



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 20**





Cathedral, Rochester

Rochester Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an English church of Norman architecture in Rochester, Kent.

The church is the cathedral of the Diocese of Rochester in the Church of England and the seat (*cathedra*) of the Bishop of Rochester, the second oldest bishopric in England after that of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The edifice is a Grade I listed building (number 1086423).

The Rochester diocese was founded by Justus, one of the missionaries who accompanied Augustine of Canterbury to convert the pagan southern English to Christianity in the early 7th century. As the first Bishop of Rochester, Justus was granted permission by King Æthelberht of Kent to establish a church dedicated to Andrew the Apostle (like the monastery at Rome where Augustine and Justus had set out for England) on the site of the present cathedral, which was made the seat of a bishopric. The cathedral was to be served by a college of secular priests and was endowed with land near the city called Priestfields.

Under the Roman system, a bishop was required to establish a school for the training of priests. To provide the upper parts for music in the services a choir school was required.

Together these formed the genesis of the cathedral school which today is represented by the King's School, Rochester. The quality of chorister training was praised by Bede.

The original cathedral was 42 feet (13 m) high and 28 feet (8.5 m) wide. The apse is marked in the current cathedral on the floor and sets outside show the line of the walls. Credit for the construction of the building goes to King Ethelbert rather than St Justus.

Bede describes St Paulinus' burial as "in the sanctuary of the Blessed Apostle Andrew which King Ethelbert founded likewise he built the city of Rochester." King Ethelbert died in 617 and his successor, Eadbald of Kent, was not a Christian. Justus fled to Francia and remained there for a year before he was recalled by the king.

In 644 Ithamar, the first English-born bishop, was consecrated at the cathedral.^[d] Ithamar consecrated Deusdedit as the first Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury on 26 March 655.

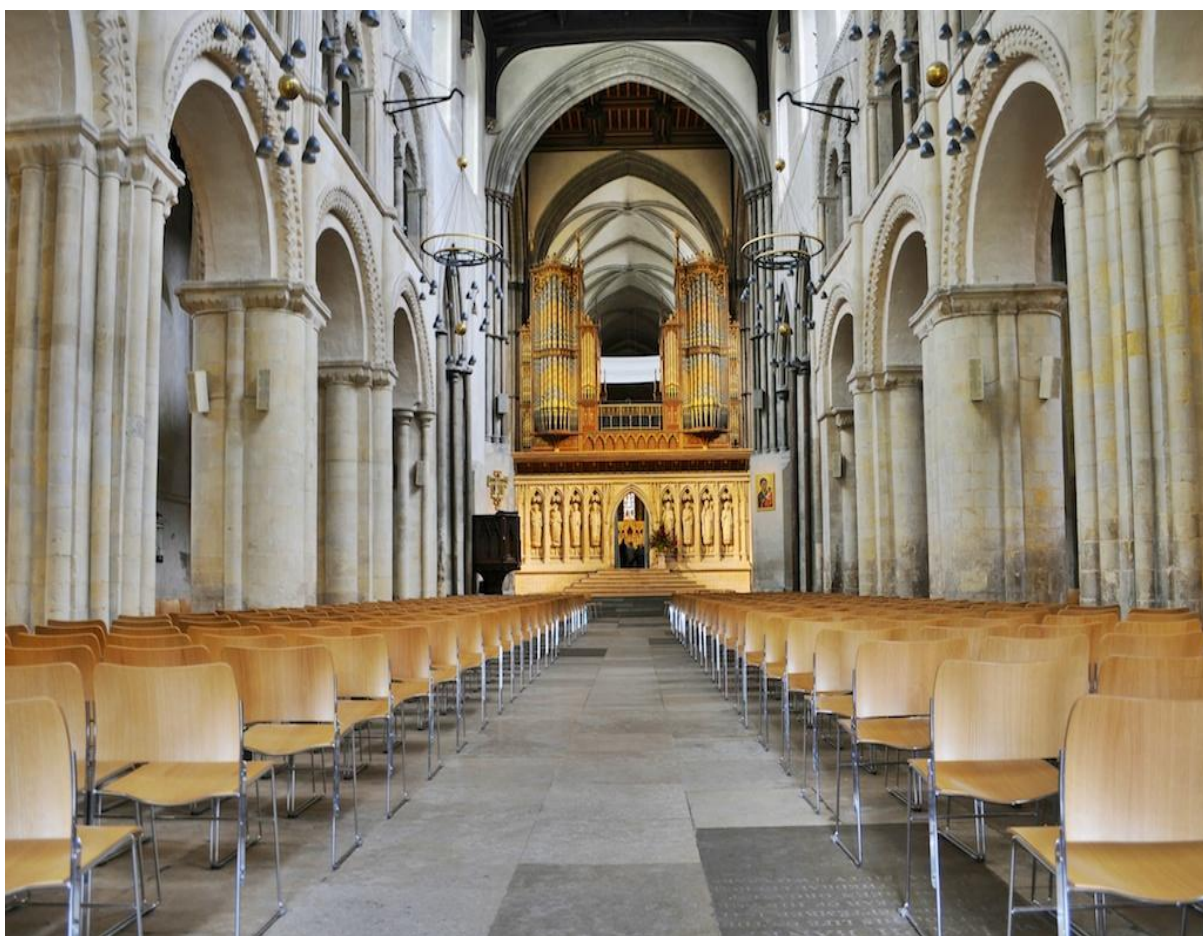
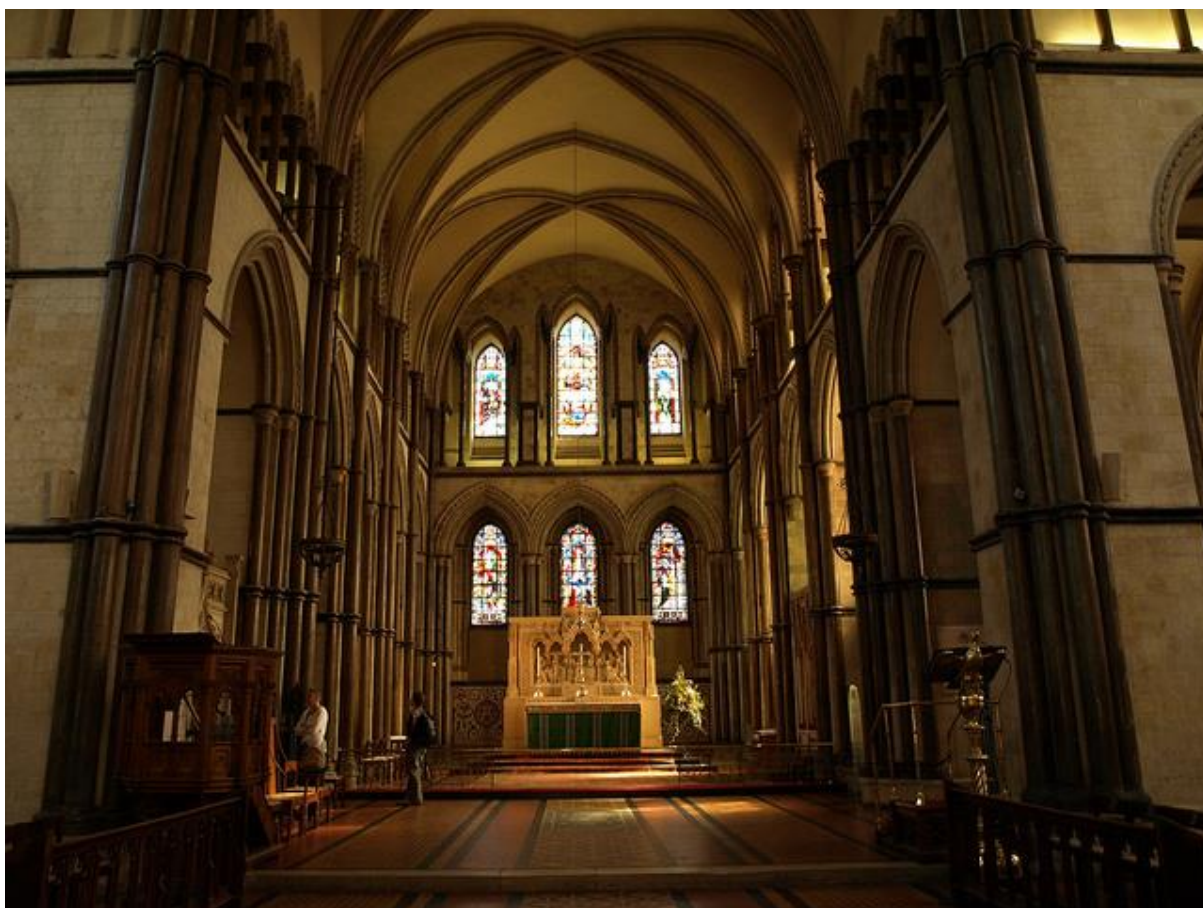
The cathedral suffered much from the ravaging of Kent by King Æthelred of Mercia in 676. So great was the damage that Bishop Putta retired from the diocese and his appointed successor, Cwichelm, gave up the see "because of its poverty".

In 762, the local overlord, Sigerd, granted land to the bishop, as did his successor Egbert. The charter is notable as it is confirmed by Offa of Mercia as overlord of the local kingdom.

Following the invasion of 1066, William the Conqueror granted the cathedral and its estates to his half-brother, Odo of Bayeux. Bishop Odo misappropriated the resources and reduced the cathedral to near-destitution.

The building itself was ancient and decayed. During the episcopate of Siward (1058–1075) it was served by four or five canons "living in squalour and poverty".

One of the canons became vicar of Chatham and raised sufficient money to make a gift to the cathedral for the soul and burial of his wife, Godgifu.





Baptist, 8 Crow Lane, Rochester



St Nicholas, Rochester

St Nicholas' Church, Rochester is a former parish church in Rochester, Kent, England, next to Rochester Cathedral. It is now the offices of the Board of Education of the Diocese of Rochester. It is a Grade I listed building. Since before the Norman conquest of England in the 11th century, Rochester had a parish of St Nicholas that worshipped at its own altar in Rochester Cathedral. But early in the 15th century there was a dispute between parishioners and the Bishop of Rochester. Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, intervened and in 1421 the parishioners of St Nicholas were instructed to move out of the cathedral to a church of their own. The church of St Nicholas was duly built just north of the cathedral, in the north corner of the lay cemetery. It was completed in 1423 and consecrated on 18 December. By 1620 the church was in poor condition. It was partly demolished, rebuilt, and on 24 September 1624 John Buckeridge, Bishop of Rochester, reconsecrated it. The rebuilt church was completed with Geometric Decorated Gothic tracery windows: an example of 17th-century English Gothic Survival architecture.

The church was restored between 1860 and 1862, when the windows were replaced with Gothic Revival ones, again replicating a Decorated Gothic style. In 1963–64 Diocesan offices were inserted in the west end and aisles, which were partitioned off for the purpose. In 1971 the 17th-century pulpit was removed. In 1973 the pews followed it, being replaced with chairs. In 1973–74 the Diocese made major repairs to the stonework at a cost of £21,000. St Nicholas' is now the headquarters of the Diocesan Board of Education. The church has a north tower (ritually at the northwest corner). It has three stages, and a door on the northwest side. The belfry has a 17th-century frame for hanging three bells. Two bells were owned in 1624 though none currently remain in the church's possession. The church has a five-light west window framed by buttresses, with a doorway below; three-light windows in the south aisle, with buttresses between; and a five-light south window. The tower, and the door below the northwest window, are thought to be 15th-century. Inside are five-bay arcades on 17th-century Tuscan columns. Tuscan half-columns support the chancel arch.



Rochester Cathedral (as seen from the High Street)

TUESDAY 2nd JANUARY 2018





St Helen, Bishopgate, Norwich







Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Norwich



St Clement, Colegate, Norwich



St Clement, Colegate, Norwich



St Augustine, St Augustine Street, Norwich



Redeemed Christian Church of God, Barn Road, Norwich



Catholic Cathedral, Unthank Road, Norwich, in the distance



Gospel Hall, Dereham Road, Norwich



Potters House Church, Dereham Road, Norwich

The church was founded in 1984 when a couple from Perth, Australia moved to Norwich to plant a church. They have been going ever since and have now planted over dozen of their own daughter churches across the UK, as well as into China and Sweden. They are a Pentecostal church for all people.



Seventh Day Adventist, Dereham Road, Norwich

As a Christian church, Seventh-day Adventists are a faith community rooted in the beliefs described by the Holy Scriptures.

Adventists describe these beliefs in the following ways:

Adventists believe a Trinity of three persons--the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit--make up one God.

They made salvation possible when Jesus, the Son, came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem and lived a sinless life in accordance with the Father's will. When Jesus was crucified for the sins of the people of the world and arose from the dead on the third day, victory was won for everyone.

The Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture.



St Thomas, Earlham Road, Norwich





St Thomas, Norwich

Ewan Christian built this church for the new middle class suburbs off of the Earlham Road in the late 1880s. The busy traffic streams out in the direction of UEA and the A47, and St Thomas sits quietly looking down at it from its imposing site above the road, a large, low church. There is no tower, and there is a restraint in the triple lancet of the east window, and the elegant Decorated style of the aisle. As Pevsner says, it is *definitely Late and no longer High Victorian*. We would be building churches that look like this until well into the 1920s. When the author first tried to visit in 2009, he found St Thomas closed and undergoing a major refurbishment. So it was with some excitement that he came back here in the early spring of 2010. St Thomas is unusual in the inner Norwich suburbs in that it is open every day - militantly so, with a big fluorescent orange sign telling you so. Given that we are less than half a mile along the Earlham Road from the similarly militantly open Catholic Cathedral, this way into Norwich serves well the pilgrim with a spiritual thirst.



You step into a big, wide, open space, full of light and air. It is enchanting. The crispness is almost entirely a result of the events of the night of 27th June 1942, when the western side of Norwich city centre suffered intensive bombardment by German bombers. St Thomas was one of half a dozen Norwich churches to be destroyed that late spring and early summer. It was completely gutted, with only the outer walls left standing. It took ten years to be rebuilt, to the design of the Norwich firm Wright & Mason. What you see today is entirely the work of the 1950s and 1960s, which explains its Festival of Britain confidence, a near jauntiness.

The great treasure of St Thomas is Norwich's best collection of modern glass outside of the Anglican Cathedral. It is largely the work of the King workshop, and is the largest collection of King glass, again apart from the Cathedral. The best of this is in the south aisle, a sequence of East Anglian Saints of the 1960s and 1970s, the most notable of which is the image of Dame Julian of Norwich with her cat, which is often reproduced in books of her writings. People think it is in the cathedral or in the Julian shrine, but isn't, it's here. Some slightly older glass in the baptistery, which I think is also by the Kings, depicts scenes of anointing and baptism, and remembers members of the congregation here. A striking Nativity scene is in the south aisle east window. There is also glass by the William Morris workshop, who contribute the vast and near-psychedelic story of the martyrdom of St Thomas in the main east window.

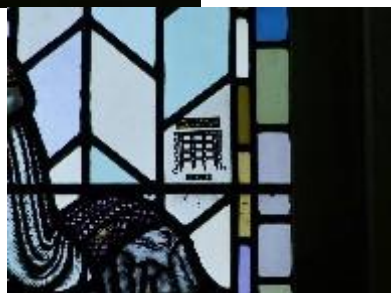


There is a particular smell to interiors of the 1950s and 1960s, something to do with the floor polish perhaps, which I find intensely evocative, taking me back to the self-confident institutions of my own childhood, and more recent visits to the

likes of Coventry Cathedral and Liverpool Catholic Cathedral.

The light wood of the floors and furnishings, and the white of the walls and ceiling, all contribute to this effect. I wandered around this wide interior with my heart lifted. That this is one of the most welcoming churches in the city only adds to the feeling.





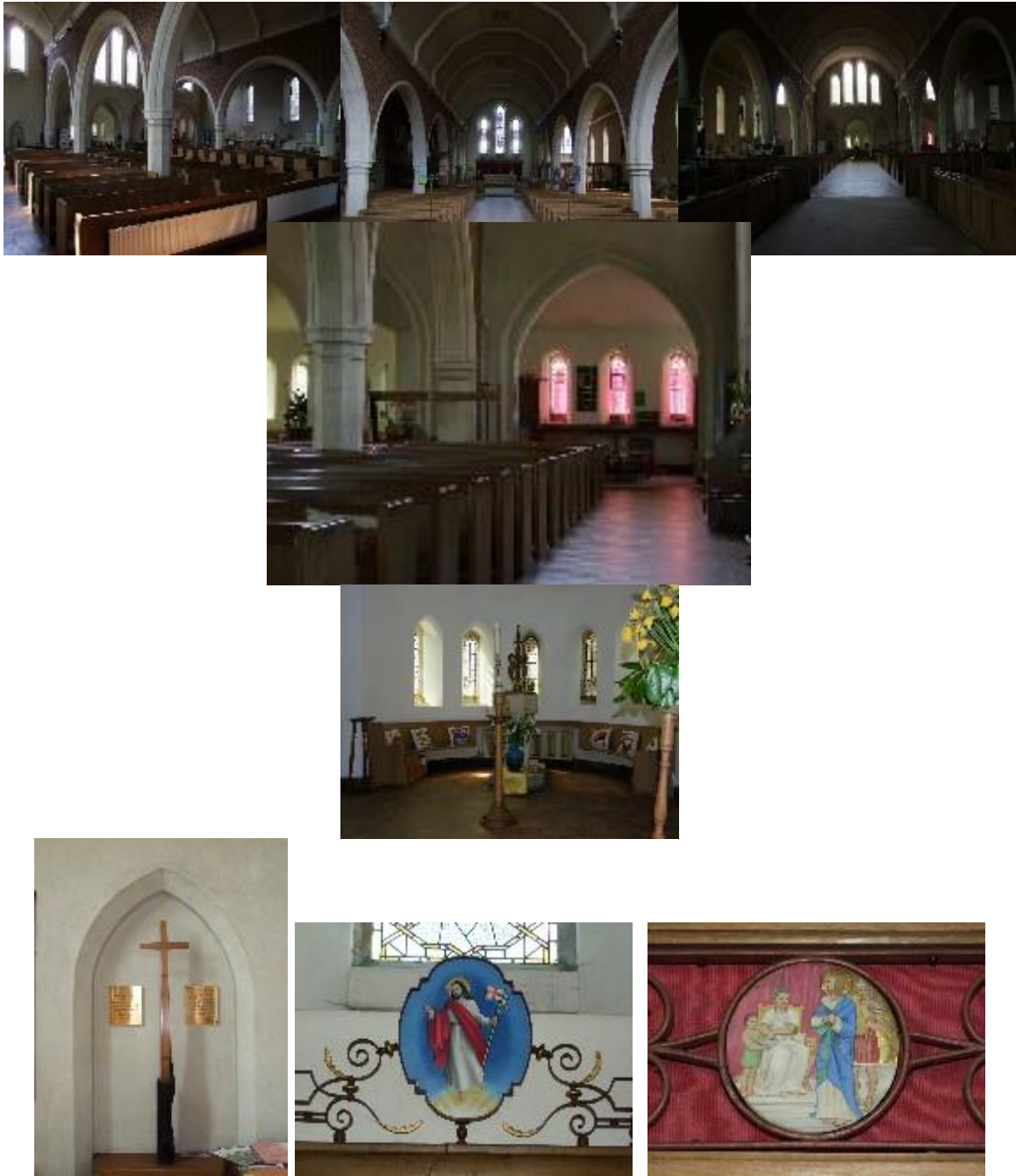




A cross carved from a charred beam in a niche in the south aisle remembers the events of that summer night, and a display nearby records this church's close relationship with a similar church in a German city. St Thomas's Vicar Philip Young is a noted pacifist and Quaker, and the sense of peace in this place seems entirely appropriate.

At the east end of the building, facing into Edinburgh Road, the dedication stone reads *To the Glory of God in memory of the Holy Apostle St Thomas this stone was laid in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost by John Thomas Lord Bishop of Norwich 28th October 1886 - "Blessed are they who have not seen and have yet believed"* . That may be so, but I was really pleased that I had seen inside at last.







Synagogue, Earlham Road, Norwich



Catholic Cathedral, Unthank Road, Norwich

FRIDAY 5th JANUARY 2018



St Peter and St Mary, Station Road West, Stowmarket

SATURDAY 13th JANUARY 2018





Trinity Methodist, Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea

Despite its image as a well-to-do seaside location, Clacton-on-Sea is a town with a number of social problems. Homelessness is rife, perhaps because there is a common myth amongst prison populations that the town offers plenty of work and accommodation for ex-offenders.

Trinity Methodist Church Clacton is doing all it can to help the homeless. The church helps with the nightly soup run, and offers tea and toast in the church hall each Wednesday morning, as well as a Grub Club providing people with a hot meal once a week.

So many people are coming along to benefit from the food, support and shelter, that Trinity is looking to expand this part of its ministry. All churches Trust is supporting them with a grant to help them create a community café that will be open every day. The planned refurbishments will create a useful, flexible space and an even warmer welcome to people who need support.



Pier Avenue Baptist, Clacton-on-Sea



Elim Pentecostal, 60 Hayes Road, Clacton-on-Sea





Spiritualist, 19 Oxford Road, Clacton-on-Sea





St James, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea

The parish of St James was created in 1907 as the new town of Clacton-On-Sea grew and developed. The present building was consecrated in 1913. We celebrated each of its 100th anniversaries with exhibitions, lectures, concerts, celebratory dinners and two grand flower festivals.





The Ecclesiastical Commissioners decreed that a second parish be formed in Clacton providing that this new church would have the more elaborate services associated with the Catholic Movement, whereas St Paul's would continue to be a Protestant, prayer book church.

The church was originally planned to be nearly twice as large, complete with a bell tower, but the building was never completed to its designs. As it stands today the church can seat approximately 400 people, and whilst the outside seems rather austere, the interior is very beautiful.





In addition to the spectacular high altar there are two side chapels, both of which have stained glass windows, an altar, and ample seating for our smaller services and prayer groups. Below the high altar are two vestries: one for the vicar and one multipurpose vestry used by the servers, as a meeting room, and as the parish office.





Our baptismal font was repositioned in 2001 to take pride of place at the front of the congregation. It is a more welcoming place to hold Christenings and to display the wonderful masonry work. The original location is now used as an area for quiet prayer and reading.

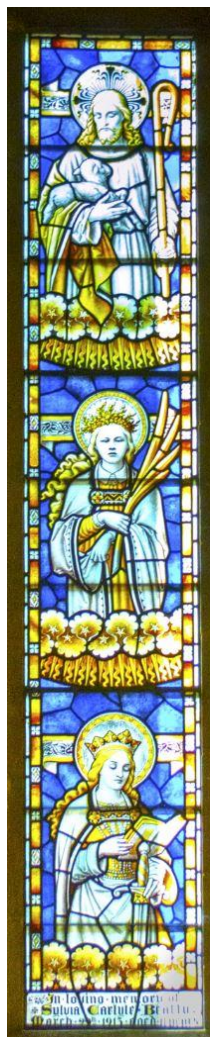


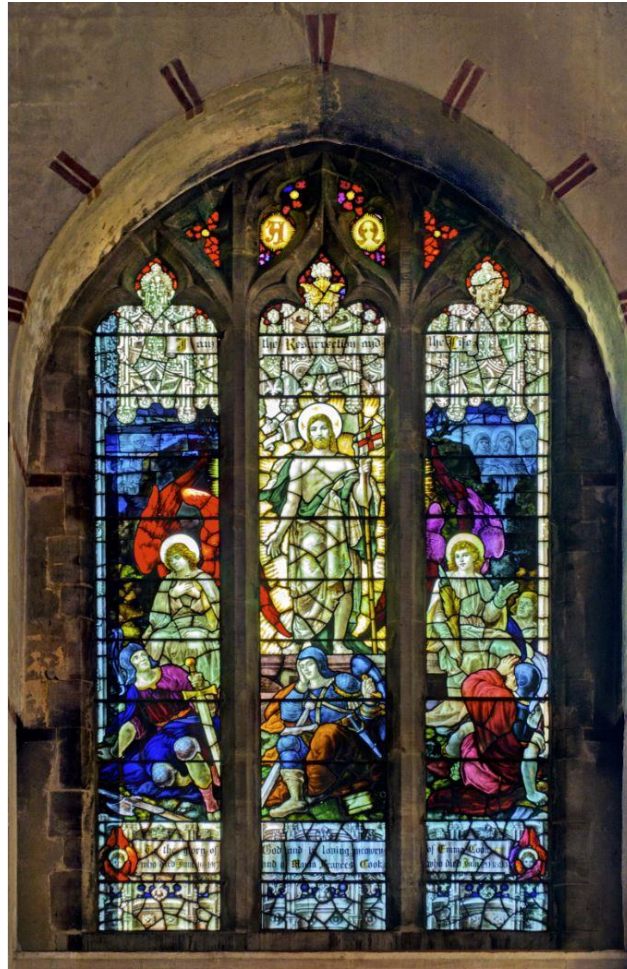
At St James we have a strong musical tradition. We have an excellent organist and choir master and a loyal and enthusiastic choir. We use both the New English Hymnal and Celebration Hymns. For more information about the wonderful church Organ – one of the best in this part of the country – or to find out about joining our choir please visit our Music page (COMING SOON!).





The interior of St James, Clacton, is complemented by some equally beautiful stained glass windows. On the north side we have the St James window and on the south, a window depicting the resurrection which is quite breath-taking when the sun is shining through it.





Beautiful stained glass on display at St James, Clacton. The centre image represents the resurrection and above is a memorial to Charles Stanley Nicholson, a soldier who fell in battle, 1916.

The church prides itself on an enthusiastic and welcoming congregation, who are friendly and supportive of anyone thinking of visiting our church. They offer refreshments of tea and coffee after our Sunday service as a chance to meet, talk, and reflect on the week. Coffee morning is also held on a Tuesday at 10am.



The churchyard has a grassed area adjoining the road which was planted with 1000 daffodil bulbs many years ago. These still bloom each year at Easter time providing a fine show, attracting many passers-by with camera in hand.



Hindu Culture, 18 Coan Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea



Our Lady of Light, Catholic, 1 Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea

They would like to welcome you to the Clacton-on-Sea parish website. They are located in the Diocese of Brentwood. Our Lady of Light and St Osyth Church was built in 1902, through the working of Divine Providence. The establishment of the Shrine to Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit and the securing of a parish priest to serve the Clacton area and the building of this beautiful church makes interesting reading and can also be found in specially printed booklets in the bookstand at the back of the church.

The parish website has been developed in order to provide local information for existing parishioners, visitors or new parishioners who may require the help that is available within the parish. We hope that you will be inspired to support our beautiful church and to be supportive of our parish priest and the parish community. The parish church is situated in Church Road on the east side of Clacton town centre, in the county of Essex, England. Clacton-on-Sea is the largest town on the Tendring Peninsula, and was founded in 1871. It is a seaside resort which attracts many tourists in the summer.



Christchurch URC, Carnarvon Road, Clacton-on-Sea

It cannot be often that the same person is able to write two histories of the same Church, once to celebrate its 50th Jubilee and then again, 50 years later, to mark its Centenary. That double distinction belongs to Mr Kenneth Walker. In 1937 Christ Church recorded its indebtedness to him for his thorough and pains-taking research and his excellent and readable work. Today, reading his new history of our Church and observing his careful and exacting self-imposed standards, have persuaded me that he has not lost either his art of story-telling or the meticulous standards of accuracy of a real historian.

Once again Christ Church stands in his debt and we pay tribute to his hard-work on our behalf and this fine piece of writing which is its fruit. This account of 100 years of worship and witness tells the story of our Church and puts that story into the larger setting of the history of the whole Christian tradition in Essex and relates it in many interesting ways to the growth and development of our seaside town. I trust it will help us value our own heritage at Christ Church and at the same time enable us to appreciate a shared inheritance with our fellow-Christians in other Churches.

50 years ago Joshua Allardyce wrote the Preface to Kenneth Walker's earlier book and having paid tribute to those who founded our Church and honoured their memory, he then turned to the task that faced the congregation of his day. In a sentence that was characteristic of his faith and enterprising leadership he wrote, "The best thing to do with a past is to make a future of it". We could do no better than to take that bold sentence and make it again the watchword of our Church and congregation as we seek to restore our beautiful building and explore new ways of making it a centre of community life and Christian worship.

Within this short book we celebrate the faith, the labours, the achievements and lives of many faithful men and women who founded our Church or, who sustained its life through a century. We must not be content with preserving their memory. They deserve better than this. We must make their values, their faith and their devotion to Our Lord and His Church, our own. In a word "Christ" is the living inheritance of Christ Church and its future.

It was not long after this that a large maritime estate in the north-east corner of the county came into possession of St. Paul's Cathedral, and the village of Great Clacton lay at its centre. There can be little doubt that an early chapel was also built here on the site of the present Norman Parish Church, and certainly, during the Middle Ages, the Bishops of London had a house nearby where they frequently stayed.

During the 17th century Essex became a stronghold of nonconformity, and a number of Congregational Churches were established, including Lion Walk and Stockwell in Colchester.

The village of Great Clacton was located about a mile from the coast, and it was not until 1871 that the development of Clacton-on-Sea started with the completion of a pier.

The new town grew slowly, but by 1884 its resident population was approaching a thousand, and during the summer months the little resort was overrun with visitors, good bourgeois families enjoying a week's holiday by the sea.

In the meantime a small Anglican church, St. Paul's, had been built in the fields away to the east, and the Methodists, with two chapels in the old village, had opened Trinity Church in 1877. There were, however, among the residents and regular visitors, many Congregationalists and Baptists anxious to hold their own services in

Christ Church largely owed its inception to the devoted energies of two Colchester clergymen, the Rev. Thomas Batty of the former Stockwell Congregational Church, and the Rev. Edward Spurner of Eld Lane Baptist Church, and it was they who guided its pastoral affairs until the first minister was appointed.



St Clare's Convent, Harold Road, Clacton-on-Sea