



# THE MARSH MOSAICS



## CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, BROOKLAND TN29 9QR

This church presents a very different image from others on the Marsh - largely because it has a detached wooden bell tower. Recent research shows that the tower was built in the late 13th century as an open structure. It was doubled in height to its present 60 feet and clad with shingles in the 15th century. The fine interior of the 13th century church has the highest box pews on the Marsh and a double-decker pulpit complete with sounding board.

A **marsh harrier** glides above the fields in the evening sun.

The inclusion of a **smuggler** acknowledges the famous **Battle of Brookland**, fought between Riding Officers and local smugglers. The adventures of marsh smugglers inspired writer Rudyard Kipling, who wrote the poems *A Smuggler's Song* and *Brookland Road*.

A **medieval wall painting** was uncovered in the church, depicting the murder of Archbishop **Thomas Becket** at Canterbury Cathedral.

Ancient **tithe scales** and weights can be found in the church, used to measure goods and produce.



**Viper's Bugloss** is a valuable food plant for insects on Romney Marsh, including rare bumblebees.

The **white stork** would have once bred on Romney Marsh. It was re-introduced nearby in 2020.

This unusual church has a separate **octagonal wooden bell tower**.

The **lapwing** is a ground-nesting bird found on marshy farmland. It has rounded wings and a distinctive call.

The ancient font in the church depicts the Signs of the Zodiac and the **Labours of the Months**; tasks in medieval rural life, carried out at different times of year. One man is **pressing grapes** to make wine; another **makes hay** with a scythe.