

# Contact Us

## Retreats

For the conference brochure or Retreat Programme and group booking enquiries please contact [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

## Vocations to the Religious life and the Priesthood

Please contact: [vocations@carmelite.org](mailto:vocations@carmelite.org)

## Carmelite Third Order

For information and details please contact [central@laycarmel.org](mailto:central@laycarmel.org)

## Pilgrimages and Tours

A copy of our Pilgrimage Leaflet is available on our website or via reception.

## Guesthouse

Accommodation available for individuals and small groups please contact [guesthouse@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:guesthouse@thefriars.org.uk)

## Aylesford Newsletter

Keep in touch with The Friars, read about our news, organise masses and purchase mass cards via our quarterly newsletter, please contact [newsletter@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@thefriars.org.uk)

## Tearoom

For enquiries contact [tearoom@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:tearoom@thefriars.org.uk) 01622 710043

## Giftshop

Selling religious articles and gifts, please contact [bookshop@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@thefriars.org.uk) or 01622 715770.

## Opening hours:

10.00am- 5.00pm April-September  
10.00am-3.30pm October-March

## Events

For private events, The North Barn or information on our Fayres please contact [events@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:events@thefriars.org.uk)  
For enquiries on hiring the grounds for an event please contact [estates@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:estates@thefriars.org.uk)

## Weddings

To contact one of our Wedding Coordinators and for information on our Wedding Receptions please contact [events@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:events@thefriars.org.uk)

## Shrine Secretary

For booking chapels or information on our pilgrimages please contact: [pilgrim@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:pilgrim@thefriars.org.uk)

## Aylesford Pottery

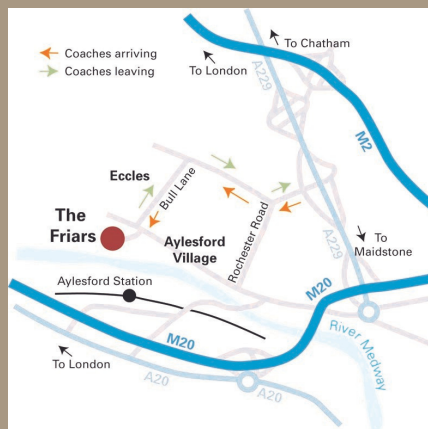
Phone: 01622 790796 email: [enquiries@aylesfordpottery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aylesfordpottery.co.uk)

## J.Turner Upholsters

Phone:01622 790891 email: [jtu@btconnect.com](mailto:jtu@btconnect.com)



# How To Find Us



Aylesford and The Friars are just over 20 miles from London and easily accessible by road and rail.

## Road:

Please use satnav postcode ME20 7BY.

A2/M2: Exit Junction 3 for the A229 and follow signs for The Friars

M20: Exit junction 6 for A229 and follow signs for The Friars.

Coaches must approach and leave Via Eccles and not Aylesford Village.

## Rail:

From London stations to Maidstone then a short taxi drive from there.

or

From London stations to Aylesford railway station (change at Strood). And a 20 minute walk, turning left as you leave the station and left again as you enter Aylesford Village via the old bridge.

The Friars, Aylesford, Kent  
01622 717272

[reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)  
[www.thefriars.org.uk](http://www.thefriars.org.uk)

Registered charity number: 1068518

Facebook: [@thefriarsaylesfordkent](https://www.facebook.com/thefriarsaylesfordkent)

Instagram: [@thefriarsaylesford](https://www.instagram.com/thefriarsaylesford)

# The Friars

Aylesford

*Kent's Hidden Treasure*



*Experience the tranquillity  
and fascinating history of  
The Friars*



## Introduction

Aylesford is home to a community of Carmelite Friars. The Friars is three miles north west of Maidstone on the River Medway. It is a popular centre of pilgrimage, welcoming pilgrims of all faiths and none.

The Priory, or The Friars to use its traditional name, was founded in 1242 and today is a blend of medieval and modern said to be one of Kent's hidden historic treasures.

Visitors can enjoy the beautiful grounds and stunning medieval buildings, and enjoy walks through the Peace Garden and Rosary Way.

## History and Art

There are a number of original medieval buildings that include two walls of the cloister, the Cloister Chapel, Prior's Hall and the Pilgrims' Hall. There is an open air Shrine with five chapels with some of the finest, modern, religious art in this country.

There is a working pottery and upholstery on site where visitors can see local artisans at work.



## The Grounds

Make the most of our tranquil setting by taking a walk around our beautiful grounds, Rosary Way and Peace Garden. You may like to relax by the pond or feed the ducks. Duck food can be purchased in Reception.



## Pilgrimages and Retreats

Aylesford is a centre of prayer and pilgrimage. Large groups come from April-October to pray at the Shrine, to seek God's blessing and to honour Our Lady. Anyone wishing to bring a group should contact the Shrine Secretary.

There is a programme of retreats arranged by the Carmelite Community. Individuals are also welcome to come and stay and join in the prayer life of the Community.



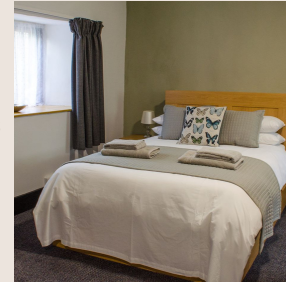
## Conference Centre

The Friars is a well established conference centre. The main hall seats 120 and is let as a suite with two syndicate rooms and a lounge/bar. Six additional rooms seat between 10 and 80 people.



## Guesthouse

The guesthouse can accommodate up to 80 people in single or twin rooms. We welcome individuals and groups coming for retreats, holidays and minibreaks. Residential businesses and conferences can also be accommodated.



## The North Barn

The beautifully restored 17th Century North Barn is a unique venue that can be hired for wedding receptions, parties, exhibitions and conferences.

It can accommodate up to 150 guests and benefits from a licenced bar.



## The West Barn

The West Barn is 16th Century and has been lovingly restored. It now houses our Giftshop and Tearoom.

## Giftshop

The Giftshop offers a range of souvenirs, gifts and religious articles, cards and a comprehensive range of Christian books.

## The Tearoom

Treat yourselves to our delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and snacks available from the Tearoom.

## Pilgrims' Hall

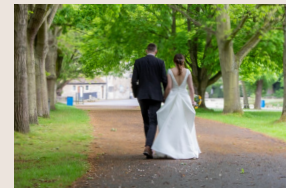
The beautiful 13th Century Pilgrims' Hall offers lunches made using local produce.

It provides a stunning venue for events such as wedding breakfasts, wakes or private dinners.



## Weddings

Are you looking for the perfect wedding reception venue? We offer a range of wedding packages to suit all budgets and requirements.



## Events

Come along to our annual Summer and Christmas Fayres. There's fun for everyone. Details of this and other events can be found on our website. [www.thefriars.org.uk](http://www.thefriars.org.uk)

