

THE GOUDHURST & KILNDOWN MILLENNIUM WALK

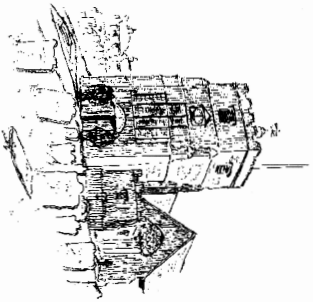


The Millennium Walk is part
of our villages' celebration of the
two thousandth anniversary of
THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

The walk links the parish churches of
St Mary's, Goudhurst
and
Christ Church, Kilndown.

Here you may enter and find
the peace of God as many have
done through the centuries.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, GOUDHURST



The church was first recorded in 1119, nearly 900 years ago. Before then a chapel stood on the site of the present south aisle. Like most ancient churches the building has been added to over the

centuries. Most of the present structure was built during the 14th century when the village prospered from a flourishing cloth industry. Nearby Church House, formerly a master weaver's house, the attractive row of cottages by the church wall named Weavers Cottages and a house along the road named Cloth Edge serve as reminders of that industry.

Formerly the tower had a spire but this was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning in 1637. The present tower was built soon afterwards but a little lower than the original, at 72 feet above ground level, 480 feet above sea level. It is open during the summer months at weekends and Bank Holidays to give a huge panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

Looking to the south from the west door at the foot of the tower, the ornate roof of Bedgebury House, where the Beresford Hope family once lived, (see the note under heading of Christ Church, Kilndown) can be seen above the distant tree tops. Just outside the west door to the north are some deep grooves in the lower course of sandstone which, some say are the result of local men sharpening their knives and arrows. It is thought that a dozen or so men from Goudhurst took part in the Battle of Agincourt. Inside the church is an exquisite memorial to Sir John Bedgebury who died in 1424. He is also said to have fought at Agincourt.

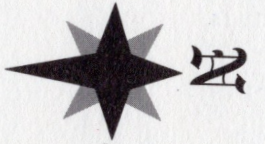
There are brief guides, illustrated guide booklets, prints and displays of photographs in the church to help visitors discover more of the history, architecture, memorials and recent work in the church, and to make us aware of worship that has continued here through the centuries.

May the pleasure of walking through a beautiful and historic countryside be yours.

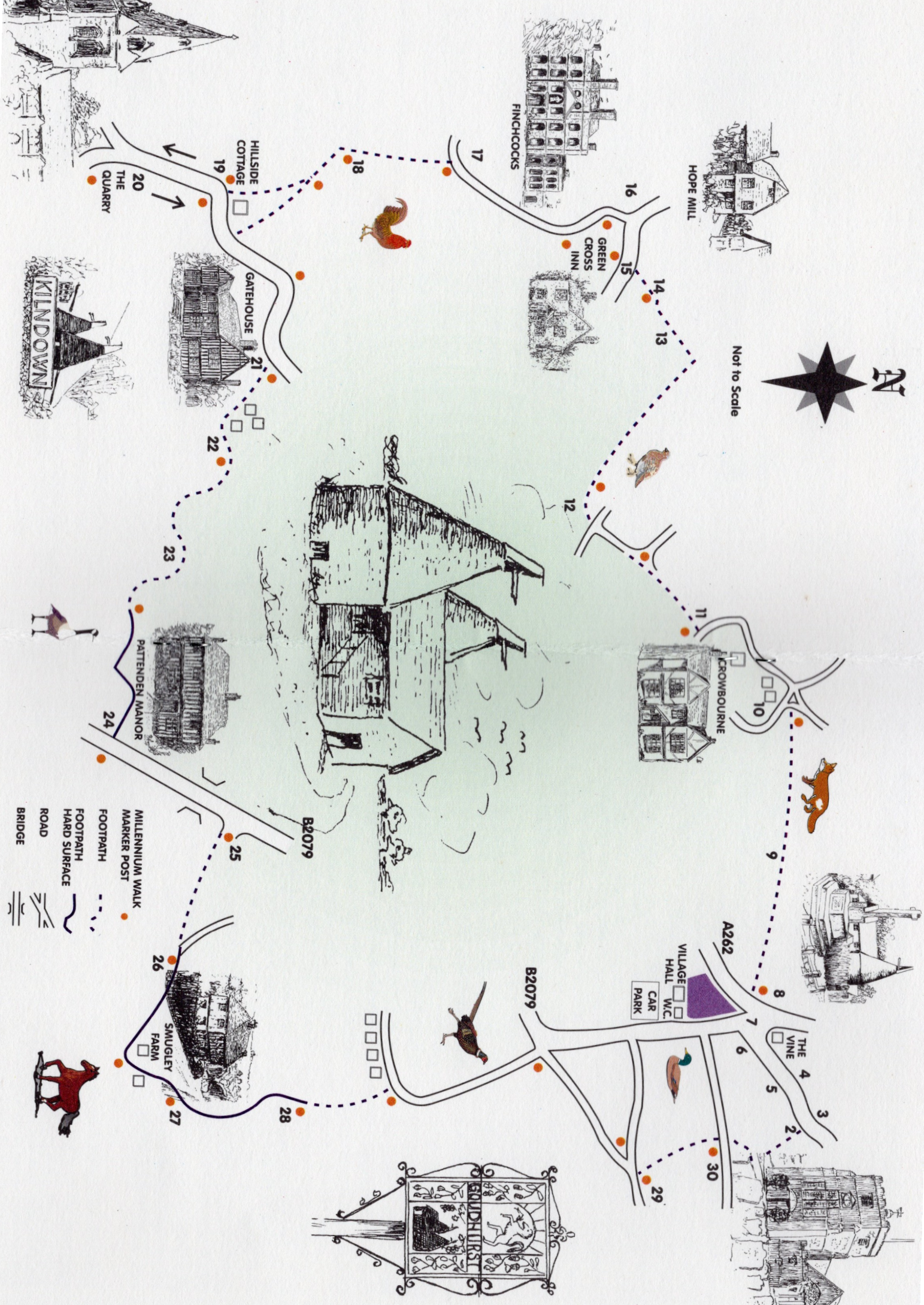
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This circular walk starts at the West Door of the Church. The route is well signed with marker posts and is a touch under 6 miles in length (3 miles to Kilndown so 3 miles back to Goudhurst. Good walking shoes are advised.

1. From the West Door of the church proceed to the gate.
2. To the left of the gate is the attractive mock-Tudor front of the Star & Eagle Inn. Its licence dates back to the reign of Charles I.
3. Across the road is Church House, once a master weaver's house, a barracks during the Napoleonic Wars and at one time a coffee house. In the basement William Rootes had a cycle repair shop - the origin of the Rootes Motor Group.
4. This area of the village is the site of the former Market Square held under licence granted by Richard II. Here also was where in 1747 the Hawkhurst Gang of smugglers was repulsed. The full story is available in the Weald of Kent Gallery.
5. Go down the High Street and note that on the left hand side you are looking at the former backs of the houses.
6. Next to Burgess's Stores, a shop that has survived changes for over 150 years, is the site of the former forge, still indicated by its spreading chestnut tree.
7. Cross the road to the pond where the horses and oxen were watered after a long pull up the hill - no tidy grass, seats or rails then!
8. With great care cross the road to the War Memorial, (Were any local families untouched by the loss of so many young men?). Go down the driveway to the stile then in a few yards pause to admire the view.
9. Continue down the field, climb the stile into the wood and follow the track to the road.
10. Cross the road, then forward along the private road in front of the cottages, bear left and at the iron gate turn right and follow the track as far as the farmyard by Crowbourne.
11. Turn right into the farmyard and follow a good track for ¼ mile until reaching a T-junction. Cross diagonally to the right, to a stile beside a wooden farm gate.
12. Climb the stile and follow the hedge to the right, then at the bottom of this field, once a hop garden, turn left.
13. Keep the hedge to the right and in 150 yds climb the stile.
14. Now watch for the gap in the conifer hedge, go through, climb the stile, turn left and go on the main road (A262).
15. Cross this busy road with great care to the Green Cross Inn and, depending on the time of day or mood, pass by as far as the signed road to Finchcocks. Before the railway closure this was the location of the level crossing, railway station and goods yard, also a war-time check point.
16. Walk as far as the junction with another private road then bear to the right and cross the bridge keeping along the road for ¼ mile to the point where it turns 90° to the right.



Not to Scale



HOPE MILL

FINCHCOCKS

GREEN CROSS INN

CROWBOURNE

VILLAGE HALL
W.C.
CAR PARK

PATTENDEN MANOR

SMUGLEY FARM

HILLSIDE COTTAGE

GATEHOUSE

KILNDOWN

THE QUARRY

B2079

B2079

A262

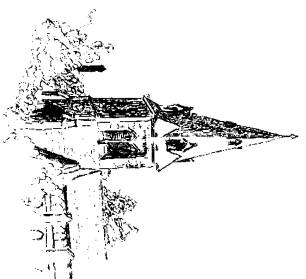
- MILLENNIUM WALK
- MARKER POST
- FOOTPATH
- FOOTPATH HARD SURFACE
- ROAD
- BRIDGE

17. Just round the corner to the left climb the stile and head diagonally uphill keeping the distant house in view. Halfway along the path a fine view of Finchcocks appears to the right.
18. At the top near the house climb the stile then another stile across to the left. Keep directly ahead along the path until the road is reached just beyond Hillside Cottage.
19. Walk along the road into Kindown to Christ Church, a fine example of Gothic Revival. Opposite in a tranquil natural setting is the quarry from which the sandstone for the church was taken. The Quarry Pond was restored to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977. This is the exact halfway point of the walk and an ideal place to rest.
20. Now retrace your steps to Hillside Cottage but pass it along the road to continue the circular route. Pass Gatehouse on your right, go round a sharp 90° turn of the road to the right and on to a left hand bend of the road.
21. A little way round the bend turn right onto the footpath. The concrete roadway continues to the former farm buildings, now converted to dwellings. Follow the track round the boundary and head for the white metal gate at the bottom of the field.
22. Go through the gate, turn left and on to the bottom of the field, then turn right keeping the hedge to the left until the hop garden. There follow the track to the stile and steps in the bank.
23. Cross the stile, bear a little left to the left up the slope and head for a white metal gate. From here continue along the concrete road and in ¼ mile arrive at Patenden Manor and a fairly busy road (Try to get a glimpse of this Kentish Hall House).
24. Here turn left along the road over the bridge to a footpath signed to the right.
25. Turn into a wide entrance, climb the stile and in 50 yds climb another stile.
26. Continue ahead, join a made-up road as far as a large converted oast, there turn left with the hedge to the left until in a short distance you reach Smugley Barn.
27. Now follow the rough path close to the fence until reaching a good track of concrete railway sleepers and turn right. The path follows a stream to the left, then cross it. Carry straight on as far as four individual houses.
28. From here the Millennium Walk shares the route of the well signposted High Weald Walk as far as the Church. At the houses follow the private road up to Bedgebury Road then turn right uphill.
29. On reaching the bank climb the rough path, then turn left for a few yards and turn right up a short flight of stone steps.
30. Climb the steps then continue with the Church in view. Halfway there, pause, turn round and absorb the beauty of the view. On reaching the road cross a little to the right and ascend the stone steps and path leading to the West Door.

THE WALK IS NOW DONE

The Millennium Walk was originated and devised by Bill & Betty Musgrave, Taywell. The Route Plan and complete text of the walk was designed by Roger Coles, Pinehurst. The Sketches throughout by Len Pierce, Hunts Lane.

CHRIST CHURCH, KILNDOWN



The church was originally built as a chapel of ease to Goudhurst and was paid for and endowed by Field Marshal Viscount Beresford, one of Wellington's Generals in the Napoleonic Wars. It was designed by Antony Salvin and built at a cost of £1,739. It was consecrated in 1841. Two years later Kindown became a separate ecclesiastical parish. During the next few years this plain 'sandstone box' was transformed into a unique and outstanding example of Gothic Revival. The work was commissioned and paid for by Alexander Beresford-Hope the stepson of the Viscount.

All the glass in the south windows was destroyed during the Second World War, but some fine Munich glass remains in the north and east windows. The tomb of Alexander and his wife Lady Mildred, is to be found on the south side of the church among ornate tombs of the Beresford family.

Among many items of particular interest is a remarkable set of marquetry panels set in a screen at the back (west end) of the church. These were made from wood grown on the estate and have been lent by Trinity College, Cambridge.

Kindown has ancient roots. The settlement has connections with Richard Puyt (1254) at Priors Heath, the ancient manor of Bedgebury the seat of the Culpeper family (Sir Alexander Culpeper was knighted by Queen Elizabeth whom he entertained there in 1573) and the shrine at Bedgebury Cross. A 17th century estate map shows the village as Gilden Downe.

Records for 1834 show a strong community of 2,758 people who provided much of the manual labour for the Bedgebury and Scotney estates. As in Goudhurst, agriculture (the area's main source of income) was in a poor state with 829 people receiving parish relief and 100 men and women housed separately in workhouses. Was there ever a Golden Age? Today there is only a tiny shop and post office open one day a week, and the hope of a 'watering hole' to be opened soon. The village school is closed. Kindown children go to the school in Goudhurst. Bedgebury Park is now an independent girls' school. But the church thrives in a warm, lively and active community.

Available in the church is an informative coloured pamphlet detailing the important points of interest in this fascinating and well-cared for building. For a definitive history Gordon Batchelor's book 'The Beresfords of Bedgebury Park' is essential reading.

May you enjoy your visit and find peace.

Grateful thanks to parishioners and organisations who have sponsored waymarks along the walk.

GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL
THE PHARMACY, GOUDHURST
HUGHENDEN RESTAURANT
GOUDHURST DRAMA CLUB
MILL HOUSE ANTIQUES AND B+B
THE GREEN CROSS INN
MADELEINE ROSE, ESTATE AGENT
THE GOUDHURST AND KILNDOWN OVER 60's CLUB
OLD PARSONAGE SURGERY
GOUDHURST NEWSAGENTS
ROGER MARTIN, SOLICITOR AND NOTARY PUBLIC, GOUDHURST
LORD AND LADY MAYHEW OF TWYSDEN
KILNDOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
BILL AND BETTY MUSGRAVE, TAYWELL
KILNDOWN MILLENNIUM FUND
DAVID AND MARGARET SARGENT
LORD AND LADY WAKEHURST, TRILLINGHURST OAST
THE HENLEY FAMILY, PATTENDEN FARM
BEDGEBURY SCHOOL
RISEBRIDGE HEALTH AND SPORTS CLUB
NICK AND BARBARA SEYMOUR
SIZZLERS BUTCHERS
GOUDHURST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
DOUG AND BARBARA RUSSELL
THE GOUDHURST AND KILNDOWN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
GOUDHURST AND KILNDOWN READYCALL
MR PERCHARD

ENJOY YOUR WALK

Please assist by keeping to the paths and make sure you are not trespassing. Remember you are walking on public rights of way across private land. Show respect and consideration for those who work and live in the countryside and please keep dogs under control at all times.