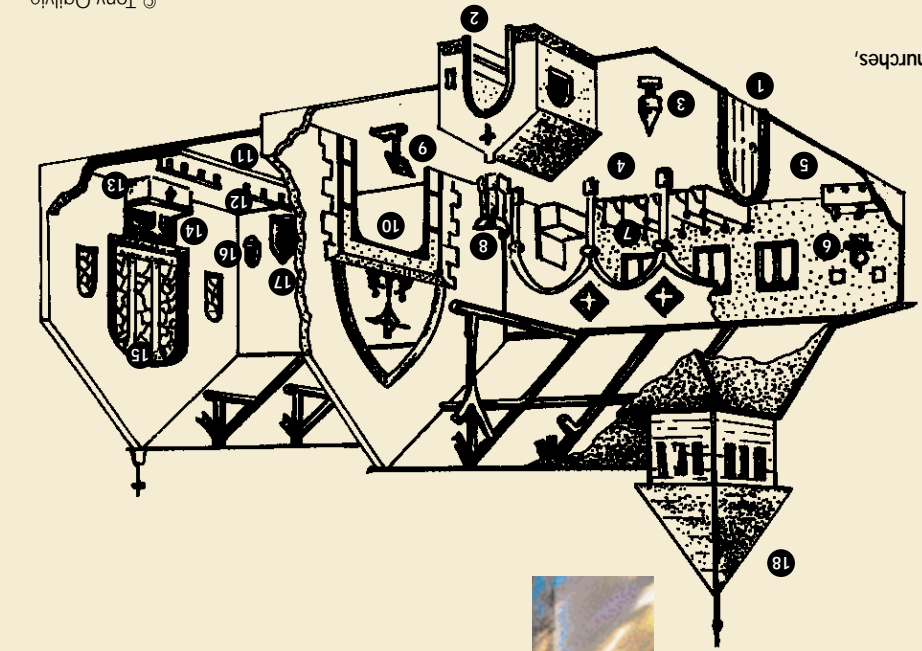


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- Numbered Key**
- 1 West door
 - 2 South porch
 - 3 Font
 - 4 Nave
 - 5 Aisle
 - 6 Monument
 - 7 Pews
 - 8 Pulpit
 - 9 Lectern
 - 10 Rood Screen
 - 11 Chancel
 - 12 Sanctuary
 - 13 Altar
 - 14 Reredos
 - 15 East window
 - 16 Piscina
 - 17 Sedilia
 - 18 Belfry (or, in many churches, bell tower)

Church orientation: The main altar is at the east end of the church so it is facing Jerusalem and the rising sun. Even if the altar is still called the east end.



AN INTRODUCTION TO VISITING CHURCHES

Churches are unique historical buildings with a special place in English society. Most churches we see today incorporate remnants of those built up to a thousand years ago, with these sites of earlier wooden Saxon churches. As with most country churches Wealden churches have a history of decay and reconstruction; their existence being tied up with religious, political and economic change. Following St Augustine's mission to convert the pagan inhabitants of southern England, landing in Kent in AD597, Christianity spread throughout the Wealden area. However, much of the development of these churches is linked to the areas industrial heritage as it became a place of iron foundry and the cloth industry from the 14th century onwards.

This guide offers a selection of some of the most interesting churches to visit in and around Royal Tunbridge Wells. Most are in beautiful rural settings with spectacular views across the Wealden countryside. Generally made of local sandstone they display a characteristic tawny-golden colour. The aim of this guide is to give you just a taste of what each church has to offer as most churches have their own guide where you will find more detailed architectural and historical information. To help with the church terminology used in this guide and in the guides you will find at the churches we have included a glossary of terms and a diagram of a typical Wealden church to help you get your bearings when you first enter the building.

Finally, a piece of advice: when visiting churches, always remember to look up, and by the same token remember to look at what you are walking on – if you don't you may be missing much of the churches' beauty and history.

AN INTRODUCTION TO VISITING CHURCHES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

St Dustin's Church Cranbrook

Royal Tunbridge Wells Tourist Information Centre
 T: 01892 515675 (24 hour ansaphone)
 E: touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Alternatively you can visit our website on www.visitunbridgewells.com for further information about the area.

This leaflet can be made available in large print and on audio.

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GLOSSARY OF CHURCH TERMINOLOGY

Aisle	Passageway separating seating areas; a division flanking the nave or chancel.	Monument	A structure to commemorate a deceased person.
Altar	The communion table.	Nave	The main space in a church in which the congregation normally sits.
Arcade	A range of arches supported on piers or columns.	Parvise	The upper storey of a porch.
Barrel Roof	Continuous round-arched vault.	Perpendicular	Architectural style of c.1350 – 1530.
Belfry or Bell Tower	The part of a tower or steeple in which bells are hung.	Pew	A long seat with a back, used by the congregation and situated in the nave.
Boss	A carving marking the junction of ribs of a vault.	Piscina	Usually situated near the altar, a stone basin built into the wall where medieval priests washed their fingers before the Catholic mass.
Buttress	An external vertical construction to support a wall or corner.	Pulpit	A raised square or octagonal platform at the east end of the nave from where the sermon is preached.
Chancel	The part of the church containing the altar, sanctuary and choir, usually separated from the nave and transepts by a screen, or change in floor level.	Reredos	A screen or wall decoration at the back of an altar.
Corbel	A moulded or carved stone bracket with angels or heads.	Romanesque	Architectural style c.1050-1200 also known as Norman architecture.
Crossing	The meeting point of the nave, chancel and transepts.	Rood Screen	Separating the chancel from the nave it was an important feature of medieval churches but the majority were destroyed at the Reformation.
Cruciform	Church structure in the shape of a cross.	Royal Arms	Arms of the monarch usually painted in wood or canvas, which became compulsory in churches after the Reformation.
Decorated	Architectural style of c.1290 – 1350.	Sanctuary	The most holy area around the main altar.
Early English	Architectural style of c.1200 – 1290.	Sedilia	Seat for the clergy assisting in services, often on the south side of the sanctuary.
Font	A bowl for baptismal water which may be on a pedestal.	Transepts	A wing of a cruciform church.
Gothic	Architectural style dating from 12th century to 1540.	Triptych	Three pictures or panels often used as the altar piece.
Gothic Revival	Architectural style of 19th century based on the medieval Gothic architectural style.	Vault	An arch like stone ceiling.
Lancet	A narrow arched window with a pointed top.	Vestry	A room in which vestments and sacred vessels are kept.
Lectern	A reading desk.		

on the Wealden CHURCH TRAIL
 churches in and around **Royal Tunbridge Wells**



