

# St Thomas of Canterbury

## Brentwood Town Pilgrimage

### Adult Version



## Make your own pilgrimage.

2021 marks the 800th anniversary of the founding of a chapel in Brentwood as a resting place for pilgrims on the route to Canterbury. You can still see the ruins in front of the Baytree centre. To mark this anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Brentwood, we have designed a pilgrim's trail that everyone can follow.

Approximately 2.3 miles long, the pilgrimage starts at the chapel ruins in the High Street and ends at St Thomas' Church. The route follows a pilgrim's journey from York to Canterbury. Each stop along the way marks a town or city on the route which you can plot on the map and learn more about. There is a separate flier for children with quiz questions and numbers to collect which add up to the distance that pilgrims walked from York to Canterbury.

### Start at A - York

York Minster is the Gothic Cathedral in the centre of York. The minster is the seat of the Archbishop of York, the third-highest office of the Church of England. The title "minster" is attributed to churches established in the Anglo-Saxon period as missionary teaching churches, and serves now as an honorific title. The present building was begun in about 1230 and completed in 1472, and is devoted to Saint Peter. On 9th July 1984 it suffered a serious fire. Repairs were completed in 1988 at a cost of £2.25m.

The current Archbishop of York is the Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell who used to be the Bishop of Chelmsford..

### Stop B - Selby

Selby is a market town in North Yorkshire on the river Ouse. Selby Abbey was founded by Benedict of Auxerre in 1069. It is said that the Abbey was founded when Benedict saw 3 Swans on a lake in Selby, and he saw it as a sign of the father, Son and Holy Ghost. That is why the crest of Selby Abbey has 3 Swans. Today Selby Abbey is one of the largest Parish Churches in Britain and is larger than several Cathedrals.





## Page 2

### Stop C - Gainsborough

The place-name Gainsborough first appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Gainsburg and is built on the banks of the river Trent.

Historically, Gainsborough is the "capital that never was." Towards the end of July 1013, the Dane Sweyn Forkbeard and his son and heir Cnut (Canute) arrived in Gainsborough with an army of conquest. Sweyn defeated the Anglo-Saxon opposition and King Ethelred fled the country. Sweyn was declared King of England and returned to Gainsborough. So, Gainsborough was named as capital of England and of Denmark for five weeks in the year 1013.

### Stop D- Lincoln

Lincoln is a cathedral city and county town of Lincolnshire on the river Witham. It was the tallest building in the world for over 200 years (1300–1549), but the central spire fell down in the sixteenth century and was not rebuilt.

By 1150, Lincoln was among the wealthiest towns in England. The basis of the economy was cloth and wool, and Lincoln weavers produced Lincoln Cloth that was dyed "scarlet" and "green".

Lincoln is well known for its Castle and its football team, Lincoln City, who and are nicknamed the Imps after the legend of the Lincoln Imp.

The Lincoln Imp is a grotesque (a carved stone figure) on a wall inside Lincoln Cathedral, and it has become the symbol of the city of Lincoln. Legend has it that during the building of the Angel Choir, The Lincoln Imp, sitting on top of pillar, started throwing stones and rocks at an Angel who had been sent to stop him causing more mayhem. In a moment of anger, she turned him into stone where he sat, and there you will find him to this day.





## Stop E - Grantham

Grantham is a market and industrial town in Lincolnshire, also on the river Witham.

St Wulfram's Church, Grantham, is a parish church in the Church of England in Grantham and its chief feature is the slender spire which stands 282.5 feet (86.1 m) high. The spire is the sixth highest in the country.

The town has a long military history dating back to the completion of the Old Barracks in 1858. RAF Bomber Command was stationed here during the second World War and they played a strategic role in planning the bombing raids on German Dams by 617 Squadron (later called the Dambusters).



Grantham is also known as the birthplace of the former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Sir Isaac Newton went to school here and was the workplace of Edith Smith, the UK's first female police officer. In 1914 she became the first policewoman to be granted full powers of arrest in Great Britain.

## Stop F - Stamford

The name Stamford means "stony ford".

Stamford has been an important town since Roman times and it was the Romans who built Ermine Street, which crossed the River Welland to the west of the town, and runs as far as Lincoln.

Stamford has been hosting an annual fair since the Middle Ages. (The Middle Ages lasted approximately from the 5th to the late 15th centuries). The fair, held in mid-Lent, is now the largest street fair in Lincolnshire and among the largest in the country.

For over 600 years Stamford was also the site of the Stamford Bull Run, which was held annually on 13 November, until 1839. Local tradition says it was started by William de Warenne, 5th Earl of Surrey, after he had seen two bulls fighting in the meadow beneath his castle.





## Page 4

One of the bulls escaped from the meadow and the Earl rode after it to catch it. He enjoyed this so much that he started the annual Bull Run festival.

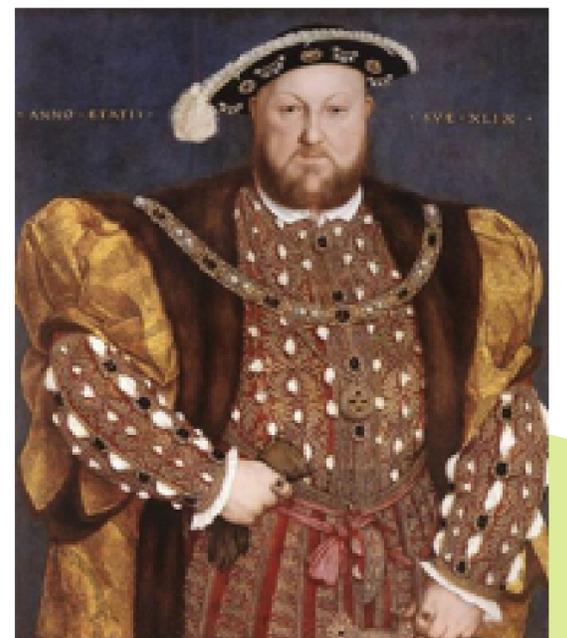
### Stop G - Peterborough

Peterborough is a cathedral city in Cambridgeshire on the River Nene which flows into the North Sea 30 miles (48 km) to the north-east.

Human settlement in the area began before the Bronze Age, with evidence of Roman occupation. The Anglo-Saxon period saw the establishment of a monastery, Medeshamstede (which was the original name of the town), which later became Peterborough Cathedral.

The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter, Saint Paul and Saint Andrew, whose statues look down from the three high gables of the West Front, was founded as a monastery in AD 655 and rebuilt in its present form between 1118 and 1238.

The cathedral has the distinction of having had two queens buried beneath its paving: Catherine of Aragon and Mary, Queen of Scots.



### Stop H - Huntingdon

Huntingdon is a market town in Cambridgeshire, England, chartered by King John in 1205. The name means "The huntsman's hill" or possibly "Hunta's hill". It prospered successively as a bridging point of the River Great Ouse, (the longest of several British rivers called "Ouse"), a market town, and in the 18th and 19th centuries a coaching centre, notably at the George Hotel.

The George Hotel was named after Saint George of England in 1574 and the highwayman Dick Turpin is said to have been a customer.

Huntingdon was the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell in 1599, who became its Member of Parliament (MP) in the 17th century. The former Conservative Prime Minister (1990–1997) John Major served as MP for Huntingdon from 1979 until his retirement in 2001.





The Old Bridge in Huntingdon is a well-preserved medieval stone bridge over the River Great Ouse.

## Stop I - Cambridge

Cambridge is a university city and the county town of Cambridgeshire, on the River Cam.

It became an important trading centre during the Roman and Viking ages, and there is archaeological evidence of settlement in the area as early as the Bronze Age.

The University of Cambridge was founded in 1209 by Oxford students fleeing from hostility. The oldest existing college, Peterhouse, was founded in 1284. The buildings of the university include King's College Chapel, Cavendish Laboratory, and the Cambridge University Library.

Unusually, Cambridge does not have a cathedral, traditionally a prerequisite for city status, instead falling within the Church of England Diocese of Ely.

The River Cam running through the city centre is used for boating and the University and its colleges are well known for rowing. Shallower parts of the Cam are used for recreational punting, a type of boating in which the craft is propelled by pushing against the river bed with a quant pole.



King's College Chapel



Boat Racing on the River Cam



Punting

## Stop J - Saffron Walden

Saffron Walden is a market town in north Essex. Evidence suggests that there has been a continuous settlement on or near the site of Saffron Walden from at least the Stone Age period and it is believed that much later a small Roman settlement and fort existed here.

After the Norman invasion of 1066, a stone church and castle were built. Walden Castle dates from about 1140.





## Page 6

A priory, Walden Abbey, was founded around 1136 and after the dissolution of the monasteries, Sir Thomas Audley converted its cloisters into a dwelling. Later this became the site of Audley End House, which you can still visit today.

A Tuesday market was held here from 1295 and the main trading item in medieval times was wool. In the 16th and 17th centuries the saffron crocus was widely grown, thanks to the town's favourable soil and climate. The stigmas of the flower were used in medicines, as a condiment, in perfume, as an expensive coloured dye called Saffron. The industry gave Walden its present name.

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden was built at the end of the 15th century. In 1769 it was damaged by lightning and was repaired. The spire was added in 1832 to replace an older lantern tower and is now the largest parish church in Essex. The church is 183 feet (56 m) long and the spire, 193 feet (59 m) high, is the tallest in Essex.



The church of St Mary the Virgin



Audley End House

## Stop K - Chelmsford

There has always been a settlement in and around Chelmsford since ancient times. Later, the town was occupied by the Romans. In AD 60 a Roman fort was built, and a civilian town grew up around it. The town was given the name of Caesaromagus (Caesar's field or Caesar's marketplace).

In 1199, following the commissioning of a bridge over the River Can by Maurice, Bishop of London, the town was granted a Royal Charter to hold a market. An under-cover market, operating Tuesday to Saturday, is still an important part of the city centre today; over 800 years later!





In 1899, Guglielmo Marconi opened the world's first "wireless" factory under the name 'The Marconi Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company. For this reason, Chelmsford is credited as the "birthplace of radio". In June 1920 the factory was the location of the first official publicised sound broadcast in the United Kingdom, featuring Dame Nellie Melba using two 450-foot (140-metre) radio broadcasting masts. Marconi remained in Chelmsford until April 2008 when their remaining operations moved to Basildon. This brought to an end of more than 100 years of the Marconi name in Chelmsford.

Another big employer was the Britvic soft drink company (beginning life as the British Vitamin Company in 1948). In 1986 it merged with Canada Dry Rawlings and acquired the R. White's Lemonade brand. It acquired Tango from Beechams in 1987 and since that year it has also owned the UK franchise for Pepsi and 7 Up. In March 2012 the Britvic UK headquarters closed and relocated to Hemel Hempstead and on 14 March 2014 the Britvic Westway factory closed for good thus ending the company's 150-year association with the city.

The church of St Mary the Virgin, (and later also dedicated to St Peter and St Cedd), was probably first built along with the town around 1200. It was rebuilt in the 15th and early 16th centuries (starting around 1520), with walls of flint rubble, stone and brick. It became a cathedral when the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford was created in 1914 and is the seat of the Bishop of Chelmsford. It is officially the second smallest in England behind Derby Cathedral.



Marconi's factory with the 2 140m high radio masts



Chelmsford's Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Peter and St Cedd





## Stop L-Brentwood

Although a Bronze Age axe has been found in Brentwood and there are clear signs of an entrenched encampment in Weald Country Park, it is considered unlikely that there was any significant early settlement of the area. At the time, most of Essex was covered by the Great Forest. It is believed that despite the Roman road between London and Colchester passing through the town, the Saxons were the earliest settlers of the area. It was assumed by some in the 1700s that the town's name was derived from a corruption of the words 'burnt' and 'wood', (the name Burntwood still visible on some 18th-century maps). However, Brent was the middle English for "burnt". The name describes the presumed reason for settlement in the part of the Forest of Essex (later Epping Forest) that would have covered the area, where a major occupation was charcoal burning.

The borough was on a crossroads, where the Roman road from Colchester to London crossed the route the pilgrims took over the River Thames to Canterbury. (Christianity has a strong tradition of pilgrimages, both to sites relevant to the New Testament narrative, especially in the Holy Land, and to sites associated with later saints or miracles).

Thomas Becket, (also known as Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Thomas of London and later Thomas à Becket), was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170 in Canterbury Cathedral, by followers of the king, after he had engaged in a conflict with Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church. He is venerated as a saint and martyr by both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion.

A chapel was built in Brentwood on or around 1221, and in 1227 a market charter was granted. Its growth may have been stimulated by the cult of St. Thomas the Martyr, to whom the chapel was dedicated and the 13th-century ruin of Thomas Becket Chapel was a popular stopping point for pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. The ruin stands in the centre of the high street and the current parish church of Brentwood retains the dedication to St. Thomas of Canterbury.





The Essex assizes, (these were periodic courts held around England and Wales until 1972, and covered both civil and criminal cases), were sometimes held here, as well as at Chelmsford. One such pub was The White Hart (now a nightclub called the Sugar Hut), which is one of the oldest buildings in Brentwood; it is believed to have been built in 1480 although evidence suggests a hostelry might have stood on the site as much as a hundred years earlier and been visited in 1392 by Richard II, whose coat of arms included a white hart.

Protestant martyr William Hunter was burnt at the stake in Brentwood in 1555. A monument to him was erected by subscription in 1861 at Wilson's Corner.

William Hunter was a martyr, (a person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs), burnt to death in Brentwood at the age of 19 on 26 March 1555, on Ingrave Road. He had lost his job in London as a silk-weaver because he refused to attend the Catholic mass, despite an order that everyone in the City of London had to attend. He had come to live with his parents in Brentwood, but got into a dispute when he was discovered reading the Bible for himself in Brentwood Chapel. He was taken before Antony Browne, the local Justice, (and founder of Brentwood School), and then to Bishop Bonner in London, but he refused to retract his position and was eventually returned to Brentwood to be burnt.

William Hunter Way, the road that runs behind the shops in Brentwood High Street and Sainsbury's store, was named after him.



The ruins of Thomas Becket Chapel in the High Street



A stain glass window depicting Thomas Becket, showing a sword piercing his head





## Page 10

### Stop M-Tilbury

Tilbury is a town in Essex on the north bank of the river Thames. The present town was established as separate settlement in the late 19th century. It contains a 16th century fort and an ancient cross-river ferry, which was important to the early Pilgrims travelling to Canterbury.

Tilbury. The name of these settlements is derived from the Saxon word burgh, "fortified place", either belonging to Tila, or perhaps at a lowland place.

Tilbury's history is closely connected with its geographical location on the river Thames. Its counterpart on the south bank of the river, Gravesend, has long been an important communications link, and it was there that a cross-river ferry was connected, mainly due to the narrowness of the river at this point.

Today, Tilbury is part of the Port of London with a major deep-water port. It is the principal port for London, as well as being the main United Kingdom port for handling the importation of paper. There are extensive facilities for containers, grain, and other bulk cargoes and also for importing cars.

### Stop N-Gravesend

Gravesend is a town in northwest Kent, situated on the south bank of the River Thames, opposite Tilbury in Essex and has one of the oldest surviving markets in the country. It lies immediately to the north of the Roman road (now called Watling Street) connecting London with the Kent coast.

It was an important town for Pilgrims on their route to Canterbury, as the ferry linked Gravesend to Tilbury across the river Thames.



The Tilbury Ferry in 1640



Unloading containers at the deep waterport





In 1401, a Royal Charter was granted, allowing the men of the town to operate boats between London and the town; these became known as the "Long Ferry". It became the preferred form of passage, because of the perils of road travel.

Journeys by road to Gravesend were historically quite hazardous, since the main London-Dover road crossed Blackheath, which was notorious for its highwaymen, who held up the coaches and robbed the passengers. Stagecoaches from London to Canterbury used Gravesend as one of their "stages" or stops on their journey. If they were rich enough to be able to afford the fare.

John Rolfe was one of the early English settlers of North America. He is credited with the first successful cultivation of tobacco as an export crop in the Colony of Virginia in 1611. Rolfe married Pocahontas, daughter of the local Native American leader Powhatan in 1614. A year earlier Pocahontas had been converted to Christianity and she was renamed "Rebecca" when she had her baptism.

John Rolfe and his wife Rebecca (Pocahontas) travelled to England and were preparing to return to Virginia. They boarded a ship in London but it had only sailed as far as Gravesend before Rebecca fell ill, and she died shortly after she was taken ashore. It is not known what caused her death. Her funeral and burial took place at the parish church of St George, Gravesend.

Pocahontas is an important figure in both American and British history and was the inspiration for the popular Disney animated film of the same name which portrays a fictionalized account of her historical encounter with Englishman John Smith and the Jamestown settlers who arrived from the Virginia Company.

An American sculptor, William Ordway Partridge, created a life-size statue of the 17th-century Native American princess Pocahontas, which was unveiled at Jamestown, Virginia in 1922. Queen Elizabeth II viewed this statue, when she visited America in 1957 and in October 1958, an exact replica of Partridge's statue was dedicated as a memorial to Pocahontas and was erected in the grounds of St George's Parish Church.





## Stop O - Rochester

Today, Rochester is an historic town in Kent on the banks, and at the lowest bridging point, of the River Medway. Over time it has been variously occupied by Celts, Romans and Saxons. The first bridge was subsequently constructed early in the Roman period and during the later Roman period the settlement was walled in stone.

The medieval period saw the building of the current cathedral (1080–1130, 1227 and 1343), the building of two castles and the establishment of a significant town.

For centuries it has been of great strategic importance through its position near the confluence, (which means where the two rivers meet), of the Thames and the Medway. Rochester Castle was built to guard the river crossing.

It was recognised as a city from 1211 until 1998. The city status was lost when Rochester-upon-Medway was abolished as a local government district to become the new unitary authority of Medway. It has since unsuccessfully applied for City status in 2000 and 2002 and again in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year of 2012.

The Diocese of Rochester is the second oldest Diocese in the Church of England. It is centred on Rochester Cathedral, (formally the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary), which is the seat (cathedra) of the Bishop of Rochester, the second oldest bishopric in England after that of the Archbishop of Canterbury.





Rochester Castle's grounds showing the keep (note the castle's proximity to Rochester Cathedral)

Rochester Cathedral

The historic city was for many years the favourite of Charles Dickens, who lived nearby. Many of his novels were based on the area.



## Stop P - Faversham

Faversham is a market town in Kent and lies next to the Swale, a strip of sea separating mainland Kent from the Isle of Sheppey in the Thames Estuary. It is close to Watling Street, which was the ancient track used by the Romans and the Anglo-Saxons, and the many Pilgrims travelling from London to Canterbury.





The town was favoured by King Stephen, (who was King of England from December 1135 to his death in 1154). Stephen established Faversham Abbey, which survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. (The Dissolution was an administrative and legal process between 1536 and 1541 by which Henry VIII disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries, in England, Wales and Ireland).

King Stephen and Queen Matilda also established the current Parish Church of St Mary of Charity in 1147 and a distinctive spire was added around 1794 – 97. In the mid-19th century the church was restored and the stone encasing to the spire was added. Today, the spire can be easily seen from many places around the town.



St Mary of Charity Church

The town was favoured by King Stephen, (who was King of England from December 1135 to his death in 1154). Stephen established Faversham Abbey, which survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. (The Dissolution was an administrative and legal process between 1536 and 1541 by which Henry VIII disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries, in England, Wales and Ireland).

## Stop Q - Canterbury

Canterbury is a cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It lies on the River Stour and is the final destination of our Pilgrimage.

The city's cathedral became a major focus of pilgrimage following the 1170 martyrdom of Thomas Becket. In Christianity, a martyr is a person considered to have died because of their testimony for Jesus or faith in Jesus.





Thomas Becket was the son of a rich London merchant and he grew up to be a very powerful man.

When Henry II became king in 1154 he asked Archbishop Theobald who he should choose to be members of his government. Theobald recommended Thomas Becket. The king then made Becket his chancellor. A chancellor was an important member of the government. Becket prepared writs (legal documents) and royal charters. He also served as England's representative on trips to other countries and led Henry's armies into battle.

Henry II and Becket became good friends. When Archbishop Theobald died in 1162, Henry chose Becket as his new archbishop of Canterbury. In this role he became the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England. This was not a popular decision, as Becket had never been a priest. He had also enjoyed the finer things in life, such as good clothes, food, and wine. His critics were afraid that Becket would be influenced by the king in matters of religion. They feared that he would not be independent enough as leader of the church.

Becket proved everyone wrong. He became very caring and invited the poor into his home. He fed them and gave them money. He stopped wearing expensive clothes and began wearing monk's robes. He slept on a stone floor instead of in a bed.

Becket also took the side of the church in several disputes with Henry. The king was not pleased by the changes in Becket. In 1164 he ordered Becket to appear before his courts, accusing him of stealing money while he had been chancellor. Becket denied the charges but offered to repay the money. Henry refused his offer, and Becket fled to France. The king pardoned him in 1170, so Becket returned to England.

However, the two men were still not on good terms. When Henry spoke out against Becket, some of the king's knights misunderstood him and thought he wanted to be rid of Becket altogether. On December 29, 1170, four knights attacked and murdered Thomas Becket on the Altar steps in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Christian world was shocked by Becket's murder. In 1173 the pope made him a saint of the Roman Catholic church.



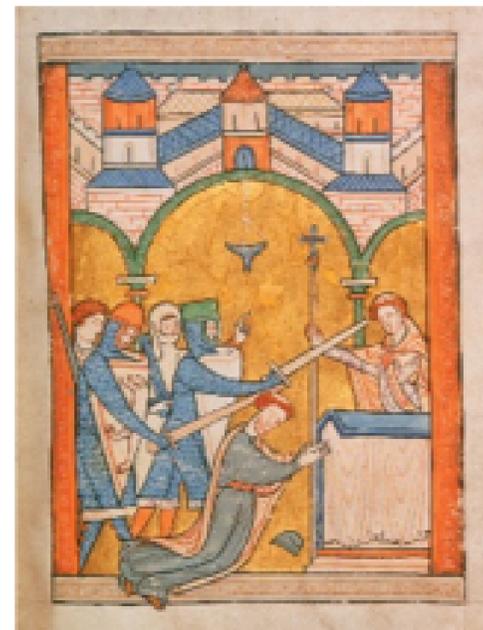


After the murder of the Archbishop Thomas Becket in the cathedral, Canterbury became one of the most notable towns in Europe. Many people made, and many people still do, make pilgrimages from all parts of Christian world to visit his shrine as he was seen as a martyr.

Today the Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion.



Canterbury Cathedral



An illustration dating from around 1220 shows the murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

After the murder of the Archbishop Thomas Becket in the cathedral, Canterbury became one of the most notable towns in Europe. Many people made, and many people still do, make pilgrimages from all parts of Christian world to visit his shrine as he was seen as a martyr.

Today the Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

