

# Deal & Walmer Church Heritage Self-Guided Cycle Ride

Saturday 14 September from 10am

A self-guided cycle tour of some of the most historic churches in Deal and Walmer, which will be open as part of the Friends of Kent Churches 'Ride and Stride' day. Refreshments may be available at a number of the churches. This tour can be tailored to your fitness, time available and is suitable for families & electric bicycles. Your start location can be selected to suit you and a cycle map is available to download from [www.deal.gov.uk](http://www.deal.gov.uk) and [www.dealheritage.org.uk](http://www.dealheritage.org.uk) or a printed copy obtained from the Deal Visitor Information Centre.

All churches are open from 10am, but please see individual churches for closing times.

## 1 St. Andrew's, St Andrews Road, Deal, CT14 6DY

Known as 'The Boatmen's Church', it is built in the Early English style of Kentish ragstone with Caen stone dressings and a tiled roof. The interior is particularly notable for the wooden chancel arch which resembles the upturned prow of a ship. The church was designed by Ambrose Poynter for the poverty-stricken boatmen of North Deal as an alternative to St. George's Church which had become popular with the local gentry. The church was built in 1850 on the site of the old Deal workhouse, the walls of which still stand. The north aisle has an octagonal stone fisherman's lantern on the roof apex, thought to have been lit in poor weather to help boats find their bearings. There are four tiled murals and a full set of stained-glass windows designed by Alexander Gibbs, who is associated with the 'High Church School' of decoration. Externally, the tower is topped by a spire and incorporates eight mediaeval gargoyles thought to have been salvaged from other churches. In front of the church is a recently created 'Garden of Peace and Remembrance' featuring a Calvary on a Portland stone plinth dedicated 'For The Fallen'.  
Opening Times 10:00 to 16:00

## 2 St. George's, High Street, Deal, CT14 6BA

A Grade II\* listed Queen Anne structure. The interior includes the Mayor's Gallery which retains many of its features such as the mace holder. The grounds contain a unique memorial to a friend of Admiral Nelson and a memorial to a recipient of the Victoria Cross. The church was built as a chapel of ease to St Leonard's in Upper Deal. Work commenced on the church in 1706 and was completed in 1716 with monies raised by a tax levied on coals brought into the port. In 1717, a gallery was added for use by the Mayor and Corporation. A later gallery was built for the use of local boatmen and fishermen. The church contains a memorial to Elizabeth Carter, who was an English poet, classicist, writer and translator, and a member of the Bluestocking Circle. In the churchyard, there is a tomb to Capt. Edward Parker, a close friend of Admiral Nelson, who died in Deal from wounds received during the failed raid on Boulogne in 1801. This is the only monument in this country known to have been donated personally by Lord Nelson. In front of the church stands a Grade II\* listed monument which was erected by the incumbent of St George's to commemorate his eldest son Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Tisdall who died during the Battle of Gallipoli and had been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. Revd Tisdall's second son also died in action and an inscription to him was included on his brother's memorial along with the names of 56 other servicemen from St George's.  
Opening Times 10:00 to 16:00

## 3 St. Saviour's, The Strand, Walmer, CT14 7EG

A Victorian chapel of ease built 1848-49 in the Neo-Gothic architectural style, for the town's boatmen, and to help serve the growing congregation of Blessed Mary of Walmer. It is dedicated to no saint, but to the Holy Saviour. At the front of the church is a war memorial featuring the names of many Royal Marines who had lived in the nearby barracks.  
Self-guided Tour Information Sheets available.  
Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

## 4 St. Mary's, St. Clare's Road, Walmer, CT14 7QA

A fine example of Victorian Gothic revivalism, being surprisingly large and airy for a parish church. The main fabric of the building, built of Kentish rag with Bath stone, is unchanged since it was built. The splendid reredos, of opus sectile (a painted glass mosaic) is a fine example of late Victorian craftsmanship. The foundation stone of Walmer's new parish church was laid in 1887 and the building completed a year later. The tower, with a peal of eight bells, wasn't built until 1893 and has been left unfinished without its originally intended spire.  
Self-guided Tour Information Sheets available.  
Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

## 5 Chapel of the Sacred Heart, 318 Dover Road, Walmer, CT14 7NX

The only remaining part of the Convent of the Visitation, this Grade II listed chapel was designed in 1881 in Gothic style by Peter Paul Pugin and Cuthbert Pugin, but not completed until 1890. The nuns left Walmer in 1971, but the chapel was retained in St Thomas's Parish.  
Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

## 6 Blessed Mary of Walmer, Church Street, CT14 7RX

Dating back to the 12th century, this delightful church contains six funerary hatchments, including that of The Duke of Wellington, which was carried in front of his cortege to the station after his death. The church is set in a large graveyard containing significant Victorian memorials and adjoins the ruins of the medieval Walmer Court. Walmer's original parish church, a Grade II\* listed building, was built around 1120 as a private chapel of the d'Auberville family, who resided at Walmer Court. The church was enlarged in 1816 by the addition of a galleried nave on the north side of the existing nave, thus re-orientating the church on a north-south axis and placing the altar at the south. A further extension was made in 1826. Both extensions were demolished in 1898, the church conventionally re-orientated

and the original nave reinstated. The tower of the old church was rebuilt, and a bell first made in 1635 for the church by Joseph Hatch of Broomfield near Maidstone was re-hung in a new stone gable. The Duke of Wellington was a regular worshipper when in residence at Walmer Castle as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports from 1829-52.

Self-guided Tour Information Sheets available.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

PLUS

### **Walmer Court Medieval Manor House, Church Street, Walmer, CT14 7RX**

The substantial and well maintained remains of this 12th century medieval moated manor house are not normally open to the public.

It adjoins the church of Blessed Mary of Walmer which dates from the same period and they are set in a peaceful location.

Access will be in regular guided tours by the owner.

The medieval manor house, known as Walmer Court, was built in the 12th century and is constructed of flint with Caen stone dressings. It is broadly rectangular in plan and about 16.5m long by 15m wide. The manor house is now roofless but the walls survive to second storey level and are up to 8m high and 1.2 to 1.4m thick. The manor house was fortified with turrets or towers at the angles, three of which survive. Mortices for timber joists are visible in the main internal north-south wall of the house and there are also traces of a first floor opening. The southern wall of the manor house forms part of the churchyard wall of the church of Blessed Mary of Walmer. It may have been constructed by the d'Auberville family or, later, by Nicholas de Criol who married the daughter of Sir William de Auberville and gained ownership of the manor. The nearby church (Grade II\* listed) may have served as a chapel to the manor house. It is also built of flint with stone dressings and has a strong visual relationship with the house. In 1966 and 1974 partial excavation on the site of the manor house recovered medieval pottery dating from about 1150 at foundation level.

Opening Times: 10:30 to 15:30

### **7 Walmer Baptist Church, Kelvedon Road, CT14 7HX**

Opened in 1904 as a daughter church of Deal's Victoria Baptist Church, it is built in the gothic style with a soaring roof and spire. The fine Dalliday organ dates from 1926 and its restoration is in progress. Records from Victoria Church, Nelson Hall and this church will be on view, together with an exhibition by the Addelam History Research Group.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

### **8 Catholic Church of St. John the Evangelist, 149 St. Richards Road, Deal, CT14 9LD**

This unusual design in a free version of the Romanesque style has a west front of unusual design which recalls some entertainment buildings of its period. It was built in 1934 to serve the mainly Scottish community of miners who came to work the newly-opened Kent Coalfield and was originally intended as a combined church and social centre.

Betteshanger Colliery opened in 1926. Many of the mineworkers settled in the Mill Hill area, where new housing was built for them. Fr J M O'Connell, who was at that time chaplain to St Ethelburga's Convent, Deal, undertook the care of the new mission of St Johns. A site was purchased in St Richard's Road and a new church was built, which opened in February 1934.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

### **9 St. Leonard's, Rectory Road, Deal, CT14 9LU**

The Parish Church for Deal - dates back to at least 1180 and has been considerably modified ever since (described by one Bishop as "the most cockeyed church in Christendom").

The western gallery was present on a document dated 1618 and rebuilt to become the Pilot's Gallery in 1705. It houses a nationally significant collection of funerary hatchments dating back to 1673, unusual for having four women, three admirals, four captains and local dignitaries.

The churchyard includes readable headstones dating back to 1650 and the tomb of Sir Francis Samuel Drake. There is also a fine example of a medieval dole table.

Self-guided Tour Information Sheets available.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 13:00

### **10 St. Nicholas', London Road, Sholden, CT14 9QN**

A delightful old church (13th Century) was built as a chapel of ease to Northbourne Church.

Pre Reformation this was under the great Abbey of St. Augustine at Canterbury and so gave access to the rich grazing land on the marsh towards for the Abbey cattle.

Later, many influential Deal residents lived in Sholden, on the outskirts of Deal and the churchyard is full of headstones commemorating these people. In 1798 the turnpike past its doors was built and so its local importance increased. Inside the church is a war memorial. Originally it had a north aisle which at some stage was demolished in favour of the single roof structure to be found today. This creates an unusually wide interior and needs to be seen.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

*The order of the churches follows a suggested route starting from Deal Station: to St Andrew's; then St Georges; up to National Cycle Network Route 1 on the seafront along to St Saviour's; back to the seafront to just before Walmer Castle; heading inland to St Mary's; the Chapel of the Sacred Heart; across London Road to Blessed St Mary; round to Walmer Baptist; up to Telegraph Road cycle path and right at St Richards Road to St John's; continue to Rectory Road to St Leonard's; then a choice, either across Manor Road and walk & ride through Church Path back towards the Station; or back along Rectory Road right into St Richard's Road, right onto Mongeham Road, across London Road to St Nicholas at Sholden; then Church Lane back towards Deal Station.*



## **A Little Further Afield**

These churches are off the map, but not far away and worth exploring if you have the time.

### **St. Martin's, Northbourne Road, Great Mongeham, CT14 0HD**

This church tucked away from the main road is a 'tour de force' of thirteenth century architecture, north and south aisles with narrow pillars creates a large space for worship. It has been restored many times, the 19th Century restoration of William Butterworth is what we see today. There is a memorial on the tower to Robert Maynard the man who captured Blackbeard in Carolina. A large traditional churchyard with the Rectory next door, a fine Georgian building. There is a fine lychgate in the south eastern corner. Opening Times: 9:00 to 13:00

### **St. Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, Ripple, CT14 8JL**

Grade II\* listed parish church, built 1861 occupies a site where a church building has stood since at least 1341. It was designed by Arthur Ashpitel and is a simplified copy of the classic Norman church at Barfreston, the influence of which can be seen in the West doorway and the chancel arch. Unusually for a Victorian church, the tower is capped with a broach, now covered in textured stainless steel, replacing the original zinc. The church contains memorials and tablets, including several to the French family, whose most famous son, Sir John (Lord) French, First Earl of Ypres, is buried in the churchyard. The sanctuary lamp, which at one time was kept permanently lit, is a memorial to Lord French. There are also memorials, and a funereal hatchment, to members of the Sladen family, particularly John Baker Sladen, in whose memory the stained glass in the East Windows was donated. There are also a number of memorials which excite the interest of naval historians, particularly to Andrew Rand (with ships in relief on the base) & John T. W. French. On the south wall of the nave are two brasses removed from their original matrices on the floor and now mounted on wood, commemorating members of the Warren family 'sometimes chief customer of Sandwich, Dover and the members thereof, who died in the 16th century.

### **St. John the Evangelist, Upper St, Kingsdown, CT14 8BJ**

Completed in 1850 and funded by William Curling who also built the local school. St John's was not the first place of worship in the village. An old chapel, probably Wesleyan, dated from about 1800. Kingsdown had begun to grow in the mid-19th century, and the new parish of St John the Evangelist was created out of the original parish of Ringwoud. William & Elizabeth Curling, prominent landowners, who had already founded a local school (now the village hall) and built the parsonage, agreed to pay for a church which was finished in 1850. The single cell church, designed by John Hay of Liverpool and built of local ragstone on a splendid site overlooking the sea, is one of East Kent's undiscovered gems. Several members of the Curling family are either buried or are remembered on memorials in the church, including Elizabeth and two of William's brothers. The memorial to William and Elizabeth can be seen on the north side of the chancel, near to the east end of the church, and reads 'this church will ever form his noblest monument'. Inside the church are some fine examples of stained glass,

including a two-light window by Charles Eamer Kempe and a window made by James Powell & Sons and designed by Gerald Smith. The church is hosting a local art exhibition.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

### **PLUS: St. John's Village Hall, Upper Street, Kingsdown, CT14 8BJ**

The Hall was built in 1843 by William Curling, a Limehouse shipping magnate and noted philanthropist, as a school to educate the poor children of the village.

After William's death in 1850 his wife, Elizabeth, left Kingsdown to retire to Eastbourne. Before she left she gave the school to the church of St John's the Evangelist also built by her husband. The building ran as a school until 1938 when it closed and the children transferred to Ringwoud school; but this wasn't the end for the historic structure that had stood in the heart of the picturesque village of Kingsdown for so many years. The present-day Trustees of the building have delved into its history using the contents of a 'Black Box' stored for many years in the vault of Barclay's Bank in Deal. "We have unearthed the story of the Hall using scores of old minutes of committee meetings, newspaper cuttings and research in local archives plus the memories of local residents." Discover how a community led by the 'Movers and Shakers' of their day finally realised their dream of having their own Village Hall.

Opening Times: 10:00 to 16:00

### **St. Nicholas', Church Lane, Ringwoud, CT14 8HR**

Grade I listed 12th century church with 14th century additions and a tower from 1628, much altered in the 19th century. The present church is thought to date from around 1130, the first Rector of Ringwoud being recorded as Everadus in 1153. It is possible that a wooden building previously stood on the site as the village has had settlements since the Bronze age, and Saxon graves were recorded nearby. The present building is certainly predated by the two mighty yew trees in the churchyard, one having been aged as 1300 years and the other at 1000 years. The original 12th century church consisted of the present nave and part of the Chancel. During the next century the chancel was enlarged to its present dimensions. The final expansion of the building took place in the 14th century when the North aisle and porch was added. The original wooden spire was in a dangerous condition by the early 17th century and in 1627 it was replaced by a flint and brick tower. There are six bells, one from the 14th century, four dated 1638 and one added as late as 1957. The Clock was inserted in the tower in 1920 as a War memorial to WWI. Between 1867-69 the church underwent huge alterations, so that most of the surface of the church that we now see dates from that period. The only original Norman windows remaining being the one containing the representation of St Nicholas in the West wall of the tower, and in the south wall near the porch. Two trefoil headed windows remain in the chancel.

Opening Times: 9:00 to 16:00