

Dear Friends ~

I am excited to share with you the itinerary for our next pilgrimage. We will explore the heritage of our faith while enjoying the sights and flavors of England. Our trip will include visits to the historical sites in London, Canterbury, Bath and the southern coast of England, as well as the Cotswolds with its quaint villages, churches and inspiring cathedrals. We depart on Tuesday, September 10, and return Wednesday, September 18.

Since things in England are quite busy, our local affiliate can't confirm space without a group in hand. So, here's how to reserve your space:

1. Please review the itinerary on the following pages.
2. A good faith deposit of \$ 100.00/per person (check made out to St. Mark's with England trip on the memo line) is requested. The deadline for deposits is February 26. The cost will be \$5200.00/per person, double occupancy. A surcharge will be added for single occupancy.
3. Costs include airfare from Savannah or Charleston; all accommodations; dedicated motor coach, driver and guide; entrance fees; breakfast and dinner each day, including a festive dinner on our final night in England.

Once space has been confirmed, we will need a \$1200 deposit per person within a few weeks of confirming space and final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Our tours are open to all. You need not be a member of St. Mark's.

I hope you will plan to join me as we travel to the birthplace of our Anglican faith and traditions.

Peace,

Roy

(continued)

## Tuesday, Sept. 10

We depart on overnight flights to London. Dinner and breakfast will be served on the flights.

## Wednesday, Sept. 11

Theme: *We Journey as Pilgrims to Explore Our Faith Heritage*

We arrive in London and will be met by our local tour manager who will accompany us on a private motorcoach to Canterbury. After we check into our hotel and have a chance to freshen up, change clothes and adjust to the new time zone, we will take a walking orientation of the old city of Canterbury, including a guided visit to the Cathedral. We will attend Evening Prayer at the Cathedral. Afterward, we will enjoy a **welcome dinner at a local restaurant**. Overnight Canterbury.



*Canterbury Cathedral*

Canterbury was a Roman colony in the 1st century and became the center of English Christianity in the 6th century when St. Augustine came here to convert the local population. The monastery at Canterbury was the largest in England and served as an important pilgrimage site--as recounted in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The church that St. Augustine built burned in the 11th century and was replaced by the current building, which has been renovated and rebuilt over the ages. It is one of the great cathedrals of the world and is the burial place for some of the most important people in English history.

## Thursday, Sept 12

Theme: *The Roots of Anglican Heritage in Canterbury*

Breakfast. Morning Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral. We continue with a walking visit to other sites in Canterbury, such as St. Augustine's Abbey, the Roman Museum (with excavations going back to Roman times), Canterbury Weavers (old Tudor houses), and the Canterbury Heritage Museum. We will focus on both the Roman and Anglican heritage and the significance of Canterbury for the history of the Church of England. The late afternoon will be at your leisure. **Dinner**/Overnight Canterbury.

## Friday, Sept. 13

Theme: *Cultural Sites Along the Southern Coast of England*

Breakfast. Drive along the south coast. We will visit Rye, a picturesque coastal village. We continue then to Arundel Castle--a magnificent site that is more than 700 years old. We will visit the nearby Weald and Dowland Open Air Museum--a museum of typical farming buildings and practices. We continue to Salisbury for **dinner** and overnight. And perhaps attend Evening Prayer at the Cathedral in the evening.

Rye is a small port that used to be right on the coast. Storms have altered the landscape to leave it further inland. It is a quaint and charming medieval village of steep and winding streets and unique vistas of surrounding landscapes. It is a favorite of artists and writers, including Henry James, who lived here.

Arundel Castle dates back over 750 years and is home to the Duke of Norfolk. The Howard side of the current duke's Fitzalan-Howard family name goes back to at least the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Duke has responsibility for organizing State events/functions, such as the opening of Parliament. The Fitzalan-Howard family has remained Roman Catholic, making them the most prominent Roman Catholics in England. The chapel on the grounds includes a church and chapel--one belonging to the family, the other to the local church-- thus Anglicans and Roman Catholics use the same building for worship. The Castle is an extraordinary monument – one of the finest and most important of England.

## Saturday, Sept. 14

Theme: The Development of Early English Religious Architecture

Breakfast. We will have liturgy and a guided visit at Salisbury Cathedral this morning. We continue with a walking tour of the medieval sites/buildings around the Cathedral. This is one of the purest of the Early English style of religious architecture--built in the 13th and 14th centuries. In the afternoon we will take an excursion to Stonehenge, then return to Salisbury for **dinner**/overnight.



Salisbury Cathedral

The town of Salisbury is a charming medieval city dating back to 1227 when the Cathedral was built. The Cathedral is one of the best examples of Early English style religious architecture--a medieval Gothic and ascetic form. The Cathedral is within a Cathedral Close--an area of ancient stone and terracotta houses dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The town that formed around the Cathedral was considered the new town, replacing one that dates back to Iron Age and Roman times. The only remaining vestiges of the old settlement are some walls of the old fortifications and the foundation of the old cathedral, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Stonehenge is a World Heritage Site and one of the most iconic prehistoric sites in the world. The building of Stonehenge began around 2950 BC. There are many theories regarding its purpose. Some archaeologists believe that it was a sanctuary for a group of sun-worshippers, others believe it was an observatory.

## **Sunday, Sept. 15**

Theme: *The Historical Palette of England*

Breakfast. Today will be our excursion to Bath to visit the Roman ruins and other medieval sites in the central village. We will take a ride through the Cotswolds, the picturesque hill towns northwest of London. We continue then to Oxford for **dinner** and overnight.

The city of Bath has an interesting history. In the first century the Romans constructed spa baths, a temple and a gymnasium there. A hot spring dating from approximately 100,000 years earlier, provides the water source. The spring was regarded as sacred by ancient tribes and archaeologists believe that it was inhabited by early humans. Recent excavations have uncovered many ancient and Roman artifacts that are housed in the museum. The Bath Abbey is a beautiful Norman and Gothic structure rising steeply from the bath complex.

The Cotswolds is a region lying northwest of London along the upper valley of the Thames River. It is one of the most idyllic areas of England. Large estates from Roman times gave way to medieval manors specializing in wool production. Beautiful villages built of nearby limestone and wood rise amongst gentle rolling hillsides and pastures.

Oxford is England's oldest university--a complex of religious foundations rising up around the old cathedral. These monastic autonomous colleges still form the nucleus of Oxford. The university includes beautiful historic colleges, courtyards (quads) and charming residential and commercial buildings catering to students and faculty.

## **Monday, Sept. 16**

Theme: *The English Monarchy*

Breakfast.

We will enjoy a walking tour of Oxford University in the morning. In the afternoon, we travel to London. We will stop in Windsor to visit Windsor Castle. English monarchs have lived in Windsor Castle for more than 900 years. It is the largest Castle in England, built around the 11th century, and is evocative of the British monarchy and its many personalities. We will enjoy a full visit to the castle where so much history has taken place, including visits to the round tower, St. George's Chapel and the State Apartments.

When we get to London proper, we will check into our hotel and enjoy a **dinner** together at a local restaurant or at the hotel. Overnight London.

## Tuesday, Sept. 17

Theme: *The Cultural Palette of London*

This morning we will visit Westminster Abbey (with a walking tour of the environs, including a view of the outside of Buckingham Palace, St. James Park, and Whitehall). We continue with a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral. Depending on the preference of the group, we can visit another site or enjoy a walking tour of another neighborhood. This evening we gather for a **festive farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.

Edward the Confessor built Westminster Abbey. It was rebuilt in the Gothic style in the 13th century. For the first 600 years, a community of Benedictine monks lived there. There are many different chapels within the abbey, many of which contain famous medieval paintings.

There have been churches at the site of St. Paul's since the 5th or 6th centuries. It became an important religious center in London but was neglected in the 14th century. There were plans to restore it when the great fire of 1666 broke out. After the fire, Christopher Wren submitted new plans to rebuild it, with some influencing ideas from the great basilica of St. Peter's in Rome. St. Paul's is a symbol of London and, during the bombing raids of the 1940's, was a metaphor for the resilience of Londoners.



## Wednesday, Sept. 18

Breakfast. We transfer to the airport for our return flight.