

## Saint Michael's

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Leaving the Swan retrace your steps back to the track you entered the village on. Go straight ahead for 200 yards until you see a By Way sign to the right. Take this track which is part of the Greensand Way, which runs from Haslemere in Surrey to Hamstreet in Kent. The track runs down the side of Duke's Place a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Grade 1 Listed Manor House, which once belonged to the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. The track is a magnificent example of an ancient and sunken track (it can be rather muddy) leading to a ford, with stepping stones before heading uphill back to the A26. Upon reaching the A26 look across the road to the right and you can see the footpath continue, as a sunken track uphill to Seven Mile Lane. Follow the footpath up to Seven Mile Lane. Go through the gate and, with care, cross the road to the lane beyond. Follow the lane uphill and bear right to the front of St Michael's Church, which has one of the most magnificent views in Kent and it is a great spot to stop for a picnic.

## Homeward

From St Michael's cross the graveyard to its South East corner and then follow the path down to Roydon Hall Road. Turn right and follow the road downhill to Seven Mile Lane. Cross the road and then follow the footpath across a field, bearing left in the next field, and following the footpath into another field. Keep to the right hand edge of this field to a gap in the hedge where the footpath continues. Walk along it past Peckham Place before retracing your footsteps back to Bells Farm Road. Turn left and follow the road down to its junction with Martin's Lane, bear right into Bullen Lane and take the next left, Bush Lane and retrace your steps back to Holy Trinity Church.

OS Landranger 188

Useful postcodes:

Holy Trinity Church TN12 5LH

St Dunstan's Church ME18 5JL

St Michael's Church TN12 5NG

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This Pilgrim's Trail is brought to you from the East & West Peckham Parish Churches. If you would like to show support for the maintenance of our churches then any contribution made in the alms boxes of the churches as you visit them is most welcome.

## East & West Peckham Pilgrimage Trail

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This circular 7 mile Kent Pilgrimage Trail moves between the churches of East and West Peckham. It ambles along ancient footpaths, by ways and quiet country roads, and on the way embraces one of the finest views in Kent. It includes visits to 3 wonderful churches, and the hospitality of two excellent country pubs. The Trail runs mainly across gentle countryside with a short climb to St Michael's Church. It can be started and finished at any of the 3 churches.



*so that you will walk in a  
manner worthy of the  
Lord [Colossians 1:10](#)*



## Pilgrimage

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A pilgrim is a traveller on a journey to a holy place. A pilgrimage is that spiritual journey and has three parts: the journey, the destination and the return home. On the journey as you let go of your normal routines and security, you can become more open and receptive to the presence of God in our lives. Visiting holy places gives pilgrims the opportunity to reflect on Christianity and the importance of faith in our lives. Returning home you will hopefully have been strengthened and changed to live life in a more reflective way. Some pilgrims may even have a life-changing spiritual experience.

The Peckham Pilgrimage Trail is a walk designed to be enjoyed by all and takes place in the beautiful Kent countryside. It aims to be a relaxing and accessible walk and to be a spiritual and fun experience.

This invitation to come on pilgrimage comes from the churches and people of East and West Peckham because we would like to share our history and respective villages with you. That is why we have developed the Peckham Pilgrimage – to help you engage in the wonderful experience of the Peckham area, our villages, and also of God along the way.

## Holy Trinity Church

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Begin the Trail by visiting Holy Trinity Church, in Bush Road, East Peckham. There is parking off road opposite the church. This Grade 2 Listed Victorian Church was built in 1841 to recognize the move of the majority of East Peckham's residents from the location of the old village on the hill at St Michael's Church to the arable land on the Medway plain. East Peckham became synonymous in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries with growing hops and this can be seen in the number of oasts you pass on the Trail.

Leave the church and walk northwards along Bush Lane. After half a mile you come to one of East Peckham's hidden gems – the dog-friendly Bush, Blackbird and Thrush public house. Continue along Bush Lane to the 'T' Junction at Peckham Bush, turn right and then almost immediately turn left, by the old pub sign, up a track. Keep straight ahead along the footpath through the pedestrian gate where the track turns left. The footpath enters an orchard after 100 yards. Keep straight ahead for another 100 yards until the footpath hits a track. Turn right and walk up the track keeping the large green packing shed on your left-hand side. When you reach the road, Bells Farm Road, turn left and after 100 yards turn right onto the private road and public footpath. This footpath forms part of the Weald Way, which runs from Beachy Head to Gravesend, via West Peckham and we will follow this part of the Way.

## Saint Dunstan's

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After quarter of a mile, by a small pond and large oast house, the track goes to the left. Follow this for a hundred yards and then follow the track going right marked WW (Weald Way). After 200 yards the track runs between two copses. Keep straight ahead and after 100 yards follow the footpath to the left crossing a field towards a white house in the distance. Reaching the A26 Tonbridge Road, go through a pedestrian gate onto the road verge. Looking right you can see, on the other side of the road, the signed footpath entering the area of a fish farm. Cross the road and walk along the footpath which skirts a number of fish ponds. After quarter of a mile the footpath enters a farmed field. The footpath crosses the field diagonally to a gate which leads into another field. Turn right on entering the field and follow the edge of the field to the top right corner. Go through the gate into another field with a footpath crossing the field diagonally to a track leading up to West Peckham. Walk into West Peckham and visit the ancient church of St Dunstan's. This Saxon church is Grade I listed, is in regular use and is popular for weddings and christenings. A short walk further takes you to West Peckham's village green and its hostelry: 'The Swan on the Green' which is well worth a visit for refreshment.