

SANDWICH

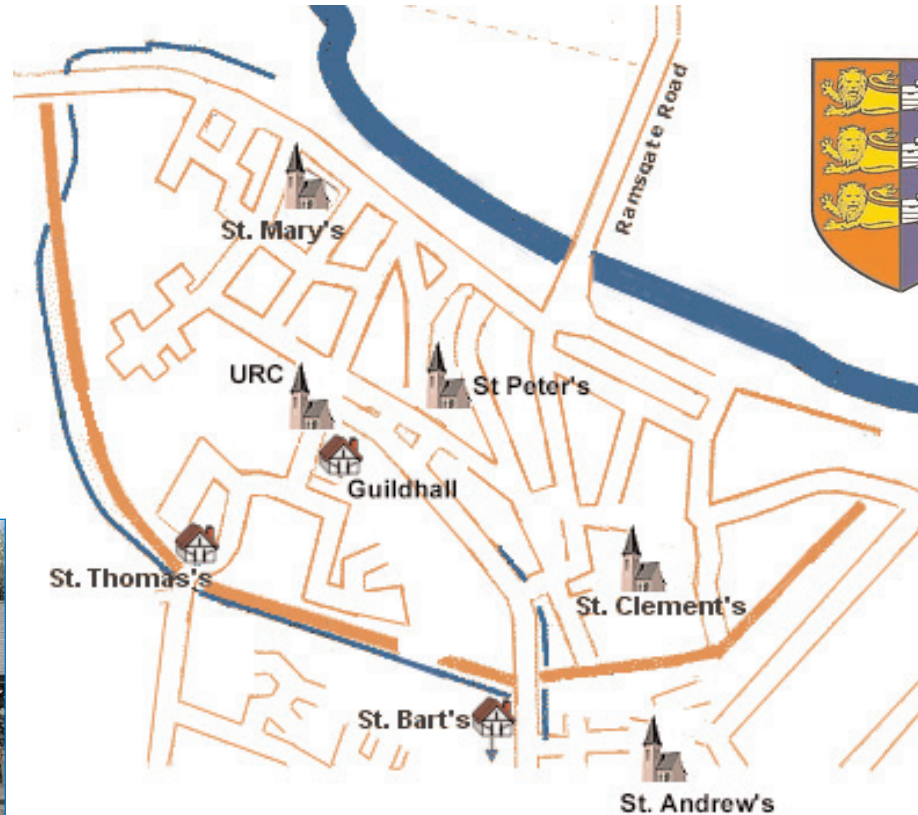
Spiritual Heritage Partnership



United Reformed Church



St Mary's Church



St Peter's Church



St Bartholomew's Hospital



St Thomas' Hospital



St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church



The Guildhall

Since Roman times, Sandwich has been a place for visitors, often marking their point of entry into Britain. The town has a rich history which has influenced both the lives of its inhabitants and the nation. The earliest recorded Christian arrival is that of Wilfred, Bishop of Northumberland in 664AD. Over the centuries, the town has been a place for those seeking sanctuary, with Thomas a Becket, Richard the Lionheart and the Huguenots all seeking a place of safe haven and rest here. The eight destinations on the tour will take you on a journey which explores the Town's spiritual history, in the places where pilgrims past, present and future have found, and continue to find, inspiration and revelation.



St Clement's Church

United Reformed Church



Approaching the church, you cross the site of an old coaching inn and enter what was one of its outbuildings. Before 1640 the first Dissenters (who believed that Christ, not the Sovereign, was Head of the Church and

therefore the Church should be independent of state control) met here and risked imprisonment by holding services. The law was relaxed in 1705 and they were able to acquire the building and adapt it for use as a place of worship. They called their churches 'Meeting Houses' and this is one of the oldest in the country still in use today. The two wooden pillars are the masts of ships in which Huguenots fled from persecution in France in the 17th century, and are tokens of the gratitude these refugees felt for the way they were received and made welcome in the town of Sandwich.

See www.sandwich-urc.co.uk for contacts
01304 617834

St Clement's Church



St Clement's is the parish church of the ancient Cinque Port of Sandwich and is dedicated to the patron saint of seafarers. The church is central to the town's long maritime history and the Mayors of Sandwich were

elected here up to 1683. The magnificent Romanesque Norman tower, one of the finest in England, replaced its Saxon predecessor in the 12th century. The subsequent expansion of the church in a variety of styles culminated in the 15th century nave with its beautiful angel roof, one of only two in Kent. There are many medieval features throughout the church.

*Open Daily from May to September,
10.00am - 4.00pm*

When closed, contact:

D. Senior 01304 612782 or

R. Shephard 01304 612986

www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk

St Thomas' Hospital



The Hospital of St Thomas was founded in 1395 by Thomas Ellis, a town draper, to care for twelve poor men. The original building was situated in New Street but this was demolished in the 19th century and new almshouses

built in Moat Sole. The original chapel window stands outside the west end of St Peter's church. St John's hospital, founded in the 13th century, stood behind the Guildhall but was eventually combined with St Thomas' and little trace of the buildings now remain.

St Thomas' in Moat Sole is not open to the public.

St Bartholomew's Hospital



There had been a hospital giving shelter to travellers and pilgrims on this site since 1190. The present foundation was established to commemorate the victorious sea battle over the French on St Bartholomew's Day

1217, using the prize money. Each year, there is a special celebration when children run a race around the chapel and receive a Bartholomew's Bun. The very fine 13th century chapel and the almshouse accommodation was built for twelve brothers and four sisters. The chapel was restored in the 19th century and is now surrounded by the cottages of today's brothers and sisters.

For access contact: Mrs Healey 01304 612782

The Guildhall



The Guildhall is a 16th century building at the heart of town civic life and its museum tells the story of Sandwich from early medieval times. There are many well designed illustrative panels relating to the town's history with artifacts dating back to the 13th century.

*Open April 1st to November 30th
(Closed Mondays)*

Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat: 10.30am-12.30pm, 2.00pm-4.00pm

Thurs & Sun: 2.00pm-4.00 pm

Admission: Adults: £1, Pensioner/Child: 50p, Family: £2.

Open for groups by special arrangement

St Peter's Church



St Peter's is the most prominent church on the Sandwich skyline. For centuries, the curfew bell has been rung from its tower at 8pm each evening. In the past this was to tell the town to dampen their fires and to put their pigs

and geese out into the streets. In 1564 townspeople afflicted by the plague were given sanctuary in St Peter's to stop the spread of infection. In 1661, the tower collapsed and was rebuilt by Dutch refugees living in the town and their influence can be seen in the unusual onion dome.

The church is open daily under the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. www.visitchurches.org.uk

St Mary's Church



St Mary's is a large medieval church built on the site of a 6th century convent. In 1578 an earthquake caused considerable damage which resulted in the collapse of its central tower in 1667. It contains many interesting

monuments and, whilst still consecrated, is now also used as a venue for concerts and community events.

The church is open daily under the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. www.visitchurches.org.uk

St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church



In the early part of the 20th century, there were only a small number of Roman Catholics in Sandwich and they met in the Drill Hall for Mass. However a lady in the congregation donated land in St George's Road and

£500 to build a temporary church, which was opened in 1929. During the Second World War the congregation mostly dispersed but members of the armed forces used the church and also German prisoners of war from the nearby camp. After much fundraising, the present church was built, opening in 1960. St Andrew's is attached to The Church of St John the Evangelist, Mongeham.

Weekly Mass: 8.30am on Sundays & Feast Days

Priest: Fr Christopher Lindlar 01304 374870