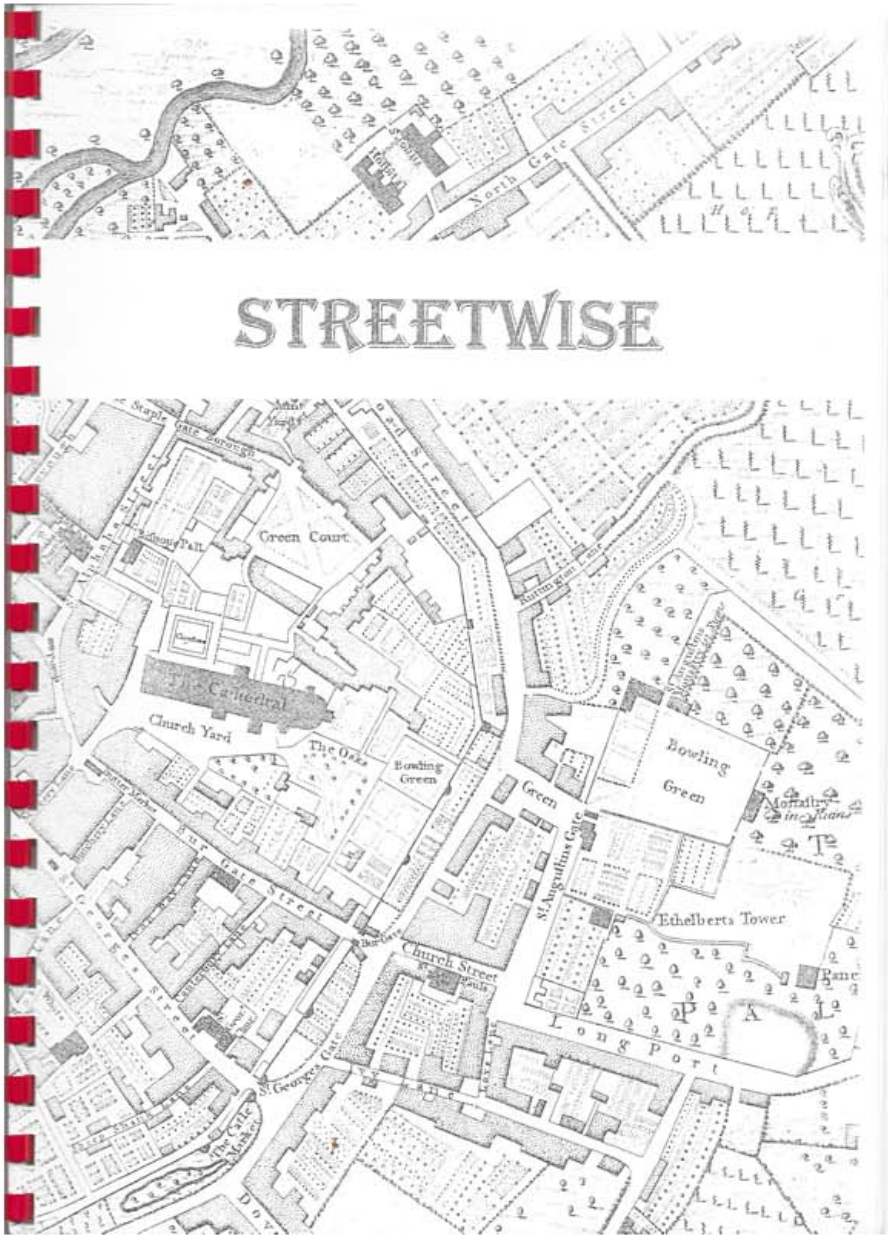


CHAS SCANS

Between 1977 and 2002 Canterbury Urban Studies Centre and Canterbury Environment Centre published around 30 guides and city trails describing various aspects of Canterbury's past. Both organisations were based in St Alphege church.

Between them they produced 14 titles in the 'Trails' series, and a further 16 titles outside the main series. All are now out of print and many are difficult (a few impossible) to find through normal second hand sources. Many contain information that is not readily available in other printed or on line sources.

CHAS (Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society) is scanning a selection of these publications for uploading to the CHAS website as PDFs. In this way a new generation of readers and researchers can have access to this unique resource.

A full list of these publications appears on the CHAS website:

http://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk

STREETWISE

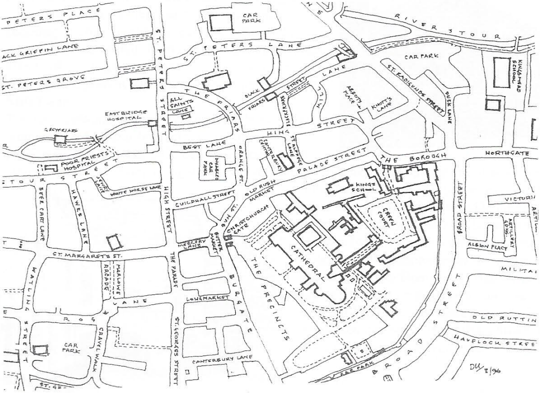
Getting to know a town or city is rather like doing a jigsaw puzzle. You have to fit a lot of pieces together to get the complete picture. There are several starting points. You could buy a map or a guidebook. You could look at the buildings. You could chat to the local residents.

Here is another approach - to take the street names.

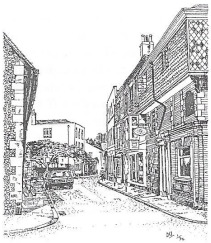
What's in a name? Street names can tell us a lot. They can be instant historical guides - clues to the past life of an area, to important buildings that may no longer exist, to local heroes or natural features at the time the road was made.

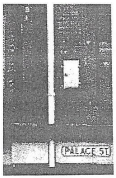
All you need is curiosity and a bit of imagination. If you are really keen perhaps spend a rainy afternoon in your local library looking up the more difficult ones.

Here we look at some of Canterbury's street names and what they tell us.



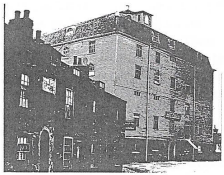
The street name of **St. Alphege Lane** reminds us that the Canterbury Environment Centre was formerly the parish church of St. Alphege. Alphege was an Anglo-Saxon archbishop of Canterbury. The Danish Vikings captured him in a raid on the city in 1012, when the cathedral was burnt down. He refused to allow a ransom to be paid for his release and was, therefore, murdered by the Danes at Greenwich.



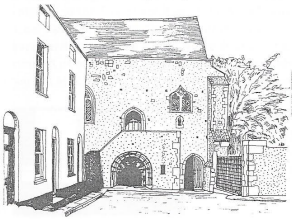


Palace Street takes its name from the medieval Archbishop's Palace. Archbishop Lanfranc built a new palace here after a fire of 1067, even altering the line of the street at The Borough end in order to do so, and its successors have been on or near the same site ever since. The flint building next to Forwoods music shop was part of the medieval palace gatehouse.

Canterbury's importance as a religious centre is reflected in many street-names. The medieval city had several monasteries and churches, including St. Augustine's Abbey, ruled by abbots, and the cathedral containing the archbishop's seat. **Abbots Place**, near King Street, was named after Archbishop Abbot who while out shooting in 1621, shot a gamekeeper instead of a deer. It also reminds us that, from the late 12th century, the abbots of St. Augustine's owned a mill on a site opposite the present day Miller's Arms pub, in nearby **Mill Lane**.



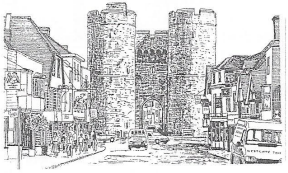
The river powered many mills in Canterbury; these were mostly for flour but there were others for parchment and fuelling. Mill Lane was originally a straight road continuing along the course of the present **Blackfriars Street**, but it was diverted to follow its present route, to the left, in 1247, when the grounds of the new Dominican priory were enclosed by a stone wall. Various orders of friars (who were known by the colour of their habits) had monasteries in medieval Canterbury. The Dominican (Blackfriars) priory was built on this site by the river between 1237-59. The friars' refectory building, which you can see in Blackfriars Street, was a part of the cloister. Beyond this, across the



river, is the former guest house.
St. Radigund's Street - nearby was once a large house of the Abbot of St. Radigund's at Bradsole near Dover. St Radigund's Street was once called Waterlock Lane because of the bridge over the river, which was a water gate and therefore 'locked in' the water.

The Causeway was originally a raised pathway across boggy ground. The river here now flows through man-made channels and is regulated higher up stream, but this area was notorious for flooding until very recently.

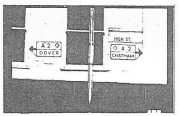
Pound Lane was so called because of the city pound, the enclosure where stray animals were put to be claimed, for a fee, by their owners. Sheep and cattle were driven through the streets to market up until the Second World War. An early police station was erected in this street in 1829.



St. Dunstan's Street leads from the fourteenth-century Westgate towers to the medieval suburb and church of St. Dunstan's. Visitors to Canterbury cannot miss seeing that large sections of the old city wall survive. Cities with walls had to have gates. These were locked at night and there were strict laws relating to them. In many cities most or all of the walls have gone, the materials having been used for newer buildings. Of Canterbury's gates only Westgate survives.

Roper Road - The Ropers were an important Kentish gentry family in the Tudor period. They occupied a large house on the north side of St. Dunstan's Street behind the surviving mid-sixteenth-century redbrick gateway, not far up from the present Roper Road. John Roper, Henry VIII's attorney general, died in 1524. His son William married Margaret More, the favourite daughter of Sir Thomas More, Henry VIII's famous Lord Chancellor. More's head was interred in the Roper vault in St. Dunstan's church in 1544, after he was executed for opposing Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

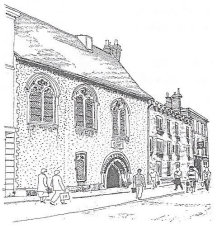
Orchard Street and Forty Acres Road - These roads are now built up areas, but their names remind us of the fields and fruit trees that existed here close to the city suburbs until not so long ago. The ages of the houses tell us when the orchards were felled and the fields parcelled up for building.



London Road - some of the principle routes out of the city are named after the towns to which they led. Saxon monk, medieval pilgrim, Victorian coach and twentieth-century motor coach have all approached or left Canterbury along London Road and through

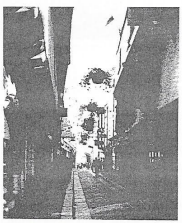
the Westgate.

Canterbury's main street follows an almost straight line from Westgate to the site of the St. George's gate at the other end of the city centre. Medieval documents often refer to this road simply as the 'main street', but it now changes its name several times on the way. From Westgate to Kingsbridge it is called **St. Peter's Street,** named after St. Peter's church, which is the only remaining one of five churches, which formerly stood along the main street. Black Griffin Lane is an old passage off St. Peter's Street, and it took its name from the adjacent pub, which has only recently been renamed.



Kingsbridge, also known as Eastbridge, is called this because it stands on the king's highway. It was built in the reign of Richard I (1189-99). The Kingsmill once stood on the north-west side of the bridge. Eastbridge Hospital, standing on the opposite side, was founded c.1180 and still serves as almshouses. The church of All Saints once stood beyond this bridge, and the outline of its walls is indicated by coloured paving slabs in front of the coffee and ice cream shop.

From Eastbridge to **Mercery Lane** the main street is called **High Street. Best Lane**, which comes off the north side of the High Street, takes its name from a local family. Thomas Best kept the Three Tuns inn where he entertained Charles II on his Restoration to the throne in 1660. The only street in Canterbury named after a monarch is Orange Street. William of Orange, who became William III of England, was popular locally. Guildhall Street, at the other end of Orange Street, was built in 1806 and named after the medieval guildhall, which existed at its junction with the High Street. The Guildhall, also called the moot-hall, which was a timber-framed structure built in 1437, was demolished in 1950, and a shoe shop now occupies the site. An adjacent medieval inn was demolished in 1806 to open up the new road.



Mercery Lane connects the main street with the Buttermarket and the cathedral gate. One 'Solomon the Mercer' was recorded living on the corner of this lane in the mid-twelfth century. Mercers sold cloth and textiles, many woven locally, especially ones such as silks and damasks. At the cathedral end, Debenhams stands on the site of the medieval Crown Inn. The stone-arched shop at the western corner of Mercery Lane and the High Street is all that remains of the Chequer of the Hope, a large inn built by the cathedral priory for pilgrims in 1392-5. Another medieval pilgrims' hostel survives diagonally opposite, now occupied by Next. These hostels witness to the upsurge in popularity of going on pilgrimages, which occurred after the Black Death.

After Mercery Lane the High Street becomes **The Parade**, and then **St. George's Street** St. Andrew's church once stood in the middle of The Parade with a short row of small shops, forcing traffic along two narrow side passages. This church was demolished around 1764 and rebuilt at the side of the road, and has since disappeared altogether.

The **St. George's Street** end of town was badly bombed in 1942 and only the tower remains of St. George's church where the Elizabethan play write Christopher Marlowe was christened in 1564. No trace survives of the medieval St. George's Gate, which was positioned in the city wall at this point. It was demolished in 1801 and the stone was used to pave the cattle market beyond. This market, which began in 923, continued in existence until 1958 when it gave way to the ring-road.

A friary founded in 1234 by the Augustinians who were called **'Whitefriars'** because of their habits occupied Whitefriars - the site of this shopping complex in medieval times. This area is being redeveloped.

Burgate Lane runs alongside the city wall from the site of St. George's gate to Burgate Street. This street was named after another of the medieval city gates, and it has a history of more than a thousand years - this 'borough' gate was one of the entrances to the Anglo-Saxon city ('burgh' was a Saxon word for 'town'). The gate itself was of Roman origin, and was completely removed by 1822.

Butchery Lane, one of several passages connecting Burgate Street with the main street, has been called this for just two hundred years, although there were butchers living there in the fifteenth century. In the past, different trades tended to cluster in particular areas of the city. Even today certain shops and trades seem to cluster together - for example the Estate Agents in Castle Street.

Beyond this lane is the **Buttermarket.** It has only been called this for the last two hundred years. Previously it was called the Bullstake, because bulls were baited here for sport and in order to tenderise their flesh before having them slaughtered nearby. On the east side of the Buttermarket is a large fifteenth-century building, formerly the Bull Inn, which was built by the cathedral to house pilgrims.

Sun Street, connecting the Buttermarket with Palace Street, was the site of the medieval Rush Market, and it takes its name from the Sun Inn, which is a sixteenth-century building.
Turnagain Lane, off Palace Street, unsurprisingly leads nowhere.
The name of **Northgate** reminds us of the prior existence of another of the medieval city gates. The closed church of St. Mary Northgate indicates where this gate was. Originally its chancel extended out onto the top of the gate until it was demolished in 1830. It was not unusual for a church to be built above or near a gate, and there were once other examples above Westgate and Burgate.

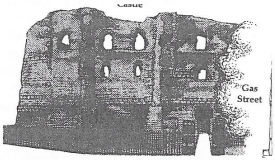
Oaten Hill was once the location of yet another of Canterbury's old markets - that for grain. Oats were fed to horses.

Nunnery Fields - The fields, which have been built over in recent times, formerly belonged to the Benedictine priory of St. Sepulchre, situated on the corner of Old Dover Road and Oaten Hill until its closure in 1537. One of the last nuns here was Elizabeth Barton, the 'Holy Maid of Kent', who was executed in 1533 for prophesying Henry VIII's death after his divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

In medieval times Dover traffic arrived in Canterbury along the Old Dover Road and continued down Oaten Hill and Dover Street. The original Roman route continued down the Old Dover Road entering the city along the street now called Watling Street. Until recent times almost the entire length of the London to Dover road followed the route of the Roman Watling Street, an important Roman road that continued beyond London to Chester. Canterbury's New Dover Road was opened in the late 18th century. In 1981 the A2 Canterbury by-pass was opened, taking through traffic right away from the city.

St Margaret's Street connects Watling Street with the High Street. It is another of Canterbury's many streets named after churches. St. Margaret's church now houses the 'Canterbury Tales' centre. The names of two streets coming off Castle Street tell us about churches that used to exist and have since disappeared. The site of St. John's church in **St. John's Lane** was sold in 1795. St Mary de Castro church, in St. Mary's Street, was demolished in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, and only its graveyard survives as public gardens adjacent to Castle Street.

Castle Street is named after the massive Norman castle situated just inside the city wall, which was begun in the 1090s. The keep was used as a prison for east Kent from the later middle ages, and lateras a coal store. Further along the wall from the castle is Dane John. This pleasant public garden, landscaped in the eighteenth century, once formed part of the castle grounds. It gets its name from Don Jon or dungeon. The Normans built their first temporary castle - a mote and bailey - on this prehistoric burial mound. This in turn was remodelled into a feature for the 18th century gardens. Beside Canterbury's castle is Gas Street, so called because of the nineteenth-century gas works, which was located here on the site of the present car park and housing.



From **Duck Lane** it can be seen that the north wall of St. Mary's incorporates part of the city wall and contains Roman tiles.

High Street St Gregory's - the name of this small road recalls the existence here of St. Gregory's Priory, a house of Augustinian canons founded in 1084 by Archbishop Lanfranc. The canons ministered to poor people living in St. John's Hospital on the other side of Northgate. The hospital survives as almshouses, but St Gregory's was dissolved in 1537 and has disappeared.

The military have left their mark on the city as well as the Church. A large area of suburban housing was put up in the 19th century for army personnel. The barracks lay along the new **Military Road** and off this is **Artillery Street**. **Alma Street**, nearby, commemorates the battle of the Alma fought in the Crimea in 1854. Sir Colin Campbell, Lord Clyde, was commander of the 2nd Brigade of Highlanders at the Alma. He also distinguished himself in the Indian Mutiny at the second relief of Lucknow in 1857 two months after General Havelock had achieved the first relief. **Havelock Street**, not far away, has slightly larger houses than the other streets nearby and is closer to the town. Its first houses were built in the 1850s and then it filled up over the next decade. There is a statue of General Havelock in Trafalgar Square in London.

Old Ruttington Lane is much older than New Ruttington Lane close by. This now insignificant lane is one of the oldest in Canterbury. Its name has changed little in 1400 years, having been spelt 'Drutintune' in Saxon times. It is likely that Queen Bertha and King Ethelbert brought St. Augustine into the city along this lane, in 597, entering by the Queningate. 'Queen Bertha's Walk' is now one of the attractions of the 'Canterbury World Heritage Site', which connects the cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey ruins and the ancient St. Martin's church.

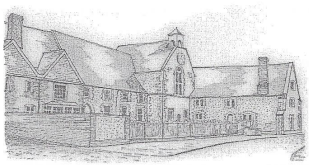
In **Monastery Street** may be found the fourteenth-century Great Gate and smaller Cemetery Gate of St. Augustine's Abbey. This great medieval monastery, whose ruins are entered from Longport, was originally founded soon after St. Augustine's arrival in Canterbury, and was rebuilt after the Norman Conquest. It was a centre of learning and an important land-owner in east Kent until its dissolution by Henry VIII in 1538.

Lady Wooton's Green was formerly called Mulberry Tree Green, but was renamed after the wife of a 17th century owner of St. Augustine's abbey. Running parallel is Church Street St. Paul's, so-called for obvious reasons.

Longport was the location of another of Canterbury's medieval markets, and was developed by the adjacent St. Augustine's Abbey.

Upper/Lower Chantry Lane - Chantry chapels were places where medieval priests were paid to sing masses for the souls of the dead. The chapel, which gave this street its name, was positioned on the corner of the present Edward Road. It was founded in the mid-thirteenth century by Master Hamo Doge, who was a wealthy rector of St. Paul's church nearby and a lawyer active in city affairs.

Hospital Lane, which connects Castle Street with Stour Street, takes its name from the ancient Maynard and Cotton hospital, which was founded in Henry II's reign for seven poor citizens by a certain Maynier the Rich. The parallel Rosemary Lane marks the old boundary of the hospital garden and its name perhaps refers to the medicinal herbs grown there.



Stour Street runs parallel with the river, and **Water Lane** leads off it to the Stour. Another Water Lane, off **St. Dunstan's Street**, has now been renamed Linden Grove. The name of Greyfriars Cottages reminds us of the Franciscan (Greyfriars) priory, founded in 1224, which formerly occupied a large tract of land on the other side of the river. One small building and a bridge remain in gardens reached by a path leading off Stour Street to the left of the Poor Priests' Hospital (now the Canterbury Heritage Centre).

Beer Cart Lane, opposite the Heritage Centre, once had a brewery on the corner. Much beer was drunk in the past when it was usually safer than unclean water.

Jewry Lane, behind the County Hotel, was at the heart of Canterbury's medieval Jewish quarter, which was one of the wealthiest Jewish communities in medieval England. In the twelfth century this quarter occupied an area bounded by the High Street, Stour Street, Whitehorse Lane (which was called Jewry Lane until the seventeenth century) and the present Jewry Lane. There was a synagogue in Stour Street and over twenty households including that of Jacob the Jew on the site of the modern County Hotel. Relations with the city were good in the twelfth century, but there were two pogroms in the thirteenth century before the general expulsion of Jews from England in 1290.

Worthgate Place - Worthgate was another of the Roman gates, which was later incorporated into the Norman castle. It was blocked up in 1548 when the Wincheap Gate was built allowing access to the city avoiding the castle grounds.

The width of **Wincheap** beyond the railway bridge is a clear sign that it was the location of another of the medieval city's markets, perhaps one for wine or, Tim Tatton-Brown suggests (CANTERBURY: HISTORY AND GUIDE, 1994), for wains (a type of large cart).

Gordon Road, in the Wincheap suburb, commemorates General Gordon, hero of the siege of Khartoum in the Sudan, which city he held for 317 days against the Mahdi until he was killed in January 1885.

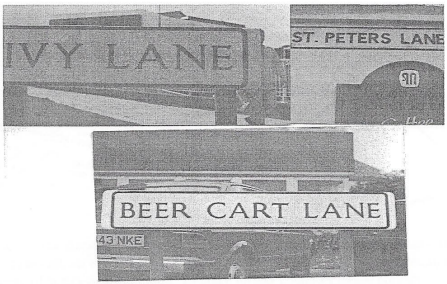
The name of **Martyrs Field Road** commemorates others who died for their religious beliefs. In the mid 1550s, forty-one Protestants were burned at the stake here for holding to their beliefs in defiance of the Catholic Queen Mary.

Lime Kiln Road, nearby, reminds us that chalk was burnt here until fairly recently to make lime which was used in mortar for building. The road called Priory of St Jacob, towards Thanington, was the site of a hospital for leprous women founded in the twelfth century.

Whitehorse Lane took its name from a famous pub, which used to be on the corner of the High Street.

New street names today - Modern housing is laid out in estates which often retain the name of a former landowner or building (**King's field and Hales Place**, for example). The street names within the estate usually follow a chosen theme, such as the names of trees or the names of cathedral cities, or beauty spots. When a new estate is being laid out it is the developer who usually suggests the names. These are then passed to the Post Office, who either agree or make other suggestions if they are too similar to other names in the area. They then have to be approved by the public works committee of the local council.

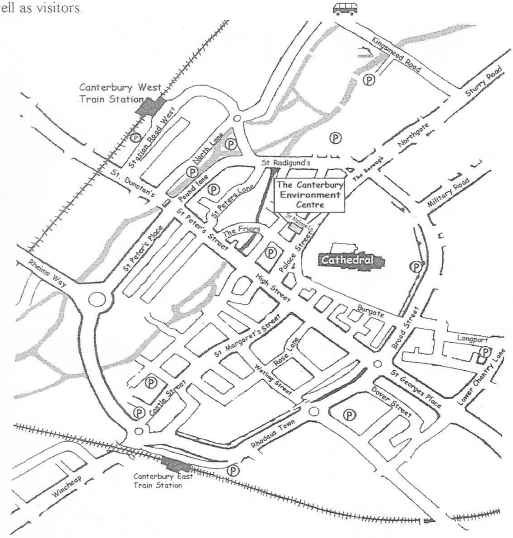
Traditionally, street signs were fixed to a wall at the corner of the street, but they are now more likely to be mounted on metal legs, cluttering the pavement. Many towns have their own designs for street signs, such as those in Rochester, which include the city crest. The traditional Canterbury sign used to be an oak board with rounded ends and bevelled edges, painted white, with iron letters screwed onto the board and the board screwed to the wall. These lasted at least 50 years with little maintenance. Canterbury has lost something of its identity with these old boards.



The Canterbury Environment Centre

The Centre, based in the specially converted medieval church building of St Alphege, provides a community information exchange and local urban environmental research resource. The collection contains photographs, pictures, maps and printed material on the past, present and future of the city and its environs. The unique library of resources is available to the public during our opening hours with packs for loan and a whole series of themed trails of Canterbury for sale.

By providing information and the opportunity to meet with other interseted groups and individuals, we aim to empower and encourage local people to become involved in the development of this ever changing city so that it meets their needs and the needs of future generations of residents as well as visitors.



The Centre is open Tuesday - Friday from 10am - 5pm and Saturday from 10am - 4pm. There is a vegetarian cafe serving drinks and snacks, a shop selling the Centre's publications and a variety of books on Canterbury. To make further enquiries please contact:

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