parts of the church used by Bertha, and that the nave was built in the seventh century.

Internally the nave appears wide and relatively tall, with the raised chancel having a much more constricted appearance. The partially stripped west wall of the nave reveals a blocked opening and to the left and right blocked Anglo-Saxon windows; again the great age of the building is immediately apparent.



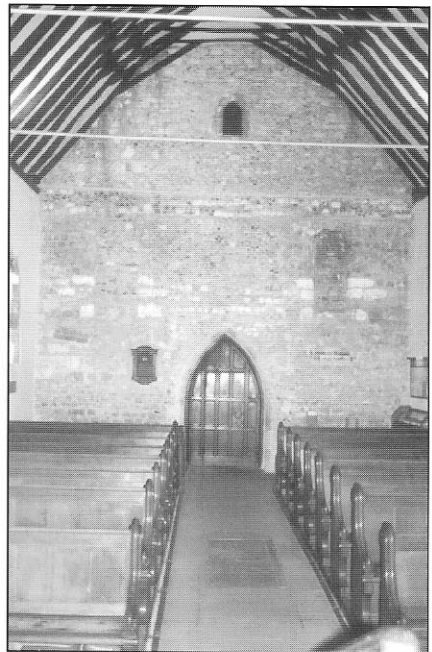


A now blocked Norman doorway on the north side was in use until the nineteenth century, and beside it the original stoup for holy water now holds a replica of the fourteenth century christmatory – a box for holding containers of holy oils – the original of which, a rare survival, is exhibited, on loan, in the Cathedral Treasury.

At the west end there is a splendid Norman font, with fine interlaced arcade decoration, originally a well head. The east end of the church is of later date than the rest of the building, and was much restored in the nineteenth century.

Under the tower there is a monument of considerable interest, that of Sir John Finch, the Speaker of the House of Commons under Charles I, held down in the Chair in order that the Petition of Rights might be passed.

Open hours are under review, phone for further information:
Tel. 01227-768072
(Church Office)



St. Mary Bredin Church

Old Dover Road, Canterbury



One casualty of the raid of June 1st, 1942 on Canterbury was the destruction of St. Mary Bredin church, which had been built in 1867 in Rose Lane to replace a Norman church, itself a successor to a Saxon one.

After the war the church which was to replace it was located slightly out of the centre of the city at the junction of Old Dover road with Nunnery Fields, where it holds a prominent position.

Dedicated in 1957, it is built of brick with stone facing and stone window openings, and follows a very traditional design. At the west end is a tower, with entrance porch, leading into a light, airy aisle-less nave, whose roof is carried on high pointed transverse arches which rise in a graceful uninterrupted flow from floor to summit, producing a fine sense of spatial harmony.

The equally satisfying chancel is flanked on the north by a side chapel, separated by a wooden screen.

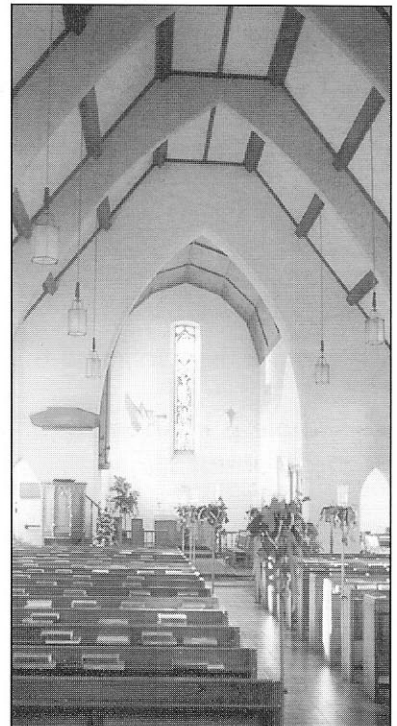
Open:

Mon. – Fri. 10.00 – 12.00, in term times.

Ring bell at reception.

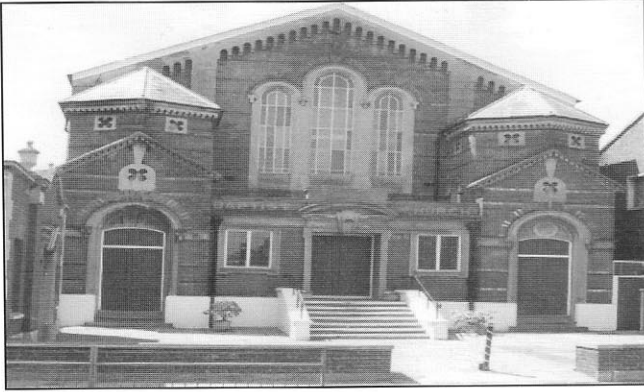
Tel. 01227-453777 (Church Office).

e-mail: smb@smb.org.uk



Canterbury Baptist Church,

St. George's Place, Canterbury

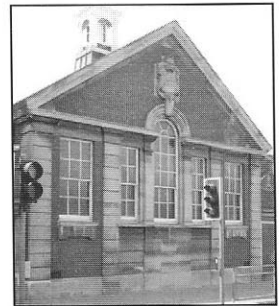


Fronting on to the main thoroughfare to Dover, the Baptist Church of 1864 presents a striking contrast with St. Peter's Methodist Church as examples of nineteenth century Nonconformist architecture.

If St. Peter's impresses by the simplicity and

restraint of its façade St. George's presents a more complex appearance which would be difficult to characterise as of any particular style: this in contrast, too, with the much more clearly classical church hall which flanks it.

The dominant feature of the front are the two projecting 'turrets' which rise on either side of, and integrate, the triple-doored portico, behind which rises a three light window.



The interior of the church presents a wholly characteristic 'chapel' design. At the east end the organ stands above the pulpit, below which is the communion table, and concealed, save when baptism is taking place, the baptismal pool. Slim cast iron columns support the gallery which runs round the remaining three sides of the building.

The whole is harmonious and splendidly evocative of the nineteenth century Nonconformist spirit.

For access contact Church Office

Open:

Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9.00 – 12.00

Tel. 01227-456204

e-mail: cbc.enquiries@virgin.net



Viewing details

City Centre Route

1. **Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury**
 Burgate, Canterbury
 Open: daily 8.00 – 17.00
 Parish Office: Tel.: 01227 – 462896
 e-mail: St.Thomas.Canterbury@talk21.com

2. **St. Andrew's United Reformed Church**
 Watling Street, Canterbury
 Open: When the office is open:
 Tue & Thurs 10.00 – 12.00
 Mon, Wed, Fri 10.00 – 14.00
 Tel. 01227-464643 or 464772
 e-mail: cybarev@hotmail.com

3. **St Margaret's Church**
 (now The Canterbury Tales)
 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury
 Canterbury Tales, Tel.: 01227-454888
 open:

1.2.	– 1.7.	10.00 – 17.00
2.7.	– 2.9.	9.30 – 17.30
3.9.	– 28.10.	10.00 – 17.00
29.10.	– 31.1.	10.00 – 16.30

4. **St. Mildred's Church**
 Stour Street, Canterbury
 Open: May – end of October, whenever possible
 Tel. 01227-462395
 e-mail: davmon@eastbridge.fsnet.co.uk

City Centre Route (Continued)

5. Holy Cross Church (now The Guildhall)

Westgate, Canterbury

Times for Council meetings open to the public are posted at the entrance, or arrange visit with the City Council.

Tel.: 01227-862000

6. St Peter's Church

St. Peter's Street, Canterbury

Open: Easter – end of October, 10.00 – 17.00

Tel. 01227-462395

e-mail: davmon@eastbridge.fsnet.co.uk

7. St. Peter's Methodist Church

St. Peter's Street, Canterbury

Open: Wed 10.00 – 12.00,
access through church hall

Tel. 01227-456359

(Church Secretary)

8. St. Alphege Church

(now The Canterbury Environment Centre,)

St. Alphege Lane, Canterbury

open: Tues – Fri 10.00 – 17.00

Sat 10.00 – 16.00

Tel.: 01227-457009

e-mail: canten@talk21.com

Thomas More's Route

9. **Church of St. Nicholas Hospital**
 Summer Hill, Harbledown, Canterbury
 Open: on request
 Tel.: 01227-464658
 (Miss Jill Rayner
 5, St. Nicholas Hospital)

10. **St Michael and all Angels**
 Summer Hill, Harbledown, Canterbury
 Open: Sat and Sun 14.00 – 17.00 in August, or
 contact Tel.: 01227-464117
 e-mail: michael@summer-hill.freemove.co.uk

11. **St. Dunstan's Church**
 St. Dunstan's Street, Canterbury
 Open: daily 8.00 – dusk
 Tel.: 01227-463654
 e-mail: maurice.worgan@virgin.net

12. **St Stephen's Church**
 Hales Place, Canterbury
 Open: Wed. 10.30 – 12.00
 (there are plans to have the church open more)
 Parish Office: Thur. 9.30 – 12.30
 Tel.: 01227-471290

Augustine's Route

13. **St. Paul's Church**
Church Street St. Paul's, Canterbury
Open: When Church Office is open:
Mon, Wed., Fri 10.00 – 12.00
Tel. 01227-768072
14. **St. Gregory's Church**
North Holmes Road, Canterbury
For access contact
Music Dept., Canterbury Christ Church University College
Tel.: 01227-782502
15. **All Saints' Church**
Military Road, Canterbury
Open: Tues. 10.00 – 12.00,
Wed. 12.30 – 13.00, access through church hall.
Tel. 01227-463505
e-mail: sjones@canterbury.clara.net
16. **St. Martin's Church**
North Holmes Road, Canterbury
Open hours are under review,
phone for further information: Tel. 01227-768072
(Church Office)
17. **St. Mary Bredin Church**
Old Dover Road, Canterbury
Open: Mon – Fri 10.00 – 12.00, in term times (Church Office).
Ring bell at reception.
Tel.: 453777
e-mail: smb@smb.org.uk
18. **Canterbury Baptist Church**
St. George's Place, Canterbury
For access contact Church Office,
Open: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9.00 – 12.00
Tel. 01227-456204
e-mail: cbc.enquiries@virgin.net

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13. Palace Street

For orders please contact:

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