

## Proposed Visit to Minster Abbey (Thanet) – Saturday 5 October

Invitation to ALL PARISHIONERS.

Given enough interest, we hope to again arrange a day's "mini-pilgrimage" to travel and spend a day experiencing the historical and peaceful surroundings of Minster Abbey, its gardens and neighbouring church.

*Minster Abbey (circa 670 AD), possibly the oldest inhabited house in the country, is not far from the coast where St Augustine landed in 597, followed by Vikings in the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is now home to a community of Benedictine nuns and houses relics of St Mildred, the second Abbess.*

**Further information at [www.minsterabbeynuns.org](http://www.minsterabbeynuns.org)**

### **Proposed Itinerary and provisional cost, based upon past visits.**

- ✓ Coach transport from Hartley leaving at about 9.00 am for about an hour's drive.
- ✓ Coffee or tea at the tearoom in the neighbouring garden, run by young people in the *Looking Ahead Project*.
- ✓ Tour of the Abbey: a sister, will outline the building's history, the life of St Mildred and the present community.
- ✓ Visit shop to buy religious objects and souvenirs – or tearoom for additional refreshments and produce.
- ✓ Midday prayer with the sisters.
- ✓ Simple lunch – fresh bread and soup with beverage.
- ✓ Hear a short talk by one of the sisters about spirituality in everyday life.
- ✓ Time to reflect and discuss.
- ✓ Afternoon tea or coffee and home-made cake.
- ✓ Depart 3.45pm (approx.) to return in time for 5.30pm Mass in Hartley.

There is good access for the less able.

Cost? For coach hire, donation for Abbey community for tour, talk and payment for refreshments. A little over £40, depending upon exact number taking part. To be paid in cash when joining the coach.

We need to know how many will take part before making a final booking. Please fill in the slip below and return it to Phil Kerton or to a welcomer at one of next weekend's Masses.

*Comments from a past visit.*

*"I had no idea what Minster was: I had never heard of it. It exceeded my expectations and like many Holy Places I felt the holiness of the place – probably because of all the saints that have been there before."*

*"Midday prayer was very special."*

*"Time to chat with fellow parishioners in a different context."*

*"The journey was fine, about the right distance for a day trip."*

*"A warm welcome to a wonderful and fulfilling experience."*

*"The tea room was very pleasant and the shop well stocked."*



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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (List all people coming)

Name(s):

Contact Phone No:

Email, if available: