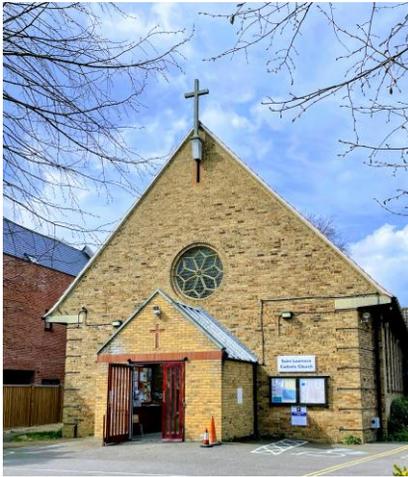


# Catholic Churches of Cambridge Walk

A walk across town will take us to our four (five) wonderful Catholic churches, all with some interesting history. (see end of document for longer histories)

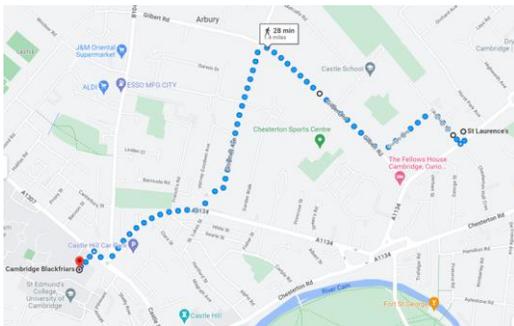


Starting at **St Laurence's Church** in Milton Road:

In the early twentieth century, Mass was celebrated by a priest from Our Lady and the English Martyrs in an upstairs room of the Dog and Pheasant Pub in Chesterton. By the time Chesterton became a separate Parish in 1939, mass had moved to the 'tin hut' – (see St Vincent de Paul below) in High Street, Chesterton.

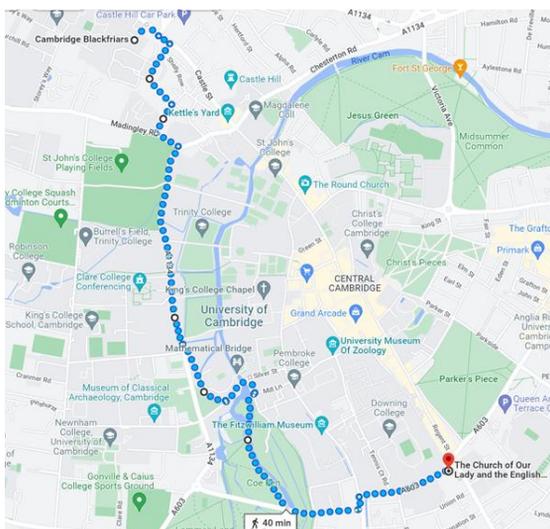
Fr Patrick Oates arrived in 1951 and set about raising money to build the church, which was completed in 1958. There have been various alterations over the years, including the removal of the communion rails in 1987 and the building of the new parish rooms, kitchen and office in 1994. In 2006, further work was undertaken to add a new balcony and porch, and on 27th February 2006 St Laurence's was consecrated by Bishop Michael Evans.

*Turning right out of St Laurence', then turn right into Ascham Road and left into Gurney Way. At the bottom turn right into Gilbert Rd. Turn left into Stretten Avenue and at end turn right into Victoria Road. At the traffic lights turn right into Huntingdon Road and left into Buckingham Road.*



Cambridge **Blackfriars** is a priory of the Dominican Order. It was established in 1238, dissolved in 1538 and re-established in 1938. It continues to operate as a Dominican priory and, in 2000, became the novitiate house of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.

*Now walking on, lets turn right out of Buckingham Road, walk along Huntingdon Road and after entering Castle Street, we turn right into Mount Pleasant (we pass St Edmunds College on our right), turn right again into Lady Margaret Road until we meet Maddingley Road and then into Queen's Road. We walk along the beautiful Backs until we meet Silver Street on our left. Walk along Silver Street turn onto Coe Fen at Scudamore's Punting Station and walk beside the river until you get to Fen Causeway.. Turn left onto Fen Causeway and left again at the roundabout onto Trumpington Road. At the next Roundabout take the second exit into Lensfield Road. Walk along Lensfield Road until you see OLEM on your right.*





On our journey we walk past **Saint Edmund's College Chapel** a catholic foundation.

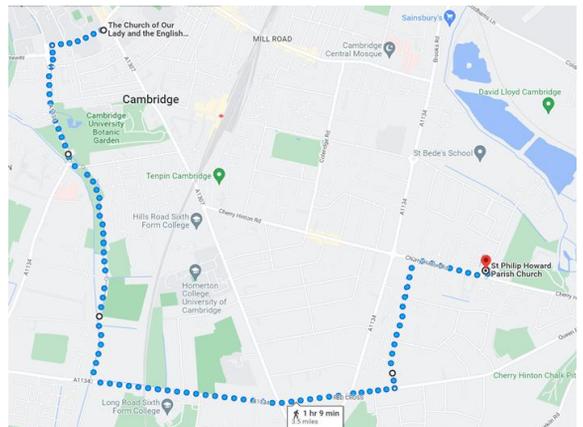
St Edmund's College Chapel is a Grade II listed building designed by Fr Benedict Williamson CSSP and blessed by Cardinal Francis Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, in 1916. Whilst originally mainly a catholic college it now has a very international flavour.

### **Our Lady and the English Martyrs**

The Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, also known as the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs (OLEM), is an English Roman Catholic Church at the junction of Hills Road and Lensfield Road in south-east Cambridge. It is a large gothic revival church, built between 1887 and 1890. The foundation stone was laid in June 1887. The construction of a new Roman Catholic church on such a prominent site, as well as its dedication to the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, caused much controversy among local Anglicans and members of the university. Despite this, and the ill health of Mrs Lyne-Stephens (benefactor), the church was completed and then consecrated on 8 October 1890. The first Mass was attended by most of the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales.



*As we head on our way, whilst we could walk down Hills Road until we meet Cherry Hinton Road on our left, a nicer walk is to leave by walking along Lensfield Road again until we meet Trumpington Road and then turn left. As we approach Brooklands Avenue, we take a left only for a few steps and then turn right onto a footpath that runs beside a stream. We travel beside the brook for some time until we meet Long Road. Turn left and walk along Long Road, after some time entering Queen Edith's Way. Continue walking crossing a roundabout and then turn left into Wulfstan Way. Keep walking until we meet Cherry Hinton Road. Turn right into Cherry Hinton Road, Before you reach Cherry Hinton Park you see St Philip Howard (left).*



### **St Philip Howard**

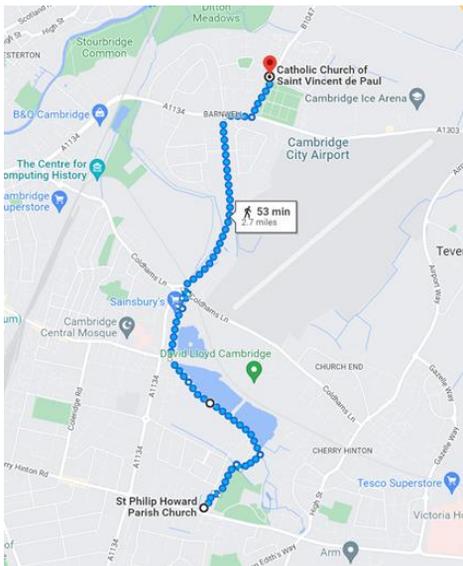
In 1975 it was decided to build a dual-purpose church with social facilities and attached presbytery for parishioners of South Cambridge. The church which is of a functional modern design was opened on 25 October 1978. It was dedicated to the sixteenth century martyr St Philip Howard and houses a wooden statue of the saint.



**This concludes the main part of our walk – just over 5 miles or 10,000 steps!**

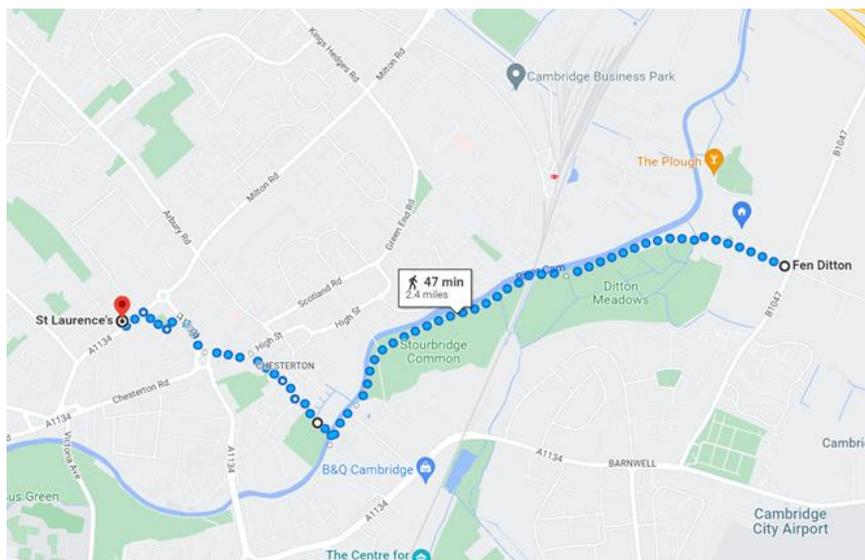


For the very energetic you may want to consider walking to an extra destination: the little church of **St Vincent de Paul** in Dittton Lane. This little church which started its life in 1914, as a hospital ward with baths became housing after the war from 1919 due to the housing shortage. It then travelled across Cambridge to Our Lady and the English Martyrs and was re-erected in the grounds of what is now St Alban's School. There it served as a men's clubroom and a hall in constant demand for many social activities. When the school began to be built next to OLEM, the little tin hut was once again removed and this time travelled across town again, to be re-sited in High Street, Chesterton where in 1939 it became the Chapel of St Laurence and was much loved for many years. In 1958 the parish church of St Laurence was built in Milton Road and the little 'tin hut' made its final journey, this time to Dittton Lane where it still stands today and is a much loved place of worship for many.



*The direct route takes us from St Philip along Walpole Road, then Birdwood Road and turning right along Brooke Road. Then past Sainsbury's into Barnwell Road until you meet Newmarket Road roundabout (MacDonald's). Turn right walking for just a short time and turn left into Dittton Lane. Just five mins down this road, you will find the small church of St Vincent de Paul. However a nicer walk from St Philip Howard is picking up the footpath along the brook in the top right hand corner of Cherry Hinton Park and follow Cherry Hinton Brook all the way to Sainsbury's. You then re-join the main route along Barnwell Road - it is advisable to walk on the left underneath trees to keep away from the traffic. As before you Turn right into Newmarket Road at McDonald's and then left into Dittton Lane.*

*To return to St Laurence's you can join the River Cam at Fen Ditton and walk along the river along Dittton Meadows and Stourbridge Common. Cross the river via the bridge opposite the Technology Museum, then walk along Church Street and left into Chesterton High Street. At the roundabout take the last exit into Elizabeth Way and at the next roundabout turn into Milton Road.*



**This extra leg would add almost another 5 miles onto your journey.**

## **History – St Laurence’s Church**

The first permanent post-Reformation Roman Catholic church in Cambridge was our Lady and the English Martyrs and opened and consecrated on 8 October 1890. As the Roman Catholic population continued to grow, the opening of a Carmelite Convent at 104-106 Chesterton Road in 1923 provided a new place of worship on the Northern side of the town. In 1937 the Carmelite sisters moved to a quieter site at Waterbeach, into a building which, when vacated in the early 1970s, became the Waterbeach Lodge residential home for the elderly. Following the departure of the Carmelites from Cambridge, the need for a new parish gradually became apparent and within a year there was a significant donation of £250 towards establishing a new mass centre or church for Roman Catholics in Chesterton.

In the years immediately after the Carmelite sisters left, masses were said in private houses and informal venues until the ‘little tin hut’ (see St Vincent de Paul below) was erected in the High Street in Chesterton. In 1947 this became the new Parish of St Laurence's, with the presbytery for the parish priest located at 1 Ferry Lane.

With the arrival of the Rev. Patrick Oates in 1951, efforts to fund raise and build a permanent church were accelerated. On 8 March 1958, Bishop Parker laid the foundation stone on the Milton Road site and on 24 August 1958, the new church was formally blessed and dedicated.

St Laurence's is a modern church, built in brick and with an open layout so that all parts of the church can see the altar area. The Church of St Laurence is dedicated to St Laurence of Rome.

The church has remained substantially unchanged since it was opened, with the exception of the removal of altar rails and the redesign of the altar following the second Vatican council. The porch was changed slightly around the time of the millennium, putting a glass roof on it to improve light. In the first decade of the twenty-first century a balcony was also constructed at the back of the church to increase capacity for the growing congregation.

## **History – Blackfriars**

Blackfriars priory before the Dissolution of the Monasteries was to be found on the site now occupied by Emmanuel College. Members of the Dominican Order of Friars first arrived in England in 1221. A royal grant of 14/6/1238 assisted the building of their chapel in Cambridge. In 1538 it was surrendered to King Henry VIII.

The Dominicans returned to Cambridge in 1938 after Mrs Enrichetta Bullough, widow of Professor Edward Bullough, offered the friars the Italianate house which had only recently been built for the couple by the Cambridge architect H. C. Hughes at the bottom of Buckingham Road. She and her late husband (the Serena Professor of Italian) were lay Dominicans; a son, Hugh Dominic, had entered the Order in 1931 and received the religious name of Sebastian, while a daughter, Leonore, joined the Dominican Sisters at Stone as Sr Mary Mark. Now Fr Sebastian Bullough would be one of the Priory's first members, while studying Hebrew and Aramaic in the university.

At this point the Priory had no specific public ministry. It was not a parish church, nor a teaching centre for Catholic Theology like that which the Order had previously opened in Oxford. Nor did it have at this stage a specific role within the English Dominican Province. It was instead a place of contemplative study and scholarship, a 'house of writers' such as Fr Victor White OP, both friend and critic of C. G. Jung; Fr Gerald Vann OP; and Fr Thomas Gilby OP, editor of the modern English and Latin version of Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*.

In 1955 the friars bought the neighbouring house, Howfield, the family home of Archbishop Michael Ramsey. This briefly served as a student hostel until the two houses were connected by a new wing in 1961-2, designed by David Roberts, creator of the Benson and Mallory Courts at Magdalene in 1952-8. An aula (or lecture-room) on the first floor eventually became a chapel for daily Mass and the public celebration of the Divine Office, attracting a growing congregation of lay men and women, while the second floor housed the Priory's theological and philosophical library.

From 1980 to 1999 the Priory was home not only to the friars but also to a number of young lay-people, often graduate students, who for a year or more shared the friars' daily life of Divine Office and common meals. It was in many respects a school of Christian community, and nurtured a number of vocations, mainly to the friars themselves, but also to the Dominican sisters and Augustinian canonesses.

For much of this period, the friars also had a close involvement with the Catholic Chaplaincy at Fisher House in Cambridge (another gift of the Bullough family). Frs Robert Ombres, Marcus Hodges, Aidan Nichols, Richard Finn, and Alistair Jones served at various times as Assistant chaplains; Fr David Sanders long contributed to a Blackfriars Theology Group (originally founded by Fr Edward Booth, OP) and ran a highly successful Bible Study Group (as well as teaching for the University Divinity Faculty). From 1994 to 2000, Fr Allan White OP was the Senior Catholic Chaplain to the University.

At Easter 2000, Blackfriars became the noviciate house for the English Dominican Province. It is here that novices are first clothed in the habit and initiated into the friars' distinctive way of life. Although not yet under religious vows, they adopt the voluntary poverty, chastity, and obedience of the friars, and share in the prayer, housework, and fraternity of the brethren, while learning about the Order's history and spirituality.

## History

### Our Lady and the English Martyrs

The Church of Our Lady of The Assumption and The English Martyrs – (its full title) is a building renowned as one of the most beautiful Roman Catholic churches in England. It was founded by Mrs Yolande Lyne-Stephens, a former ballet dancer at the Paris Opera and Drury Lane, London, and widow of a wealthy banker. She had promised to build the church on the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption and it was completed and consecrated on 8 October 1890. Monsignor Christopher Scott – the first Rector – also wished to commemorate the Catholic Martyrs who died between 1535 and 1681, over thirty of whom had been in residence at the University. And in this way OLEM got its name the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs.

It was built by the Cambridge firm of Rattee and Kett and is a traditional cruciform structure in the early-decorated style with a large tower at the crossing, a polygonal apse and a west bell tower with a 65-metre spire, a landmark visible for miles around Cambridge. The approximate internal dimensions of the church are: length 48 metres [157ft] width across the aisles 16 metres [52ft] width at the transepts 22 metres [72ft], the height of the nave 15 metres [49ft].

Inside and over the west door stands the figure of Our Lady of the Assumption crowned with lilies and standing on the crescent moon with the vanquished serpent beneath. The west window shows the English Martyrs arranged in two principal groups, the clergy on the south side with St John Fisher in their midst and the laity on the north grouped round St Thomas More.

Beside the South aisle is an ancient statue of Our Lady with the Child Jesus. This statue is understood to be a gift in 1850 from Emmanuel College, which was built on the site of a Dominican Priory dating back to 1274. The Church of the Black Friars of Cambridge contained a statue of Our Blessed Lady to which much pilgrimage was made. Although unconfirmed this could be that statue.

The Chapel of the Holy Souls with the book of Remembrance is located at the west end of the south aisle. The sculpture above the altar depicts the solace and relief of the Holy Souls in Purgatory through the intercession of Our Lady and the angel who comforted Our Lord in Gethsemane.

The aisle windows were almost completely destroyed when the church was struck by a bomb on 1941, but were subsequently replaced in their original form. They epitomise the various sufferings of the English Martyrs, their being brought before the Council, racked, hung, drawn and quartered in the sight and sympathy of the faithful. The windows of the north aisle portray Carthusians, St Thomas Moore, B. Margaret Pole and others, while the south aisle is made a "Fisher Aisle", devoted to scenes from the life of St John, Cardinal Bishop of Rochester, who in so many important ways is identified with Cambridge.

The best general impression of the interior is obtained from the gateway in the iron screen dividing the nave from the ante-chapel. The heads of the four great preachers of Our Lady's Graces are carved in the four corners of the nave. The windows along the nave represent saints connected with the Church in Britain, arranged approximately in chronological order from east to west with a few additional figures in the eastern windows.

The Rood which is between the nave and the sanctuary is of the type known as "Majestas"; the figure of Our Lord, with glorified wounds, robed in alb, stole and pallium [as High Priest] and crowned [as King "reigning from the Tree"]. This was the earliest type of crucifix; the realistic figure, now almost universal, did not come into general use until the beginning of the thirteenth century. The cross, inspired by that at Nuremberg, is about 6 metres high, carved in oak; the figures of Christ and of Our Lady and of Saint John are of Kauri pine. They were carved locally by Mr. B. Maclean Leach and completed and blessed in 1914.

Beyond the present, modern altar is the High Altar with the relics of Saints Felix and Constantia, martyrs of the early Church. The tabernacle and ornaments of the altar are of exquisite French workmanship from Lyons. The baldacchino which covers the High Altar is similar to that over the tomb of Robert the Wise (1275-1343) at Santa Chiara, Naples. It is one of the earliest forms of adornment of a Christian altar. At the top is the figure of Our Lord in glory supported on each side by angels in act of adoration.

The design and the re-ordering of the sanctuary was done by Mr Gerard Goalen of Harlow after the Second Vatican Council. On 7th April, 1973, Bishop Charles Grant consecrated the present central altar. The original High Altar has subsequently been used mainly for reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

## **History**

### **St Vincent de Paul, Ditton Lane**

The present building started life as part of the First Eastern General Hospital on Newmarket Road. At the end of WWI, a number of prefabricated war-surplus buildings were being disbanded. A benefactor, Baron Anatole Von Hügel, paid the cost – said to be £250 – and it was moved to the garden at Our Lady and the English Martyrs (now St. Alban's School) in 1920, and named Houghton Hall. It served the Parish there until 1936. In 1939, it was re-erected in High Street, Chesterton and named St. Laurence's. A number of German prisoners of war attended Midnight Mass there one year and sang 'Silent Night' which was remembered by all those present for many years to come. Following the opening of a new St. Laurence's Church on Milton Road in 1958 in Milton Road, the 'tin tabernacle' was moved over the river and re-erected on Ditton Lane. For many years it was in a very precarious condition, until Mgr. Anthony Philpot invited the then Parish Architect to provide a design for re-ordering. "The result was a dramatic and wonderful transformation. By turning everything round ninety degrees a quite different ambience for worship was created, and it signalled a significant revival in the community's life" It now boasts a thriving community of around 80 parishioners and is served by priests from Our Lady and the English Martyrs.