



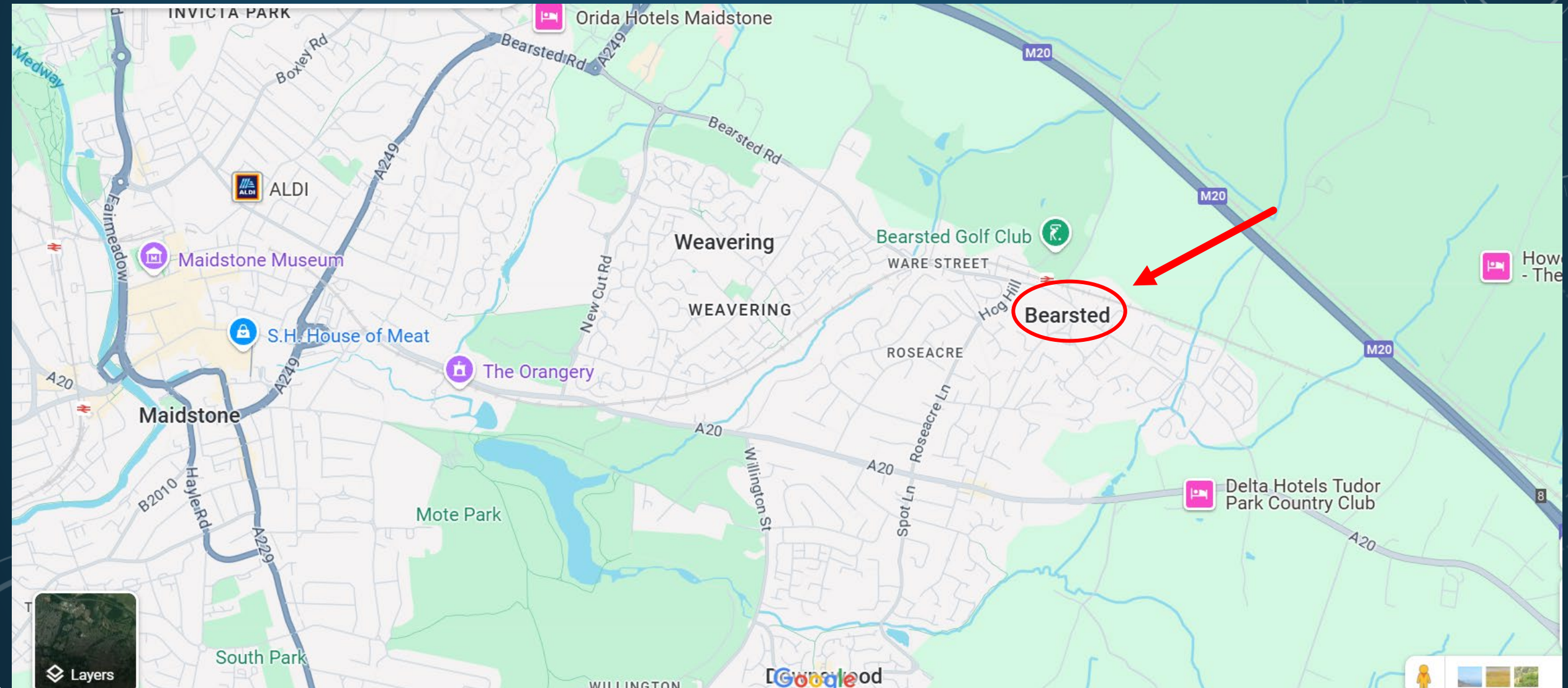
A JOURNEY TO WHERE
THIS ALL STARTED

COME WITH US TO VISIT THE PLACES WHERE OUR ANCESTORS LIVED

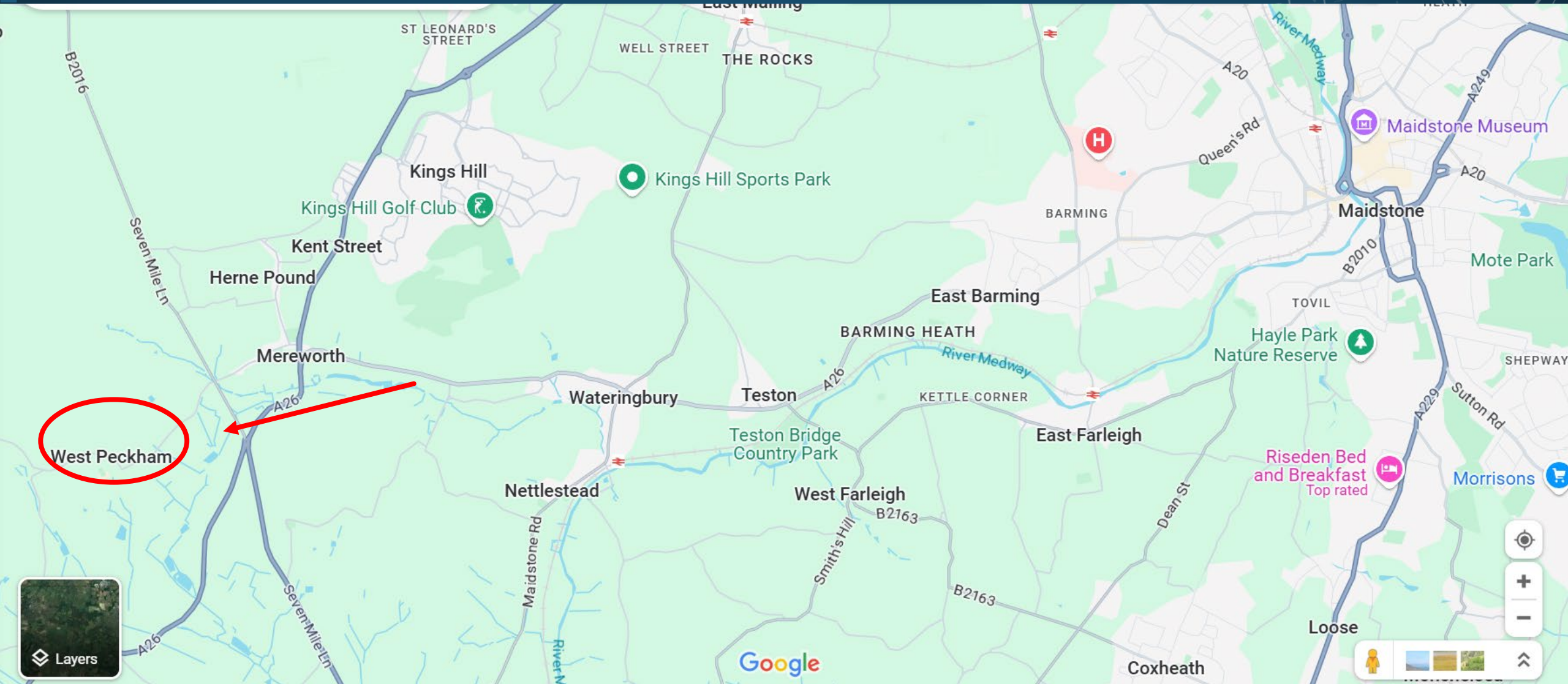
- William E. Spearman, III (William E Spearman, Jr., Katie Coker Betts Spearman, Lewis B. Betts, Philo Betts)
- Molly Mitchell Spearman
- William Mitchell Spearman



BEARSTED, KENT



WEST PECKHAM, KENT



OUR ANCESTORS

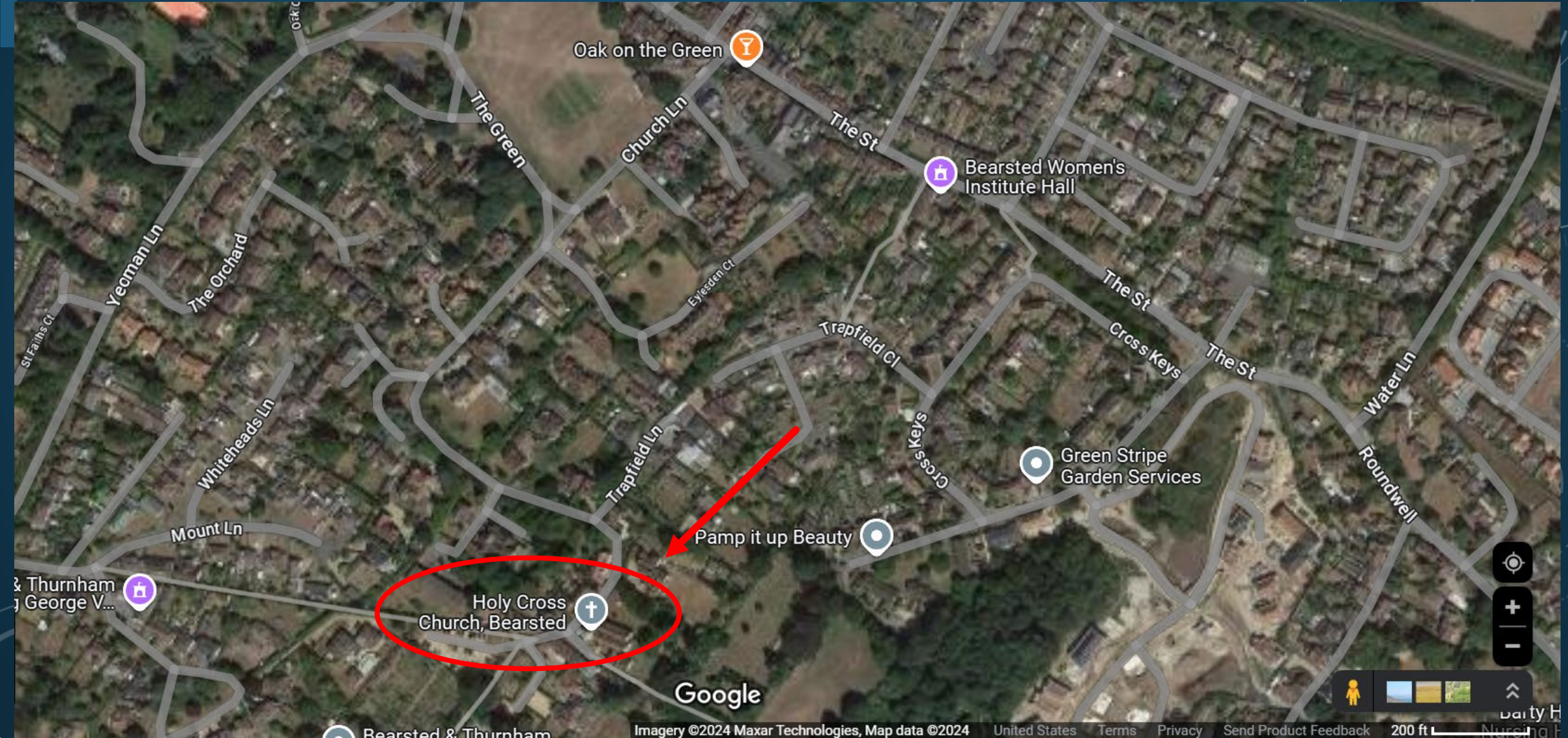
Bearsted, Kent – Holy Cross

- Robert Bettes – Buried 27 March 1572
- John Betts – Baptized 23 September 1576

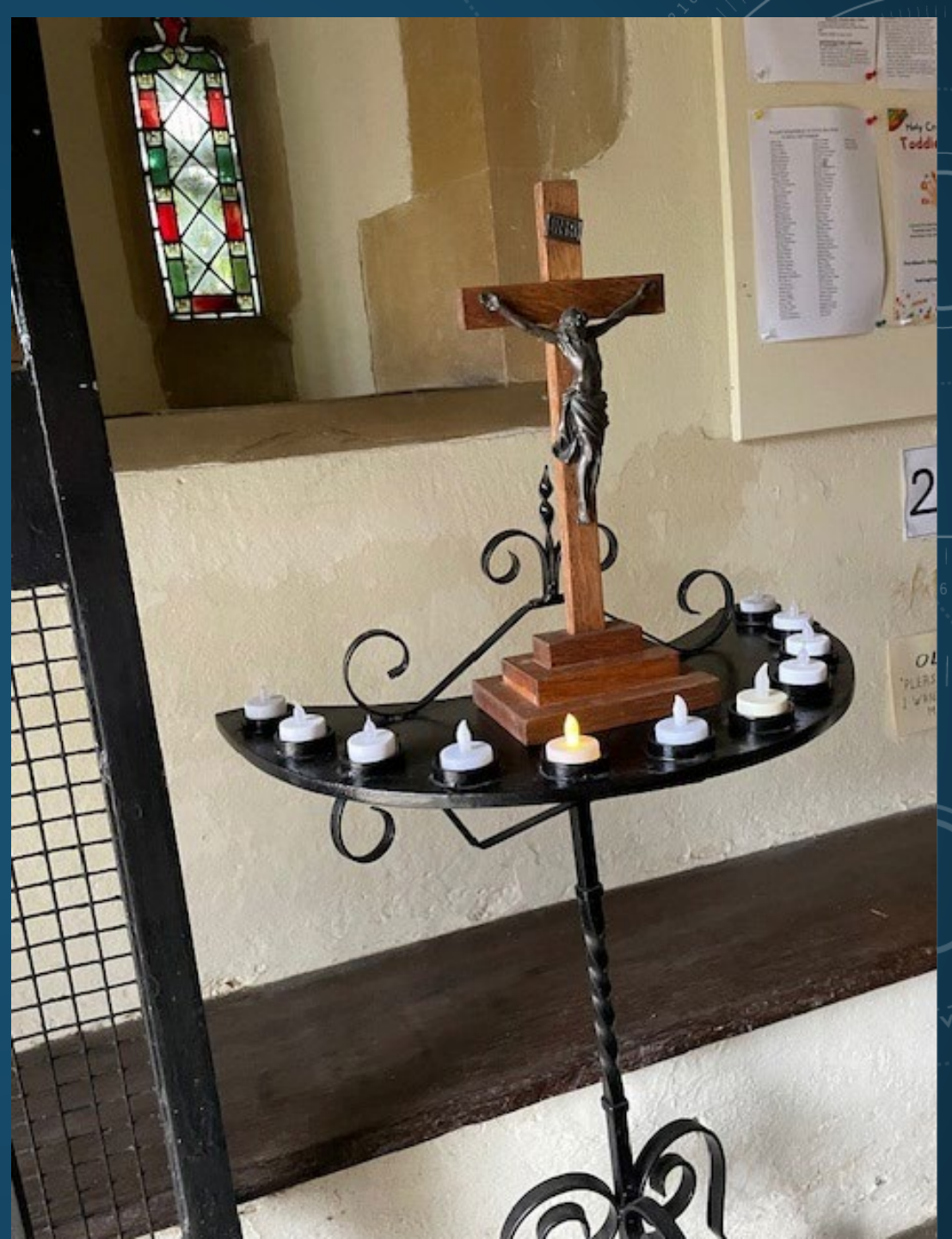
West Peckham, Kent – St. Dunstan

- Alexander Betts – Buried 25 November 1594
- John Betts – Buried 8 August 1620
- Thomas Betts – Baptized between 10 May and 4 December 1615. Immigrated to America about 1634.

BEARSTED – HOLY CROSS CHURCH

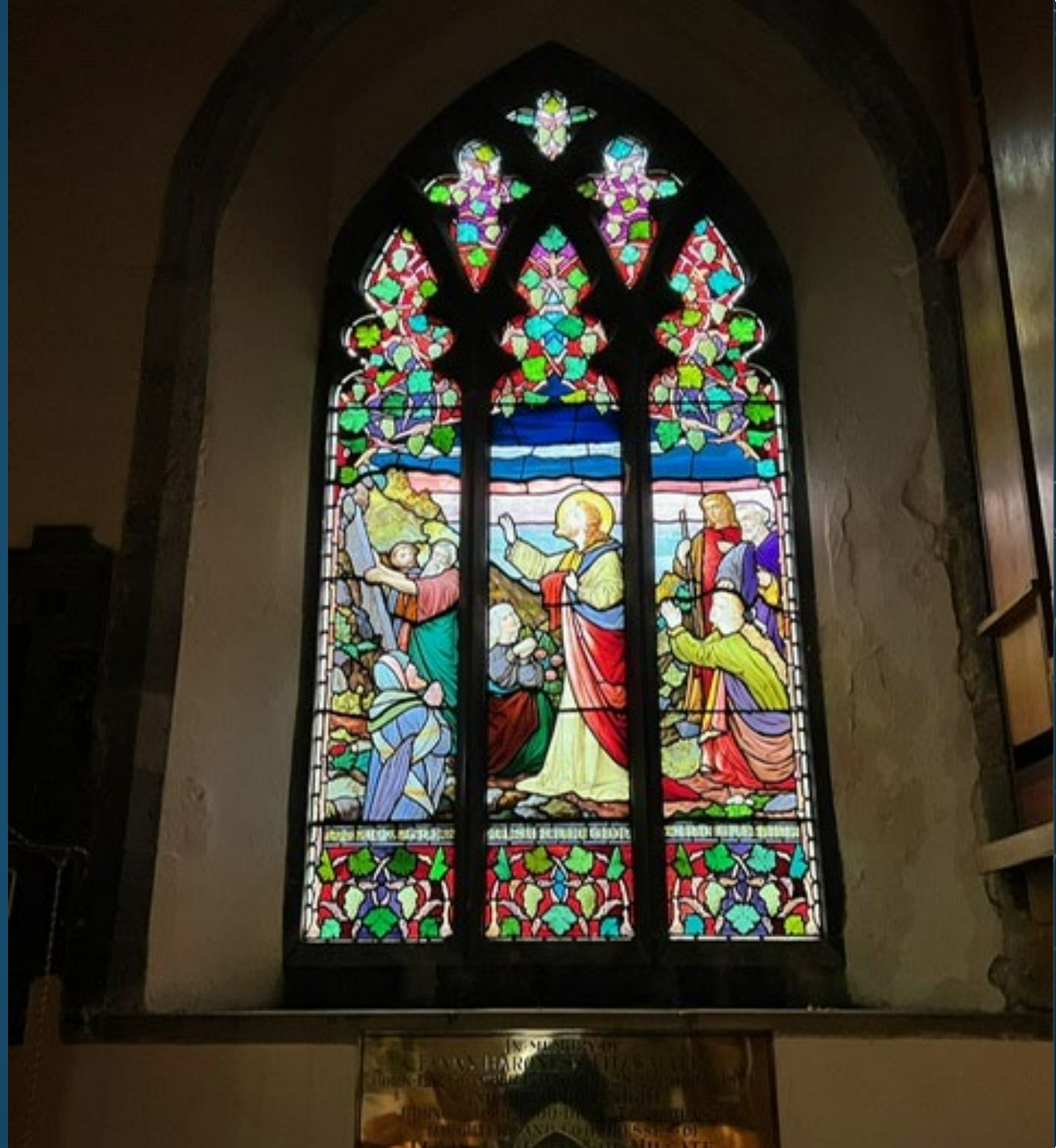


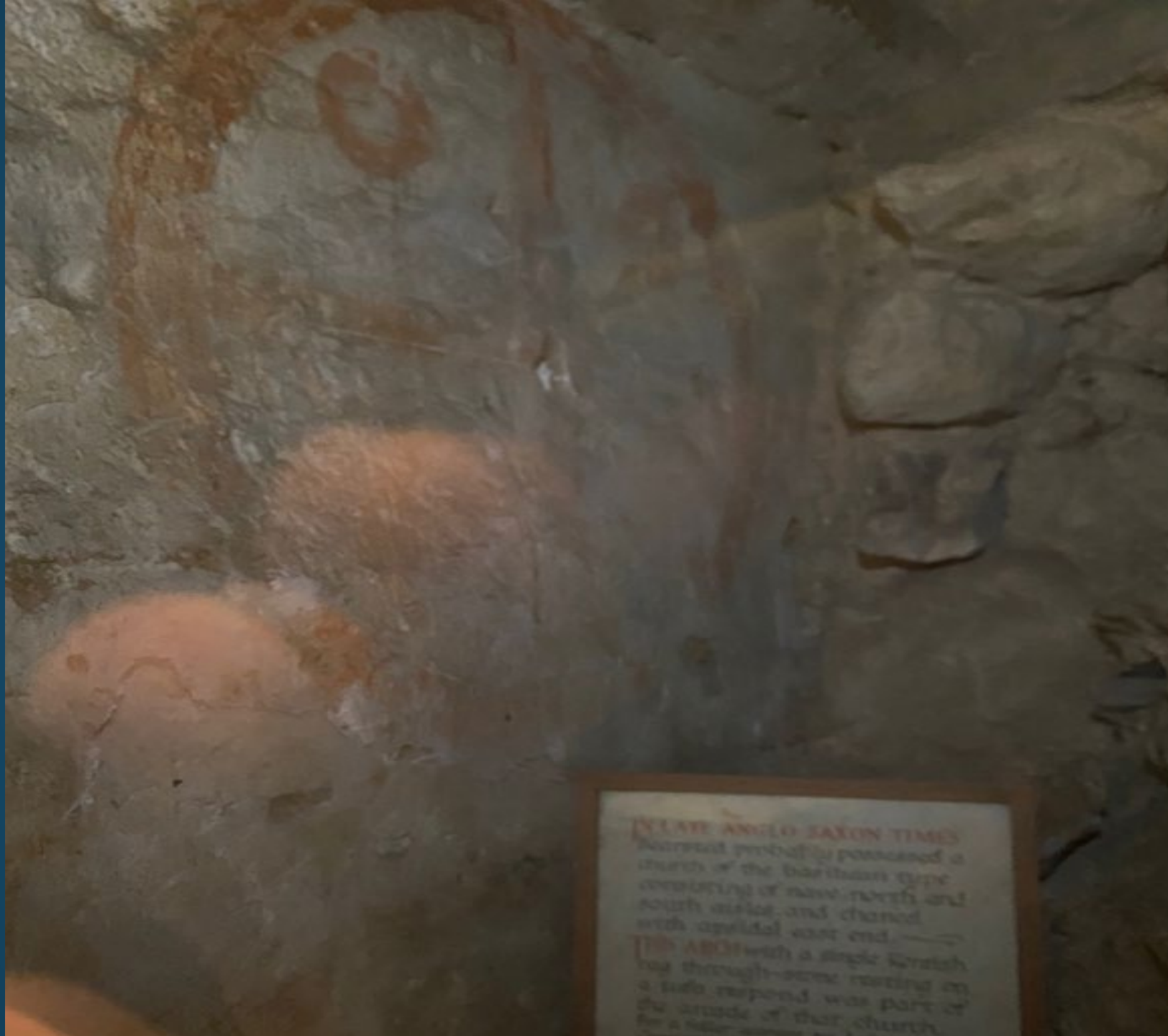












IN LATE ANGLO-SAXON TIMES

Warrant probably possessed a church of the barthian type consisting of nave, north and south aisles and chancel with apsidal east end.

THE ARCH with a single scratch has through some resting on a tall support was part of the arcade of their church for a later...

IN LATE ANGLO-SAXON TIMES
Bearsted probably possessed a
church of the basilican type
consisting of nave, north and
south aisles, and chancel
with apsidal east end. —

THIS ARCH with a single Kentish
rag through-stone resting on
a tufa respond was part of
the arcade of that church.
For a fuller account see *Archaeologia*
Cantiana LXII (1949). —

THE CONSECRATION CROSS
on the respond is considered
(1950) the earliest painted one
in the country and is probably
of 12th century date. It will be
noticed that it covers an
earlier incised cross. —





To the Memory of

GEORGE BETTS of this Parish
who died Aug: 21st 18. 76
Aged 75 Years

Mrs. ANNA Wife of the above

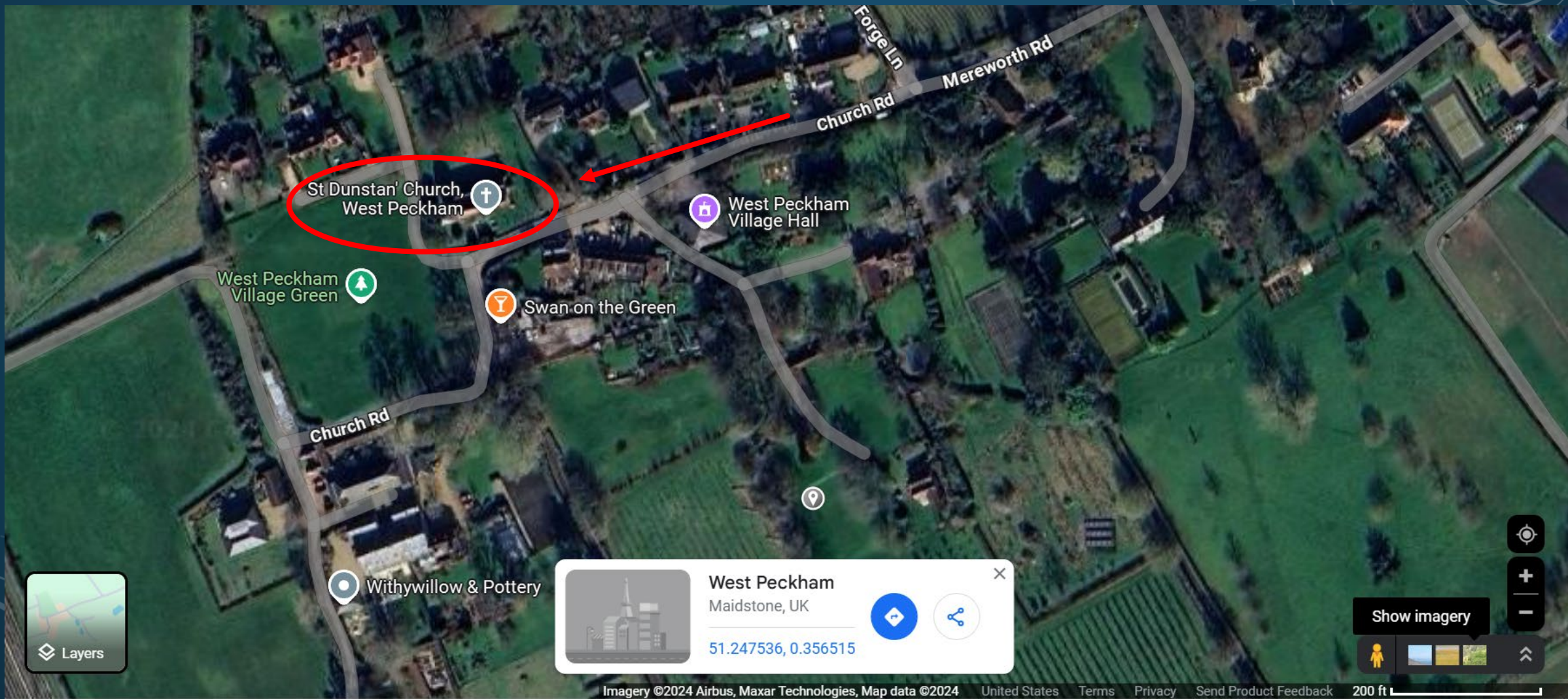


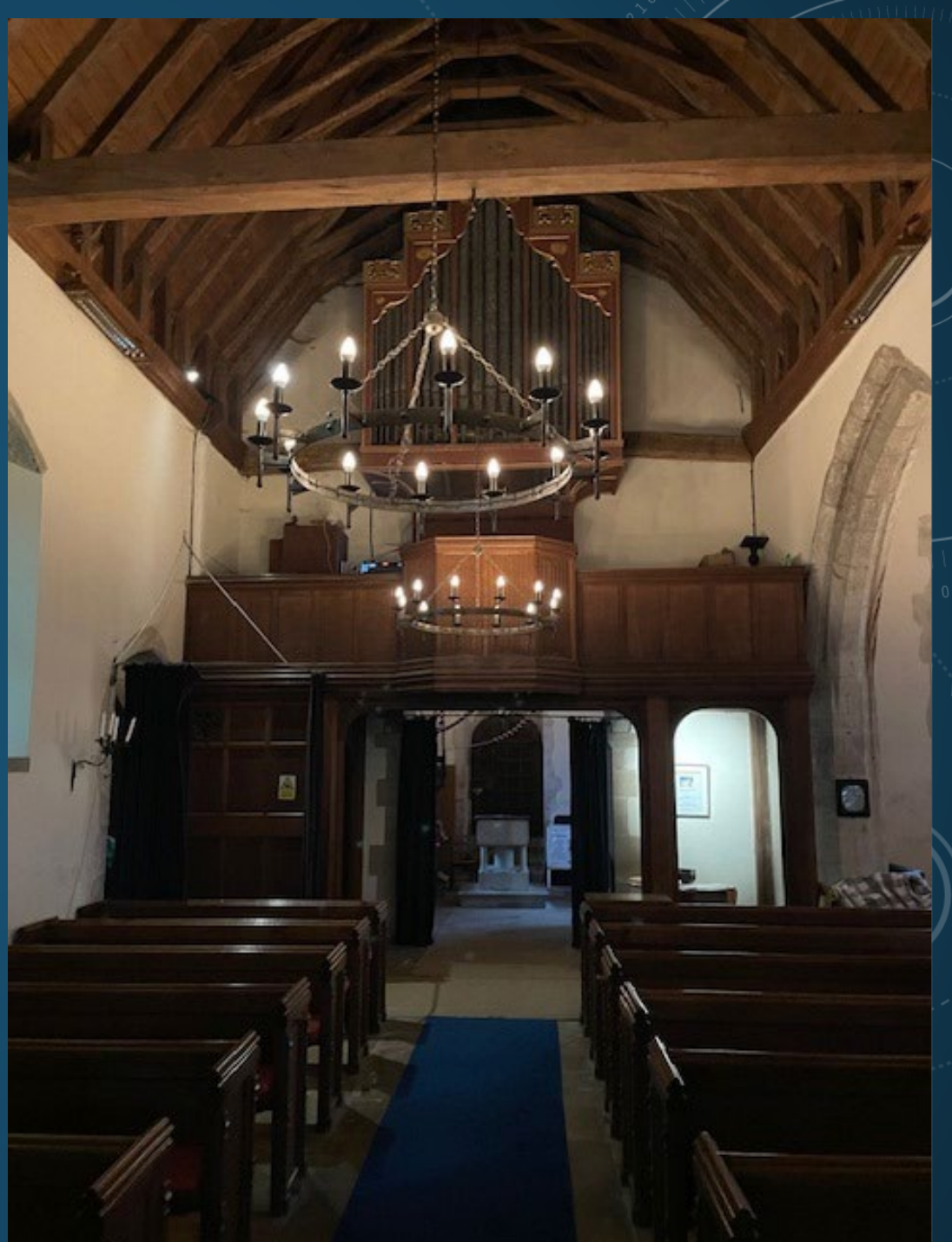


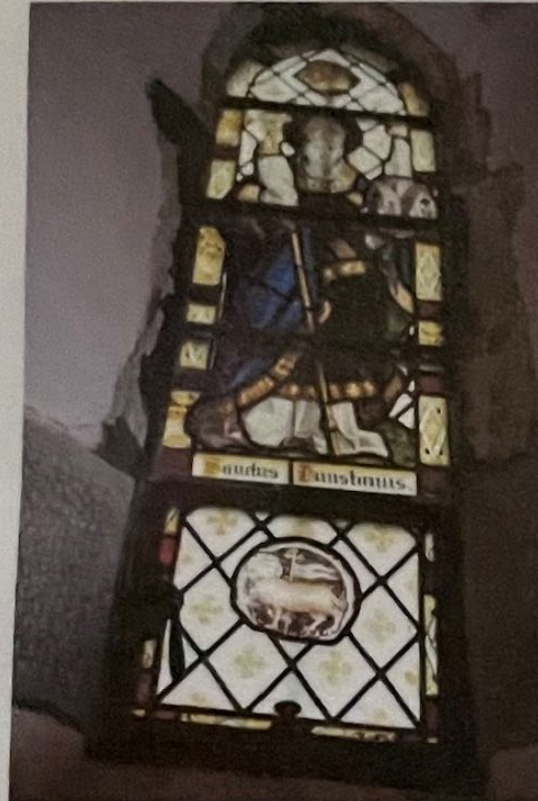


Welcome to this Church
in which the people of
West Peckham have
worshipped for the best
part of 1000 years.

WEST PECKHAM – ST. DUNSTAN



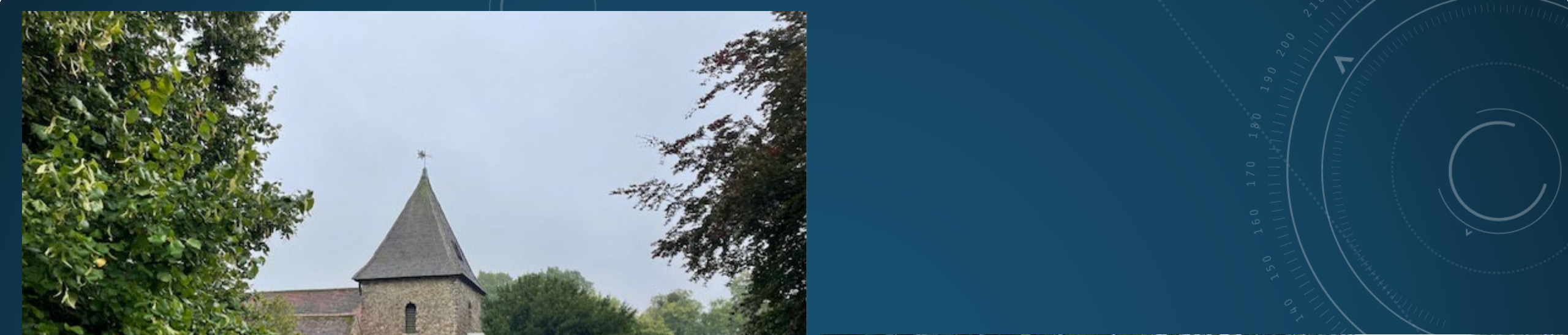


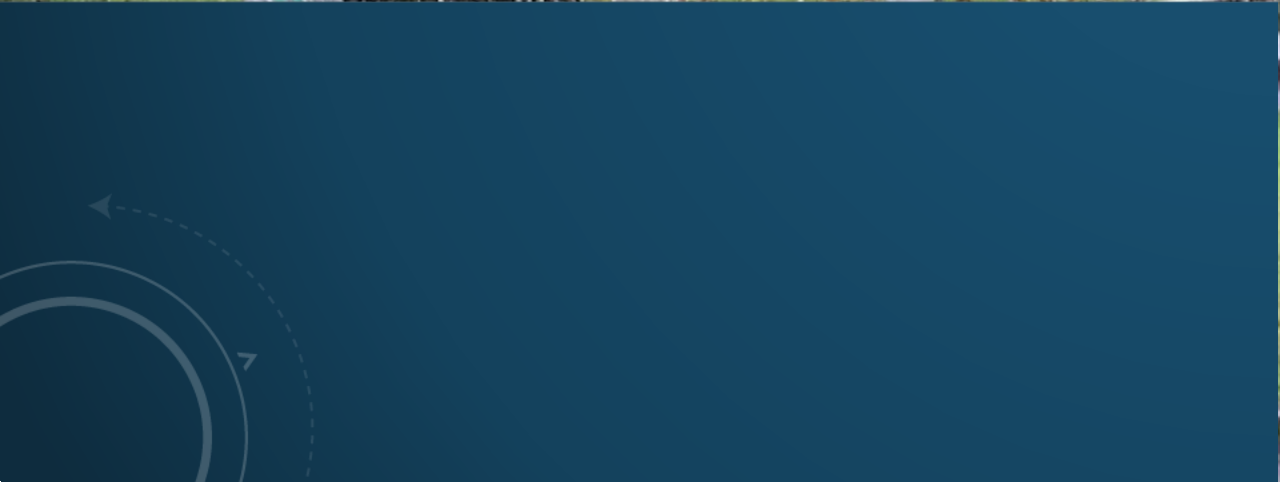


The stained glass isn't very exciting. The exception is in the "Early English" window in the south-east corner of the chancel which is of St Dunstan. Most of it is Victorian, but in the lower part of the window is a portion of glass, with the representation of the "Agnus mediaeval.

The candelabra which hangs in the chancel is Jacobean. It has been thoroughly cleaned and polished this year!







Swan

1526

This inn known by the name and sign of the Swan was built in the 17th year of Henry VIII, in 1526, though the original structure has been altered and added to at different intervals of time, particularly during the reign of George III, and again during that of Victoria.

The house was first licenced in 1685, when in that year one Joshua Cowell, a miller of some repute of this parish was granted a lease and a licence to sell ales from the premises, which at this date bore no title other than that of an ale house and that the said Cowell was of that house.

Before this, for many years, the property with five others nearby had formed a considerable farm estate, belonging to the Eldridge estate of Conbridge parish, whose family and descendants held title to it and many other lands and properties in around that town and within the town and adjoining parishes of Maidstone. By 1638, over a century after its founding the property had expanded to include a bakery, adjoining orchard and stables. In that year the property, with other dwellings, was split from the estate of Eldridge and disposed of by sale to one Israel Scoones, a corn miller and merchant of Falding parish. By the 1680's the property was in the hands of Miss Isabella Scoones, spinster and it was her in the year 1685, who granted a lease to the aforementioned, Joshua Cowell.

By 1721, the house, still restricted to one licence was kept by Jacob Cowell, baker and by this date it had come to be commonly called the "Millers Arms". By 1740 only a "widow Cowelle" is recorded here at the "Myllets Armes, on the Greene" and like her husband she is recorded as a "Baker and Ayle Keyper". In 1763, the year of Naomi Cowells death, the house with adjoining dwellings was purchased by one Stephen Waller innkeeper and brewer of Hunton from one Richard Scoones. At this date works were carried out to the property, which it appears, consisted of enlarging by the incorporation of adjoining dwellings. For many years Stephen Waller had kept an inn at Nettlestead called the "Kentish Head".

In 1771, he sold the "Millers Arms" with adjoining bakery to one Thomas Oliver, miller, who two years later was granted a full licence for the house and upon being so registered it under the sign of the "Honest Com" the origin of which dates back to the Romans, who were cheated by a Saxon Miller. As a punishment the unfortunate miller was deprived of his ears. Other millers not wishing to befall the same fate, hung signs outside their establishments stating that they were honest millers and there originated the sign. Thomas Oliver perverted this by introducing his christian name to the sign.

Thomas Oliver kept the house until his death in 1808, whereafter his wife Mary took over until her own death in 1815, upon the event of which, her son James took over, staying until his death in 1852. In that year the "Honest Com" was purchased by Richard Gibbot brewer of Wateringbury and after alterations were again carried out to the property, the house was re-registered under the title of the "Swan". At this date it was kept by Thomas Herriman a wheelwright of West Peckham.

Herriman kept the house and continued to ply his original trade until his death in 1863 whereafter by widows consent his wife Louisa was granted the licence. She stayed until 1866 handing over in that year to Thomas Woollett wheelwright. At this date mention is still made of the adjoining bakery. It was operated by Thomas Callow. However by 1875, when Woollett gave up the licence to one William Acott, no mention is made of a bakery or sign from that date, so one must assume that it ceased to function around that period.

William Acott kept the house until 1887, when he was succeeded by William Watson Cooke, fruit grower. He handed over in 1894 to John Henry Durr, also a fruit grower, who remained until 1908 during the course of his stay here he had built up a reputable trade, selling fruit. In that year of 1900 he was succeeded by Henry James Collingbourne, he in 1914 by William Casson, and he in 1918 by Maurice Chivers. At this date the house was owned by the Style and Finch Brewery of Maidstone. In 1929, one Harry Carter Howard kept the Swan staying until 1934, when he was succeeded by Oliver Proude and he in 1936, by Brian John Pratt, who remained for many years. In the 1960's the Swan was managed by Brian Ralph Coggan and to-day it is kept by Brian Ralph Coggan.





The Swan
Community Project
If you Care
Buy a Share
Be a Part of a
Community
Owned Pub

SAVE
the
Swan

THE
SWAN
ON THE GREEN

The Swan
Community Project
A BOND A PLEDGE A COMMITMENT
If you Care
Buy a Share
Be a Part of a
Community
Owned Pub

Buy Shares
& SAVE the Swan
Don't let this
happen...
Be a Part of a
COMMUNITY OWNED PUB

SAVE
the
Swan
Invest as
little as
£250.00
With Great
TAX RELIEF
Be a Part of a
Community
Owned Pub

Canterbury Cathedral





Historic Building 1620 The Mayflower Connection

In 1620, Robert Cushman
a local deacon,
negotiated the hire
of the famous
MAYFLOWER Ship
in this building
and as a result
of the contracts
being signed here
the pilgrim fathers
set sail to America
to become the
first settlers in
Massachusetts, USA

Our Eatery serves
Classic American
& English favorites
to celebrate this.

ANCESTORS ARE OUR PERSONAL HISTORY. IF WE DO NOT LOOK AT OUR HISTORY, THEN WE CANNOT KNOW WHO WE ARE IN THE PRESENT NOR WHO WE MIGHT BE IN THE FUTURE. OUR ANCESTRY GIVES US A SENSE OF FOUNDATION, WHICH FORMS THE BASIS OF OUR LIVES IN THE PRESENT.

Thanks for watching! And I'm ready to go back!
Who will go with me?

Bill Spearman

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