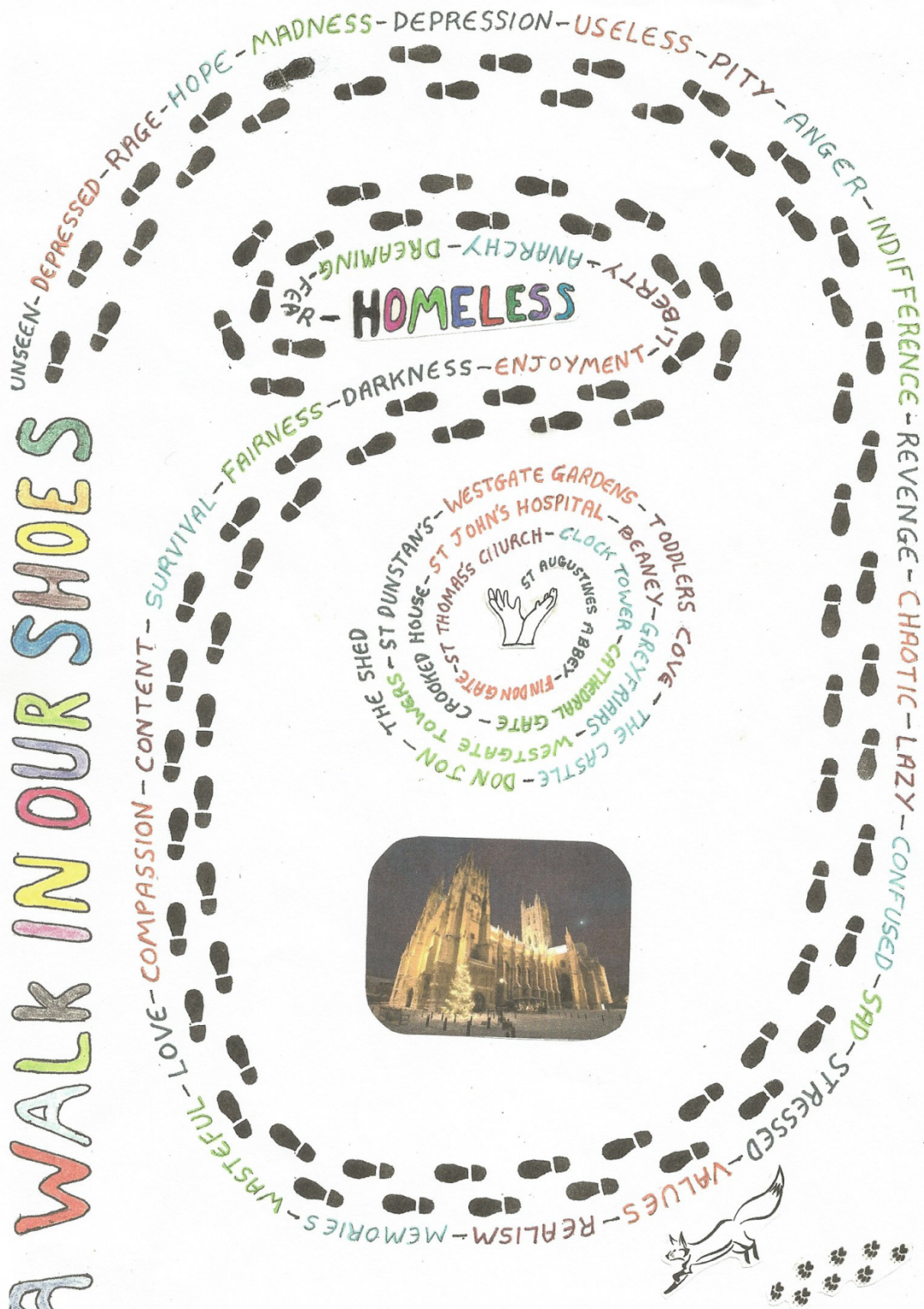
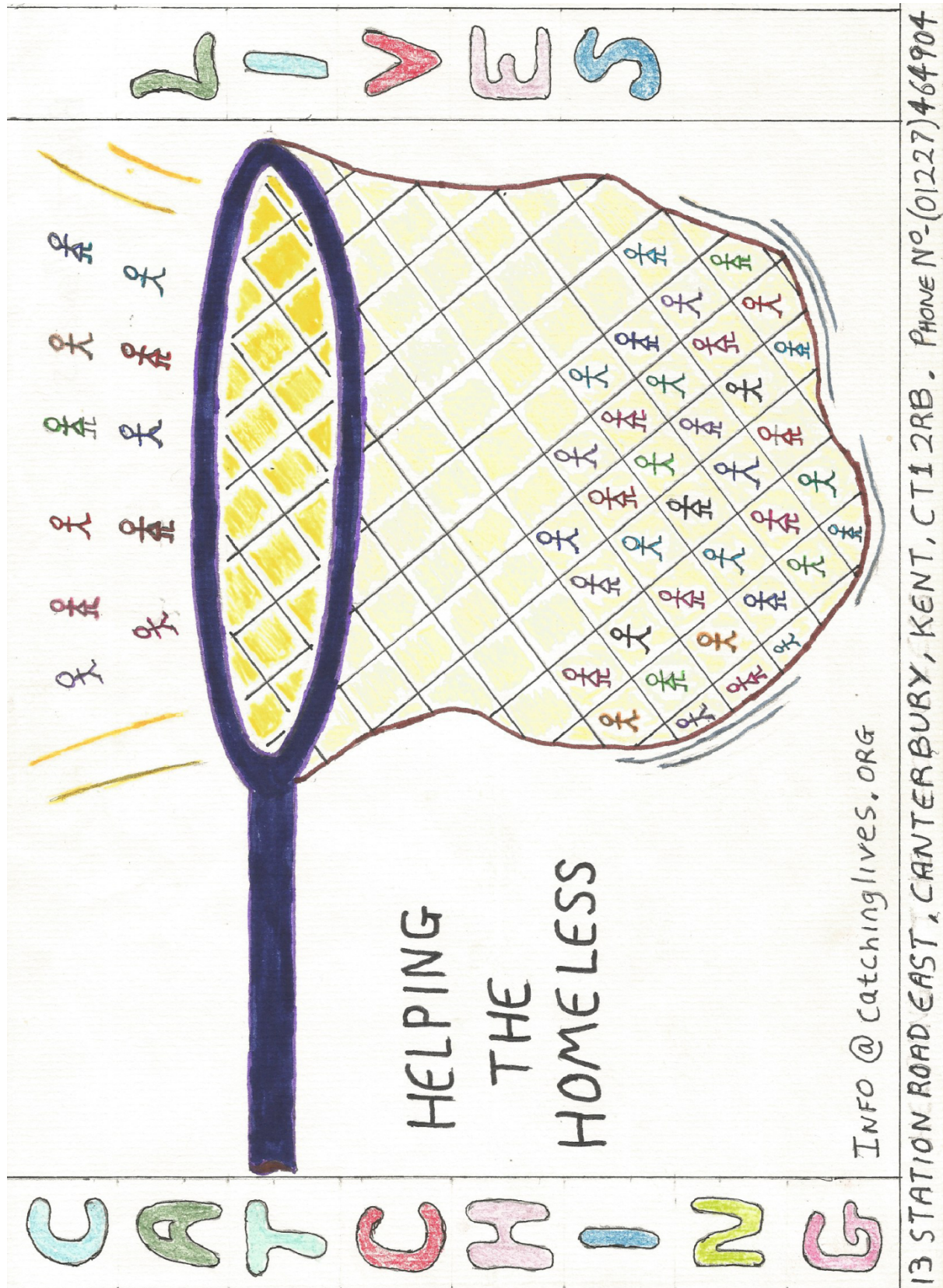


# A WALK IN OUR SHOES







A walk in our shoes

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## Canterbury



One of the most historic of English cities, Canterbury is famous for its medieval cathedral. There was a settlement here before the Roman invasion, but it was the arrival of St Augustine in 597 AD that was the signal for Canterbury's growth. Augustine built a cathedral within the city walls, and a new monastery outside the walls. The ruins of St Augustine's Abbey can still be seen today.

Initially the abbey was more important than the cathedral, but the murder of St Thomas a Becket in 1170 changed all that. Pilgrims flocked to Canterbury to visit the shrine of the murdered archbishop, and Canterbury Cathedral became the richest in the land. It was expanded and rebuilt to become one of the finest examples of medieval architecture in Britain.

But there is more to Canterbury than the cathedral. The 12th century Eastbridge Hospital was a guesthouse for pilgrims, and features medieval wall paintings and a Pilgrim's Chapel. The old West Gate of the city walls still survives, and the keep of a 11th century castle.

St Dunstan's church holds a rather gruesome relic; the head of Sir Thomas More, executed by Henry VIII. The area around the cathedral is a maze of twisting medieval streets and alleys, full of historic buildings. Taken as a whole, Canterbury is one of the most satisfying historic cities to visit in England.



St Augustine's Abbey



In this case the abbey isn't just dedicated to St. Augustine, it was actually founded by him, in 598, to house the monks he brought with him to convert the Britons to Christianity.

Shortly after Augustine's arrival in 597 King Ethelbert of Kent granted him a parcel of land stretching to about 30 acres (18 hectares) outside the walls of the city, near the course of the main road to the coast. In 598 Augustine established a monastic settlement with the small group of monks who had accompanied him to Kent. The abbey lands probably included St Martin's church, an existing Romano-British church where Bertha, Ethelbert's Frankish wife, already worshipped.



The abbey was used as a burial place for kings of Kent and the first archbishops of Canterbury (the archbishops were later within the cathedral itself). The site used for the burials of kings can still be seen amid the abbey ruins.



When the abbey was built, one of Augustine's companions, named Peter, was elected as the first official abbot of the new monastery. That first abbey included domestic buildings, about which little is known. It also included a linear row of chapels, in a style then common on the European continent. One of the first chapels was the little brick church of St Pancras. The remains of this chapel can be seen at the furthest end of the abbey grounds from the visitor center. A theory has been put forward that St Pancras was the church established by Queen Bertha, rather than St Martin's. St Pancras is certainly a very early church, and uses Roman bricks extensively.

There was a school attached to the abbey (or possibly at the cathedral). This school, which may well have been established by Augustine himself, quickly began to draw scholars from across Britain, and by the late 7th century the school had attained a reputation as a place of learning. There was also a library, which included books brought by Augustine, and more sent by Pope Gregory.

The abbey was reorganised by Dunstan, Archbishop from 959 to follow the current reforms in Benedictine rule. Abbey buildings were expanded and the church rebuilt. The early dedication of the abbey was not to Augustine, but to SS Peter and Paul. Dunstan changed that; when his rebuilt church was finished he rededicated it to St Augustine and Peter and Paul. From that point it became popularly known as St Augustine's.

Abbot Wulfric (1047-59) was responsible for the most striking feature of the manastery ruins that still survives. This is the octagonal rotunda built to link the church of St Peter and Paul with the chapel dedicated to St Mary.

The first Norman abbot, Scolland, rebuilt many of the monastic buildings in Romanesque style. When Scolland died, the Archbishop of Canterbury named his successor, despite the objections of the monks. Several of the monks were arrested and the objections died down quickly. The rebuilding of the Saxon abbey buildings continued until the end of the 12th century.

Throughout the medieval period St Augustine's Abbey built up estates throughout Kent. Included in the estates was land in Thanet granted by King Cnut. At the fullest extent of its power the abbey held over 12,000 acres of land. But that power did not last, and like all other monastic houses in the land, St Augustine's suffered at the hands of Henry VIII. On 30 July 1538 the last abbot and monks left the abbey, signaling the end of over 940 years of monastic presence.

Of the famous library, only 200 books survive, and of the abbey plate only a single silver-rimmed cup survives, in the treasury of the cathedral. After the monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII part of the abbey buildings were converted into a royal residence, used as a stopover place on journeys between London and the south coast.

The abbey site was leased out to a succession of noble families. Among these were Lord and Lady Wotton, who rented the site in 1610. The Wotton's engaged John Tradescant the Elder to lay out formal gardens within the abbey grounds.

Over the subsequent centuries parts of the abbey were sold off. Some were adapted for use by King's School, the exclusive school established by Henry VIII.

By far the best surviving feature of the medieval abbey is the great 14th century gatehouse, sometimes called Fyndon's Gate. Within the grounds the most impressive remain is the north wall of the nave of the abbey church, which still stands to a great height. Abutting this is a partial wall of the Ethelbert Tower. More interesting, though, is the circular remains of Abbot Wulfric's rotunda, built around 1050.

The abbey makes up part of the Canterbury World Heritage Site, which also includes Canterbury Cathedral and the nearby church of St Martin's, the oldest church in Britain still in use.

(PAY TO ENTER)

### Canterbury, St Martin

St Martin's can claim to be the oldest church in England; certainly it is the oldest still in regular use. St Augustine set up a church here when he arrived in Kent in 597 AD to convert the inhabitants to Christianity. St Martins thus forms part of the Canterbury World Heritage Site, along with Canterbury Cathedral and St Augustine's Abbey. Unlike those other two historic attractions, St Martin's remains unknown to most visitors to Canterbury, and that's a real shame, for it is a lovely historic building. It seems highly probable that St Martins predates the arrival of St Augustine in 597. At that time Kent was ruled by King A Ethelbert, who had married a Frankish princess named Bertha. Bertha was already Christian, and when she came to Kent she brought her private chaplain. She worshipped in an existing Roman [Christian] church. From the description of that Roman church it seems likely that it was the building that is now St Martins.





The oldest parts of St Martins are certainly built of Roman brick, but whether these are part of an early Roman structure, or simply reused by Bertha, or Augustine and his successors, we do not know for sure.

Parts of the chancel are almost certainly Roman, but the style of some brickwork may be 7th century. A blocked doorway in the south wall of the chancel is 7th century work, as is round-headed doorway nearby. Is the chancel Roman, or does it simply reuse old Roman bricks?



The nave is buttressed in a way that suggests early Saxon work, and there are blocked windows in the west wall of the nave that are certainly Saxon. A relative newcomer amid all this ancient building is the chancel arch, which is Perpendicular Gothic.

The font is an absolute delight; it is a huge Norman tub, decorated in wonderfully intricate carvings of interlocking circles and arcading. It is built of Caen stone, highly prized by medieval builders.

There are several excellent brasses, and in the west tower is a huge memorial tablet to Sir John Finch (d. 1660). Finch is famous as the Speaker of the House of Commons who had to be held down in his chair to enable Parliament to pass the Petition of Right in 1628, limiting royal power.

St Martins is regularly open to visitors, and it is well worth a stroll from the historic core of Canterbury to see this historic old church

Sir John Hales Baronett's Pump - Longport, Canterbury, Kent, UK - Hand Operated Water Pumps





### Sir John Hales Baronett's Pump - Longport, Canterbury, Kent, UK

'Dom Johannes Hales Baronettus:

Jugem hanc Aquam dono dedit: datamq  
uis impenfis horfum perducendam curavit.  
A. D. MDCCXXXIII

Sir John Hales Baronett:

Gave this Water and at his own charge  
had it brought hither.  
1733'

The handle is no longer attached and the water pump is tainted with rust. It has the manufacturer/model near the top as 'Pike 183L'.

**Is it Working:** no

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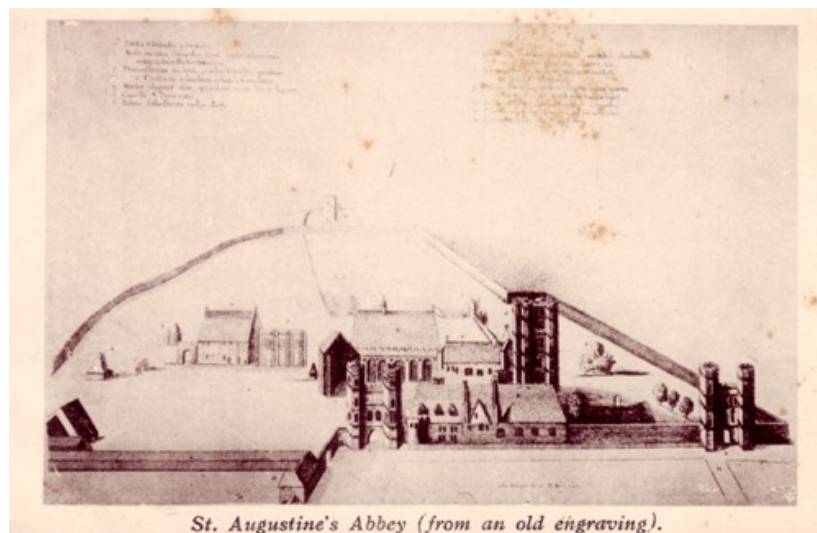


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In 613 the Church of Saints Peter and Paul (which was later renamed Saint Augustine's) was consecrated.

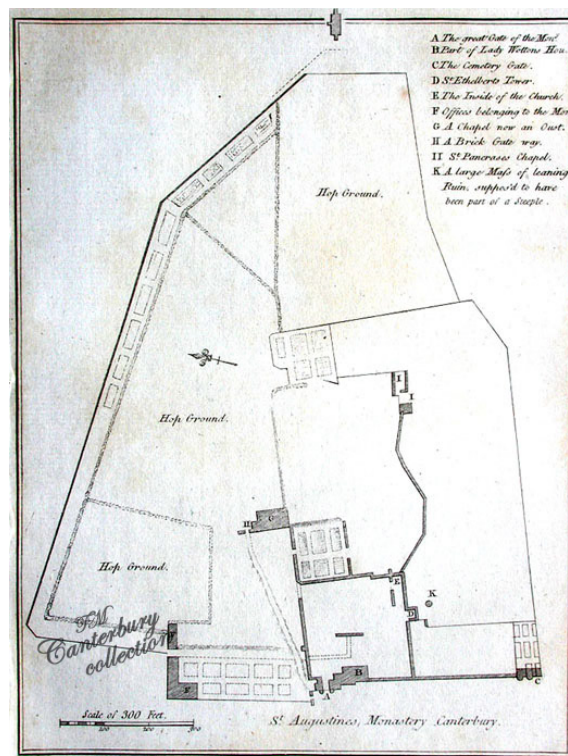
This was built by Ethelbert and St. Augustine



Mon, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 1795, about 60 feet in length of the old wall, which in closes the land appertaining to St Augustine's monastery at Canterbury fell down; being loosened by the frost. The Monastery of St. Augustine was burnt. In the year MCLXVIII (1168) this church was for the most part, consumed by fire, in which conflagration many ancient charters perished; and likewise the very shrine of St. Augustine, as well as of many saints of this place, were miserably deformed; nor is it to be wondered at, since nearly the whole church was consumed by fire.



St Augustine's Abbey stood in Longport. It was founded by King Ethelbert, in 597, and many kings and Archbishops were buried here. It was richly endowed, holding 12,000 acres of land, and at the dissolution, its revenues were 1431 pounds, 4s. 11 1/2d. Two handsome gateways are still remaining. The Abbey has been rebuilt as a missionary College, at a very large expense, chiefly contributed by Alexander Beresford Hope, Esq., M.P. in this palace Queen Elizabeth kept her court for some days, and Charles I. Was married to Queen Henrietta Maria. In the churchyard are the remains of the chapel of St. Pancras, said to have been built before the time of King Ethelbert I.



B – Part of Lady Wootton's House & Fyndon Gate, and C- Cemetery gate

Fyndon Gate



Fyndon Gate is the original gatehouse to St Augustine's Abbey. It was rebuilt from 1301-1309 by Abbot Fyndon. In 1625 Charles I and Henrietta Maria stayed in the State Chambers over the gateway arch on their wedding night, following their marriage in Canterbury Cathedral. Elizabeth I is also reputed to have been welcomed to the State Chambers.

The gate is flanked by very tall twin towers, fancifully decorated with statues and embellished with crenellations. In front of the gate is a long green space named Lady Wotton's Green. A garden area stands in the green, with statues of King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha, who welcomed the mission of St Augustine to Kent in 597 AD.

After the abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII the abbey buildings were converted to a number of other uses. The gatehouse served for some time as a brewery under the ownership of Messrs. Bennett and Beer, who produced St Augustine's beer (naturally!).

The gate was damaged by bombs in WWII, and had to be rebuilt, with the result that some of the stonework is obviously a slightly different color than the remainder.



St George's Tower

The clock tower is all that remains of the medieval church of St George the Martyr. The church is best known as the place where playwright Christopher Marlowe was baptised.



It is not clear when the first church on this High Street site was built; it is possible that there was a Saxon church here, possibly as early as the 7th century. However, the earliest evidence we have only pushes the date back to the 11th century. However, recent archaeological excavations have discovered a late Iron Age or early Roman ditch beneath the church.



The church was expanded several times from the 12th to 14th century; a testament to the rapid growth of medieval Canterbury. During one of these expansions in the late 14th or early 15th century the current clock tower was added. At that time it would have stood within the west nave of the church. It features a crenellated parapet and two-light windows in Perpendicular style.

When the nearby church of St Mary Magdalene in Burgate was largely demolished in 1872, St George was expanded again to take in the extra parishioners. However, this enlarged church of St George was not destined to last, as the church was badly damaged by German bombs on 1 June, 1942. That same raid totally destroyed the nearby house in which Christopher Marlowe was born.

The church was demolished in 1955, but the tower was saved to stand as a historic landmark

Canterbury, St Mary Magdalene



The tower is all that remains of the medieval church of St Mary Magdalene. The church was pulled down in 1871 after it had become ruinous. The tower is a 1503 rebuilding of an earlier medieval structure. In a specially built display area at the base of the tower is a fanciful Baroque memorial to the Whitfield family, dated 1680. This monument is in the Flemish style often associated with Grinling Gibbons and Arnold Quellin. It has been restored with the help of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Beside the tower, in the area formerly occupied by part of the old church, is a pleasant garden area, behind which is the new(ish) Catholic church of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

One of the bells of St Mary Magdalene was transferred to St George the Martyr church, which itself was pulled down after it suffered bomb damage in WWII.



Christ Church Gateway



The main visitor entrance to Canterbury Cathedral precinct is through this highly decorated gateway, which was originally built to celebrate the marriage of Arthur, Prince of Wales, to Catherine of Aragon in 1502. Arthur, unfortunately, died a few months later, and the gate was not finished for another 20 years. It was worth the wait, however, as Christ Church Gateway is an extraordinary monument; it is highly embellished and decorated with heraldic motifs, including's coats of arms and mythical beasts.

At the center, above the gateway arch, is a very large figure of Christ. This is a modern statue, replacing the original statue which was damaged during the Civil War by Parliamentary troops. Apparently the troops decided to use the statue for target practice, then, not content with the damage they had inflicted, attached ropes to the statue and pulled it down.

There are two doors through the gate; a large door to the right, and a much smaller portal to the left. Both doors are beautifully carved and embellished with more heraldic symbols.

Christ Church Gateway has been the subject of numerous paintings over the years, including several by JMW Turner which can be seen in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the Tate Gallery in London.

Canterbury Cathedral



Even if Thomas a Becket had chosen somewhere else to earn his martyr's crown, Canterbury would still deserve attention for its role in the spread of Christianity throughout England. It was here that St Augustine began the conversion of the pagan islanders in 597 AD. St Augustine built a cathedral church within the old Roman city walls of Canterbury, and he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. A Christian community grew up around the cathedral, managing the building and its environs. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century this community formally became a Benedictine monastery. The remains of the original 6<sup>th</sup> century cathedral established by Augustine lie beneath the nave. Excavations have shown that Augustine's church was built in part on top of a Roman road, presumably to provide a solid foundation.

Little enough remains of the Saxon church for after the Norman Conquest, Archbishop Lanfranc rebuilt the Cathedral on a more lavish scale. This rebuilding took seven years from 1070 – 1077 AD. The best surviving parts of this first Norman church are a staircase and the area of the North-west transept known as the Martyrdom.

In 1170 Becket met his death in the north transept of the crossing (the Martyrdom) at the hands of four knights seeking to carry favour with Henry II, who had quarrelled with the Archbishop. Immediately after Becket's death, miracles began to be reported at his tomb, and when the church suffered a fire in 1172 it provided an excuse for rebuilding and making the Cathedral a fitting shrine for the recent martyr.

The rebuilding was entrusted to William of Sens, who brought with him a monastery of French style, which we call "Gothic". In 1179 William of Sens fell from scaffolding above the high altar and was badly injured that he was forced to retire and leave the project in the capable hands of his assistant, a man known to us only, as William the Englishman.



Becket's shrine in the Trinity Chapel was finished in 1220 & for another 300 years it was the most popular place of pilgrimage in England. The Corona was built at the Eastern end of the quire as a separate chapel to house a piece of Becket's skull.



In the 14<sup>th</sup> century Archbishop Lanfranc's nave was rebuilt by Henry Yevele, called the greatest architect of the medieval England. Yevele (or Yeveley) pushed the nave to the height of the chancel creating a vast upward-reaching hall. In 1496 the "Bell Harry" central tower was added. This is the tall tower that can be seen many miles away.

Henry VIII's men despoiled Becket's tomb during the Dissolution of the monasteries carting away 26 wagon loads of valuables & scattering bones of the saint

The area where Becket's shrine stood is marked with a candle at the East end of the chancel. Before the candle is a pinkish stone set into the floor, which bears the marks of pilgrims who knelt there to worship at Becket's shrine. The impact of the sheer numbers of medieval pilgrims on the cathedral cannot be overstated; the staircase leading to the south ambulatory, known as the "Trinity-stair" is worn into undulating waves by the passage of their feet & knees.

597 Augustine establishes his cathedral possibly using part of an existing Romano-Christian building.

740-760 Archbishop Cuthbert builds a baptistery

941-958 Oda rebuilt the earlier and extended the nave.

1013-1038 Lyfing and Aethelnoth add a Western apse

1070-1077 Lanfranc completely rebuilt the Saxon cathedral in Norman style

1093-1109 St Anslem pulls down much of Lanfranc's work & extends the Quire further East.

1174 William of Sens rebuilt the Quire. His successor William the Englishman built Trinity Chapel and the Corona to hold the shrine of St Thomas a Becket.

1390-1410 Henry Yevele under Prior Thomas Chillendon rebuilds the nave in perpendicular Style.

1494-1504 The central tower is demolished & rebuilt



(PAY TO ENTER)

Conquest House



On 29 December, 1170, four knights, Reginald Fitz Urse, Hugh de Moreville, William de Tracy, and Richard le Breton, met at a house near Canterbury Cathedral to plan what they would do on the morrow. Whatever plan they discussed, the result was the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, a deed which changed the course of history and certainly changed the fortunes of Canterbury itself. The place where the knights met is reputed to be Conquest House.

At that time Conquest house was owned by a man called Gilbert the Citizen. The knights initially left their servants and weapons in Conquest House while two of their number entered Bishop's Palace by force and remonstrated with Becket, trying to get him to remove the excommunication he had placed over several of the king's supporters.

It was a lost cause from the start; Becket was too strong-willed to succumb to their threats. The knights returned to Conquest House and gathered their weapons. In the meantime the archbishop's servants convinced him to retire to the cathedral. It was no use; the knights entered the cathedral, and after a further argument, killed Becket in the area now called The Martyrdom.

Looking at Conquest House (now an antique shop) today it is hard to think of it as a 12th century building. The front that greets your eye as you pass down Palace Street is an enormously attractive half-timbered facade in late Tudor or Jacobean style.



As attractive as the house exterior looks - and it certainly is attractive - it hides a much older interior, for behind the half-timbering lies a Norman undercroft. By comparison the 14th century galleried hall is relatively modern to say nothing of a highly decorated 17th century fireplace!

There are several interesting carvings, including an ornate coat of arms over the fireplace, created to celebrate the marriage of Charles I to Henrietta Maria, which took place at Canterbury Cathedral in 1625.

The exterior of Conquest House is beautifully embellished with carvings, including a decorated frieze along the eaves, and fanciful brackets supporting the projecting jetties that thrust out over Palace Street.



Sir John Boys House





Possibly the most photographed historic building in Canterbury after the Cathedral, Sir John Boys House (sometimes known as Crooked House, King's Gallery, or Old Kings Shop) is a delightfully skewed 17th century half-timbered building at the extreme end of Palace Street, with projecting jetties onto Palace and King Streets.

The house is named in memory of Sir John Boys, an MP and the first recorder of Canterbury (d. 1612). The most noticeable feature is the front door, which has had to be built with severely skewed corners to fit the door frame.



The house reputedly gained its markedly skewed look after alterations to an internal chimney caused the structure to slip sideways. Attempts to rectify the slippage actually caused the whole structure to skew further sideways, though now the building is stabilized internally by a steel frame.

The association of this building with Sir John Boys has been called into question by a recent archeological survey. Which found an apparent construction date of 1617, five years after Boy's death.

The house is not generally open to the public, as it is in regular use by King's School. However, to appreciate the houses skewed state all you really need to do is view it from the street.



### St. John's Hospital

St. John's Hospital was founded by Archbishop Lanfranc in Canterbury around 1087 as a hospital that cared for the poor, aged or sick. Some of the remaining buildings date from the 11th to the 15th century and the remains of a 12th century chapel also remain. The entrance to the hospital, still in use as an almshouse, is through a 16th century timbered gateway with a chamber over it. The remains of the original hospital consist of a large dormitory block with a double chapel at right angles to it and the ruins of the 11th century reredorter. The building was originally built to house 30 men and 30 women. The medieval buildings were mostly demolished around 1684.



The hospital was founded by the Archbishop Lanfranc (born c.1005 ? died 1089) who was an Italian Benedictine and Archbishop of Canterbury from 1070-89. He is largely credited with maintaining the good relations between the church and state during the reign of William the Conqueror after the Norman Conquest of England.

### Synagogue



The old Synagogue in Canterbury is considered to be the best example of an Egyptian Revival synagogue. The earliest record of a Jewish community in Canterbury dates from 1160. The community is known to have been prosperous and to have traded in corn (grain) and wool as well as banking. Despite pogroms in 1261 and 1264, the community flourished until the Edict of Expulsion, given Edward I of England in 1290. Its presence is commemorated in the street name, Jewry Lane.

A modern Jewish Community is known to have existed in Canterbury by 1720. The present building was designed by Canterbury architect, a Christian Gentleman named Hezekiah Marshall, and constructed in 1846-8 to replace a 1763 building torn down to make place for the new railroad built by the South Eastern Railway Company. The cornerstone was laid by Sir Moses Montefiore in September 1847. A pair of columns with lotus capitals flanks the doorway of the simple building, 40' by 27' by 30' high. The building is made of Portland cement, which gives th appearance of granite. There is a central bimah, the columns of which boast lotus-leaf capitals, and a woman's balcony supported by Egyptian-style obelisks. The mikveh was described as "a miniature brick faced temple set in the garden behind the Synagogue." It is only Egyptian Revival mikveh known to exist. The site is known to have been a hospice of the Knights Templar in medieval times.

The Old Synagogue now serves only occasionally for Jewish services of worship, led by the Jewish Society at the University of Kent and Chabad Lubavitch of Sussex and South East Coast Universities. Since 1947

the Old Synagogue was no longer used for prayer. The first Shabbat service with minyan and the reading of the Torah took place in 2011. The service was held by Iury London and Yitzhak Marrache of the Kent Jewish Society and Rabbi Zalman Lewis of Chabad. It is maintained and used as a recital hall by the Kings School, Canterbury.

Although several Synagogues and churches were built in the Egyptian revival style in the early nineteenth century, only a few are known to survive, they include the Hobart Synagogue in Tasmania the Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee and the First Presbyterian Church, (Sag Harbour), New York.



## Beane House of Art and Knowledge



The Beane House of Art and Knowledge (formerly the Royal Museum and Art Gallery with the Buffs Museum) is housed in the former Beane Institute building on High Street. This delightful Grade II listed Victorian building was founded by Dr James Beane, a Canterbury physician who later emigrated to Australia where he became so rich he was known as 'Diamond Jimmy'.

### **The Art Gallery**

The gallery is the major local venue for art, both modern and historical. In addition, the gallery is used as a venue for the performing arts. A special gallery is devoted to the work of artist Thomas Sidney Cooper, famed for his portraits of cattle.

### **Beane Museum**

Within the museum are collections of Old Master drawings, paintings dating to the 16th century, local archaeological artifacts, and Saxon jewelry from the region. There is a Geological and Natural History Collection, prehistoric tools, 5th century rune stones. A fascinating artifact is St Augustine's Chair; traditional said to have be the seat used by Augustine when he received British bishops. NB. Don't confuse this 'St Augustine's Chair' with the marble 'cathedral' or archbishops chair in the cathedral! There are a collection of drawings by Thomas Sidney Cooper, examples of Dutch stained glass, and finds from Ancient

Egypt. One highlight is the collection of Greek Art gathered by Viscount Strongford.



### **Bufs Regimental Museum**

A special gallery within the museum building houses the regimental collection of The Buffs (formerly the Royal East Kent Regiment). The collections include items loaned from the National Army Museum in London.

The Beaney Institute also houses an extensive local library containing historic documents dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. Among these are old maps, illustrations, and local newspapers.

### **Ducking stools**



**Cucking stools** or **ducking stools** were chairs formerly used for punishment of disorderly women, scolds, and dishonest tradesmen in England, Scotland,<sup>[1]</sup> and elsewhere.<sup>[2]</sup> The cucking-stool was a form of wyuen pine ("women's punishment") as referred to in Langland's *Piers Plowman* (1378). They were both instruments of public humiliation and censure primarily for the offense of scolding or back biting and less often for sexual offenses like bearing an illegitimate child or prostitution.

The stools were technical devices which formed part of the wider method of law enforcement through social humiliation. A common alternative was a court order to recite one's crimes or sins after Mass or in the market place on market day or informal action such as a Skimmington ride.

They were usually of local manufacture with no standard design. Most were simply chairs into which the victim could be tied and exposed at her door or the site of her offence. Some were on wheels like a tumbrel that could be dragged around the parish. Some were put on poles so that they could be plunged into water, hence "ducking" stool. Stocks or pillories were similarly used for punishment of men or women by humiliation.

The term cucking-stool is older, with written records dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Written records for the name ducking stool appear from 1597, and a statement in 1769 relates that ducking-stool is a corruption of the term cucking-stool.<sup>[3]</sup> Whereas a cucking-stool could be and was used for humiliation with or without ducking the person in water, the name ducking-stool came to be used more specifically for those cucking-stools on an oscillating plank which were used to duck the person into water.<sup>[4]</sup>

### **Cucking-stools**

A ballad, dating from about 1615, called "The Cucking of a Scold", illustrates the punishment inflicted to women whose behaviour made them be identified as "a Scold":

Then was the Scold herself,  
In a wheelbarrow brought,  
Stripped naked to the smock,  
As in that case she ought:  
Neats tongues about her neck  
Were hung in open show;  
And thus unto the cucking stool  
This famous scold did go.<sup>[5]</sup>

The cucking-stool, or Stool of Repentance, has a long history, and was used by the Saxons, who called it the scealding or scolding stool. It is mentioned in Domesday Book as being in use at Chester, being called *cathedra stercoris*, a name which seems to confirm the first of the derivations suggested in the footnote below. Tied to this stool the woman—her head and feet bare—was publicly exposed at her door or paraded through the streets amidst the jeers of the crowd.

The term cucking-stool is known to have been in use from about 1215. It means literally "defecation chair", as its name is derived from the old verb *cukken* which means "to defecate" (akin to Dutch *kakken* and Latin *cacāre* [same meaning]; cf. Greek *κακός/κακή* ["bad/evil, vile, ugly, worthless"]), rather than, as popularly believed, from the word cuckold. Commodes or chamber pots were often used as cucking-stools, hence the name.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The cucking-stool could incidentally be used for both sexes—indeed, unruly married couples were occasionally bound back-to-back and ducked. However the device was most commonly used for the punishment of dishonest brewers and bakers.

Both seem to have become more common in the second half of the sixteenth century. It has been suggested this reflected developing strains in gender relations, but it may simply be a result of the differential survival of records. The cucking-stool appears to have still been in use as late as the mid-18th century, with Poor Robin's Almanack of 1746 observing:

Now, if one cucking-stool was for each scold,  
Some towns, I fear, would not their numbers hold.

## Ducking-stools

The ducking-stool was a strongly made wooden armchair (the surviving specimens are of oak) in which the victim was seated, an iron band being placed around her so that she should not fall out during her immersion. The earliest record of the use of such is towards the beginning of the 17th century, with the term being first attested in English in 1597. It was used both in Europe and in the English colonies of North America.<sup>[6]</sup>

Usually the chair was fastened to a long wooden beam fixed as a seesaw on the edge of a pond or river. Sometimes, however, the ducking-stool was not a fixture but was mounted on a pair of wooden wheels so that it could be wheeled through the streets, and at the river-edge was hung by a chain from the end of a beam. In sentencing a woman the magistrates ordered the number of duckings she should have. Yet another type of ducking-stool was called a **tumbrel**. It was a chair on two wheels with two long shafts fixed to the axles. This was pushed into the pond and then the shafts released, thus tipping the chair up backwards. Sometimes the punishment proved fatal and the victim died of shock.<sup>[7]</sup>

The last recorded cases are those of a Mrs. Ganble at Plymouth (1808); Jenny Pipes, a notorious scold (1809), and Sarah Leeke (1817), both of Leominster. In the last case, the water in the pond was so low that the victim was merely wheeled round the town in the chair. However, one New Jersey law prescribing ducking for scolds remained on the books, if overlooked, until the year 1972 when it was finally thrown out by a state judge.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Tumbrels (other definitions)



A tumbrel, or tumbil (F tombereau) was a tipcart—usually used for carrying dung, sand, stones, and so forth—which transported condemned prisoners to the guillotine during the French Revolution.

### Use in identifying witches

In medieval times, ducking was a way used to establish whether a suspect was a witch.<sup>[9][10]</sup> The ducking stools were first used for this purpose but ducking was later inflicted without the chair. In this instance the victim's right thumb was bound to her left big toe. A rope was attached to her waist and the "witch" was thrown into a river or deep pond. If the "witch" floated it was deemed that she was in league with the devil, rejecting the "baptismal water". If the "witch" sank she was deemed innocent.<sup>[11]</sup> This particular method of ducking was also inflicted<sup>[citation needed]</sup> when men were accused of witchcraft.

### Fiction

Ducking stools have appeared occasionally in film and television, such as in

Babes in Toyland (1934), A Canterbury Tale (1944), The Avengers ("Murdersville", Season 6, Episode 7; 1967), and Doctor Who ("The Highlanders", Season 4, Episode 15; 1966), Salem (TV series) ("Departures", Season 1, Episode 8; 2014).

1934 motion picture "Babes in Toyland", also called 'March of the Wooden Soldiers', features a scene with a ducking stool and a victim being plunged underwater in it.

### Notable examples

A complete ducking stool is on public display in Leominster Priory, Herefordshire. The town clock, commissioned for the Millennium, features a moving ducking stool depiction. The tumbil of a ducking stool is in the crypt of the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. There is also a ducking chair in Canterbury where the high street meets The River Stour.

There is a reference from about 1378 to a cucking-stool as wyuen pine ("women's punishment") in Langland's *Piers Plowman*, B.V.29.



One of the most photographed historic buildings in Canterbury, the Old Weavers House is a gorgeous half-timbered building on the River Stour. The river quite literally laps at the side of the building, which currently houses a popular restaurant.

The Old Weavers House takes its name from the influx of Flemish and Huguenot weavers who settled in the area after fleeing from religious persecution during the 16th and 17th centuries. Elizabeth I granted the Flemish weavers the right to establish their businesses in Canterbury, and they are known to have used this and other similar buildings nearby.

Despite the date 1500 which can be seen prominently displayed above the door, this house probably dates back to at least the 14th century. The current building largely dates to a reconstruction in the second half of the 16th century, not the first, as you might assume by the sign!

At the rear of the Old Weavers House is a medieval ducking stool, jutting out over the river. This ducking stool was historically used as a method of punishing 'scolds' - women accused by their husbands of talking back too much! The stool may also have been used as a more severe punishment for suspected witches. The suspected witch was dunked under the water and held there for several minutes. If she (it was usually a female) did not drown, she was proved a witch. If she drowned, at least her name was cleared!



Canterbury's Historic River Tour Company offer regular punt tours along the river, leaving from a small landing at the back of the Old Weavers Restaurant area. We've taken one of the tours, and it was terrific!

### Eastbridge Hospital of St Thomas

Established in the 12th century by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a place of hospitality to pilgrims, Eastbridge Hospital has operated as an almshouse for the last 400 years. View the Gothic undercroft, Pilgrims Chapel, and see the Refectory with its 13th century wall paintings.



## History

Pilgrims began descending in large numbers on Canterbury in the decades immediately following the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170. So many pilgrims, in fact, that Edward Fitz Osbern was moved to establish St Thomas Hospital on the East Bridge on Canterbury's busy High Street. This new foundation was not a hospital in the modern sense, but a place where pilgrims could find accommodation and meals while staying in Canterbury to visit Becket's shrine.

The link to Becket did not stop there, for first Master of the Hospital was probably Becket's nephew, Ralph.

The Hospital declined over the next century or so, until it was re-founded in 1324 by Bishop Stratford. The next century saw St Thomas's prosper, and at the time of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* it was at the height of its wealth. The Master of Eastbridge Hospital was not just responsible for running the Hospital, he also had to maintain East Bridge itself.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries indirectly affected St Thomas, when Becket's shrine was destroyed and the number of pilgrims dropped. In 1569 a school was established at the Hospital, and this continued for almost 300 years. Then in 1584 an act of Parliament changed St Thomas's remit completely; it was ordered to offer accommodation for 10 poor residents of Canterbury and to provide a dole payment to 10 more.

The Eastbridge Hospital still continues as an almshouse to this day, and houses elderly people with a strong connection to Canterbury. The Hospital also maintains nearby Greyfriars Chapel.

(PAY TO ENTER)

Canterbury Historic River Tours





One of the best ways to explore historic Canterbury is by river. Canterbury Historic River Tours provide regular tours from April to October along the river in flat-bottomed punts, departing from the Old Weavers House on St Peter's Street. Tours last approximately 45 minutes, and take in some of Canterbury's most historic sights.

The very first of these sights is located immediately beside the departure dock; this is the old medieval ducking stool used to punish scolds or detect witches. The Old Weavers House itself is a lovely half-timbered historic building that may date to the 13th century.

Further along the river you pass the island where Greyfriars priory was built in the 13th century. You will also see the last remaining parts of Black friars monastery, 12th century Eastbridge Hospital, 12th century Kings Bridge, and more historic locations on either side of the river.

The tours guides are also your boat pilot, and they provide an entertaining commentary, and are willing to answer any questions you might have about the history of Canterbury or any of the sights you pass along the way.

Tours leave every 15-20 minutes and booking is not generally required. I very much enjoyed my excursion with Canterbury Historic River Tours and would definitely recommend it as a good way to get the most of a visit to Canterbury.





All Saints Court. Canterbury, Kent.

This timber frame house is All Saints Court. It has in the past been used as a Dance School, Barracks and a Youth Hostel, but is now returning to use as a family home. It is thought to have been built by a religious order which set up here after the murder and subsequent canonization of Thomas Becket. The building backs onto the River Stour.



West Gate Towers



One of the iconic landmarks of Canterbury, the old West Gate stands at the west end of the High Street, beside the River Stour. Generations of medieval pilgrims passed under the gate house arch on their way to the shrine of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. Road traffic now flows through the arch – it's a bit of an eye opener to see a modern coach navigate the narrow opening! The West Gate was built by Archbishop Sudbury to replace an earlier Roman gate through the City walls. The West Gate was finished in 1380, but in the following year Sudbury himself met a violent end at the hands of rebellious peasants during Wat Tyler's Revolt.

For many years the West Gate served as the town Prison, connected by a walkway to the Old Police Station which used to be next door. Above the portcullis a slot is a "condemned cell" where prisoners awaiting execution were held.

A bronze 18<sup>th</sup> century medallion was found beneath the floor boards of the prison floor during recent repairs.

The upper floor of the gatehouse is given over to a small West Gate museum. Here you will find the Armour and weapons used by defenders of Canterbury from the medieval period to World War II. Children can dress up in replica armour, and see the old prison cells within the gatehouse tower.

### House of Agnes

Beautiful half-timbered building mentioned by Charles Dickens.



The House of Agnes is a beautiful half-timbered medieval coaching inn just outside the old city walls of Canterbury. It takes its name from the character Agnes Wickfield, in the novel *David Copperfield*, by Charles Dickens. Dickens set several scenes from the novel in this inn, which dates to the 13th century.

The House of Agnes stands directly on the route followed by generations of medieval pilgrims making the journey to the shrine of St Thomas a Becket at Canterbury Cathedral.

The inn stands on the site of a Roman cemetery and pottery kilns. Behind the inn is the largest walled garden in Canterbury, and a heritage listed maze.



Renovations at the House of Agnes in 2005 unearthed a rare find; a late 14th century navigational instrument called an astrolabe, or quadrant. The 'Canterbury Quadrant' as it became known, is now on display at the British Museum in London. It is one of only 8 examples in the world.

Roper Gate





The Roper Gate is a decorated mid-16th century gateway that once provided an entrance to Place House, home of William Roper and his wife, Margaret Roper, daughter of Sir Thomas More. The gate is a wonderful example of decorative Tudor brickwork. Nothing now remains of Place House beyond the gateway. The gate is a four-centered arch, surmounted by a stepped gable rising in five levels. The gable is pierced with a three-light window, above which is a small roundel window. The gateway is further decorated with diamond 'diapering'.

Though the gate is on the north side of St Dunstan Street, you might need to cross over to the south side to get a really good view to appreciate the decorative brickwork of the structure.

When More was executed for treason by Henry VIII, Margaret Roper was granted permission to take her father's head. This head she stored in the Roper family vault in St Dunstan's Church, just a few yards further along St Dunstan Street, where it became a destination for pilgrims, particularly following More's elevation to sainthood in 1935.

Canterbury, St Dunstan





A small church with historical associations to kings, martyrs, archbishops, and chancellors. The king in question was Henry II. After his conflict with Archbishop Thomas a Becket led to the latter's murder in Canterbury Cathedral, Henry performed a public penance. On 18 July, 1174 he rode to the outskirts of Canterbury, where he stopped at St Dunstan's church, donned penitential garments, and removed his shoes. From here he walked barefoot to Becket's cathedral where he was scourged by the monks. Three and a half centuries later and St Dunstan's once more played a part in the nation's history. Thomas More, then one of the most powerful men in the realm, was executed in 1535 for his refusal to bow to Henry VIII's claim to be head of the church in England.

After More's death his head was brought here by Margaret Roper, his daughter. There is a head, of approximately the correct age, in the Roper family vault beneath St Nicholas chapel. Is it Thomas More's? We don't know for sure, but it seems quite possible. In 1935 more was canonized, and St Nicholas's chapel became a place of pilgrimage.

The church itself was founded by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the end of the 11th century. It was certainly the first in England to be dedicated to St Dunstan.

You enter St Dunstan's by way of the 17th century south porch. Nearby is the vestry, initially a chapel founded in 1330 by Henry de Canterbury, chaplain to Edward III. Also at the west end is the font, a plain design that probably dates to the early medieval period. It is surmounted by an elaborate 15th century wooden cover. Beside the font is an attractive ancient wooden chest for storing parish documents and other valuables.

The bells are worth noting; there are six of these, and the fifth dates to the 14th century. The nave and chancel exhibit details from the Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular phases of Gothic.

St Nicholas Chapel (The Roper Chapel) is the highlight of any visit to St Dunstan's. It was created in 1402 as a chantry for 'John Roper, his parents, friends, and benefactors'. It is unusual in that it uses brick for a late Gothic structure, unlike the more common stone. The Roper family vault is beneath the chapel floor, and it

is here that the head of St Thomas More is stored. Up above ground is the altar table, a fine Elizabethan piece of furniture.



A few hundred yards down St Dunstan's Street is the Roper Gate, a Tudor gateway that is all that remains of Place House, home of William Roper and his wife Margaret, daughter of St Thomas More.



## Westgate Gardens



A small, attractive garden along the banks of the River Stour, at the west end of the old city walls of Canterbury. At the northern end of the gardens is the historic West Gate to the city.

At the south end of the gardens is Tower House, an early Victorian building owned by the City Council. This was formerly owned by Catherine Williamson, the first female mayor of Canterbury. After her death the house was presented to the city, and it now houses the Mayor's offices.

The gardens follow the course of the Roman city wall. There are no traces of the wall today, for during the Civil War the walls were destroyed and the stone plundered for building projects.

During the summer months visitors can take punt trips along the River Stour from a slipway across from the garden.

In the gardens is an old medieval archway which may have been brought here from the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey.

A plaque in the garden marks the site of the old Roman London Gate.



## **History**

This stretch of land along the Stour has a long history as a garden; in the 15th century there were no less than 5 gardens and a hay meadow here. There was constant bickering and several court cases between the residents and the Prior of Christ

Church over ownership of the land.



In 1500 the Mayor and residents seized the area by force. They were charged and tried before the Court of Star Chamber. The mayor and his adherents made sure of winning their case by spending lavishly to bribe lawyers, and the case was decided in the city's favor!

In 1641 Cromwell's army destroyed the last surviving bit of city wall within the garden.

### Splashing out in Toddlers Cove



#### Having fun in Toddlers Cove

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a tributary of the Stour, possibly following the original course of the ancient river, looped through the area that became Toddlers Cove.

This site was transformed into an open air swimming pool in 1876, when numerous Roman artefacts were unearthed.

The pool immediately became very popular – and remained popular until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Older readers may remember how Toddlers Cove provided the city with its own ‘Riviera’ –with boating lakes and a paddling pool as well as the swimming pool. There were also donkey rides and sand pits.

The area continues to be ‘a children’s’ play area and riverside picnic site. Some new, gym-style equipment was added in 2011. For many, Toddlers Cove has become a starting point for the Great Stour Way, a path shared by pedestrians and cyclists which follows the river to Chartham.

### Strange goings on in the Cove



**A crazy coven of witches or warlocks?**

**An ancient ceremony to see the light?**

**What kind of close encounter was going on here on a humid night in August?**





### I remember the 'feisty' donkeys



From Anne Belworthy: My uncle, Bill Dunk, looked after the donkey-rides – he was also the landlord of the Oddfellows Arms in St Peter's Place. Some of the donkeys, although loved by my uncle, were feisty. I well remember one running away with me on its back and hanging on for dear life when it stopped to drink from the river.

Playing in the sand at Toddlers Cove in the 1950s.



Out came the buckets and spades – it was heaven.

### Canterbury, St Mildred Church

This ancient church is the oldest pre-Conquest church still standing within the city walls of Canterbury. It is a few short steps away from the remains of Canterbury Castle.

St Mildred's dates back to the Saxon period. It was badly damaged by a fire in 1246, with the result that much of the current building is of 13th century construction. Much earlier though are the large quoins of the south west corner of the church; these are reused Roman stones. The majority of the windows are 14th century, while the north aisle was added in 1486.



One of the most interesting features of the interior is the king-post roof construction. This is 14th century work, and utilizes huge timbers.

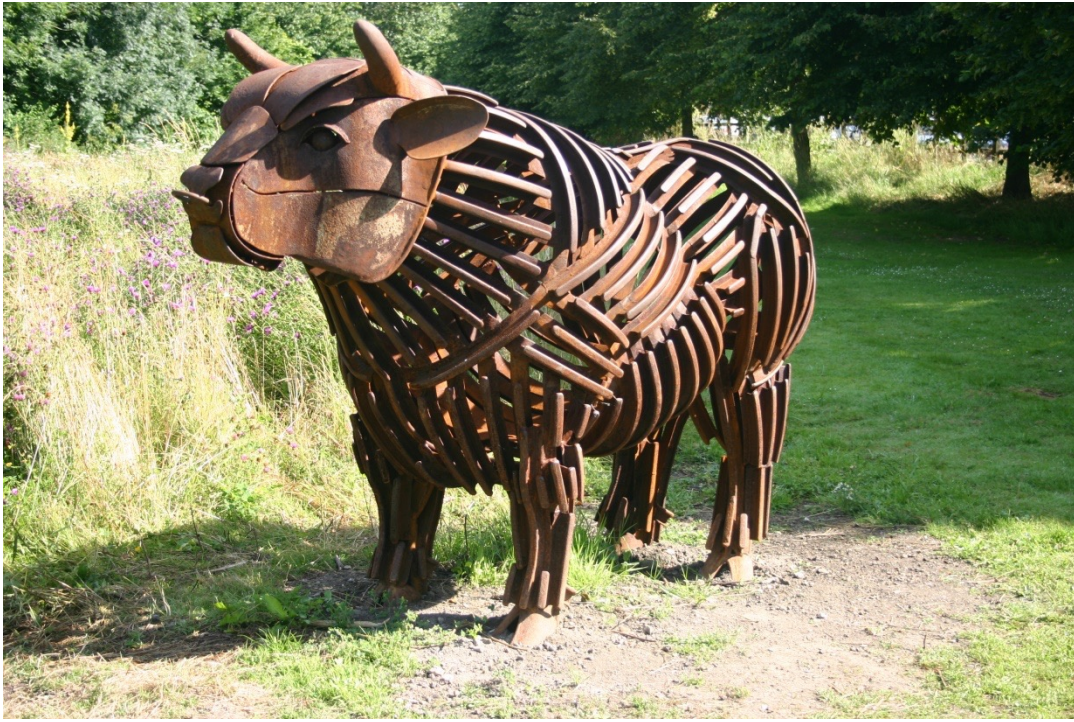
Another interesting feature is the font. This is fairly plain, and dates to 1420. What makes it interesting, though, is that it retains its original cover and lifting mechanism for raising that cover. The carved bench ends date from 1520 and were brought from St John's church when that building was demolished.

The south east chapel was built in 1512 by Thomas Attwood, four times Mayor of Canterbury. Unusually, a small fireplace is set into the wall of the chapel. Just above and to the left of the fireplace is a window containing a small section of 13th century stained glass depicting St Mildred?

Near the pulpit is a monument to Sir Thomas Cranmer (d. 1640). Cranmer was the nephew of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, he of Reformation fame.

In the churchyard, behind the east end of the church, is the grave of Alderman Simmons, who donated Dane John Gardens to the city of Canterbury.

### Tannery Field



The bull sculpture is situated in what is known as Tannery Field. It was once owned by St Mildred's Tannery, owned by the Williamson family. The field was donated to the City in the 1930's along with Tower House and Westgate Gardens.

The bull sculpture is there to remind us that leather hides were produced from the tannery, and part of the process left a foul smelling pile of waste which was known as "Slub Bank."

The sculpture is made from the rails once used by the workers pushing heavy trucks full of waste from the tannery to the "Slub Bank."

Leather produced from the tannery have been used in the seating in the House of Lords, the trim of Rolls Royce cars and allegedly in the making of the famous chair in Master Mind



When William the Conqueror overcame King Harold and his Saxons at the Battle of Hastings, one of his first acts was to establish three powerful castles in the southeast of his new realm, at Canterbury, Dover, and Rochester. His new castle at Canterbury is what is now called Dane John, a corruption of the French word for donjon, or keep.

The castle saw the first in a long line of historical dramas in 1087, when monks of St Augustine's Abbey refused to accept a new Norman abbot. Lanfranc, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had the ringleaders of the monks imprisoned in the castle and the others expelled.

The new keep was begun in the reign of William II and completed about 1120 by Henry I. This stolid stone structure stood 80 feet high and measured about 98 by 85 feet. The walls were massively thick, about 13 feet in places, and the building could only be entered by a stone stair to a first floor door on the northwest side. The first floor had a great hall and kitchen. Below this was a basement, originally used only for storage, but later adapted to use as a dungeon.

In 1216 Louis, Dauphin of France, captured Canterbury Castle, but later retreated. In 1277 Jewish citizens of Canterbury were held in the castle before being expelled from England as part of Edward I's policy. In 1303 a group of 23 prisoners who were being held for murder, were released on condition that they join the king's fleet in Scotland and returned to face trial after the conflict was over.

In 1380 Wat Tyler's rebellion raised the peasants and townsfolk of Kent and the southeast. A mob stormed the castle and forced the constable to publically burn financial and legal records and release prisoners. There was further discord during the Reformation when Henry VIII's advisor, Thomas Cromwell, had two priests held at the castle for 'permitting the Bishop of Rome's name in their books'. But that was nothing to what was to follow. Henry's daughter, Queen Mary, had 42 people imprisoned at Canterbury Castle and put to death for their refusal to follow her Catholic faith. But we're getting ahead of ourselves ...





After Henry II built his new castle at Dover; Canterbury Castle declined in importance and became used primarily as a prison, under the control of the Sheriff of Kent. By the 13th century a new ground-level gate was created on the south east side.

By the 17th century the castle had fallen into ruin. In 1609 James I granted it to Sir Anthony Weldon, and in 1730 a new County Session House was built on the site of the medieval great hall.



In 1825 the castle was used by the Canterbury Gas Light and Coke Company as a storage depot for coal and coke, and later a large water tank was set up on the ruins of the keep. In 1901 the castle was described as 'a most miserable discolored ruin, its Cyclopean walls begrimed with soot and filth.' Thankfully the castle was purchased by Canterbury City Council, who have restored it to its current condition.

The builders of the keep walls made heavy use of old Roman tiles and bricks, in addition to local flint. Also note the decorated courses of the walls; these are made from Quarr stone, a distinctive stone from the Isle of Wight. Stores of Quarr were depleted by the 12th century and can only be found in early Norman buildings.

Near the southwest corner of the keep is a small section of the 3rd century Roman town wall.

Little remains in the interior, though the foundations of inner chambers can be seen, and the recesses which held the floor timbers. One tower stair still rises to the full height of the castle, allowing excellent views of the interior and across the city.





Above picture showing the Don Jon House



The pub sign, left on the house.

I don't know much more about this house apart from it was serving from between 1874 and 1881.

The pub sign appears to be three hands. (Or are they feet?)

The building is a Grade 2 listed building having been listed on 14th September 1976 and is described as follows: - "2 parallel range. Front Range dated 1774, rear range of earlier origin. There are 2 storeys colour-washed. It has a Slate roof with crenulated Parapet string course. There are 2 sashes with 'Gothic' heads. Door-case set in right side passage extension with curved gable over. There is a rectangular fanlight with 'Gothic' glazing. 4 panelled door. This building was a Public House called The Bell in the C18."

### LICENSEE LIST

RANDALL James William 1874+

BISSELL William 1881-82+

Dane John Gardens

Canterbury's largest and most popular garden. The intriguing name comes from English mangling of the Norman French 'donjon' (forerunner of our word 'dungeon'). In this case the term does not refer to a prison, but to an early Norman castle founded by William the Conqueror.

Shortly after the Conquest, William established castles at Canterbury, Dover, and Rochester. These were simple wooden structures atop a high mound, or motte. The high castle mound, known locally as Dane John's Mound, gives its name to the garden. However, the mound itself was in existence well before the Norman Conquest; it dates to at least the 1st century AD.

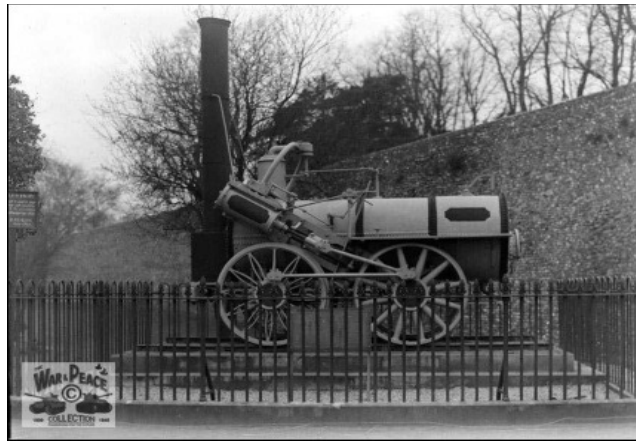


The park containing the garden was in place by 1551, but the formal gardens that stretch out at the foot of the mound were laid out around 1790 as a gift to the city by Alderman James Simmons. A memorial obelisk to Simmons stands at the top of Dane John Mound.



Simmons, whose grave can be seen at St Mildred's church, created a garden bounded on one side by an avenue of plane trees and on the other side by the old city walls. There is a play area, fountain, and bandstand where open air events are held.

Visitors and residents alike enjoy walks along the city walls, which give great views across the city.



George Stephenson's first ever train, "The Invicta also better known as Stephenson's Rocket" Was the first ever proper running passenger train. And is now housed in the museum but was in the Dane John gardens.



A high mound that was the site of one of the first Norman motte and bailey castles erected by William the Conqueror. Archaeological excavation has revealed that the mound was a Roman burial site on the line of the old Roman city walls. The Normans merely adapted the existing mound as a good spot to erect a fortification. That early motte and bailey castle was later superseded by the stone fortress of Canterbury Castle a short distance away.

Around 1790 Alderman James Simmons laid out a formal garden around the foot of the castle mound. He also laid out a winding path to the top of the mound, where there now stands a white stone obelisk in his honor.

The name Dane John is generally assumed to be an English corruption of 'donjon', a term for a defensive structure, or Norman keep. Another explanation is that the name was invented by a 17th century antiquarian who theorized that the mound was erected by Danes.

Visitors can walk along the old city walls from the castle mound. Several of the surviving towers, such as nearby Whitecross Tower, have interpretation panels giving insights into the history of the tower and the town defenses.

### Medieval City Walls



The Romans erected the first walls around Canterbury, around 270 – 290 AD. Very little of these Roman walls remain. The walls you see today are medieval. The medieval walls surrounded the entire city of Canterbury and were pierced by 8 gates. These were the “West Gate, North Gate, Quenin Gate, Burgate, Newingate, Riding Gate, Worth Gate, and London Gate. Of these only West Gate remains, this gate was erected by Archbishop Sudbury in 1380. It did nothing to increase his popularity; he was murdered by rioting peasants the following year. The E. West Gate is historically important as it represents one of the first defensive structures built with the use of gunpowder and artillery in mind. It uses keyhole gun ports to create opportunities for cannon fire from a well-defended position.

The largest of the medieval gates was Riding Gate which took traffic from Dover.

Several towers remain from the medieval fortification. The most imposing of these is West Gate, but there are others in varying stages of repair, including White cross Tower near Dane John Mound. White cross Tower takes its name from a white stone cross set into the exterior stone work. This cross is in memory of Protestants burnt at the stake during the dark years of the English Reformation at nearby Martyrs field.

Near Burgate there is another tower, now converted to use as a chapel. At the south end of the car park near Burgate is a stretch of Roman wall incorporated into the medieval stonework. Look for herringbone pattern stonework and rounded boulders & flint. The outline of Roman Quenin Gate (270 – 290 AD) can be seen blocked up near the current entry to the cathedral precinct. This gate was blocked up in 1492/3 AD.

Between Quenin Gate & North Gate are four square towers erected by prior Chillendon between 1390 – 1396.

The medieval walls form a rough oval about 3000yds in circumference. Note the use of keyhole gun ports at several locations along the wall. These are possibly the work of Henry Yevele, the master mason responsible for much of Bell Harry Tower at the Canterbury Cathedral

There were originally 21 mural towers set into the walls. Of these 16 remain.



The best surviving section of the Roman wall is set into the rear of the church of St Mary, Northgate. Here the walls still stand to 16 feet and are capped by original crenulations. There is a very well preserved section of Roman walling on St Radigunds Street, near the site of North Gate.

The city walls of Canterbury are among the best preserved in the country and well worth a wander



### Canterbury Heritage Museum

Two museums in one; the Museum of Canterbury with Rupert Bear Museum are housed in the former Poor Priests Hospital, a 12th century almshouse.

### **Museum of Canterbury**

The story of Canterbury is told in this museum, covering events from pre-Roman to modern times. There are displays of prehistoric and Saxon artifacts, medieval remains, wartime 'Blitz experience', and a special exhibit which invites visitors to

decide for themselves who was behind the mysterious death of Canterbury's most famous native, playwright Christopher Marlowe.



And part of this Museum is the

Rupert Bear Museum

See next page

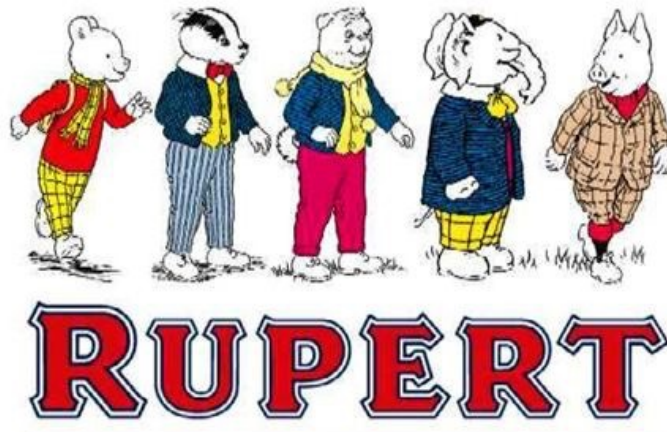
**Rupert Bear Museum**

The character Rupert Bear was the invention of Mary Tourtel, a native of Canterbury. This museum devoted to the world of Rupert and his friends Bill Badger, Podgy Pig and Sailor Sam is incorporated into the Museum of Canterbury. Visitors can learn about the origins of Rupert Bear, see original Rupert illustrations, dress up as a Rupert character, and enjoy interactive Rupert adventures.



As interesting as the twin museums are, the buildings in which they are housed are equally interesting. The main building dates to at least the late 12th century. In 1220 it was converted into an almshouse for poor or elderly priests. Around 1373 a solar was added to serve as a residence for the master of the hospital. A chapel was added at right angles to the dwelling areas.

After 1575 the hospital became used for secular purposes, and over the intervening centuries has served as a school, workhouse, and almshouse, among other things. The crown-post roof can be seen within the museum.



**Rupert Bear Museum**

**(Pay to Enter)**



This museum contains excavated sections of the old Roman town of Canterbury, including sections of a Roman town house with a well-preserved mosaic. In addition, there are audio-visual aids and hands-on activities designed to give visitors a real feeling for how the Romans lived in Canterbury.

There is a scale reconstruction of a Roman market place, with a fruit seller, fabric maker, and shoemaker selling their wares.

There is also an archaeological database showing details of Roman finds in and around the city of Canterbury.

There are regular events at the museum, allowing visitors to do such activities as make a Roman bracelet or hammer out a coin.





The remains of a 13th century friary, on the bank of the River Stour. Blackfriars was founded around 1237 by Dominican monks, whose black surcoat gave them the popular moniker 'Blackfriars'.

Henry III granted the Blackfriars land on an island in the River Stour. Here they built their new friary. There are only two buildings of the friary remaining; the guest hall, and the former rectory, which is now used by Kings College art center.

The guest hall is best seen from St Peters Street, but one of the most enjoyable ways to view the Blackfriars rectory is by taking a boat trip along the river. Regular trips leave from the Old Weavers House on St Peters Street during the summer months.





The chapel is the only remaining part of a Franciscan friary established in 1267. Greyfriars (named for the grey habits of the Franciscan order of monks) was the first Franciscan monastery in England.

The friary was established on an island site granted by the master of Poor Priest's Hospital (see Museum of Canterbury entry). In 1263 a further grant of land on the far bank of the river allowed the friary to expand, and it eventually grew to take in 18 acres.

It is not clear what the original function of the two-story chapel building was; it may have been an infirmary or residence. The chapel stands astride a small stream, supported on two arches above gently flowing water.



The friary was disbanded by Henry VIII in 1538. In 2003, fully 465 years after they left, Franciscan brothers returned to Canterbury, and today they live in nearby cottages and work in the city center parish and Eastbridge Hospital, and worship in this old chapel building.

Surrounding the chapel is a small garden area bounded by old brick walls. The garden and stream are a welcome oasis from the bustle of Canterbury, yet are only a few steps from the gatehouse to Canterbury Cathedral.

It can be tricky to find Greyfriars Chapel. The best entrance is through a courtyard signposted off Stour Street. There is also a

footpath behind the Canterbury Museum which leads past the chapel grounds, affording reasonable views. It's worth making the effort to find Greyfriars, though; it's a lovely medieval building in a wonderful setting.



King's School can make a good claim to be the oldest school in Britain. There was almost certainly a school established by St Augustine shortly after his arrival in Kent in 597 AD. Initially that school would have served primarily to train priests, but by the late 7th century the school had attained a reputation for learning that drew scholars from across Britain.

In 1538 Henry VIII dissolved the abbey of St Augustine and Christ Church priory at Canterbury Cathedral. But in 1541 Henry established a new school, housed in many of the former monastic buildings surrounding the cathedral.

Most of these school buildings are grouped around Green Court, within the cathedral precincts, but over time the school has taken over other historic buildings in the city.

Among these are Fyndon Gate, the grand 14th century gatehouse of St Augustine's Abbey. Near the main school buildings around Green Court is the Norman Staircase, a superb 12th century covered stair, which originally led to a hostel for poor pilgrims.

Among the famous students who have attended King's School over the years are William Harvey, W. Somerset Maugham, Hugh Walpole, Christopher Marlowe, and John Tradescant.

Conduit House



All that remains of medieval waterworks created to supply the nearby abbey of St Augustine.

Conduit House is a wide circular cistern in the ground, with a set of pipes running into it from several directions. The conduit house gathered water from the hillside above the abbey and then sent it through further pipes down the hill to the abbey site.

The Conduit House is right beside the Stour Valley Walk, a long distance path that leads through Canterbury along the Stour River valley



This page and the next few pages are not part of the tour but worth a visit

**The Hales Chapel**



The Hales Chapel - rear view

This is a most peculiar place, hidden as it currently is, in the middle of a small thicket of trees and probably completely unknown by many of the residents of Canterbury. It is, and always has been, a Catholic Chapel, another unusual feature in these parts. In addition to these facts, it was originally built as a Dove Cot and was converted into a Chapel in about 1850.

Originally, it stood in the grounds of Hales Place which was originally owned by Sir Roger **Manwood** and was known as "Place House". It passed through his second son to Thomas Culpepper who eventually sold it in 1675 to Sir Edward, The Third Baronet Hales.



The Hales Chapel Bones

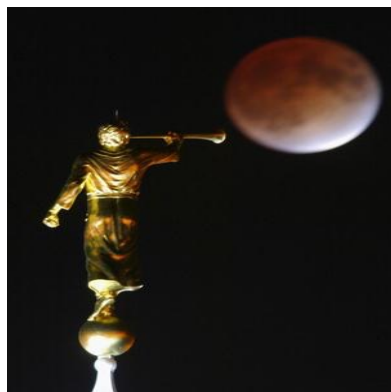
This building is actually known as the "Little Chapel" but was originally built as a dove house in the Hales Place grounds which may account for the rather incongruous use of animal bones in the construction [highlighted in red]. It actually became a mortuary chapel when it was taken over by the Jesuits and there were a few burials of their members of their order conducted there. When the estate was sold and broken up by a Mr. R.A. **Dagnall**, this gentleman agreed to allow the Catholic Church to have the "Little Chapel" provided they paid for it's upkeep and held some kind of regular service there. As a consequence, the mortal remains of three of the Hales family, the Fifth Baronet, the Dowager Lady Frances Hales and Mary Barbara Felicity Hales, were moved out of the vault in the Chapel attached to the House and reburied outside the "Little Chapel".

Although services were held here for a few years, it was eventually forgotten and fell into the state of disrepair that I knew as a child. At that time was very run down and missing all of its glass. There was a pig farm in the woods that surrounded it and the pigs would root around for food in the area of the Chapel [goodness knows what they actually found there!]. The extensive woods that once surrounded the Chapel have been destroyed and the area surrounding the Chapel has become an extension of the "Downs Road" housing estate. In 1976, through the financial assistance of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark, the support of many members of the local community and Canterbury City Council, the "Little Chapel" was restored and is now a



Grade II listed property. And very nice it looks too, although this little plot of land is just a remnant of the vast estate that was originally on this site. ( It is reputed to be the smallest chapel in Britain?)

### HOW CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL WAS DEVELOPED



This is how Lanfranc's Angel is believed to look like

- The first phase of Norman construction (Romanesque architecture) Built between 1070 -1077, on site of Saxon cathedral which was destroyed by fire in 1067 Nave & transepts survived for 300 years, North West Tower until 1830's
- The second phase of Norman Construction – a considerable part of this survives in the middle section of the Cathedral: It is over 900 years in age
- The first use of Gothic style – in the rebuilding, after a fire in 1174, which destroyed the eastern end.
- Rebuilding the western half of the cathedral (1377 -1480) – the perpendicular (late-Gothic) style.
- The youngest part: Bell Harry Tower, 1500 – and an answer to the question “When was the Cathedral built?”

