

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SAINTS OF CANTERBURY

SATURDAY 3 JULY 2010 (20 JUNE BY THE CHURCH CALENDAR)

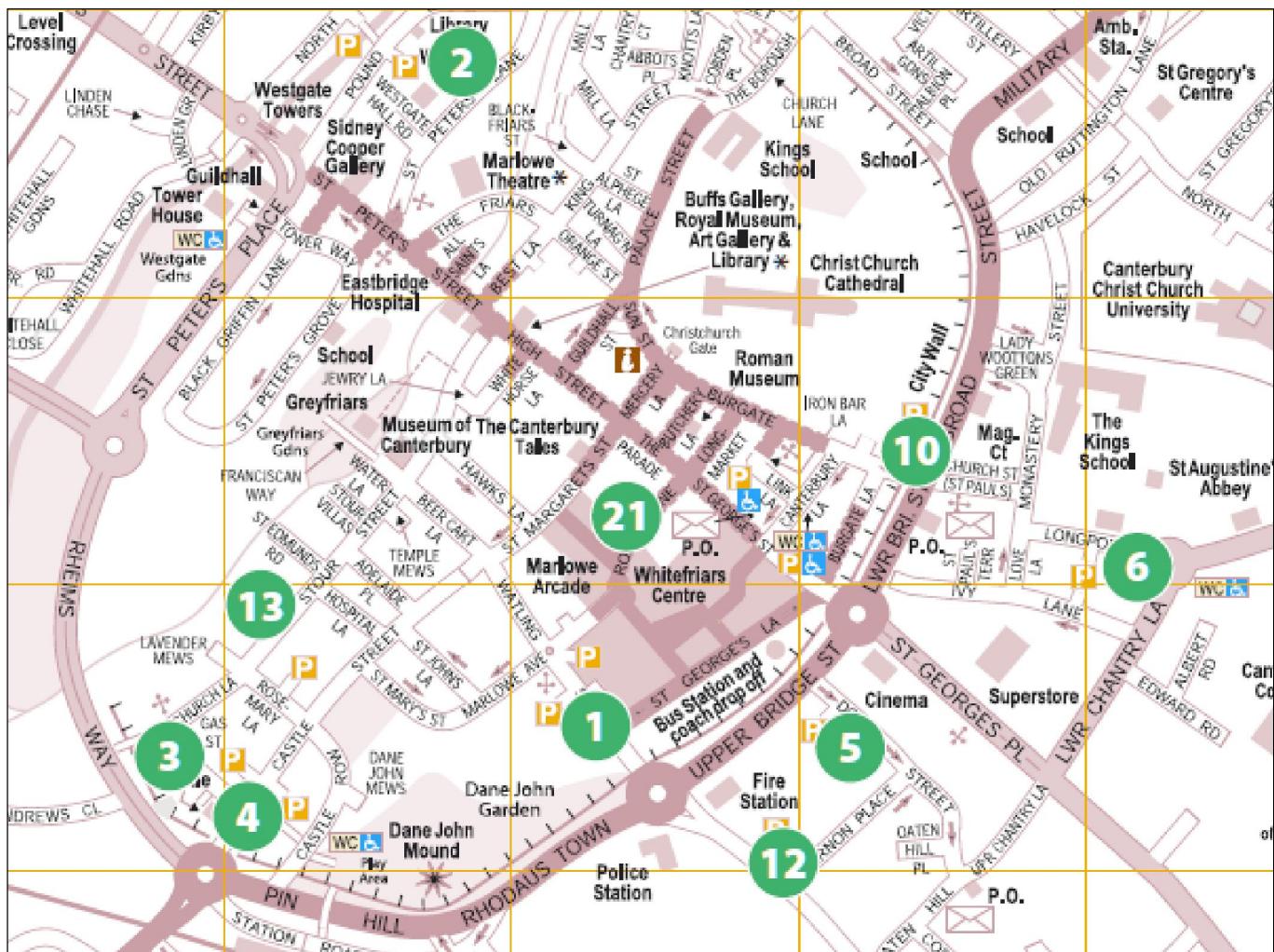
PROGRAMME

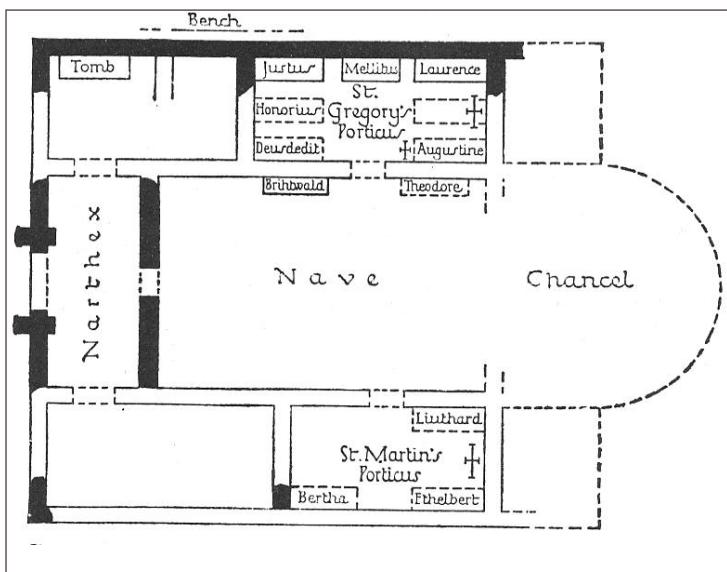
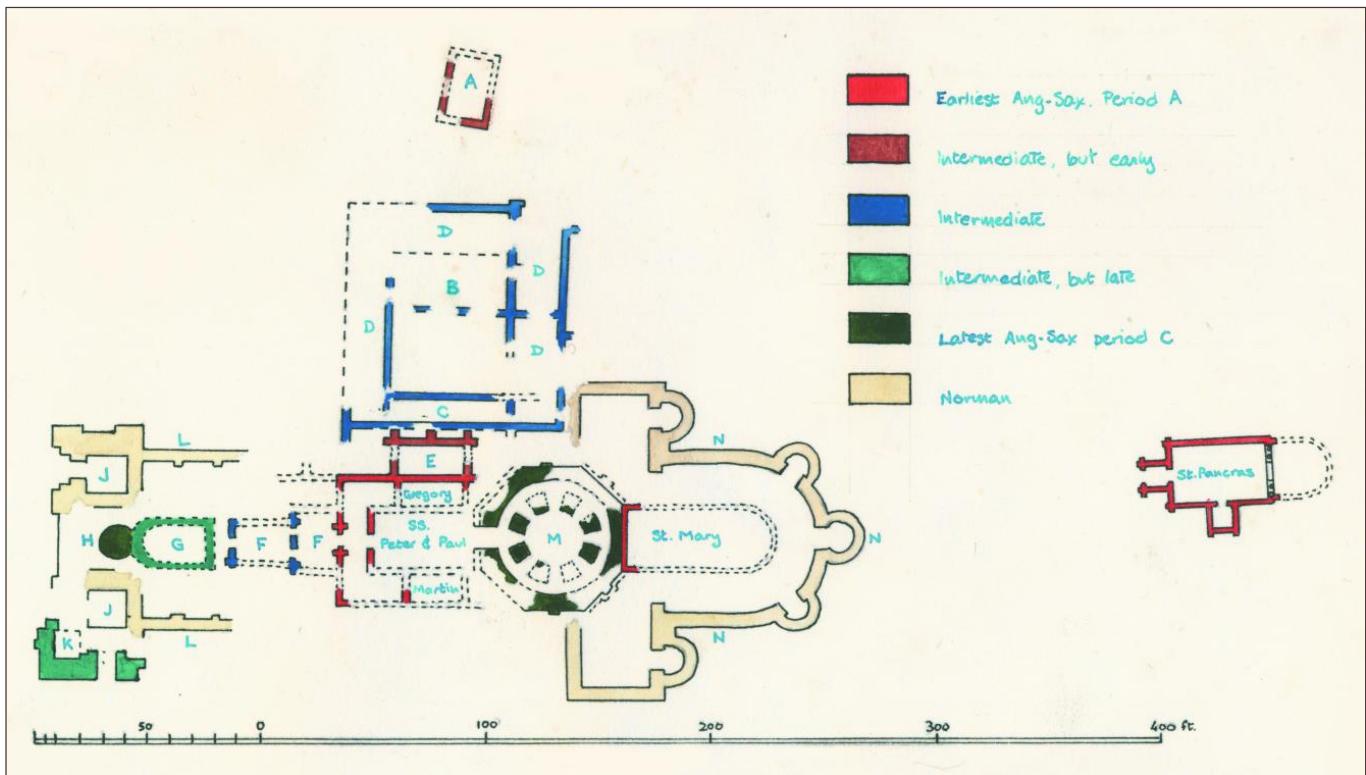
MIDDAY Meet for a picnic lunch in **Westgate Gardens**, the park near the Westgate (*entrance off St Peter's Place*). There are many car parks around the city: it is suggested that pilgrims might like to park either in Pound Lane car park near the Westgate, or in the Longport car park (which is slightly cheaper) outside St Augustine's Abbey (*see map below*).

2PM APPROX. Walk up the main street to **Christ Church Cathedral**. We have to call at the **Welcome Centre**, where payment must be made. There is a fee of £10 each (concessions £8.50), which will cover us both for entrance to the Cathedral and to St Augustine's Abbey. In the Cathedral we shall be able to see and venerate the sites of the tombs of St Dunstan and St Ælfheah (Alphege).

3PM APPROX. Walk from the Cathedral to the **St Augustine's Abbey** complex to see the church of St Peter and St Paul (*plan and drawing overleaf*), the other churches in the complex, and to see and venerate the sites of the tombs where King St Æbelberht (Ethelbert), Queen St Beorhthe (Bertha), the Queen's chaplain Bishop St Liudheard, and the other early Holy Archbishops of Canterbury were originally laid.

4PM APPROX. Vespers in the Abbey grounds.





Top: Overall archaeological plan of the St Augustine's Abbey complex. There are the remains of at least three Englisc churches here, dedicated to St Peter and St Paul, St Mary the Mother of God, and St Pancras. The church of St Peter and St Paul was enlarged several times. The monks' living quarters were to the north of the complex, shown on the plan as blue concentric squares. In the early 11th century, Abbot Wulfric intended to connect St Peter and St Paul's to St Mary's church by a Rotunda (shown on the plan in dark green), where all the relics would have been translated, so that pilgrims could continue to visit and venerate them while the monastic services were in progress, but the rotunda was never finished. After the Norman conquest all of the original churches in the main complex were demolished and a new Abbey was built over the top. The relics were translated into this until the Reformation, when they were dispersed with the exception of those of St Augustine himself. These were taken to Chartham for a time, but then they too were dispersed.

Below Left: A plan of the church of St Peter and St Paul, showing the positions of the tombs.

Below Right: An artist's impression of the church of St Peter and St Paul as it might have looked when first built. The walls would have been decorated with icons or frescoes, which are unfortunately not shown. The walls have been stripped back to show details of construction.