

Grace & Gardens in England's "Green and Pleasant Land" With Holy Trinity, Greensboro, NC and Virginia Theological Seminary April 18 - 28, 2027

*Spiritually led by the Rev. David Umphlett, The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., and
The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.*

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1, April 18, 2027 (Sunday)

Arrive, walking orientation,
Evensong at the Abbey, Welcome
Buffet

ARRIVAL at The Rubens at the Palace Hotel, overlooking Buckingham Palace and close to Victoria Station

3:00 pm Evensong at nearby Westminster Abbey, with a gentle stroll to the Rubens afterwards.

4:30 pm There will be a walking orientation of the area for those who wish to join. We will meet in the foyer of The Rubens at the Palace Hotel.

6:30 pm Welcoming buffet (included) with remarks from "Introduction to Anglicanism and England," and Dr. Hawkins, "A Theology of Pilgrimage." Compline after dinner.

Overnight at the Rubens Hotel.

Day 2, April 19, 2027 (Monday)

St. Paul's and British Museum

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Take the Underground from the Rubens to St. Paul's Cathedral for a 10:00 am Tour of St. Paul's Cathedral

12:00 pm Arrive at the British Museum to see the Bayeux Tapestry — 70 metres of medieval artistry bringing 1066 to life, from the Battle of Hastings to the Norman Conquest, in vivid scenes of ships, warfare, and daily life. History and art, woven as one.

3:00 pm Optional: Gather at the Shoppe and garden of Robert Kime, interior decorator for Clarence House and Highgrove, homes of King Charles. London Showroom, 190-192 Ebury St, London SW1W 8UP, UK

Evening Free and dinner on your own. Overnight at the Rubens Hotel.

Day 3, April 20, 2027 (Tuesday):
Lambeth and Westminster Abbey

6:00 am Breakfast

7:30 am Take the Underground or Taxi from the Rubens to Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

8:00 am Arrive at the Gate of Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU

8:30 am Matins and garden walk at Lambeth Palace, Lambeth Garden Museum and rest stop at garden cafe.

Walk along the Thames towards Westminster Abbey. Lunch your own.

1:30-3:00 pm Meet at Westminster Abbey, Visit Westminster Abbey for Tour of the garden and the archaeology site for the new King Charles III Sacristy building, which will be the first major building in the country to be named after the new King.

5:00 pm Optional Evensong at Westminster Abbey.

Evening free. Overnight at The Rubens Hotel.

Day 4, April 21, 2027 (Wednesday):
Travel to Canterbury, Candlelit tour
of Canterbury Cathedral

Transfer Day > London to Canterbury

Hotel: The Abode Canterbury, 30-33 High St, Canterbury, CT1 2RX

8:00 am Breakfast at The Rubens

9:30 am Pick up from the Rubens and transfer with luggage to The Abode in Canterbury. Please note because the entrance to The Abode is on a pedestrian street, there will be a two-minute walk from the coach to the hotel. Lunch on your own as you explore Canterbury, a cathedral city in southeast England which was a pilgrimage site in the Middle Ages. We will also marvel at the Cathedral, dating from 597AD when Augustine, sent by Pope Gregory the Great arrived on the coast of Kent as a missionary.

For the Evening: Be aware of the need for care when walking on ancient stones in the dark; we recommend wearing sensible shoes for this evening.

5:15 pm Meet at Canterbury Cathedral for Evensong, which begins at 5:30 pm; Cathedral House, 11 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH

6:30 pm Reception in the Campanil Gardens.

7:00 pm Dinner (included) at The Refectory Restaurant at the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, followed by a candlelit walk in the dark Cathedral with vespers at the shrine of the martyred Thomas Becket, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170.

9:30 pm Walk back and overnight at The Abode.

Day 5, April 22, 2027
(Thursday):
Sissinghurst

8:00 am Breakfast

10:15 am Travel by coach to nearby Sissinghurst Castle Garden, a famous 20th-century garden with its series of ten smaller “garden rooms,” created by Vita Sackville-West.

11:30 am Explore the Sissinghurst Castle Garden on your own

12:30 pm Group Lunch at the Upper Granary Restaurant (included)

2:00 pm Depart Sissinghurst for Canterbury for free time to explore Canterbury on your own: St. Augustine’s Abbey, Westgate Towers, The Crooked House

Evening Free. Overnight in The Abode.

Day 6, April 23, 2027
(Friday): travel to Cambridge

Transfer Day > Canterbury to Cambridge

Hotel: University Arms and Parker’s Tavern, Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AD

8:00 am Leisurely Breakfast at The Abode

9:30 am Transfer from Canterbury to Cambridge and the University Arms Hotel. Enjoy punting on the River Cam or exploring the glories of this university city. Cambridge University (1209) colleges include King's, famed for its choir and towering Gothic chapel, Trinity, founded by Henry VIII, and St. John's with its 16th-century Great Gate.

Afternoon and evening free to explore Cambridge sites, including the Fitzwilliam Museum - the art and antiquities museum of the University of Cambridge, with over half a million objects and artworks in its collection.

Overnight at the University Arms hotel.

NEXT DAY REMINDER NOTE: For your visit to Little Gidding in the morning, please could all participants bring slippers or indoor shoes; outdoor shoes must be removed before entering the main building.

Day 7, April 24, 2027 (Saturday):
Little Gidding, Punting

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Travel by coach the 30 miles to Little Gidding, near Sawtry within Huntingdonshire. Little Gidding was the home of a small Anglican religious community established in 1626 by Nicholas Ferrar. In the 20th century, the poet T. S. Eliot was inspired by the legacy of Little Gidding and incorporated historical elements and symbols into his poem, "Little Gidding," as part of his collection Four Quartets (1945).

10:30 am Eucharist in the Little Gidding St. John's Church, followed by lunch at the Ferrar House.

12:00 pm Lunch of soup, rolls, coffee, tea, and pudding at Little Gidding (included)

1:30 pm Return to Cambridge

5:00 pm Walk to Christ's College, for an evening reception and talk, followed by dinner in The Old Combination Room, Christ's College (included).

After dinner, walk back to and overnight at the University Arms Hotel

Day 8, April 25, 2027 (Sunday):
Travel to Bath, Roman Baths,
American museum

Transfer Day > Cambridge to Bath

7:00 am Breakfast at University Arms

10:00 am We make our way to the west of England to stay in the city of Bath. We stay at The Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel, famous as the only hotel in the UK with private, direct access to natural, mineral-rich geothermal waters.

Hotel: The Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel, Beau St, Bath BA1 1QY

Spend the free afternoon and evening exploring Bath at leisure. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famed for its ancient Roman-built hot springs, still open to visit today. Wander streets lined with honey-coloured Georgian architecture, admire the sweeping Royal Crescent, and cross the River Avon on the unique Pulteney Bridge, lined with shops on both sides. For something different, the American Museum & Gardens — founded in 1961 — offers a fascinating window into American folk and decorative arts, set against beautiful grounds.

Lunch and Dinner on your own. Overnight at the Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel.

Day 9, April 26, 2027 (Monday):
Salisbury Cathedral

7:00 am Breakfast

8:30am Travel to Salisbury Cathedral — formally the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary — one of the UK's most iconic medieval masterpieces. Built in the Early English Gothic style between 1220 and 1258, it houses the world's best-preserved copy of the 1215 Magna Carta and boasts Britain's tallest church spire, at 123 metres (404 feet).

10:30am Explore Salisbury Cathedral and town.

Salisbury itself is remarkable: unlike most European cities that grew organically over centuries, it was one of the earliest consciously planned grid cities, laid out in 1220 around a checkerboard system called the "Chequers." That grid survives intact today, alongside 14th-century timber-framed buildings and the historic Poultry Cross market — all still walkable.

Late Afternoon, travel back to Bath with free evening and dinner on your own. Overnight at Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel.

Day 10, April 27, 2027
(Tuesday): Wells Cathedral,
Farewell dinner

7:00 am Breakfast

8:30am Travel to Wells, Somerset — England's smallest city, nestled at the foot of the rolling Mendip Hills. Home to just 12,000 residents, it takes its name from three natural springs dedicated to Saint Andrew, which still rise within its grounds today.

At its heart stands Wells Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of St Andrew — a breathtaking medieval masterpiece built between 1180 and 1260, and the first English cathedral constructed entirely in the Gothic style. Next door, the Bishop's Palace & Gardens has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 years, its moat and fortified walls guarding a delightful tradition: resident swans that ring a bell at the gatehouse when they want to be fed.

Travel back to Bath.

6:30 pm Group farewell dinner (included).

Overnight at Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel.

Day 11, April 28, 2027
(Wednesday): London departure

8am Leisurely Breakfast

Group Transfer to Heathrow for flights home with memories for a lifetime!

Thanks Be To God!

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Terms

Cost

\$8,800 per person, sharing double room with twin beds; for single room there will be a supplement.

Luxury Hotels

- The Rubens at the Palace (4 nights)
- The Abode (2 nights)
- University Arms (2 nights)
- Gainsborough Bath Spa Hotel (4 nights)

Not included in the above price:

Airfares, gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, servers, lunches and dinners, unless otherwise noted.

Transportation

Transportation is included for all activities, except to and from the airport.

Assistance

Provision of audiophones, and guides during tours.

Deposit

Bookings are processed on reception of a deposit of \$1,500 per person.

Checks are made payable to: Barney Hawkins (for Grace and Gardens II - April 18)

Mail to:

The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.
VTS Pilgrimages
P.O. Box 18
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718

Cancellations

We are committed to providing you with a memorable travel experience while in England. If we must cancel the pilgrimage, we will reimburse all fees that have been paid. If we must postpone, we will work with you to reimburse all fees that have been paid or apply it to another pilgrimage in the future.

Airports

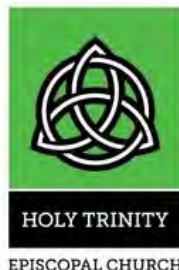
London Heathrow airport

To the Rubens by The Heathrow Express train (operates 150 services a day), or by the Tube system (Piccadilly Circus station), or by Taxi (between £48 to £90 and takes 30 minutes to one hour).

Gatwick Airport

To the Rubens by The Gatwick Express train (operates four trains an hour), or by Taxi (official Gatwick concession Airport Cars Gatwick).

BEFORE making your flight arrangements, please clear dates and times with us. For those who arrive before the start of the pilgrimage, we have secured additional rooms at the Rubens at the Palace Hotel, overlooking Buckingham Palace.



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FULL NAME (S)

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE/MOBILE AND EMAIL

SIGNATURE AND DATE

Mail form and deposit to:
The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.
VTS Pilgrimages
P.O. Box 18
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718

Pilgrim Passport Information

FULL NAME

DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH

DATE OF ISSUE DATE OF EXPIRATION

PASSPORT NUMBER

Pilgrim 2 Passport Information

FULL NAME

DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH

DATE OF ISSUE DATE OF EXPIRATION

PASSPORT NUMBER

