

CROYDON HERITAGE WALK

Old Town

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WHITGIFT ALMSHOUSES



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ELIS DAVID ALMSHOUSES



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CROYDON MINSTER



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FLINT COTTAGES



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QUEEN'S DOORWAY



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WAR MEMORIAL



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CROYDON MINSTER TOWER





## 4 FLINT COTTAGES

Take a moment to appreciate this picturesque row of cottages in the Gothic style. The architecture and features are characteristic of their early Victorian date.

## 5 OLD PALACE SCHOOL

This was once the palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury. The building dates from the 14th century and was one of a series of Palaces from Canterbury to Lambeth. Kings and Queens were regular visitors. Queen Elizabeth I even had her own bedroom on the first floor.

Since then it has been used as a linen printers, bleaching works, and even as a laundry! The building might not have survived at all had it not been bought by the Duke of Newcastle in 1890 and given to the sisters of the church who started a school.

Can you guess which is the oldest part of the building?

## 8 QUEEN'S DOORWAY

This small doorway provides access through to the Old Palace. Queen Elizabeth may have walked through here on her way to church. This was one of the first brick buildings in England. Take a closer look at the brickwork. Can you see evidence of how the building has changed and over time?

## 9 WAR MEMORIAL

In the aftermath of the First World War, thousands of memorials were built across the country to commemorate the tragic impact on communities. This memorial was designed by Charles Marriott Oldrid Scott and is a permanent testament to the sacrifices made by local people. It was originally made from Chilmark stone, which proved to be too fragile. The memorial fell over and smashed in a storm, and was rebuilt in harder Portland stone.

Can you find any other memorials in this area?

Grave stones from the church yard were reused in the garden. Pause to explore the garden and read the memorials.

## 6 TUDOR ARCH

The Tudor Arch was moved to this location in Victorian times, and we don't know why. A lot of changes happened around that time because the Archbishops moved out of their palace and sold off some of the surrounding land. New houses were built and the church yard was extended.

## 7 MEMORIAL GARDEN

This space was originally a traditional graveyard, but was transformed in 1956 into a garden of remembrance to commemorate the Croydon men, women and children who lost their lives in the war of 1939-1945. It was designed by architect Peter Youngman, who also designed the landscape for the Festival of Britain site in 1951.

Can you find the water trough near the Memorial Garden? What do you think it was used for?

It was built in the 19th century to provide drinking water for animals. At the time horses were used for transport and there was no reliable provision of clean water.

## 10 CROYDON MINSTER TOWER

Parts of the church date back to the medieval period, but a big fire in 1867 destroyed most of the building. It was rebuilt by famous Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. The tower with four pinnacles is the most striking feature. The interior is also filled with decoration and historical features. It is a Grade I Listed Building – meaning that it is recognised as a historic building of exceptional national importance.

## 11 THE RIVER WANDLE (OPTIONAL)

If you have time, you can extend your walk to Wandle Park. Croydon was built on the banks of the river Wandle, which emerged as a spring just to the south of the town. The Archbishops' Palace and Croydon Minster were built on its banks, but it became very polluted as the population of Croydon grew and was eventually culverted (sent underground). This section was restored in 2011 as part of a refurbishment of the park.

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Croydon has always had strong links with the church and the Archbishops of Canterbury, who were given this land in the 9th century and remained lords of the manor for the next 900 years. Croydon grew and prospered because of these important links. Six Archbishops of Canterbury are buried in the Minster.

CROYDON MINSTER

Did you know, the site of the Almshouses also contains the remains of an air raid shelter from the World War II?

As you head down Church Street, notice the various buildings of different ages. This is one of the oldest streets in Croydon. Watch out for the first glimpse of the Minster Tower as you head down hill. The Elis David Almshouses were founded in 1447 by a successful London cloth merchant Elye Davy, who was inspired to help the poor. It was rebuilt in the Victorian period.

ELIS DAVID ALMSHOUSES

Fold 2

### CROYDON HERITAGE WALK

Croydon Old Town

Distance: 0.6 mile  
Time: 45 minutes (walking time 15 minutes)  
The walk includes two flights of stairs.

Croydon began in the Saxon period as a small settlement near the source of the River Wandle. Throughout its history, the town had strong links with the Archbishops of Canterbury who had an estate here from the 9th century (which is when Croydon Minster was first established).

This walk explores some of the oldest surviving buildings in the old town, the grounds of Croydon Minster and the memorial garden. These provide an extraordinary connection with Croydon's early history, the Archbishops, and the people who once lived here.

CROYDON

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Fold 3

The initials are "IW" standing for John Whitgift. It isn't a spelling mistake: the letter J wasn't widely used in English until the 17th century. The letter I was used instead.

Can you find the initials in the brickwork?

These almshouses, called the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, were founded and built in the 16th century by Archbishop John Whitgift to serve the poor and needy of Croydon. The first stone was laid on the 22nd of March 1596 and the date is still celebrated each year as 'founder's day'. This means the building is over 400 years old (and it is still owned and used by the Whitgift Foundation).

The writing above the front door is from the bible. It reads 'Qui dat pauperi non indigebit' which means 'He who gives to the poor shall not lack.' The panel above shows an image of the hat worn by the archbishops – called the mitre.

WHITGIFT ALMSHOUSES

Fold 1

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