

Chilsham

Godmersham

Challock

Molash

Boughton Aluph

The Five Church Walk

April 29th 1984



From
Canon David Marriott

Wye (0233) 812450

The Vicarage
Wye
Ashford
Kent
TN25 5AS

From the Rural Dean

6th February, 1984

What a marvellous idea the Five Churches Walk is! It is significant that it comes from Molash, because they have had to fight the battle of survival for their lovely old Church. Very many other Churches are going to have to fight similar battles in the future since rising costs of the maintenance of these old buildings is one of the major problems of the Church of England. We are grateful for the splendid efforts that Molash has made and that some of their spirit is being passed on to us through their Five Churches Walk.

The idea of using five of these old Churches as checkpoints on the walk is good too. Not only are we all going to see the Churches themselves, we are also going to get a much better idea of their place in the countryside and in the community by walking between them. I feel quite sure that the experience will give us an even greater determination (than ever) to preserve this magnificent heritage.

We are grateful for the generosity of Molash in allowing anyone to join their walk to raise money for their own Church and, in particular, for the work Martin Vinson has put into this from the beginning.

I certainly look forward to walking and hope we shall be blessed with a good day to enjoy what must be one of the most beautiful corners of Kent.

David Marriott

VICAR of WYE

WILDLIFE ON THE ROUTE

The majority of the walk is along footpaths through woods and across farmland although short lengths are along country lanes bordered by hedges. At this time of year wildlife will abound and the walkers should see an interesting cross-section of plants, birds and animals; some common, some less common.

While walking PLEASE REMEMBER THE COUNTRY CODE

Keep to the paths,
Shut all gates,
Do not climb over fences, except at proper stiles,
Do not disturb wild animals, remember it is their home,
Do not pick or dig up plants,
Keep dogs under control
Some paths, particularly by Godmersham Park, are NOT public footpaths. We have permission to walk on the land for the day only so please take special care on these sections of the walk.

In early Spring, Kingwood Forest is beautiful with the colour and scent of bluebells, and the fresh green of the trees. The delicate flowers of the wood anemone abound here also. Grey squirrels are common in the wood; in certain areas there are badger setts, and there are foxes, too. Keep a sharp watch for the deer, being very shy creatures they disappear quickly when disturbed.

Birdlife is most common in the more open areas, and along the wood edges, but familiar birds, like blackbird, songthrush, chaffinch and robin are found almost everywhere. Where Mountain Street joins the North Downs Way glance towards the trees far on your right for a glimpse of the heronry, said to be the oldest in England, and first mentioned in a document in 1280. It is said the birds return here to nest every year on St Valentine's Day.

Buzzards are sometimes seen here, and in Molash and Challock, presumably migrant birds on their way North or West.

Along the North Downs Way long tailed tits can often be seen with blue tits, great tits, and sometimes the coal tit. In the fields of Godmersham Park look for lapwing, mistlethrush, meadow pipit, yellowhammer and skylark; listen too for this bird's song high above. Starlings, rooks and crows should be here also; look out, too, for the green woodpecker, often seen feeding on the ground, especially around molehills. Watch the sky for the sight of a kestrel hovering, and for herons flying to and from the river. At Godmersham pause for a moment to look at this lovely stretch of the river from the bridge. There may be views of mallard and moorhen, and early swallows, perhaps an early house martin skimming the surface. Look for pied wagtail, or perhaps the lovely grey wagtail. Along the edges the lady's smock, or cuckoo flower, should be blooming, and in corners where the water movement is slow you may see the marsh marigold.

Along the North Downs Way chaffinches and greenfinches are common; near fallen tree trunks or thick undergrowth look for wrens. On old wood the greater spotted woodpecker, or its small cousin, the lesser spotted, may be feeding. Bullfinches are oftenseen here, jays and magpies are common, and an upward glance into the trees may reveal the olive green plumage of either chiff chaff or willow warbler, both early Summer visitors, and difficult to distinguish from each other except by song. If you are lucky you may see either tree creeper or nuthatch.

Spring flowers are plentiful and varied. Purple honesty likes damp spots; red campion, herb robert, common mouse ear, wood spurge grow freely, and a close search may reveal the green flower heads of the tiny moschatel, or town-hall clock, and the

delicate white flowers, sometimes veined pink or tinged purple, of wood sorrel, with its trefoil leaves.

Listen for the cuckoo, which arrives in April.

In hedge banks and verges look for violets, mauve and white, dandelions, celandines and primroses, white and red dead-nettle, and the yellow archangel, and the lovely pale green hooded spathe and purple spadix of Lords and Ladies, the wild arum.

CHALLOCK FOREST

In prehistoric times it is believed that the lowlands of South East England were covered with a practically continuous forest, dense on the heavier soils and more open on the sandy chalky soils. Appreciable clearance by man was not apparent until the Neolithic period 3000-1500 B.C. when there is evidence that deforestation began on the lighter soils. By the Anglo Saxon period, clearance of much of the lighter soils had been made and a start had been made in clearing the richer, often heavier, soils of the valleys.

By the post Norman period, extensive forests only remained in certain well-defined areas: The Weald, the North Downs plateau, and the low plateau around Blean north and west of Canterbury.

Clearance has continued up to the present day, but by far the greatest concentrations of woods are still to be found in these areas.

In Neolithic times the forests consisted mainly of oak but also with ash, hornbeam, beech, hazel and maple.

Originally and until the middle ages the main use of the forest was for hunting and as a feeding ground for swine; certainly in Saxon times oak trees were valued more for the provision of acorns than for timber. Later however, oaks produced with curved spreading branches were useful for shipbuilding. Coppice on the other hand produced fuel wood, charcoal, stakes and poles.

The Romans introduced the sweet chestnut which rapidly spread and was found to be particularly useful for coppice harvesting as it grows quickly and straight and the timber was very durable in the ground. New methods of hop production introduced in the 16th Century led to the increase in chestnut coppice for the provision of hop poles. Hop production increased to a maximum in about 1880. As demand for chestnut for poles declined demand for chestnut for spile fencing increased.

Other crops were not harvested and fell into decline. As owners could not normally afford to rehabilitate the woodland, it was often sold to the Forestry Commission.

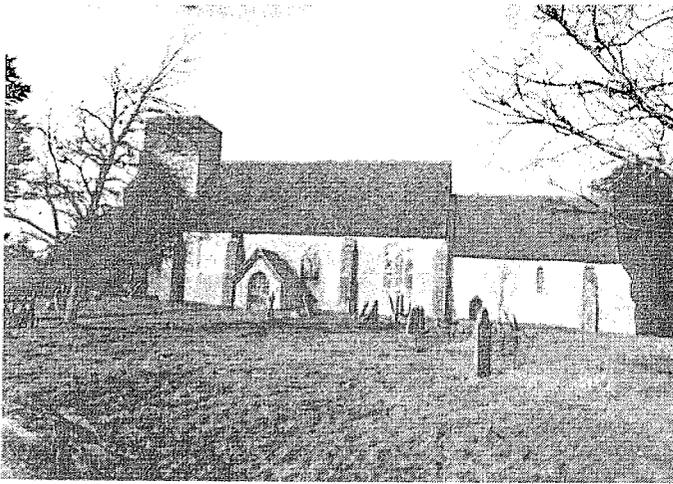
Challock Forest covers a total of 2,580 hectares, and is made up of 21 separate woods in three main blocks at Challock, Lyminge and Orlestone. Challock Wood is listed in Domesday Book as one of the major Kent woods.

Sweet chestnut coppice covers 42% of the planted area with the remainder made up of beech 20%, mixed conifer and broad leaved 12%, pure conifer 24% and other 1%.

Wildlife to be seen includes: Fallow deer, fox, badger, rabbit, hare, grey squirrel, stoat, weasel, vole, mice, shrew, adder, grass snake, jay, magpie, wood pigeon, turtle dove, collar dove, titmice, blackcap, willow warbler, grasshopper warbler, whitethroat, nightjar, blackbird, thrush, goldcrest.

Note: This is the 1984 route!
2024 routes MAY have changed,
please check at the churches.

MOLASH



St Peter's Church, Molash is early 13th Century. It is suggested that possibly a chapel had previously stood on the same spot, as the yew trees round it are considerably older than the present church, probably over 1000 years.

The Font is Norman and the screen from Eastwell Church, which was borrowed from Molash, is now returned and in place as before.

The Pulpit is 17th Century as is the silver chalice dated about 1625.

What stained glass is left, and there is not much, is very old and very rare.

St Peter's is known as a Barn Church for obvious reasons, as it has only one aisle and chancel, and is extremely plain.

There are some ancient vaults belonging to families of the past.

The village dates back to Saxon times, and some houses in the vicinity go back this far, the earliest records mention two in particular, Bower Manor, or Flemings (now Great Bower) as having belonged to the Fleming family in 1019, and Wytherling Court, owned in King John's day by Robert de Witherling, when it was traditionally thought to have been used by John as a hunting lodge and is first mentioned in 1171. The King used often to visit his daughter at Chilham castle where she lived, and to meet Archbishop Langton there.

The name Molash is Saxon: MOUL - to speak and ASH - the ash tree - which means assembly at the ash tree - a sort of village meeting place, one supposes. About 1000 years ago the whole of this neighbourhood was covered by a massive forest - The Forest of Kingswood, in which ash, beech, oak and yew grew tall and strong, and under which deer and wild boar were plentiful - the deer are still with us, but thankfully there are now no wild boar!

The people of Molash have been busy since 1976 working to save St Peter's. There is still much to be done, but the roof and ceiling are restored and once more safe, and the windows are receiving attention.

Help has been given to enable them to do this from the following charitable organisations:

The Department of the Environment
Historic Churches
Kent Churches
Kent County Council
Archaeological Society
Incorporated Building Society

and other kind people, with many fund raising events, not the least of which is the sponsored Charity Ride that takes place each year on the last Sunday in September.

MOLASH TO CHILHAM

Leave Molash church heading south east along Church Lane, notice Church Farm on the left which is a half-timbered house originally two cottages now converted into one house. Follow Church Lane to the main road and there are several pleasant houses on either side of the road to be seen on the way. At the end of Church Lane cross over the main road leaving the George Inn on the right hand side, across the stile into the field, continuing still in a south easterly direction cross the ploughed field, over the next stile and along the left hand side of the pasture field to the wood. Once in the wood the path turns to the left and immediately right and drops down the hill through the trees. Pass between two metal posts nearly at the bottom and out on to the main track. Turn left and right after 25 yards. The path now goes up the other side of the hill through a conifer plantation. The path is again uneven and becomes steeper nearer the top. As you approach the top you come out of the conifer plantation which had deciduous trees on the left, into a chestnut coppice. The path turns half right leaving a large hole, possibly an old bomb crater, on your left hand side. At the top the path joins another main track and turns left, follow the main track to the first crossroads and go straight over and down the hill. At the bottom of the dip ignore the track on the left hand side and carry straight on up the slope. Recently cut coppice on the left hand side opens up interesting views, but follow the path on to the next cross-roads and turn left leaving the old fire pond on your right hand side. The path slopes gently downhill with well matured conifers on either side. After a while the path bends to the right leaving an old fire tower on the left hand side. The path ends with a 'T' junction where it joins the North Downs Way. Turn left towards Chilham keeping within the forest boundary but with pasture land on the right hand side.

This part is likely to be rather muddy but there is no more uphill now until after Chilham. The land on the right is part of Godmersham Park and the route from Chilham to Godmersham Church will pass through this land. After a while notice a stile on the right hand side and shortly afterwards turn left just past the Forestry Commission Kingswood notice. At the next crossing of paths turn left and the path will bear round to your right.

You are now passing along the western side of the Chilham Castle Estate. The woodland on the left hand side is mainly chestnut coppice with standards and a mixture of conifers and native deciduous trees on the right. As the path drops down the hill follow it round to the left and then right and there are views across the valley and the main road to the village of Shottenden to the north. The path leads out to Dane Street with Dane Court on the right hand side and some charming period cottages on the left. Carry on to the main road and turn right towards Chilham. This is the only piece of main road to walk along and there is a wide verge on the right hand side. Follow the road past Chilham Village Hall, turn right by the fire station up the hill into the village square. The church can easily be seen on the left hand side behind the White Horse Inn.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Porter Cobb & Prall with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

CHILHAM



Probably the best known village in East Kent, Chilham is famous for the square and of course the castle. The village lies on the old Pilgrims Way along which travellers have made their way for as long as 5,000 years. Later the Canterbury Pilgrims stopped here on their journey.

The church stands just off the square and is mainly perpendicular. There is a Priests' Room over the South Porch and this was used as the

village school for many years and the old school table survives to this day. There are many interesting features in the church, including the monuments in memory of local inhabitants and, in particular, Ezethias Fogge who was the incumbent for nearly 60 years. Note also the famous Wildman monument by the Chantry.

A legacy was left in 1534 towards the cost of building the tower and the building appears to have been considerably altered and extended since that time. The church itself has been modified and restored many times, most recently in the 1860's, but it still retains many ancient features. The clerestoried nave and aisles, transepts and the chancel with chancel aisles results in an east end typical of Kentish churches.

The square lies on a small plateau between the church and the castle. Once the east and west sides were completely timber-framed but half of each side was refaced with brickwork during the 18th Century. Narrow roads lead down the hill from each corner of the square and there are many interesting houses to be seen along these lanes. Especially note Monkton Manor along Mountain (or Monkton) Street, on the way to Godmersham.



The castle, whose gates are sited at the south western side of the square, was originally Medieval, King John's daughter lived here and he often visited. Before him Henry II spent £400 on building costs! The castle has Roman origins but became a proper castle in Norman times, the Norman keep still remaining. The present mansion was built by Sir Dudley Digges to the design of Inigo Jones and finished in 1616. The grounds have several imposing features. The gardens were designed by 'Capability' Brown in the 18th Century. The famous heronry, the oldest and largest in the country, is in Felborough Wood at the far end of Mountain Street.

Chilham is a delightful Kentish village where the modern pilgrim can rest and travel back in time to catch a glimpse of life in a bygone age.

CHILHAM TO GODMERSHAM

This is the easiest part of the walk, over half the distance being along metalled roads and the remainder on easy paths.

Leave Chilham square down Mountain Street with the castle on the right hand side. The village school is on the left, built in 1861. Shortly afterwards notice two fine 15th Century houses, Monkton Manor and Heron Manor. A view of Julieberry Down is to be had away to the left.

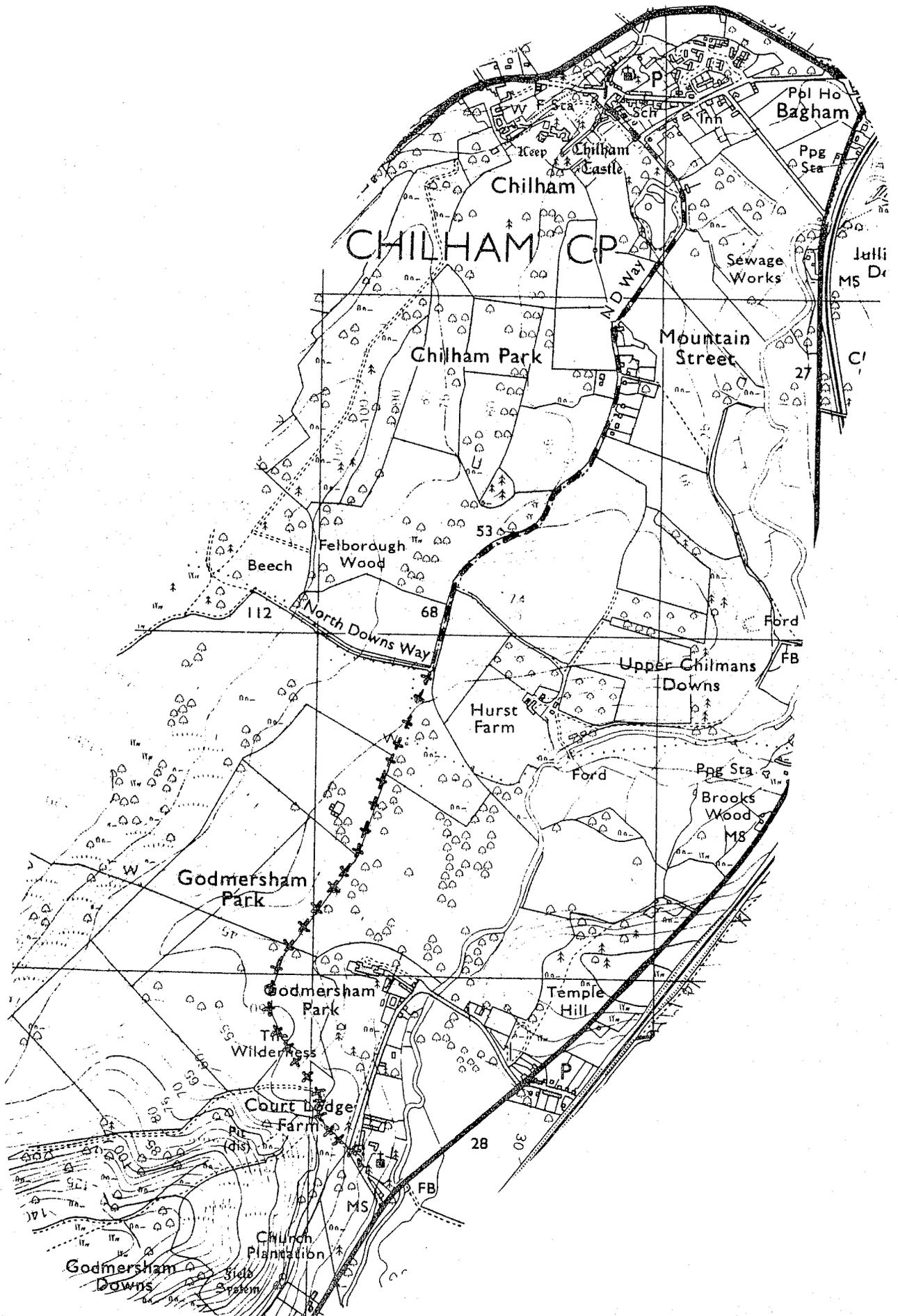
As the road bends round to the right a glimpse of the heronry may be seen away in the castle grounds on the right. Grazing deer may often be seen and also birds of prey.

At the end of the road proceed straight on along the North Downs Way. After a short while the main path turns right but there is a gate on the left. Go through the gate and enter the grounds of Godmersham Park. Walkers with dogs should be particularly careful in these grounds. There are notices warning owners to keep dogs under control, so please do look after them. The next section is NOT a public footpath, but we have permission for the day only to walk along it.

Proceed along the south eastern side of the field keeping the wood on the left hand side. The Downs rise up on the right and the next leg of the walk will take you back up to the top.

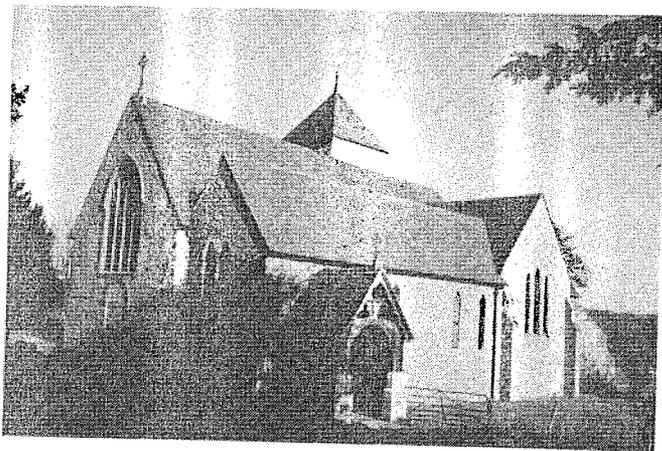
The beautiful 18th Century house is now to be seen. There is a cottage on the right and where the path meets the fence line continue through the gate and follow the track keeping the fence on the left. The track passes through two gates then bends to the right as it meets the park wall. Turn left at the corner of the wall and down through the gate to the church.

NOTE. The section marked ++ is not a public footpath. We only have permission for the day of the walk.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Porter Cobb & Prall with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved.

GODMERSHAM



Godmersham is a loosely knit village straddling the River Stour between Chilham and Wye, along the A28 Canterbury/Ashford road.

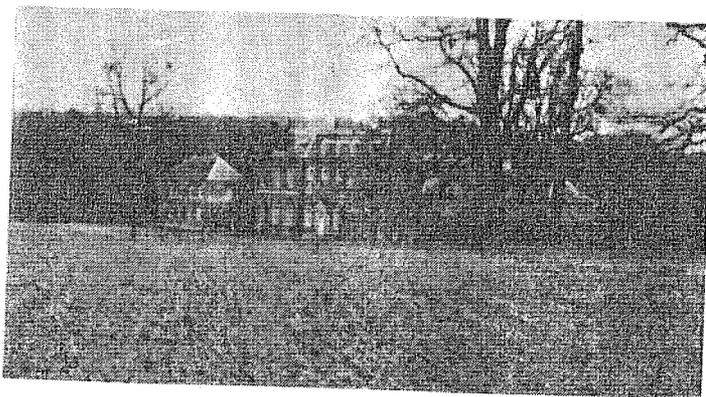
The church has a number of interesting features and is beautifully set among trees. It is probably best viewed from the main road itself looking over the river. Like all the churches on the walk it is built of flint.

The greater part of the present building, including the nave, northern tower and apse, was erected about the

time of the Norman Invasion (1066) and almost certainly replaces an older Church, perhaps of wood. The East end of the chancel with its three beautiful early English lancet windows was built out from the Norman Church and minor alterations from time to time are evidenced by a number of features: the larger North chancel window is of the 14th Century, so is the great Western window; there is a very beautiful window in the Perpendicular style between the chancel and organ chamber. A North doorway in the chancel was built up in the 19th Century; it can be seen outside the church and dates from the Tudor Period. Just before 1731 extensive changes were made on the South side of the church and again in 1865-6 there were great alterations; the present organ chamber, South aisle and South-West entrance porch were built; the Norman Western doorway, still to be seen outside, was filled in with masonry, the Chancel-Screen was added and many smaller changes were made.

There is a monument to Edward Knight one time owner of Godmersham Park and brother of Jane Austen. She used to visit Godmersham and did some of her writing there. The visitor can see features which appear in her novels actually before them in reality. Scenes from 'Mansfield Park' and 'Pride and Prejudice' were probably drawn from her visits and the small door used by Revd Collins in 'Pride and Prejudice' can be seen in the wall of the park.

The house was built for a Thomas Knight, in 1732, who had twice changed his name in order to gain a fortune. The landscaped park lies at the bottom of the North Downs escarpment, beautifully wooded and with the River Stour winding its way gracefully on towards Canterbury. The bridge over the river is worthy of note and was built in 1698 "by the Parish and NOT by the county".



Adjoining the church is Court Lodge Farm which dates from the 13th Century. Here there was a bas-relief which stood over a window for many years after being removed from the Porch. This bas-relief now resides in the church and is of a Bishop sitting on a cushion. He has his staff, and his right hand is raised in benediction. This is believed to be one of the finest examples of 12th or 13th Century carving. It is thought that the statue is that of Thomas Becket and it is fitting that he should be returned once more to keep watch over his flock in the church.

GODMERSHAM TO BOUGHTON ALUPH

The first part of the route to Boughton Aluph is back along the path which came from Chilham.

Leave Godmersham church and go through the gate at the corner of the old brick wall. This is the same wall that is mentioned in 'Pride and Prejudice'. Follow the track turning right at the corner just past the small green door. The track now bends to the left away from the park as the House itself comes into view on the right. As the path is not a public footpath this is a view of the House which is not normally seen.

The track is well-defined and passes through two gates still heading back towards Chilham.

At the third gate turn left and following the fence on the left start to climb up the side of the Downs. There is an old cottage on the right, built of mellow brick beneath a hipped tiled roof. This is the longest and steepest climb of the walk.

The field is pasture probably with sheep, so do please keep dogs on a lead.

As you approach the top, pause by the gate and look back over the Stour Valley. The path now passes between the two clumps of trees and across the field at the top.

There is an old dead tree stump in the field and the path passes it on the left. Continue on to the far side and cross the stile back onto the North Downs way.

Again those who walked from Molash to Chilham will remember that this short stretch has been done before.

Turn left and follow the North Downs way, South West. Continue on this track and do not turn right back to Molash! Carry straight on keeping the farmland on the left hand side.

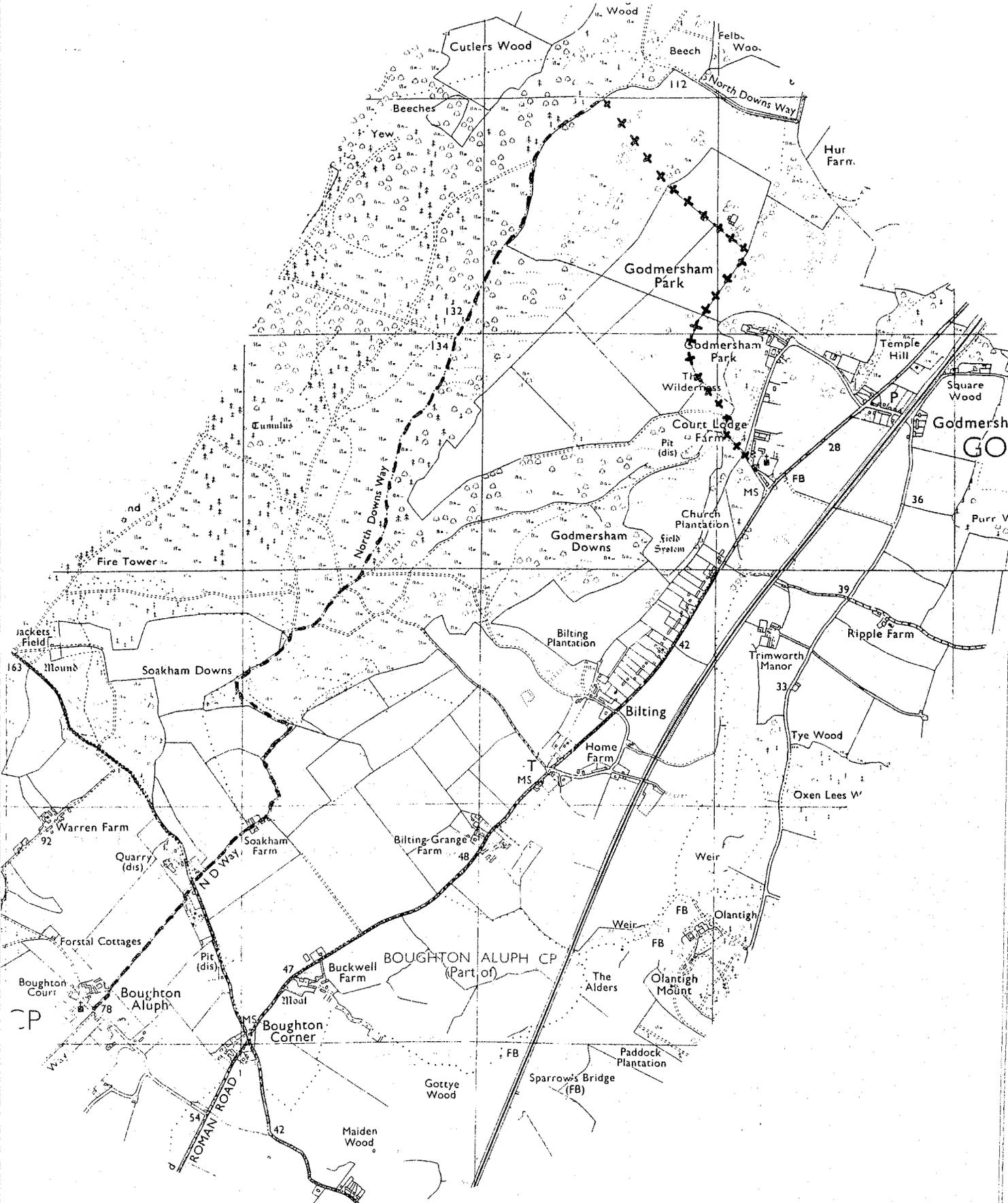
After a while the path is wooded on either side and views to the left can be had through the trees. Follow the North Downs way which is well marked by concrete stones.

Watch for the left turn just after the 'Pilgrims Way' sign.

The path now drops down the side of the hill. Watch your step as this section is quite steep. Continue down through Soakham Farm farmyard, again dogs under control please.

Cross over the metalled road and the path follows round the cottage garden and across the field to the church which is now in sight.

NOTE. The section marked + + is not a public footpath. We only have permission for the day of the walk.



BOUGHTON ALUPH

This attractive village at the foot of the Downs is crossed by the ancient Pilgrims Way and has a long history going back beyond Norman times.



All Saints Church dates from c.1210 when Alulphus of Boctune replaced the Anglo-Saxon church with the North-East chancel of the present building. Sir Thomas de Aldon built major additions in the early 14th Century before the Black Death of 1348. The coats of arms in the windows illustrate the interest in this work by King Edward III, The Black Prince and his wife the Fair Maid of Kent, as well as John of Gaunt and other historical figures.

Before the Black Death, the decorated style was in use and the beautiful tracery and small windows should be noted in the chancel. After the Black Death, the windows became more dominant, particularly in the 15th Century (perpendicular style). About 1820, most of the large windows were infilled with brick mullions and brick tracery, as can be seen from the outside of the nave particularly on the North side.

The wall painting dates from 1444 and depicts the Holy Trinity. It was covered up during the time of Cromwell. The interesting fireplace in the South porch is thought to be unique. No doubt, pilgrims rested here before facing the journey through King's Wood, which was infested with robbers!

Vandals broke into the church in 1552, 1700 and 1983 when they stole lead from the roof. The most serious damage was done in 1940 by incendiary bombs, when the tower was set on fire. By 1951 the church was still unrepaired and had become quite unsafe and so had to be closed. However, by 1954 sufficient funds had been collected to repair the vast tower that was on the point of collapse. Repair and renovation work has continued at intervals until the present. It will be apparent to visitors that considerable further work needs to be carried out if this lovely church in its beautiful setting is to be enjoyed by future generations as a place of worship and an historic resting place on the Pilgrims Way.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S - Chapel of Ease

This delightfully simple chapel is also situated on the Pilgrims Way overlooking a corner of Boughton Lees. It is a Tudor building that was given to the Parish as a village school in the 19th Century, and was used as such until 1937. During the war it was requisitioned by the Army but in 1947 it was first used for services as All Saints was suffering from bomb damage and Eastwell Church also collapsed due to war damage. As a result of the initiative of the Cotterill family it was refurbished.



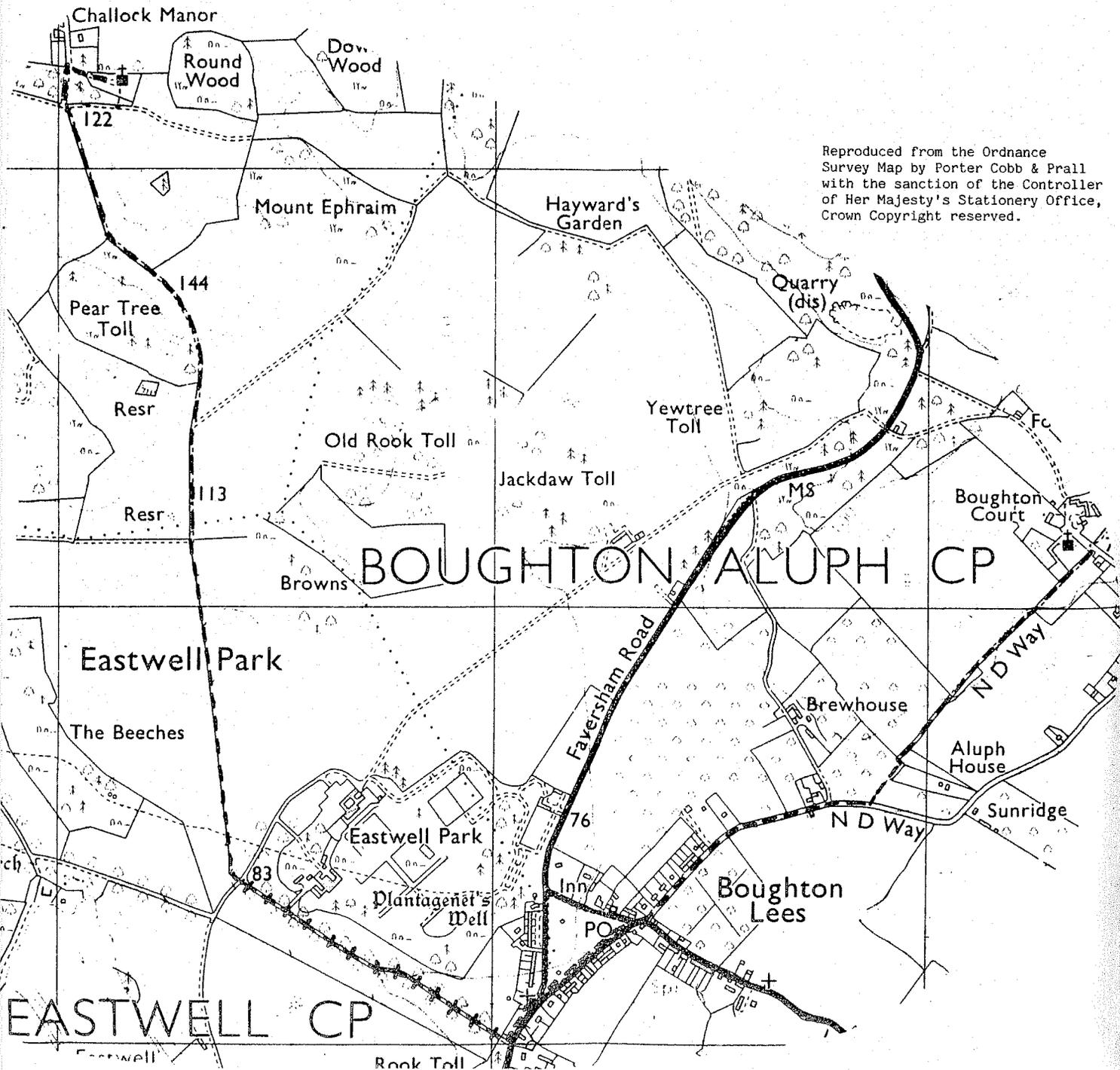
In 1952 work started on the conversion of this neglected old building to the charming Chapel of Ease which is now used for the majority of parish services. In the early 1980's, with funds left by the late Sir Edward Hardy, a kitchen and cloakrooms were added to the Parish Room.

The font was made from stone, salvaged from the war-damaged St Paul's Cathedral and the pelmet behind the altar was saved from Eastwell Church.

The route for the Five Church Walk passes from All Saints Church by field paths along the Pilgrims Way and then through orchards to Boughton Lees – the village green, with its fine cricket pitch overlooked by the Flying Horse Inn and St Christopher's on the corner opposite the Lees.

Here refreshments will be available before continuing the walk through Eastwell Park. The route passes through the wall which runs for several miles round much of the Park, and was built nearly 150 years ago.

Richard Plantagenet, the illegitimate son of Richard III lived in the cottage which now bears his name behind the present 'Iron Room' – village hall. He was buried at Eastwell Church and despite his royal blood, he worked on the estate for Sir Walter Moyle who owned much land in Kent, including Eastwell Park and the main mansion which was subsequently rebuilt in 1926. The Earls of Winchelsea lived here for several generations. Another royal connection was Queen Victoria who came to Eastwell in 1878 to visit her son, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, and would have enjoyed similar views to those we see today.



BOUGHTON ALUPH TO CHALLOCK

Leave Boughton Aluph church on your right hand side and continue on in a south westerly direction across the grass field with a hedge and the churchyard on the right. Go through the gate at the end of the field, remembering to close it, and continue along the path with arable land on either side. A clump of trees is on the left and then orchards appear on the right. This path is level although a little uneven and muddy. Soon there will be a double bend, first to the left and then to the right, but after a short while the path joins a country lane with hedgerows on either side. Turn to the right and follow this lane until you come to Boughton Lees which is only about 650 metres. As you approach the Lees you will come to a crossroads with the triangular shaped Lees opposite and to your right, and the Flying Horse public house on your right hand side. Go straight across the crossroads and walk along the south eastern side of the Lees to the main A251 Ashford/Faversham Road on the far side.

Cross the road and immediately you will see on your right St Christopher's Church which originally was the old school building. This church is well worth a quick visit and first aid and refreshments should be available in the church room.

Continue on along the main road towards Ashford for about 150 metres and turn right through the main entrance gates to Eastwell Manor. The path now follows the main driveway of the Manor a glimpse of which can be seen at the top of the drive on the right hand side. At the end of the drive there is a 'T' junction and a stile over the fence leading into the large ploughed field in front of you. The path now goes across the field, almost due north, and this is a half turn to the right after leaving the end of the drive. As you cross the field which slopes slightly uphill you will see clumps of wood to your front and both to left and right.

The field is likely to be sticky so you will need boots for this section.

On the far side of the field cross the farm track and continue on in a northerly direction still climbing gently up the hill until you get to a small clump of trees on the right hand side. If you turn back here and look south east you will have splendid views over the Stour valley at Ashford and across to Wye.

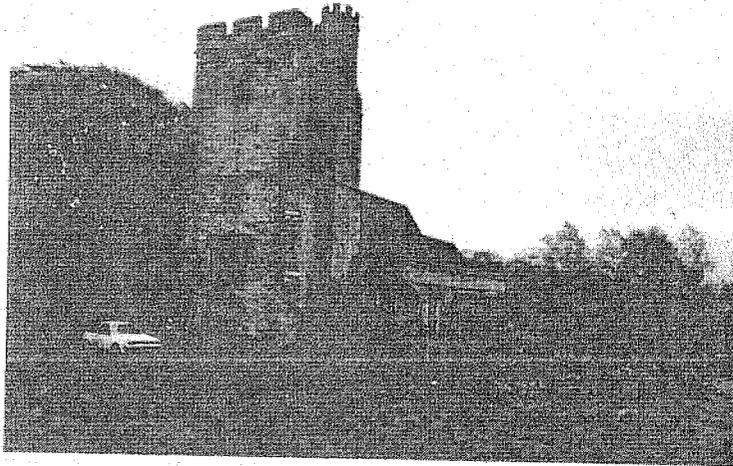
The track bends round to the left and again there are excellent views to be had to the east and south east.

As you go round the wood, on your left hand side the track bends to the left and drops downhill slightly and Challock Church is visible set among the trees to your front. Go over the cattle grid and follow the path through the small wood by the church and the church will then be on your right hand side.

CHALLOCK

The village dates back at least to the late 13th Century and is mentioned in a document of Pope Nicholas IV dated 1292. The name Challock however is Saxon and means "an enclosure for calves". The "calves" may however refer to large stones connected with worship in the pre-Christian era.

The village originally was clustered around the church on what used to be the main Ashford/Faversham road. However in 1589 Eastwell estate was enclosed and the road diverted to its present position. The old village died and sprang up again at the existing crossroads. Only the church remains to show where the community once thrived.



The present church stands on the site of an older building, and is believed to have been commenced in the 13th Century.

14th Century features include the two well-preserved heads carved on the outside of the south-west window, and the candle-beam in the Lady Chapel. The latter is one of few surviving examples in England. The screen of the Lady Chapel and of the tower belong to the following Century.

The Chancel was extensively restored in 1871. The whole building suffered considerably in the 1939-45 War through bomb damage and almost complete inaccessibility, the main roof collapsing during the severe winter of 1946-47. The Church was subsequently restored to its present fine condition, the work being preceded by a Service in the ruins on November 8th 1950.

The Victorian Chancel screen stood originally in Eastwell Church. Another section of this screen may be seen in Molash Church.

The Chapel murals were executed in 1953 by Miss Rosemary Aldridge and Miss Doreen Lister, both students of the Royal Academy School, as a result of a competition organised by Mr Henry Rushbury, RA, the Keeper of the Royal Academy. On the North wall the scheme commences with scenes depicting agriculture, fishing and falconry. Six panels then illustrate episodes in the lives of the patron saints.

The Saints stand on either side of the East Window in the Chapel. Note the veterinary interest of St Cosmas with the dog. On the South wall are depicted the adoration of the Infant Christ by the Three Wise Men, the Massacre of the Innocents and the Flight into Egypt.

The remaining paintings (over the arch) are inspired by the earliest known reference to Challock, found in a Charter of 823, on which Ceornulph King of Mercia exchanged with Archbishop Wilfrid the village of Challock (Cealfalocum).

The success of the Chapel murals encouraged the late Mrs R C Philipson to invite Mr John Ward, RA, to design a set of murals for the Chancel. These depict, starting from the pulpit:

The Annunciation, The Nativity, The Baptism of Christ. Christ preaching on the lakeside from the boat. On either side of the east window stand St Peter and St Paul. The south wall of the Chancel shows Christ stilling the waves, and finally, the Empty Tomb viewed from within and the appearance of the Risen Christ to St Mary Magdalen in the Easter Garden. Above the east window is a painting of Christ in Glory.

Also of interest is the Bishop's chair, made of local oak by local craftsman David Tomkins.

CHALLOCK TO MOLASH

Leave Challock church and follow the road noticing the old cottages on your right hand side. There is a modern barn on the left and the road climbs up the hill with woods on either side.



This is quite a climb up to Challock but the road levels out after about 700 metres.

Follow the road along past farmyards and the Challock school and enter the village almost at its centre, with the Lees away to your left. You will see the Chequers Inn in front of you. Turn to the right past an attractive old house behind a high brick wall and follow the road to the village hall on your right hand side.

Just past the village hall turn right through the gap in the hedge and walk round the cricket field and out on the other side and cross once again the main Ashford/Faversham Road A251. Immediately opposite there is a stile. Follow the path beside the garden of a bungalow on your left hand side and with pasture on the right. At the end is another stile and the path now crosses a ploughed field to the corner of the wood on the right hand side.

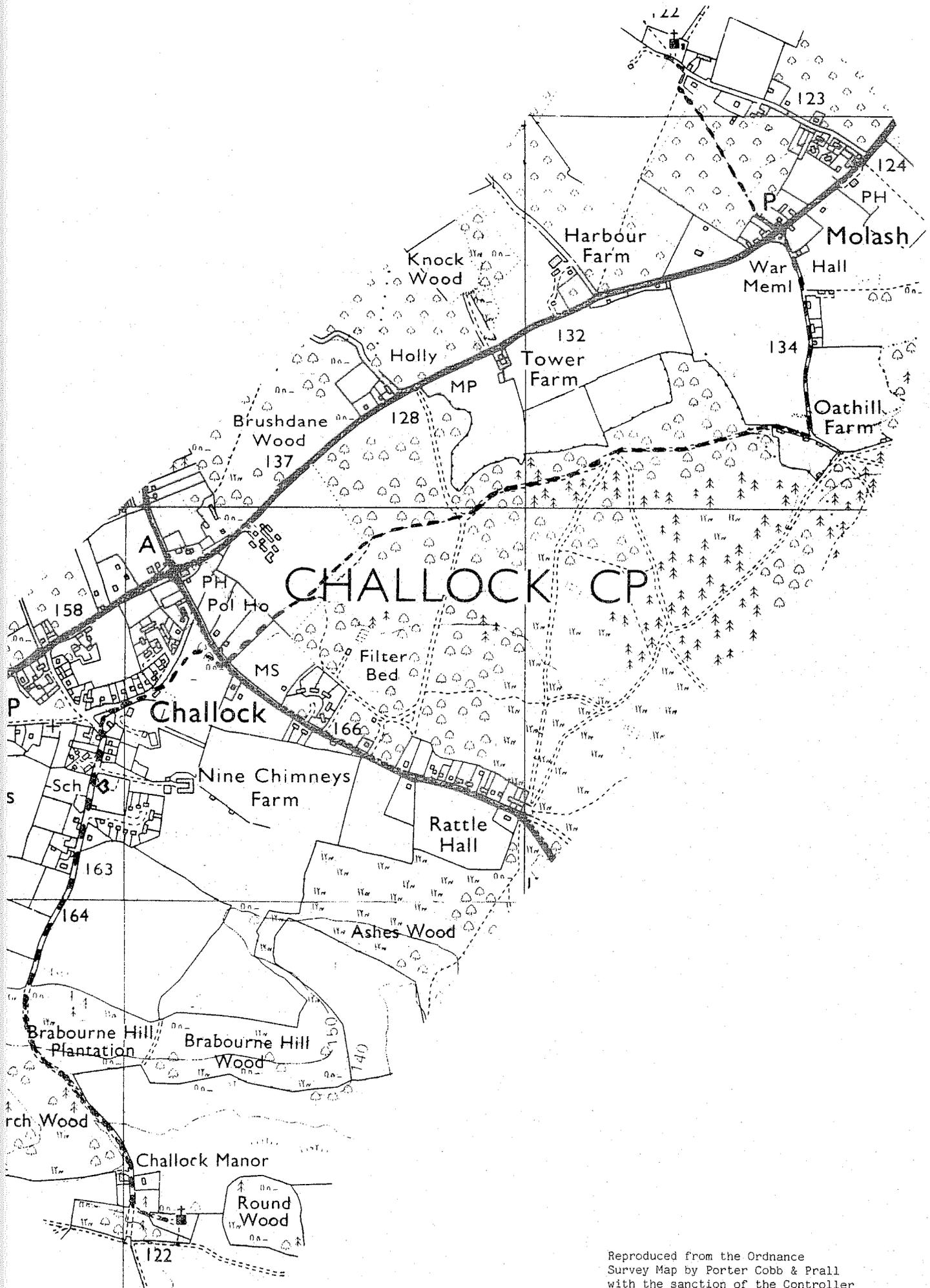
Continue on turning half left so that you follow the edge of the field with the wood on your right hand side, as far as the corner where the path enters the wood and joins another path which is clearly seen coming in from behind you and from the right. Follow this path now through the wood until you come to a junction with a main track which again comes from the right and does a 90° right hand turn so that it is going in the direction that you are going. There is another track to the left, but do not go down there.

Follow the main track and pasture is visible through the trees on the left hand side and you will soon be walking through conifers. The conifers give way to beech on the left and the main track again turns to the right but a small path continues on, bearing slightly to the left. Follow this path through the wood and this section is again rather uneven and muddy.

As you come out of the wood there is a grass field on your left hand side and the path narrows and goes down beside some stables on your right hand side. The path comes out by the main driveway to the stables and continues on into Kingswood Forest. Do not go into the Forest however but turn to the left, up the track, and this will bring you out at the end of Pound Lane and on to a metalled road.

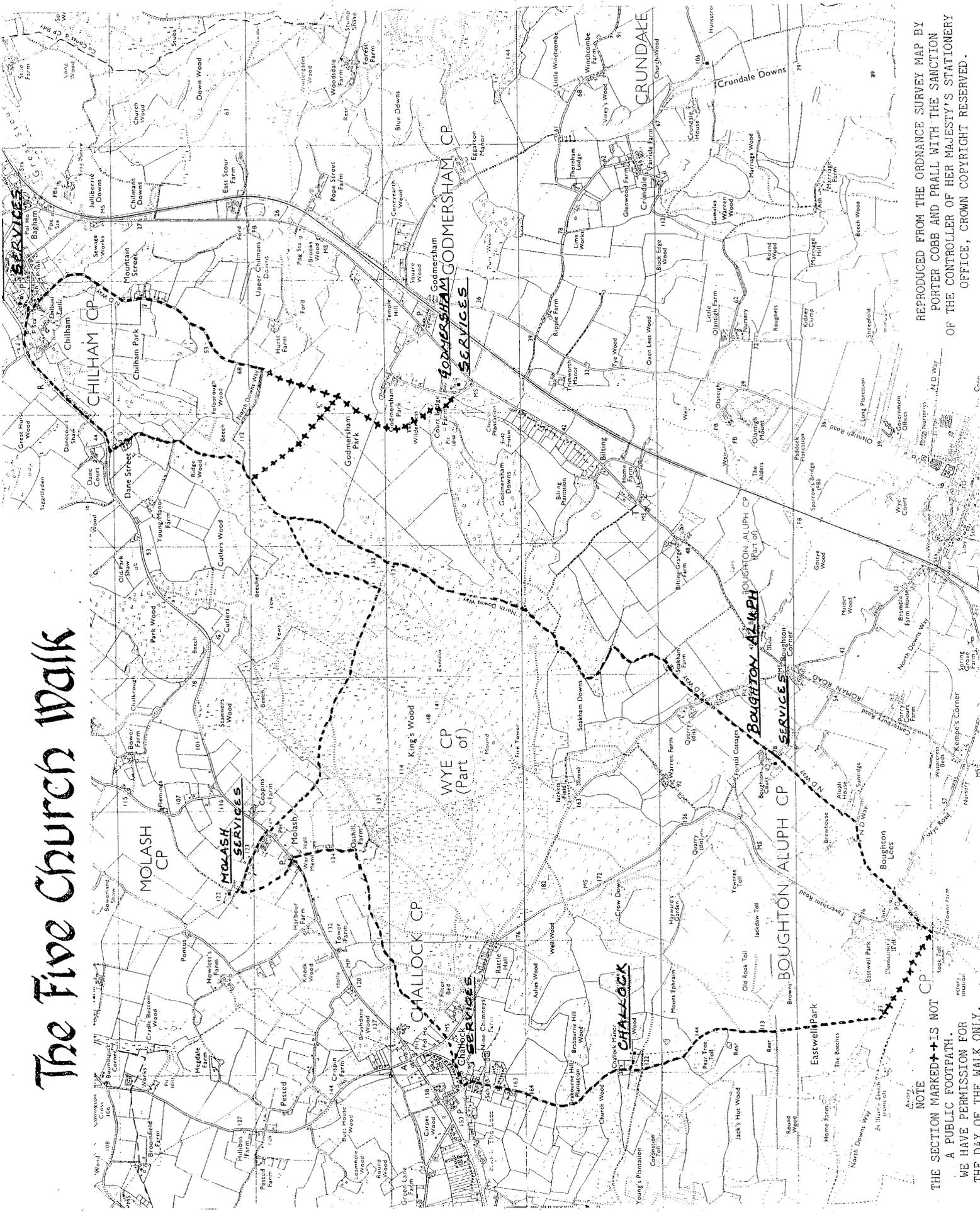
There are two blocks of houses on your right hand side followed by a woodyard and then the village hall on the right, opposite a modern barn.

Past the village hall is a small grass triangle with the War Memorial and you come to the A252 main Canterbury to Charing road. Cross the road and follow the path which is now quite narrow, leaving the telephone box on your right hand side. The path runs between the walled gardens of houses on either side and emerges in an orchard. The church may now be visible through the trees but there is no path marked on the ground but follow the signs. These will bring you out at the rear of the houses fronting Church Lane and climbing over two stiles will bring you to the church.



CHALLOCK CP

The Five Church Walk



REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP BY
 PORTER COBB AND PRALL WITH THE SANCTION
 OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY
 OFFICE, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

NOTE
 THE SECTION MARKED **+** IS NOT
 A PUBLIC FOOTPATH.
 WE HAVE PERMISSION FOR
 THE DAY OF THE WALK ONLY.

COMING EVENTS

MOLASH

- JUNE 16 Village Fete
 29/30/) Art exhibition and flower festival at St. Peters
) Church. There will be music on Saturday June 30.
) Paintings will be by local artists. If you wish
) to enter please contact P. R. Elsdon, Challock 287.
- SEPTEMBER 30 Molash Sponsored Ride. Enquiries to Mrs. Vinson
 Challock 213.

CHILHAM

- JULY 1 Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev'd Arthur Soar.
 15 Confirmation by the Bishop of Dover.
- AUGUST 27 Annual Church at home.
 Flower Festival, Exhibitions, Stalls.

GODMERSHAM

- MAY/JULY Best kept village competition.
- MAY 6/7 JANE AUSTEN REMEMBERED
 An exhibition at the Church.
- JULY Brownie Fete.
- SEPTEMBER 8 Gardeners Summer Show.

BOUGHTON ALUPH

- MAY 12 Boughton Aluph Dog Show.
- JUNE 16 Boughton Aluph Pleasure Fayre.

CHALLOCK

- MAY 5 Spring Bonnet Parade.
 6/7 Beech Court Gardens open in aid of the Church
 2pm. until 6pm.
- SEPTEMBER 8 Challock and Molash Gardening Society Autumn Show.
 Challock Primary School.

WYE

- MAY 26/27/28 Flower Festival.
 27 Village Sunday Special Service 10am. Parish Church

BROWN'S KITCHEN SHOP

(Canterbury 730 597)

HIGH CLASS FOODS

English & Continental Meats & Cheeses

Home Cooking

Bulk Pulses Rices Dried Fruits

BEERS ❁ WINES ❁ SPIRITS



A Warm, Courteous Welcome awaits you at
THE WOOLPACK INN

CHILHAM
Canterbury 730 208

CARVERY, STEAK BAR AND SEASONAL FISH

SUPERB ACCOMMODATION,
ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATH OR SHOWER

Colour T.V.
Four-poster also available

The Copper Kettle

Restaurant
(Fully Licensed)

THE SQUARE, CHILHAM

MORNING COFFEE, LUNCHEONS
TEAS
HOT FOOD SERVED ALL DAY

J. F. Durcan and E. F. Durcan
Phone 730 303

Established 1821

Worsfolds

Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers, Estate Agents and Valuers

- Sale of landed property by Auction and Private Treaty.
- Valuation of landed property for Sale, Probate and Insurance.
- Valuations for Rating and Appeals against Assessments.
- Fine Art and Chattel Valuations for Probate and Insurance.
- Structural Surveys and Reports.
- Town Planning Applications and Appeals.
- Management of Furnished and Unfurnished Houses and Business Premises.
- Regular Collective Sales of Furniture and Antiques.

3 St. Margaret's St., Canterbury
Tel: Canterbury 54925

Also at Deal, Dover, Faversham, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Hythe, Walmer,
St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kearsney, Sandwich. Shepherdswell



CHILHAM FRUIT STALL.

Canterbury Road, Chilham, Canterbury.
Kent.

Open March - December (incl.)

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Bread, Milk,

Cakes, Sweets, Ice Cream, etc.

Bedding Plants, Garden Furniture & Sundries,

House Plants, Cut Flowers, Local Jams,

Pottery etc. Pet Food.

G.R.Higgs & Son.

Canterbury

730348.

Eastwell Manor

Eastwell Park, Ashford, Kent,
England, TN25 4HR

Tel: Ashford 35751 Telex: 966281 EMANOR

Eastwell Manor is a 21 bedroom
Country House Hotel and Restaurant
standing in 3,000 acres of private parkland
The Manor has been lovingly restored
and although it was rebuilt from the
ground up in 1926, the original Manor
dates back to 1069.

Fresh flowers and open log fires
provide a warm welcome all year round.

The oak panelled restaurant offers
some of the finest food in the country;
the service is friendly and
personal and there is an extensive
wine list to choose from.

Lunch from £7.75 and Dinner from £15.00.

The setting is also ideal for
wedding receptions, small conferences
and business meetings.

THE FORGE BOOKSHOP

ANTIQUARIAN AND SECONDHAND BOOKS

THE STREET, CHILHAM

Tel. Canterbury 730 267

Chevron



**STOUR SERVICE
STATION**

Canterbury Road Chilham

Tel. 730227

PETROL - DIESEL - PARAFFIN AT COMPETITIVE PRICES. MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL REPAIRS, SERVICING, AND PRE-M.O.T. WORK. M.O.T. TESTS BY ARRANGEMENT. BODY AND PAINT REPAIRS, RE-SPRAYS & VALETING. CARS FOR REPAIR CAN BE COLLECTED & DELIVERED LOCALLY FREE OF CHARGE AND WE HAVE A LOCAL DAY-TIME TAXI SERVICE. WE ALSO HAVE A GOOD SELECTION OF GUARANTEED USED CARS, & A CAR WASH AND VAC.

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

SO CALL IN FOR ALL

YOUR MOTORING NEEDS!

BENNETT'S of CHILHAM

High Class
Retail
Butcher -



Specialist
Supplier to
Hotels,
Caterers &
Restaurants

FINEST Quality
Meat for your Freezer, cut,
packed to your requirements,
and Delivered.

ROSS Fish, Vegetables etc.
available.

MAY WE QUOTE YOU?

—

Call and see us or telephone
CANTERBURY (0227)730207

P. F. & A. WEAD

**The Post Office Stores
Chilham**

**Newsagent and Confectionery
Stationery, Greeting Cards
Films, Developing and Printing**

MOLDASH
COCKER SPANIELS



OLD MILL FARM
CHURCH LANE
MOLASH

Puppies Available Now
Black and Gold
Challock (023374) 346

LEESVIEW MOTORS
& SERVICE STATION

CANTERBURY ROAD,
CHALLOCK,

Telephone: Challock 539

A. W. & J. P. MANSFIELD

Salvages Bought & Sold Member: M.V.D.A.

Wye Lighting & Heating

R. A. RUMLEY

V.A.T. Reg. No.
201 7993 68

Electrical Contractors

Domestic Appliances

Sales and Service



9 CHURCH STREET
WYE
ASHFORD, KENT

Telephone : WYE 812375

CHEQUERS
CHALLOCK

OLDE WORLDE COUNTRY PUB

Excellent Lunchtime Food
Full Range of Beers Wines
and Spirits

Visit us and enjoy our
Hospitality