

# Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

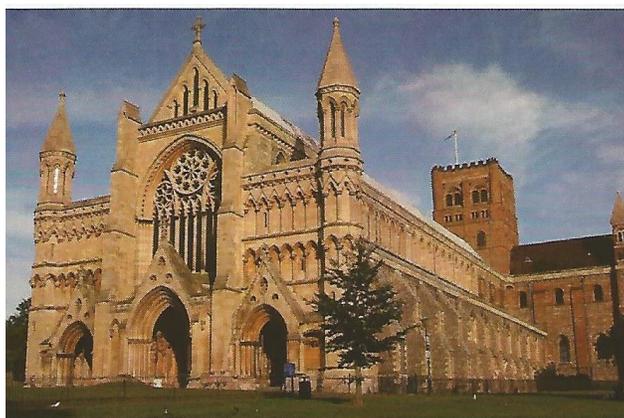
## Visit to St Albans Abbey Church and the Verulamium Museum on Thursday 30 April 2015

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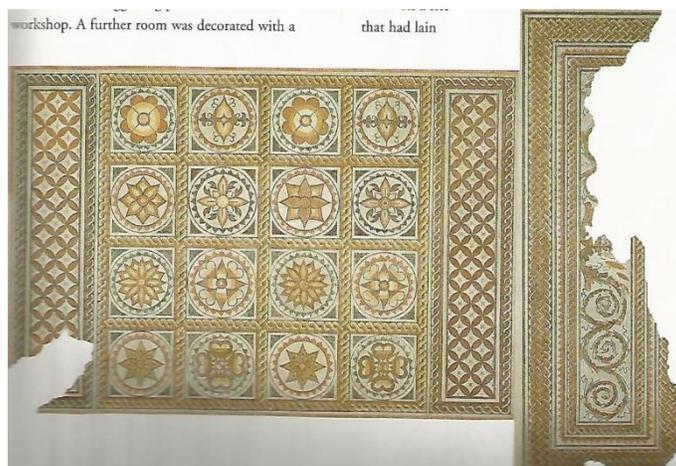
This visit has been organised by Tony Manning

### THE VISIT

We shall visit the Abbey Church of St Alban taking a guided tour. The Church has the longest nave in England. Originally part of a large monastery, some of the abbey dates back to the twelfth century and includes recycled Roman bricks fired about 120 AD.



After lunch at a local hostelry we will stroll across Verulam Park to view the excavated remains of the Roman city of Verulamium before entering the museum where the artefacts include several restored Roman mosaic floors in excellent condition.



### TRAVEL and PARKING

We will be making a circular tour on foot, covering some 3 km in total. For those travelling **by car** there is a car park at each end of our journey, separated by a 1.5 km pleasant walk beside the lake across Verulam Park. Thus you can choose whether to begin or end your day with this stroll. The car park at the start of the itinerary is at the Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre (19 on the map) where you pay and display at £6.50 for the day. Its post code is AL1 2DL and it is where the A5183 crosses the River Ver. The car park at the other end is at the

Verulamium Museum off the A4147, close to the roundabout junction with the A5183. The Museum's post code is AL3 4SW (16 on the map), and parking for six hours will cost you £3.50. There are toilets here. On arrival walk across the park in a south easterly direction past the bit of Roman City wall and alongside the river to reach the Westminster Lodge car park.

Those coming by **public transport** go to Watford Junction by Midland train or London Overground and take the St Albans Abbey train at 9.24 or 10.40 all the way to the terminus. On leaving the station through the Sainsbury's car park turn right and walk past the Westminster Lodge car park. See the map for stations.

Thus you will all start from the Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, but on arrival proceed immediately up the hill towards the city centre and join together in the Café Rouge for coffee and toilets. The Café Rouge is at the junction of Holywell Hill and Sopwell Lane (see map). This building was originally the sales area for local seed merchant Samuel Ryder, who, as a member of Verulam Golf Club, presented the famous cup for competition between teams representing the USA (now Europe) and Great Britain.

We will leave together at 11 and walk past the old part of the city to the Abbey Church, where we will meet our guide for the morning tour.

At lunch time we will (*either walk down the hill across the park to one of two hostelries, or go to the old White Hart coaching inn outside the Abbey Church and then walk across the park – I will explore them all and decide, provided I am sober at the end of the experiment – pity organisers can't claim expenses!* ).

After lunch it is a short step to the Museum, who will be expecting our party.

Members who started from Westminster Lodge and train passengers will then need to walk across the park. Trains for Watford Junction leave at 16.07, 16.52 and 17.42.

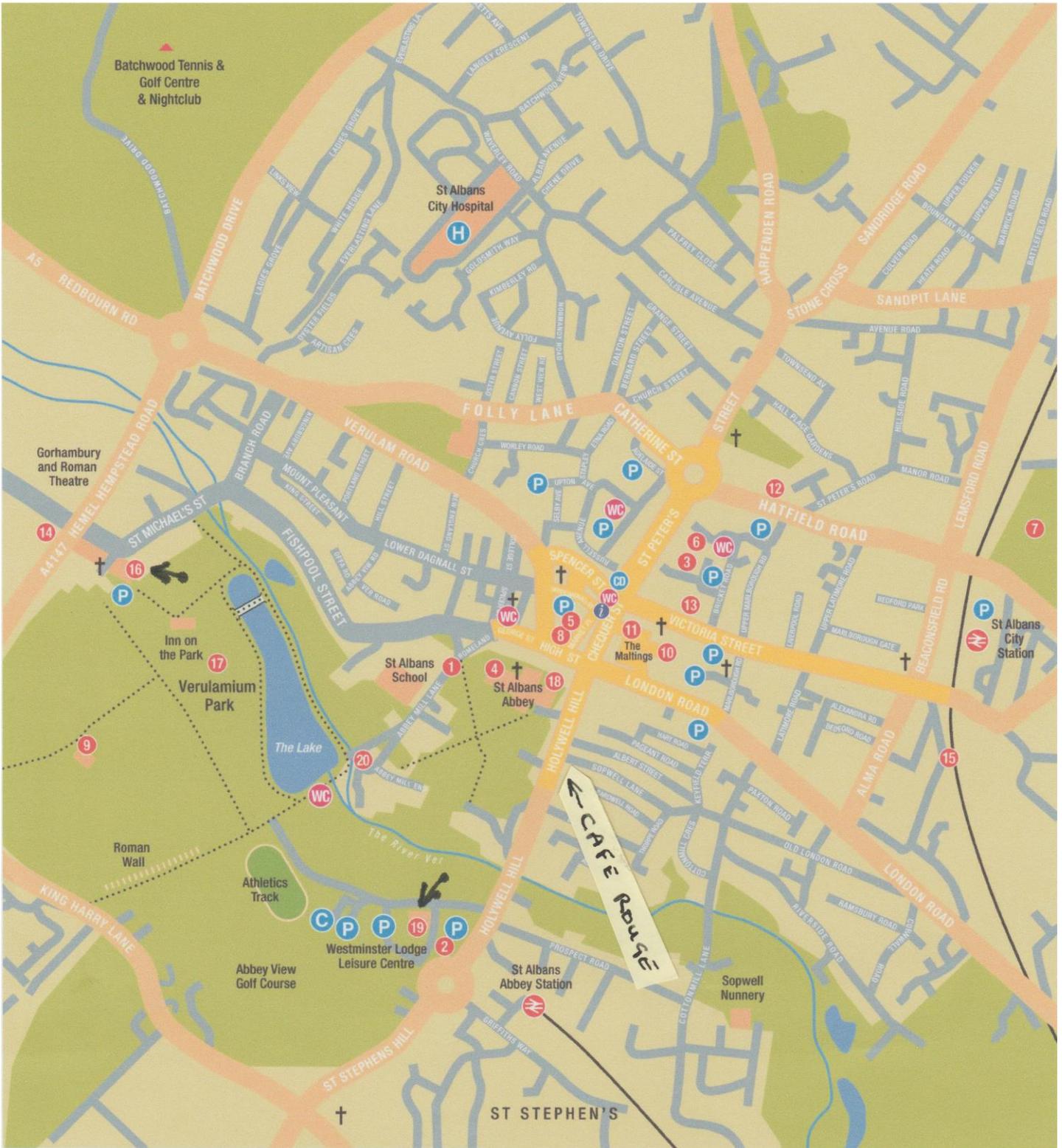
## **PROGRAMME**

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|-------|---|
| 10.00 | Arrive and meet at Café Rouge                       |
| 11.00 | Start of tour, walk to Abbey Church                 |
| 13.00 | Lunch. This will be taken at a nearby Hostelry tbf. |
| 14.30 | Stroll to Verulamium and Musum                      |
| 16.00 | Finish  |

**COST** £12.00 to include entrance fees. Pay for your own travel and food.

## **CONTACTS**

Before the meeting. Tony Colclough 020 8398 0766 or 07930 171307 [tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk)  
On morning of visit. Tony Manning on 07747 611 503



## St Albans City Centre Map and Key

- |                                  |                                     |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Abbey Gateway                  | 11 Maltings Shopping Centre         | P Car Parks                            |
| 2 Abbey Theatre                  | 12 Museum of St Albans              | C Coach Parks                          |
| 3 Alban Arena                    | 13 Police Station                   | † Churches, Places of Worship          |
| 4 Cathedral                      | 14 Roman Theatre                    | ... Footpaths                          |
| 5 Christopher Place              | 15 St Albans South Signal Box       | ■ Main Shopping Centre                 |
| 6 Civic Centre                   | 16 Verulamium Museum                | WC Public Toilets                      |
| 7 Clarence Park                  | 17 Verulamium Park                  | T Town Hall/Tourist Information Centre |
| 8 Clock Tower                    | 18 Vintry Gardens                   | CD Coach Drop Off Point                |
| 9 Hypocaust                      | 19 Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre |  |
| 10 Maltings Arts Theatre/Library | 20 Ye Olde Fighting Cocks Inn       |  |