

The Kent Pilgrims' Festival

21 to 25 September

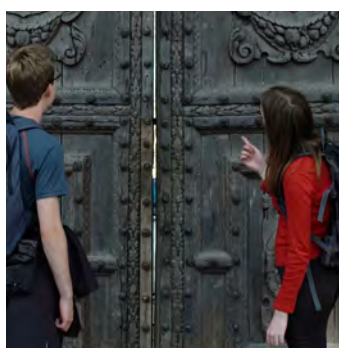
Welcome! You are invited to join the Kent Pilgrims' Festival 2022.

Come along and explore walks centred around the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as discovering family trails, fireside tales, net-walking, art workshops, e-bike tours, poetry performances and even our own Pilgrims' Ale!

► kentdowns.org.uk/kent-pilgrims-festival



#KentPilgrimsFestival
#WeArePilgrims



Calendar of events

Tuesday 20 September

Talk: The Road to Santiago [Canterbury Cathedral](#) Talk by Torin Brown detailing his experiences on pilgrimage to Santiago. 6.30pm FREE →

Wednesday 21 September

Into the Light – A Taster Course on Iconography [St Mary's Church, Dover](#) Join artist Alexandra le Rossignol for a 3-day taster workshop in iconography. 10am–3pm, 21–23 Sept £65 →

A Pilgrim's Way for Carers (Accessible for all) [Godinton House, Ashford](#) Especially for unpaid carers with those they care for to enjoy a walk, talk and lunch at Godinton House & Gardens with Carers Stepping Out. 11am–2pm BKG FREE →

Pilgrimage as Transformation – Symposium [Canterbury Christ Church University](#) The relevance of pilgrimage and why the concept still resonates with us today. 10am–3pm BKG FREE →

Aylesford to Hollingbourne Walk [Hollingbourne](#) 13-mile walk from Aylesford to Hollingbourne with North Downs Way ambassadors. This can be walked as part of five one-day guided walks which link together to form a pilgrimage from Aylesford to Dover or completed as a single walk. 9am–5.30pm BKG £22.15 →

Maison Dieu to the Breakwater Brewery [Maison Dieu, Dover](#). Join a mini pilgrimage from Maison Dieu to Breakwater Brewery, as we explore a fascinating section of the River Dour. 6pm–6.45pm FREE →

Pilgrim Ales, Music & Tales - Kent Pilgrims' Festival launch [Breakwater Brewery, Dover](#) Join us for the Dover launch of the Kent Pilgrims' Festival at the Breakwater Brewery and sample two newly created pilgrim ales. 7pm–10pm Small charge for food & drink →

Thursday 22 September

Women to Womenswold Walk [Shepherdswell Station, Dover](#) A gentle 6-mile guided walk, with Faye Smith, for women coping with loss along a section of the famous Via Francigena from Shepherdswell to Womenswold. 10.30am–3pm BKG £32.93 Inc. pilgrim lunch. →

Pilgrims' E-bike Tour – Guided [Headcorn Aerodrome](#) Join a guided cycle tour by the UK Electric Bike Centre on an e-bike and explore the beautiful towns and villages along the Pilgrims Way. 10am–5pm. £65 →

Hollingbourne to Wye Walk [Hollingbourne](#) 15.5 miles This can be walked as part of five one-day guided walks which link together from Aylesford to Dover or completed as a single walk. 9am–5.30pm BKG £22.15 →

Canterbury UNESCO Tour [Canterbury Cathedral](#) Join a new guided tour of the UNESCO-listed city of Canterbury combining the three sites that together give Canterbury this title. 9.30am–3.30pm BKG £50 →

'We Are Pilgrims: Journeys in Search of Ourselves' [Canterbury Cathedral](#) A Friends of Canterbury Cathedral talk on pilgrimage by Victoria Preston. 2.30pm BKG £8 Friends, £10 non-members →

Dover's Medieval Town Walls and Trendyll Candle [St Mary's Church](#) Join Dover Tales storyteller Barry O'Brien and Creative Pilgrim Liz Garnett to explore the 1.5-mile route of Dover's missing medieval town walls. 6pm–7pm FREE →

Screening of the film 'The Way' [Silver Screen Cinema Dover, Gaol Lane, Dover](#) Join the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome for this screening of the iconic pilgrimage film about coming to terms with grief and loss. 6.45pm–9pm BKG FREE →

Friday 23 September

Pilgrimage of the Chough [Dover Castle](#) Join a 2-day journey of transformation through Kent with the British Pilgrimage Trust, exploring Becket and his emblem, the Chough, on two iconic routes. Includes a 1-night stay sleeping in a church. 9am–6pm, 23–24 Sep BKG £120 (Inc. food & sanctuary). →

Make a Pilgrim Tile [Maison Dieu, Dover](#) Work with Karen Slater (Kate the Tiler) to create your own medieval pilgrim tile. The original tile dates circa 1400 and has only been discovered at Canterbury Cathedral and two parish churches in East Kent. 1pm–4pm or 6pm–9pm BKG £25 →

History Hike – Wye to Chilham [Chilham](#) London, St. Pancras at 07.45 or Wye Station at 09.11 8 miles. Discover the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and follow medieval pilgrims' with blue badge and North Downs Way guide Ildi Pelikan. £22 →

Net-Walk Workshop. [Charing, 3 miles](#) Fit For Business is leading a 3-mile 'Net-Walk Workshop' for women along the Pilgrims' Way. Women can connect with new people while exercising. 9.45am BKG £11.37 →

'Pilgrimage – The Road to Canterbury' [Canterbury Cathedral](#) A talk by Canon Emma Pennington on modern day pilgrimage. 6.30pm FREE →

Walk with Refugee Tales [Canterbury West Train Station, 8 miles](#) A special, beautiful circular walk led by Refugee Tales walkers. The walk is for people who have sought asylum and those who wish to show solidarity with them. 11am–3.30pm FREE →

Patience Agbabi – Refugee Tales and Reimagining Chaucer [The Beaney, Canterbury](#) See the award-winning poet Patience Agbabi in this spellbinding event which links both Canterbury's pilgrim past in her 21st-century remix of Canterbury Tales, and her moving accounts of refugees, our modern-day pilgrims, in Refugee Tales. 5pm BKG £8 →

Saturday 24 September

The Pilgrim Quarter at the Urban Fete [Pencester Gardens, Dover](#) Explore the Pilgrim Quarter at Dover's Urban Fete and enjoy family-friendly activities including pilgrim badge making and creating gargoyles. 10am–4pm FREE →

History Hike [Chilham to Canterbury, 9 miles](#) Starts Chilham station at 09.06. The walk follows the Pilgrims' Way leading to Canterbury where once the shrine of Thomas Becket stood and attracted pilgrims from all over the world. BKG £22 walk only £36 walk & Canterbury Cathedral entry ticket. →

The Kent Pilgrims' Festival Evensong Quire. [Canterbury Cathedral](#) Join a special choral evensong at Canterbury Cathedral to celebrate the Kent Pilgrims' Festival. All are welcome. 5.30pm FREE →

Canterbury UNESCO Tour [Canterbury Cathedral](#) Join a new guided tour of the UNESCO-listed city of Canterbury combining the three sites that together give Canterbury this title. 9.30am–3.30pm BKG £50 →

Practical Pilgrim Talks [St Mary's Church Parish Centre, Dover](#) Join a series of short, practical talks on all aspects of walking and cycling a pilgrimage including budgeting, Brexit, what to take, walking solo as a female and cycling. 10am–1.30pm BKG £10 →

The power of walking through grief and Loss [Saint Mary's Parish Centre, Dover](#) What do you do when your former husband takes his own life and your daughter dies on the same day two years later? You walk. Join Faye Smith for a personal story of resilience in the face of adversity and how walking helped her grief one step at a time. 2.15pm–3.15pm BKG £10 →

Walk the rope labyrinth [Dover seafront](#) Walk the rope labyrinth and get a stamp as part of the Family-friendly pilgrim trail. 10am–4pm FREE →

Scallop Shell Candle Making [This Art of Mine, Maidstone](#) Enjoy learning how to make a scallop shell candle in this peaceful studio on the North Downs. (Scallop shells are symbolic of pilgrims.) 2pm–3pm £20 →

Shell Mug Painting Class [This Art of Mine, Maidstone](#) Enjoy painting a beautiful shell mug to remember a special journey at this peaceful studio on the North Downs. 2pm–4pm BKG £20 →

Thomas Becket Churches Tour [Cathedral Gate, Canterbury](#) 2-hour walk with Andrew Kelly from The Augustine Camino exploring the city sites of St Thomas and the site of Thomas More's interred head! 10am £10 (children free). Cash on the day. →

Art and Pilgrimage by Dover Arts Development [St Mary's Church, Dover](#) Dover Arts Development artists and architects talks on contemporary art and pilgrimage. 3.30pm–4pm FREE →

Iconography as Pilgrimage [St Mary's Church, Dover](#) Join a talk by iconographer Alexandra Le Rossignol on an icon painting as Pilgrimage, focusing on local saints. 5pm FREE →

A Pilgrim's Experience of Canterbury [Canterbury](#) This half day tour takes in the fascinating secret locations within the maze of medieval Canterbury. You'll also make a clay pilgrim's token in the private riverside gardens of the Dominican Friars. 11am–3pm BKG £60 inc. Lunch, badge making & entry to The Franciscan Gdns. →

Grow your own Pilgrims Pizza [Brook, Ashford](#) Come and see how amazing Kent produce can be and make your own pilgrims pizza at Rebel Farmer HQ. Learn how to grow abundance of food on a small scale, meet fellow pilgrims and locals and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. 3.30pm–6pm BKG £15 →

Dover's family-friendly Pilgrim Trail Meet medieval characters and hear their stories, and have your map stamped at each venue. Self-guided trail, 1 mile long. Trail sheets at Maison Dieu, Urban Fete or Dover Museum and available to download. 10am–4pm FREE →

Folkestone Pride walk & picnic [Folkestone or Dover](#) A walk over the cliff tops between Folkestone and Dover – 6.5 miles. We will walk towards each other and stop for a picnic when we meet. Led by Folkestone Pride, all LGBTQIA+ and allies are welcome. Dogs too. 11am–3pm FREE (donations welcome.) →

Sunday 25 September

Via Francigena Challenge [Canterbury Cathedral](#) Journey 19.5 miles from Canterbury to Dover where the pilgrims of old would have started their journeys over the Alps to St Peter's Basilica in Rome and even on to Jerusalem. 9am–6pm £20.15 (A welcome awaits you in Dover) →

Chilham to Canterbury along the North Downs Way [Chilham Square](#) Join Walk A While for a guided walk from Jack Bright from Chilham to Canterbury. Travelling along the North Downs Way the walk follows the Pilgrims' Way through rural Kent. 9.30am–3pm £5 →

The View over the Wall Experience [The Crown Inn, Eythorne, Dover](#) The View over the Wall Experience is the perfect way to escape the everyday grind. This unique experience connects you with nature, creativity, heritage, and wellbeing. 10am BKG £35 →

Pilgrims' Harvest Festival Service [St Mary's Parish Church, Dover](#) Join a joyful church service including the creation of a 'pilgrim's stone pile collective sculpture'. 10.45am FREE →

A Meander through the Medieval World of the Houghams [The Plough Beefeater, Dover](#) Join Ben Crozier, of Kentish Tales and Tales of Kent, for a free, guided 6-mile circular walk exploring the intriguing medieval sites west of Dover. 12.30pm–4.30pm BKG FREE →

Pilgrims' Harvest Festival Lunch [St Mary's Parish Church, Dover](#) Enjoy a pilgrims' harvest festival lunch at St Mary's Parish Church. Come rest your weary feet at this feast of locally-grown food and jugs of juice and beer. 12.30pm BKG £5 →

Exploring Meaning in Life's Transitions
2 miles Starts: St Mary's Church of Charity, Faversham. Take a reflective walk to Langdon Garden, with periods of silent walking, drawing on the ideas of pilgrimage as both an inner and outer journey. Join a creative, nature-inspired workshop at Langdon Garden to further explore the theme of meaning and transitions in life. 2.30pm Walk only BKG £15, Workshop BKG £30, Walk & Workshop BKG £40 →

BKG please book ahead for this event
Linked Walks. These walks can all be done as separate walks or joined together for one long pilgrimage across Kent in 5 days.

Events on all weekend

Meet the Pilgrims (Saturday & Sunday) [Maison Dieu, Dover](#) Listen to stories of medieval characters including poor pilgrims, monks, servants and pie sellers as they reveal what it was like to stay at Dover's historic Maison Dieu. 10am–4pm FREE →

Conserving St Martin (Saturday & Sunday) [Maison Dieu, Dover](#) Find out about this important painting and how it has been conserved and learn about the wider conservation programme at the Maison Dieu. 10am–4pm FREE →

Medieval Pilgrim Badge Maker - Lionheart Replicas (Saturday & Sunday) [Maison Dieu, Dover](#) Meet pilgrim badge maker Colin Torode and watch him cast them in lead-free pewter. Badges can be purchased from £5 for souvenirs. 10am–4pm (All ages) FREE →

Pilgrim Trails and Tales [Bilsington, Ashford](#) Join us at dusk for a guided walk around Priory woods with Michael the storyteller. Enjoy a woodland treasure hunt and roast campfire bread. You will be served a homemade soup with rustic bread and listen to a campfire story. 4pm–7pm BKG Adult: £15 Children: £6 (Siblings £5) →

The Franciscan Gardens and Eastbridge Hospital (Saturday & Sunday) [Canterbury](#) Enjoy this historic oasis in the city centre of Canterbury, next to the river Stour, and gain an insight into medieval horticulture with talks and tours as part of the Kent Pilgrims' Festival. The Franciscan Gardens is the perfect spot to relax and take time for contemplation. 10am–4pm £4 (discounted for the festival) →

Kent Pilgrims' Festival Ale - The Canterbury Food and Drink Festival [Dane John Gardens, Canterbury](#) Join us for the launch of the Pilgrims' Ale at the Canterbury Food and Drink Festival with the Foundry Brewery and Pub. Also come and meet the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome and East Kent Mind for information on pilgrimage, walking and wellbeing. 10am–4pm FREE →

Week-long events

O Roma Nobilis – A Pilgrim's Progress. An evening performance of original poems and music evoking the walking from Canterbury to Rome along the Via Francigena. →

Tues 20 St Martin's Church, Canterbury 7pm RC →
Weds 21 Patricbourne Parish Church, Canterbury 6.30pm £5 (tea & cake) →
Thurs 22 St Margaret's, Womenswold 3pm Afternoon tea RC →
Fri 23 St Andrew's Church, Shepherdswell 7.30pm RC →
Sat 24 St Mary's Church, Dover 6pm RC →
RC= Retiring collection at the end of the service.

Pilgrims' E-bike Tour – Self-guided [Headcorn Aerodrome](#) Take a self-guided cycle tour through the picturesque towns and villages along the Pilgrims Way. 10am–5pm avail on: 21–25 Sept £45 →

'The Road to Santiago' [Canterbury Cathedral](#) An exhibition by Torin Brown detailing his experiences walking on pilgrimage to Santiago. 21–25 Sept FREE →

The Way of St Martin [St Mary's Church, Dover & The Discovery Centre](#) This exhibition by Creative Pilgrims, led by Liz Garnett and Alexandra le Rossignol, reflects on the new pilgrimage route from Dover to Canterbury 10am–4pm, 21–25 Sept FREE →

Outdoor Labyrinth [Charlton Green, \(St Peter & Paul's Church\) Dover](#) Walk this grass-mown labyrinth has only one path to the 'sacred' centre. 11am–2pm, Sept 21–25 FREE →

Ashford's Old Way (Self-guided) [Appledore, Ashford](#) Explore open fields, vineyards, woodland, waterways on the Old Way with this special guide created for the Kent Pilgrims' Festival. Downloadable guide, Sept 21–25 FREE →

Ashford to Wye (Self-guided) [Ashford Town Centre](#) Discover the ancient origins of this remarkable pilgrimage route, steeped in nature, history and folklore. Downloadable guide Sept 21–25 FREE →

From The Camino to the Hajj [Dover Museum](#) Celebrate contemporary pilgrimage through photos and stories. 19 Sept–31 Dec 2022 FREE →



Co-funded by the European Union and the European Regional Development Fund

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