

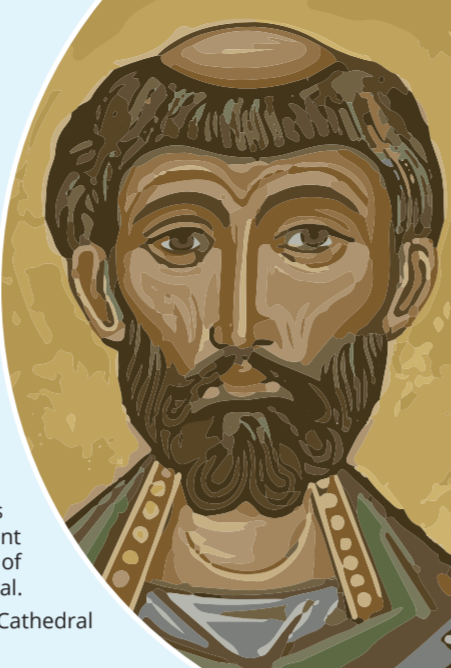
# THE CHURCH OF ST THOMAS À BECKET AT WARBLINGTON

Church Lane PO9 2TU  
www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org



## WHO WAS THOMAS À BECKET?

Thomas à Becket (c1119 - 1170) was a 12th century chancellor and archbishop of Canterbury whose murder resulted in his canonisation. Becket was born the son of a prosperous London merchant. He was well educated and quickly became an agent to Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent him on several missions to Rome. Becket's talents were noticed by Henry II, who made him his chancellor and the two became close friends. When Theobald died in 1161, Henry made Becket archbishop. Becket transformed himself from a pleasure-loving courtier into a serious, simply-dressed cleric. Becket's first loyalty was now to the Pope, and the king and his archbishop's friendship was put under strain when it became clear that Becket would now stand up for the church in its disagreements with the king. In 1164, realising the extent of Henry's displeasure, Becket fled into exile in France, and remained in exile for several years. He returned in 1170. On the 29 December 1170, four knights, overhearing the King's possibly exasperated comment 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?' and believing the king meant it and wanted Becket out of the way, confronted and murdered him in Canterbury Cathedral. Becket was made a saint in 1173 and his shrine in Canterbury Cathedral became an important focus for pilgrimage.



## PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrim (from the Latin *peregrinus*) is a traveller who is on a journey to a place of special religious significance. Pilgrimage has always been an important part of Christian faith. Walking gives pilgrims the time to notice the world around them and to engage with their faith, in preparation for their arrival at the journey's end. Most pilgrim routes are ancient and take people to places made holy by events that happened there. There are two traditional paths in the south of England to Canterbury: The Pilgrim Way begins in Winchester, as mentioned in The Canterbury Tales; The Old Way begins in Southampton and passes through the churchyard of St Thomas à Becket here in Warblington. By 1200 Canterbury rivalled Rome and Santiago de Compostela in Spain as a destination for pilgrims. This was in part because over 700 miracles were recorded there in the ten years after Thomas à Becket's death.



## THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

We are proud and grateful that this church still uses the Book of Common Prayer, and is one of the very few in the Diocese to do so on a regular basis, 3 Sundays out of 4. People travel from other parishes to experience a form of worship which was compiled in the c16th by Thomas Cranmer and modified in 1662. It is the official doctrinal standard of the Church of England, as well as of many other Churches in the worldwide Anglican Communion. It is loved for the beauty of its language. Phrases from it such as 'till death us do part', and 'read, mark, learn and inwardly digest', have come into everyday usage. Whilst it may be a cornerstone of the Anglican Communion, use of the Book of Common Prayer during services is an unfamiliar experience for many. However, its elegant and powerful language makes its message as resonant today as it has ever been. We rejoice that we continue to use the Book of Common Prayer, as we have for hundreds of years. For more information about the Book of Common Prayer, visit [www.pbs.org.uk](http://www.pbs.org.uk)

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- All events take place in the church of **St Thomas à Becket, Church Lane, Warblington PO9 2TU**, unless otherwise stated.
- ☪ Worship ☪ Outdoor event ☪ Refreshments ☪ Musical performance ☪ Dog friendly
- Sun 22 March 4:00pm**  
A Service for sailors and those who spend their time on the water ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 29 March 6:30pm**  
Cross of Christ service of readings & hymns ☪ ☪
- Sun 12 April**  
Easter Day. Holy Communion at 8 and 11am ☪
- Sun 26 April 3:00pm**  
Harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry performs as part of Havant Music Festival ☪ ☪
- Sun 10 May 10:00am**  
Family friendly Pilgrimage from St James to Warblington ☪ ☪ ☪
- Fri 15 May 7:00pm**  
Portsmouth Cathedral Choir sing English choral music ☪ ☪
- Fri 22 May**  
Presentation on St Thomas à Becket at Warblington & Denvilles Residents' Assoc AGM
- Wed 17 June 7:00pm**  
Nightingales Singers: songs from the 1920s onwards ☪ ☪
- Sun 21 June 3:00pm**  
Songs of Praise followed by Cream Teas to thank local voluntary organisations ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 28 June 11:00am**  
St Thomas' Patronal Festival Eucharist Service & lunch ☪ ☪
- Sats & Suns in July 3:00pm-5:00pm**  
Churchyard Teas ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sat 18 July 3:00pm-5:00pm**  
Al Fresco musical performance to accompany Churchyard Teas ☪ ☪ ☪
- Thu 23 July**  
Find us at The Community Information Fair, Havant
- Sun 26 July 11:00am**  
Sea Sunday: a service in support of seafarers everywhere ☪ ☪
- Sun 26 July 5:00pm**  
Informal reflective Service ☪
- Sats & Suns in August 3:00pm-5:00pm**  
Churchyard Teas ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 2 August 5:00pm**  
Edwards Family Close-Harmony Gospel Singers ☪ ☪
- Sun 16 August 4:00pm**  
Pet Service. All pets welcome to bring their owners! ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 23 August 5:00pm**  
Informal reflective Service ☪
- September**  
Thomas à Becket, the Man and our Church – an Exhibition in Emsworth Museum
- Sun 20 September 11:00am**  
The Bishop of Portsmouth presides at Holy Communion ☪
- Sun 27 September 4:00pm**  
Informal reflective Service ☪
- 9-11 October 7:00pm**  
Illustrated History of the Church and the Man, with sound, light & music ☪ ☪
- Sun 25 October 3:00pm**  
Service of Memories ☪ ☪
- Tue 27 October**  
Bus pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral (service, lunch & tour) ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 1 November 3:00pm**  
Service of Memories ☪ ☪
- Sat 7 November 7:00pm**  
Chichester Voices Classical Chamber Choir ☪ ☪
- Sun 8 November 10:55am**  
Remembrance Day Service with Denmead Brass Band ☪ ☪
- Sun 29 November 6:30pm**  
Advent Carol Service ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sat 12 December 11:00am – 3:00pm**  
Mince Pies & hot drinks in church ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sat 19 December 11:00am – 3:00pm**  
Mince Pies & hot drinks in church ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 20 December 12:00pm – 3:00pm**  
Mince Pies & hot drinks in church ☪ ☪ ☪
- Sun 20 December 6:30pm**  
Candlelit Carol Service of 9 Lessons and Carols ☪ ☪ ☪
- Fri 25 December**  
Christmas Day services – see Parish website for details ☪
- Tue 29 December 11:00am**  
Commemorative Service on St Thomas' day of martyrdom ☪ ☪

## A TIMELINE OF WARBLINGTON AND OF THOMAS À BECKET

- 558C:** Julius Caesar leads Roman invasion of Britain. Roman Farmhouse at Warblington
- c400AD:** Romans withdraw from Britain
- c500:** Saxons arrive and settle in Warblington
- 959-975:** First church built at Warblington
- 1083:** Domesday Book records church and monastery at Warblington
- c1119:** Becket born in London, educated there and works as Clerk to Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1155:** King Henry II, Becket's close friend, appoints him Chancellor of England
- 1162:** Becket appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry hoped that Becket would help him reduce the power of the Church but they disagree. Henry further demands that clerics who have committed crimes be passed to the lay courts for punishment; opposed by Becket. Further attempts to formalise and agree the boundaries between the Pope's authority and the King's, as outlined in the Constitution of Clarendon, founder. The bishops turn against Henry. In 1164 Becket was found guilty of perjury, was stripped of his possessions and exiled himself to France.
- 1166:** Henry introduces trial by judges; replacing the Barons' courts, trial by ordeal and similar injustices.
- 1169:** Henry agrees Becket may return to England.
- 1170:** Henry crowns his eldest son as heir to ensure the succession – a not-unusual practice – but the ceremony was conducted by the Archbishop of York and others, which was seen as an insult to Becket. Becket gains the Pope's authority to excommunicate the bishops involved in that coronation, the bishops who supported Henry in Becket's exile, and the Barons who profited thereby. This prompted Henry's outburst, "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" which resulted in his murder.
- 1270:** John de Ernefeud, Rector of Warblington accompanies Prince Edward, later Edward 1, on 1st Crusade.
- 1290-1340:** Warblington Church extended westwards, Chancel rebuilt and North Porch built.
- 1340:** Bubonic plague, "Black Death", devastates Warblington.
- 16th century:** West door inserted.
- 1515-1525:** Warblington Castle built by Margaret, Countess of Salisbury.
- 1526:** Henry VIII visits
- 1552:** Edward VI visits
- 1586:** Queen Elizabeth visits
- 1643:** Civil War, Warblington Castle "sighted", and destroyed by Parliamentary forces.
- 1796:** Our church, hitherto dedicated to Our Lady of Warblington, is rededicated to St Thomas à Becket whose Feast Day in July coincided with Emsworth Fair
- 1825-1826:** Watch huts built. Pews installed in Nave and Chancel.
- 1833:** Organ installed. Spire built on Saxon tower. Stained glass windows installed.
- 1924:** Parish of Warblington joined with Emsworth.
- 2011:** Fire broke out under a front pew in the church causing extensive smoke damage before it was extinguished. A new pew and pulpit were installed.

Our church is open to visitors every day except Friday during daylight hours from 10:00am, except during services. It offers a tranquil and spiritual space for anyone wishing to pray or think in peace, and it is also a delight for those interested in ecclesiastical architecture and history. Information about our regular services can be found on our website [www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org](http://www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org)



### PARISH PET SERVICE

This is a wonderfully uplifting service: you are warmly invited to bring your pets, however large or small! The style of worship is relaxed and welcoming, with suitable hymns and blessings, and an opportunity after the service to enjoy refreshments and meet other pet owners.

**Sunday 16th August 4:00pm**

### CHURCHYARD TEAS

It has been a long-standing tradition for tea and cake to be on offer in Warblington churchyard on weekend afternoons during July and August. Warblington churchyard is a little gem of rural and ecclesiastical history, with ancient yew trees, many fascinating gravestones and Watch Huts. Join us between 3pm and 5pm and discover the delights of an English country churchyard, hidden in plain sight on Havant's doorstep.

### SOUND, LIGHT, MUSIC!

An illustrated journey through the history of Warblington, its church, and Thomas à Becket the man.

**Performances at 7pm on 9th, 10th and 11th October**

### SERVICE OF MEMORIES

On 25th October and 1st November at 3pm, Warblington Church holds a Service of Memories. These very special events welcome all those who wish to remember a loved one through worship, hymns, and readings. A pivotal and moving element of each service is the reading out of the names of those being remembered, as candles are lit. Refreshments are available after the service.

These events are in addition to the normal services and offices in the church's year. The Parish website [www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org](http://www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org) has full details.

Our vision is to see our lives and our community transformed and renewed by encountering God and responding to his love. Our Parish consists of two churches; that of St Thomas à Becket in the quiet and beautiful surroundings of the Warblington Conservation Area, and of St James in Emsworth. Our Rector is the Reverend Andrew Sheard and he is supported by the Reverend Canon Julie Price, Associate Minister, and the Reverend Canon Jo Northey, Pioneer Minister. James Mant is our Lay Minister. Contact details for our Clergy team can be found on our website and on the Church noticeboards.

**Regular Sunday Services at St Thomas à Becket**

8:00am	Holy communion (said, not sung). 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
11:00am	Matins (a traditional Book of Common Prayer service – BCP - with hymns) every Sunday except for Holy Communion on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
6:30pm	Evensong from the BCP, united service with local Methodists on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Through our two churches and Parish hall we offer a wide variety of services including Family Services, Sunday Breakfast Church, Daily Morning Prayers, Café Church and services shared with the Methodists. Everyone is welcome. For full details: visit our website [www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org](http://www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org); contact the Parish office on 01243 372428 or [parishoffice@warblingtonwithemsworth.org](mailto:parishoffice@warblingtonwithemsworth.org); or pick up a Parish magazine or weekly Pew Sheet from either church.

# WARBLINGTON CONSERVATION AREA

## WARBLINGTON CONSERVATION AREA

Warblington Conservation Area was created by Havant Borough Council in 1980 to recognise this area's ancient origins and to protect its special character. Centred around the historic church of St Thomas à Becket, it is also home to two ancient monuments, several listed buildings and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It also lies within the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and some spaces are managed to provide a sustainable habitat for the many resident and migrating birds that visit the harbour.

This quiet rural corner of Havant Borough is a delight to visit and we hope that this leaflet helps you to explore every aspect of it.

For more information about the history of Warblington, visit The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, 56 East Street, Havant PO9 1BS.

## ROMAN ROADS

The current A259 follows the route of a Roman road connecting Winchester (Venta Belgarum) to Chichester (Noviomagus Reginorum) via what is now Wickham.

## WARBLINGTON CASTLE

This local landmark was once an impressive moated and fortified manor house, built for Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, in the early 1500s. The house was all but demolished in 1643 by Parliamentarians as the English Civil War was coming to an end. All that can be seen today is a corner turret of the main westward facing gateway. The stone cottages on Church Lane were probably constructed using materials from the demolished manor house.

Warblington Castle is a listed ancient monument. It stands within the estate of a private house and is not open to the public. However it is possible to get a good view of the turret from several places within the Conservation area, including the churchyard.



## CASTLE FARM

The site of Warblington Castle Farm has been occupied by a farming community for at least 1,500 years. Today some areas of the farm's estate are managed to protect resident and visiting wildfowl, vulnerable species of flora, and important archaeological remains. There is a resident dairy herd, which supplies the farm's doorstep milk delivery service, and which is used to graze Warblington Meadow as part of its management as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The farm estate is home to several listed buildings, including The Black Barn, which is also a listed ancient monument. This impressive timber framed barn dates back to the seventeenth century and was originally roofed with thatch.

## ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

St Thomas à Becket is one of two parish churches within the Parish of Warblington-with-Emsworth (Portsmouth Diocese). The site has a long history, dating back to the earliest times of Christianity in Southern England. The churchyard contains many fine examples of eighteenth century gravestones. The biggest yew tree within the churchyard is believed to be around 1,500 years old. Visitors are welcome and the church is usually open during daylight hours.

The two small flintstone Watch Huts within the churchyard were built in the 1820s to provide shelter for the men who watched over the graves of recently buried parishioners. At that time the demand for cadavers for dissection in medical schools meant that bodysnatching was a real problem, especially for isolated churchyards such as this one. A Church Guidebook is available inside the church.

## DOMESDAY

The Domesday Book was a survey of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 on the order of King William the Conqueror. Warblington is listed as a settlement in 'the hundred of Bosbarrow and the county of Hampshire' with a recorded population of 56 (an estimate since multiple places are mentioned in the same entry) households. This put it in the largest 20% of settlements in Domesday. Two churches are listed, as well as six mills and a fishery.

## THE OLD WAY PILGRIMAGE ROUTE

The Old Way Pilgrimage Route to Canterbury starts at Southampton and follows the Solent Way. It is the route King Henry II took to atone for the murder of Thomas à Becket.

## THE ENCLOSURE OF OPEN LAND

The Enclosure Acts were a series of Parliamentary Acts - passed between 1750 and 1860 - through which open fields were closed to use by the peasantry. Open fields were large agricultural areas to which a local population had certain rights of access and which then usually divided into narrow strips for individual cultivation. The Enclosure Acts removed the prior rights of local people to use land that had been freely available to them for generations. Lands seized through the Enclosure Acts were subsequently consolidated into individual, privately owned farms.

Warblington land was enclosed in the second decade of the C19th. The size and shape of the fields into which the enclosed land was divided is commonly referred to as Parliamentary style: rectangular with straight sides.

## WARBLINGTON CEMETERY

The Cemetery was opened in the late 1890s and was extended in 2006 to include a natural burial site. The cemetery as a whole provides a valuable habitat for many species of flora and fauna. Birds are attracted by the wealth of insects attracted through careful management of the cemetery and adjacent churchyard to allow native grasses and plants to flower and seed. The southern hedgerow has been identified as a 'Bat Highway' and the many mature trees offer a variety of habitats for wildlife. In 2009 the cemetery received an Environmental Best Practice Award.

Reflecting the area's maritime links are the graves of Sir Peter Blake KBE, resident of Emsworth and a New Zealand yachtsman who won the America's Cup twice, and the Whitbread Round the World race, and that of Sir Alex Rose, who circumnavigated the globe single-handed in his yacht Lively Lady in 1968.

## COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

There are 32 casualties from the First and Second World Wars buried in Warblington Cemetery. These graves, which are easily distinguished by their distinctive headstones, are maintained by the Commonwealth Graves Commission. Full details can be found on [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

## WARBLINGTON MEADOW

Warblington Meadow is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is an important site for waders and wildfowl, as well as a wide variety of rare plants. It is important to disturb this meadow as little as possible to avoid damage to the sensitive habitats and to minimise disturbance to the breeding and overwintering birdlife that use the marshes and meadow.

In order to maintain a species-rich sward, each year's growth of vegetation must be removed. To achieve this, the farm's dairy herd graze the meadow at certain times of the year.

## CHICHESTER HARBOUR

Chichester Harbour is one of 34 areas within the UK identified as being of 'outstanding' natural beauty. As an AONB it has special protection within law.

For much of its history, the harbour was an area of salt production. The Domesday Record mentions three local salterns (a set of pools in which seawater is left to evaporate to make salt). Conigar Point was the site of a saltern until the nineteenth century. Conigar Point can be reached by foot at low tide. It is a ten minute walk along the foreshore. Between 1943 and 1944 a concrete loading point called an Embarkation Hard was built there to enable troops to embark landing craft. It was used by the US Forces on their journey to Normandy on D-Day (6th June 1944).

Until about 850 years ago the sea level was significantly higher than it is now. A tidal creek reached right up to Church Lane. By the twelfth century the sea level had dropped, leaving the creek too shallow for boats. The Hard, at the bottom of Pook Lane footpath, became the site of a landing place for heavy goods. However, once local roads improved, this quay became redundant. Today all that remains are the wooden piles, visible at low tide.

Emsworth via Conigar Point 1.5 miles (accessible only at low tide)

This visitors' map has been made possible thanks to the generous support of these local businesses:

**W. Wraight & Son**  
Funeral Directors and Memorial Consultants  
01243 372255  
Serving the local community since 1850

**Warblington Castle Farm**  
Fresh milk, cream, eggs, potatoes etc delivered locally  
tel: 023 9248 3374

**Mill Pond Cakes**  
Single tier celebration cakes  
[www.millpondcakes.com](http://www.millpondcakes.com)

**BH Brookfield Hotel**  
93 Havant Road, Emsworth PO10 7LF  
01243 372733

**STONECREST**  
Monumental & General Stonemasons Sculptors  
4 North Street, Emsworth PO10 7JD  
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