



CITIES IN CIVILISATION: CRUCIBLES OF CULTURE
THE CANTERBURY OF ST AUGUSTINE & THOMAS À BECKET
KENT

WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER - SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Blessed with St Martin's Church - the oldest church in continuous use in the entire English-speaking world - King's School Canterbury, the oldest-surviving school in the world - and the headquarters of the C of E, the oldest-surviving ecclesiastical organisation in the English-speaking world, Canterbury occupies an extraordinary category all of its own in our study of the evolution of cities. Its extensive archaeological and architectural remains indicate successive waves of conquest, and cycles of immigration, civilisation, dilapidation and renewal: Celts, Romans, Jutes, Danes, Anglo-Saxons, Normans, and Huguenots came, stayed, and disappeared leaving indelible traces. Its Celtic tribe (the Cantiaci) was roundly defeated by the Romans, who gave it the name, Dunovernum Cantiacorum, plus the essential Roman infrastructure of grid plan, theatre, temples, forum and public baths. Following the Roman departure, in 597, Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to Kent to convert the local king Aethelbert to Christianity. Augustine established his seat there, and Canterbury thus became the first English Cathedral. By as early as 672 it was given jurisdiction over the entire English church. After a further two centuries of Danish depredations, St Dunstan refounded St Augustine's Abbey, many of whose remains are, miraculously, still extant. The Normans built their Castle here in the 11c; Lanfranc rebuilt the Cathedral from 1077. After 1170 the Cathedral's entire east end became a shrine to Thomas à Becket. The Pilgrim's Way, a pre-existing ancient track, brought Chaucer's pilgrims to Canterbury in the 14c.

Numerous early buildings survive in whole or part from the city walls to the remains of monasteries, even humble weavers' cottages. We have arranged private tours and lectures by leading local experts from the University of Kent, Canterbury Archaeological Society, and the Archivist of Canterbury Cathedral, together with special openings such as that of the medieval synagogue now in the Kings School. We stay actually in the lovely Cathedral precinct on the site of the ancient monastic cloister at the modern but discrete Cathedral Lodge.

WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER

Professor Paul Bennett MBE

- 10.08 Suggested train (direct) leaves London St Pancras
- 11.08 Train arrives Canterbury West. Minibus to Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
- 12.30 Group Lunch in Lodge
- 2.00 Canterbury Roman Museum and visit to original Roman baths in Waterstone's with Professor Paul Bennett MBE, Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- 3.30 Tea in Waterstones
- 4.30 Check in to Canterbury Cathedral Lodge for rest
- 7.00 Group Dinner in Lodge

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Professor Paul Bennett MBE

- 10.30 Professor Paul Bennett Lecture: Anglo-Saxon Canterbury
- 12.00 Group Lunch in Lodge
- 1.30 Walk to St Martins Church and Augustine's Abbey
- 1.45 St Martin's Church
- 2.30 St Augustine's Abbey ruins
- 3.30 Return to Lodge
- 4.00 Tea in Lodge
- 7.00 Group Dinner in Lodge

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh Kent University

Professor Paul Bennett MBE

- 10.30 Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh lecture: 'Thomas à Becket's Canterbury'
- 11.30 Coffee and discussion
- 12.00 Professor Paul Bennett's tour of Canterbury cathedral precincts and conventual buildings
- 1.00 Group lunch in Oscars and Bentleys
- 2.00 Canterbury cathedral interior with Professor Paul Bennett MBE
- 3.30 Tea in Cathedral Refectory
- 4.00 Return to Lodge
- 7.00 Group dinner in Lodge

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Professor Paul Bennett MBE

- 10.00 Canterbury Cathedral Archives with the Archivist
- 11.30 Private visit to King's School with Ben Katz, Deputy Housemaster, tour of "MO" (15c Meister Omers House) and the widest fireplace in England
- 12.30 Group lunch
- 2.00 Walk through Medieval Canterbury with Professor Paul Bennett
- 3.00 Return to Cathedral Lodge to collect luggage. Minibus to station
- 4.25 Train departs from Canterbury West to London St Pancras
- 5.23 Arrive London St Pancras



CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL LODGE
Canterbury Cathedral, The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH
01227 865350

<https://www.canterburycathedrallodge.org>

Of all the hotels in Canterbury, the unusual Cathedral Lodge offers the best-located hotel accommodation, actually inside the Cathedral precinct. Tranquil and peaceful, the Cathedral Lodge has 35 bedrooms, which are both modern and comfortable, with the majority offering stunning Cathedral views. Facilities within the Lodge include en-suite bathrooms, complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee making facilities, direct dial telephones and LCD TVs with Freeview. The Library and Campanile Garden provide a unique and relaxed atmosphere in which to unwind. A full English breakfast is served to guests in the lovely bright Refectory Restaurant.

£1295 members, £1345 non-members, Single Room Supplement £95. Deposit £300, including three nights accommodation in Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, all breakfasts, lunches, dinners with wine, all lectures, private visits, entries and tours, all coffees and teas, all minibus and taxi travel during the tour, VAT and gratuities. Excludes travel to and from Canterbury.