1 Introduction

Until the mid-19th century the diocese of Canterbury comprised parishes in Kent, east of the river Medway. But with the rearrangements of the boundaries of the sees of London, Rochester, and Canterbury following the abolition of exempt jurisdictions in 1845, a number of parishes in the deaneries of Malling and Dartford and the archbishop’s peculiar of Shoreham were transferred to the diocese of Canterbury.

In addition the Canterbury diocese gained the Surrey parishes of Croydon, a former archiepiscopal peculiar, and of Addington, formerly in the diocese of Winchester, but including Addington Park, purchased as an archiepiscopal residence in 1807. With the exception of Croydon and Addington, all the parishes gained in 1846 reverted to the diocese of Rochester following the founding of the diocese of Southwark in 1904.

2 List of Parishes of the Diocese

The numbers in the table below refer to the location of the parish, and can be found in the map below (3). Roughly, numbers 1-100 are to be found to the left, numbers 101-200 in the centre, and 201 onwards to the right.

227 Acol
175 Acrise
219 Adisham
138 Aldington
209  Alkham
223  All Saints, Thanet
11   Appledore
232  Ash
113  Ashford
106  Badlesmere
89   Bapchild
249  Barfreston
205  Barham
41   Bearsted
200  Bekesbourne
20   Benenden
77   Bethersden
243  Betteshanger
69   Bicknor
19   Biddenden
121  Bilsington
226  Birchington
203  Bishopsbourne
131  Blackmanstone
55   Bobbing
136  Bonnington
54   Borden
111  Boughton Alulph
154  Boughton under Blean
74   Boughton Malherbe
31   Boughton Monchelsea
42   Boxley
146  Brabourne
68   Bredgar
49   Bredhurst
7    Brenzett
202  Bridge
147  Brook
4    Brookland
36   Broomfield
2    Broomhill
254  Buckland near Dover
94   Buckland near Faversham
134  Burmarsh
275  Canterbury, All Saints
275  Canterbury, Holy Cross
275  Canterbury, St Alphage
275  Canterbury, St Andrew
275  Canterbury, St Cosmus & Damien le Blean
275  Canterbury, St George
275  Canterbury, St Margaret
275  Canterbury, St Mary Bredman
275 Canterbury, St Mary Magdalen
275 Canterbury, St Mildred
275 Canterbury, St Peter
184 Canterbury, St Dunstan
181 Canterbury, St Mary Bredin
185 Canterbury, St Mary, Northgate
198 Canterbury, St Martin
199 Canterbury, St Paul
211 Capel le Ferne
108 Challock
80 Charing
256 Charlton
115 Great Chart
79 Little Chart
162 Chatham
32 Chart Sutton
172 Cheriton
152 Chilham
246 Chillenden
193 Chislet
251 Coldred
24 Cranbrook
150 Cranleigh
97 Davington
272 Deal
206 Denton
43 Detling
85 Doddington
258 Dover, St James
257 Dover, St Mary
259 Dover, St Peter
133 Dymchurch
135 Eastbridge
61 Eastchurch
262 East Langdon
244 Eastry
34 East Sutton
102 Eastling
110 Eastwell
12 Ebony
75 Egerton
176 Elham
60 Elmley
165 Elmsted
233 Elmstone
215 Ewell
250 Eythorne
8 Fairfield
99  Faversham
173  Folkestone
189  Fordwich
  71  Frinsted
  25  Frittenden
151  Godmersham
156  Goodnestone near Faversham
247  Goodnestone near Wingham
  23  Goudhurst
157  Graveney
255  Guston
186  Hackington
178  Upper Hardres
179  Lower Hardres
  52  Halstow
242  Ham
161  Harbledown
  72  Harrietsham
  48  Hartlip
  62  Harty
166  Hastingsleigh
  22  Hawkhurst
210  Hawkinge
  26  Headcorn
  190  Herne
155  Hernehill
  18  High Halden
148  Hinshill
192  Hoath
  45  Hollingbourne
129  Hope, All Saints
114  Hothfield
212  Hougham
  46  Huckling
  137  Hurst
141  Hythe
220  Ickham
   6  Ivychurch
  56  Iwade
125  Kenardington
112  Kennington
  87  Kingsdown
117  Kingsnorth
204  Kingston
245  Knowlton
  38  Langley
230  St Lawrence in Thanet
104  Leaveland
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201 Patrixbourne
163 Petham
78 Pluckley
169 Postling
213 Poulton
100 Preston near Faversham
221 Preston near Wingham
58 Queenborough
50 Rainham
191 Reculver
264 Ringwould
265 Ripple
214 River
88 Rodmersham
15 Rolvenden
128 New Romney
5 Old Romney
122 Ruckinge
142 Saltwood
21 Sandhurst
240 Sandwich, St Clement
239 Sandwich, St Mary
238 Sandwich, St Peter
158 Seasalter
144 Sellinge
153 Selling
120 Sevington
116 Shadoxhurst
105 Sheidwich
271 Shoulden
217 Sibertswold
66 Sittingbourne
76 Smarden
145 Smeeith
9 Snargate
126 S nave
81 Stalisfield
143 Stanford
235 Staple
27 Staplehurst
177 Stelling
47 Stockbury
195 Stodmarsh
237 Stonar
10 Stone in Oxney
95 Stone near Faversham
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3 Map of the Parishes of the Diocese of Canterbury

This map and list of parishes is reproduced by kind permission from The Speculum of Archbishop Thomas Secker ed. J. Gregory (Church of England Record Society 2; publ. Woodbridge: Boydell for the Church of England Record Society 1995).

4 Peculiar Jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury

'Peculiars' were those parishes or places which were exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop in whose diocese they were physically located, and were answerable directly to another. In the case of the Archbishop, he exercised episcopal jurisdiction over a number of parishes in various parts of southern England outside the diocese of Canterbury.

For administrative purposes, these parishes were formed into eight deaneries: the Arches (city of London parishes); Bocking (Essex and Suffolk), Croydon (Middlesex and Surrey); Monks Risborough (Bucks., and Oxon.), Pagham, South Malling, and Tarring (Sussex), and Shoreham (Kent).

From the abolition of peculiar jurisdictions in 1845, some of the Kent and Surrey parishes were incorporated within the diocese of Canterbury, while others were transferred to the diocese in which they were geographically located (ie. city of London to the diocese of London).
4.1 Deanery of the Arches
Thirteen parishes in the city of London, exempt from the bishop of London. Some of the churches were united with other churches which were not exempt - the latter have been noted in brackets.

All Hallows, Bread Street w. St. John the Evangelist, Watling Street
All Hallows, Lombard Street
St. Dionis Backchurch
St. Dunstan-in-the-East
St. Leonard, Eastcheap w. (St. Benet, Gracechurch)
St. Mary Aldermary w. St. Thomas the Apostle
St. Mary Bothaw w. (St. Swithin)
St. Mary-le-Bow w. (St. Pancras, Soper Lane, and All Hallows, Honey Lane)
St. Michael, Crooked Lane
St. Michael Paternoster Royal w. (St. Martin Vintry)
St. Vedast, Foster Lane w. (St. Michael-le-Querne)

4.2 Deanery of Croydon
With the exception of four parishes in Middlesex (Harrow, Hayes, Norwood and Pinner), all the parishes were in Surrey. The Middlesex parishes were exempt from the bishop of London and the Surrey parishes from the bishop of Winchester.

Barnes
Burstow
Charlwood
Cheam
Croydon
East Horsley
Harrow w. Harrow Weald chapelry
Hayes
Merstham
Mortlake
Newington (Newington Butts)
Norwood
Pinner
Putney
Roehampton
Walworth
Wimbledon
4.3 Deanery of Shoreham

Parishes in Kent, exempt from the bishop of Rochester, and under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury

The map below is reproduced by kind permission from The Speculum of Archbishop Thomas Secker ed. J. Gregory (Church of England Record Society 2; publ. Woodbridge: Boydell for the Church of England Record Society 1995)

Map 2 Peculiars in the diocese of Rochester (Deanery of Shoreham)

Bexley w. Bexley Heath
Brasted
Chevening
Chiddingstone
Cliffe
Crayford
Darenth
Downe
East Malling
East Farleigh
East Peckham
Eynsford
Farningham
Gillingham w. Lydsing chapelry
Grain, St. James in the Isle of
Halstead
Hayes
Hever
Hunton
Ifield
Ightham
Keston
Knockholt
Meopham
Northfleet
Orpington
Otford
Penshurst
Riverhead
St. Mary Cray
Sevenoaks
Sevenoaks Weald
Shoreham
Sundridge w. Ide Hill chapelry
Wrotham w. Plaxtol and Stansted chapelries

4.4 Deanery of Bocking

Parishes in Essex and Suffolk, exempt from the bishop of London and the bishop of Norwich respectively, and under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bocking, Essex
Hadleigh, Suffolk
Monks Eleigh, Suffolk
Latchingdon w. Lawling, Essex
Moulton, Suffolk
Southchurch, Essex
Stisted, Essex

4.5 Deaneries of Pagham and Tarring

Parishes in Sussex, exempt from the bishop of Chichester, and under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bersted
Bognor
Chichester, All Saints Pallant
East Lavant
Pagham
Patching
Slindon
Tangmere
West Tarring w. Heene and Durrington
4.6 Deanery of South Malling
Parishes in west Sussex, exempt from the bishop of Chichester, and under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Buxted w. Uckfield chapelry
Cliffe (St. Thomas at Cliffe in Lewes)
Edburton
Framfield
Glynde
Isfield
Lindfield
Mayfield
Ringmere
South Malling
Stanmer w. Falmer
Wadhurst

4.7 Deanery of Monks Risborough
Parishes in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, originally exempt from the bishop of Lincoln, and under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Halton
Little Brickhill
Newington
Risborough
Wootton Underwood