

## Church Keys

Most Marsh churches are open, but if not, instructions for obtaining the keys are posted near the entrance doors.

## Ruined Churches

Imposing ruins of churches whose villages and congregations have long since vanished can be found at Eastbridge between Newchurch and Burmarsh, Hope All Saints near New Romney and Midley between Lydd and New Romney.

## Discover more...

This leaflet was produced with the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust, which helps to preserve and maintain these churches and ruins. The Trust has produced a more detailed guide and runs occasional events. For more information see [www.romneychurches.net](http://www.romneychurches.net) or phone. 01580 241529.

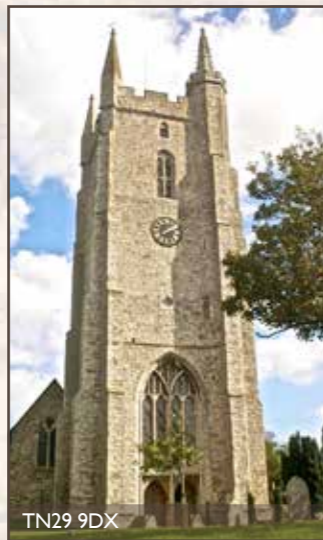
There's a lot more to explore on the Marsh.

For a great start to your visit why not drop into the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre at-  
Dymchurch Road  
New Romney TN28 8AY  
01797 369487  
[www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/romney-marsh-visitor-centre](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/romney-marsh-visitor-centre)



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## Lydd ~ All Saints



TN29 9DX

At 199 ft (60.7m) this is the longest parish church in Kent and its 15th century tower is one of the tallest with a height of 132 ft (40.2m). It is a magnificent church known locally as the Cathedral of the Marsh. In the northwest corner the remains of a 4th or 5th century Romano-British basilica have been incorporated into the walls of the 13th century church. The church has a

remarkable collection of monuments ranging from a brass to John Mottesfont to a roundel carved in marble by John Flaxman in memory of Anne Russell and her son.

*C'est la plus longue église paroissiale du Kent et sa tour du 15e siècle est l'une des plus hautes. Elle est connue localement comme la Cathédrale du Marsh.*



TN28 8EU

## Newchurch ~ St. Peter and St. Paul



TN29 0DP

This large church is famous for its bent tower. The first two stages of the tower, built in the 15th century, began to lean alarmingly and were buttressed to prevent the tower collapsing. Many years later the final stage was added in an upright position, giving the tower its characteristic bent shape. Inside is a fine Jacobean pulpit, the oldest on the Marsh.

The magnificent font bears the emblems of St. Peter and St. Paul together with the roses of York and Lancaster and the Tudor rose.

*Cette grande église est célèbre pour sa tour penchée. On trouve à l'intérieur une chaire de l'époque de Jacques Ier, la plus ancienne du Marsh.*

## New Romney ~ St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas's is the sole survivor of four mediaeval churches in the ancient town of New Romney, one of the original five Cinque Ports. Built in the mid 12th century, the nave retains its original low Norman arcades with alternating round and octagonal Caen stone piers. By contrast, the grand 14th century east end is spacious and light with tall, slim piers of Kentish rag stone. The West Door is now well below ground level due to the shingle and mud deposited in the town by the great storm of 1287.

*Construite au milieu du 12e siècle, la nef garde ses arcs bas et normands d'origine supportés par des colonnes rondes et octogonales alternées en pierre de Caen.*

## Old Romney ~ St. Clement



TN29 0HP

Originally constructed in the mid 12th century with just nave and chancel, the aisles were added in the 13th century. The interior takes the visitor by surprise with its 18th century minstrels' gallery and box pews, all painted pink! The latter transformation was carried out by Walt Disney Productions when making a film in 1963 based on the smuggling adventure *Dr Syn*, written by Russell Thorndike and set on Romney Marsh. Film director Derek Jarman is buried in the churchyard.

*À l'origine construite au milieu du 12e siècle avec juste une nef et un chœur, les nefs latérales ont été ajoutées au 13e siècle.*

## St. Mary in the Marsh ~ St. Mary the Virgin



TN29 0BY

This picturesque mid 12th century church is set upon a mound above the one time level of winter flooding. As with so many Marsh churches, the aisles were added in the 13th century to accommodate

an increasing number of guild and chantry altars, leaving the nave free for the also rapidly increasing congregation. Outside, in the south wall of the chancel, a priest's door remains and next to it a scratch dial can be seen. In the churchyard, simple wooden posts and a rail mark the grave of E. Nesbit, author of *The Railway Children* and other children's books.

*Cette pittoresque église du milieu du 12e siècle est construite sur un monticule, au-dessus du niveau des inondations hivernales d'autrefois.*

## Snargate ~ St. Dunstan

Built c. 1200, the north and south aisles were soon added and in the 14th century a spacious east end was created. In the north aisle there is a wall painting of a great ship dated c. 1500, a reminder of the nearby shipbuilding yards that existed at that time. From 1817 to 1829 the Rev. Richard Harris Barham was the vicar of St. Dunstan's, during which time he wrote his humorous tales *The Ingoldsby Legends*, some of which relate to Marsh folklore.

*Construite en 1200 les nefs latérales nord et sud ont été vite ajoutées et au 14e siècle une spacieuse extrémité est été créée.*



TN26 2QJ

## Snave ~ St. Augustine

During springtime this small church is approached through an avenue of daffodils. In the northeast chapel is a large stove, not put in for the comfort of the congregation, but to keep children warm when this part of the church was used as a school. Although now redundant, St. Augustine's is entirely maintained by the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

*Bien que maintenant désaffectée, l'église est entretenue par le Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.*



TN29 0EW

# The Mediaeval Churches of Romney Marsh

## A ROMNEY MARSH HERITAGE TRAIL







## The Story of the Churches

The mediaeval churches of Romney Marsh were built by the lords of the manors on the Marsh to serve the communities. Although the population of the area was never high, the churches were often built on a large scale to reflect the importance of the parish or the importance of the patron. Today these churches offer a glimpse into the past, their quietness and coolness providing a retreat from the hustle and bustle of the modern world.

*Les églises médiévales de Romney Marsh ont été bâties par les châtelains pour la population locale. Aujourd'hui ces églises nous laissent entrevoir le passé.*



TN29 0BJ

### Brenzett ~ St. Eanswith

Set amongst trees, St. Eanswith's is one of the smaller churches on the Marsh, probably having its origins in the 7th century, although no sign remains of a Saxon building. The present church was commenced in the late 12th century. A large tomb to John Fagge and his son dominates the Lady Chapel and was the inspiration for E. Nesbit's ghost story, *Man-Size in Marble*.

*St Eanswith est l'une des plus petites églises du Marsh. L'église actuelle a été commencée à la fin du 12e siècle.*

### Brookland ~ St. Augustine



TN29 9QR

This church presents a very different image from others on the Marsh because it has a detached wooden bell

tower. Recent research shows that the tower was built in the late 13th century as an open structure and was doubled in height to its present 60ft (18.3m) and clad with shingles in the 15th century. The fine interior of the 13th century church has the highest box pews on the Marsh and a double-decker pulpit complete with sounding board. A mediaeval wall painting of the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket survives in the southeast chapel and a Norman lead font is still in use in the nave.

*Cette église a un clocher en bois, détaché de l'église. Le superbe intérieur de l'église du 13e siècle possède les plus hauts bancs fermés sur le Marsh.*

### Burmarsh ~ All Saints



TN29 0JJ

At 13ft (4m) below sea level, this is the lowest of the Marsh churches in its elevation. The south entrance is through an impressive Norman doorway with typical rounded arch and chevron mouldings topped by a grotesque man's face. Two of the original mediaeval bells

dating from around 1375 are still being rung today, while the original tenor bell, dedicated to the Magdalene, sadly now cracked, can be seen on the floor of the church.

*À 4m sous le niveau de la mer, c'est l'église située le plus bas des églises du Marsh. La porte sud se trouve sous un impressionnant portail roman.*



TN29 0LD

### Dymchurch ~ St. Peter and St. Paul

The original Norman design of the church stood until 1821 when the building was enlarged to accommodate the flourishing congregation of the town. Inside the church the magnificent Norman chancel arch remains, while outside two mediaeval scratch dials can still be found, one inside the porch and one on the south wall of the nave.

*L'église romane d'origine est restée intacte jusqu'en 1821. À l'intérieur de l'église le magnifique arc roman subsiste.*

### East Guldeford ~ St. Mary



TN31 7PA

Built by Sir Richard de Guldeford and consecrated in September 1505, the church is unusual in that it is constructed of brick and is the only one of the Marsh churches in Sussex. An 18th century

double-decker pulpit remains in the nave, while in the chancel there is a 19th century painted frieze of angels, illustrating the Six Days of Creation.

*L'église est peu commune en raison de sa construction en briques qui en fait la seule à l'être des églises du Marsh dans le Sussex.*



TN29 9RZ

### Fairfield ~ St. Thomas Becket

The definitive image of a Marsh church, this church sits alone next to a water-filled dyke and is visible from a great distance across fields and grassland. Until the 1960s it was often cut off by winter flooding, when it could only be reached by boat. Inside, the church presents a perfect 18th century interior with white-painted triple-decker pulpit and box pews, complete with oval text boards.

*L'image typique d'une église du Marsh. L'intérieur est un parfait exemple d'une église du 18e siècle.*

### Ivychurch ~ St. George

Built under the patronage of the Archbishops of Canterbury, St. George's is a substantial church measuring 133 ft (40.5m) in length, reflecting not the size of the population



TN29 0AL

of the parish, but the prestige of the archbishops. Inside some beautifully carved 15th century choir stalls remain, and a grand Kentish rag stone font of the same period. Smugglers' tunnels are said to connect the church with the local pub, and legend has it that at times services could not be held because of contraband stored in the aisles and pulpit.

*St George est une grande église qui reflète le prestige des archevêques. On dit que des tunnels destinés à la contrebande relierait l'église au pub du coin.*