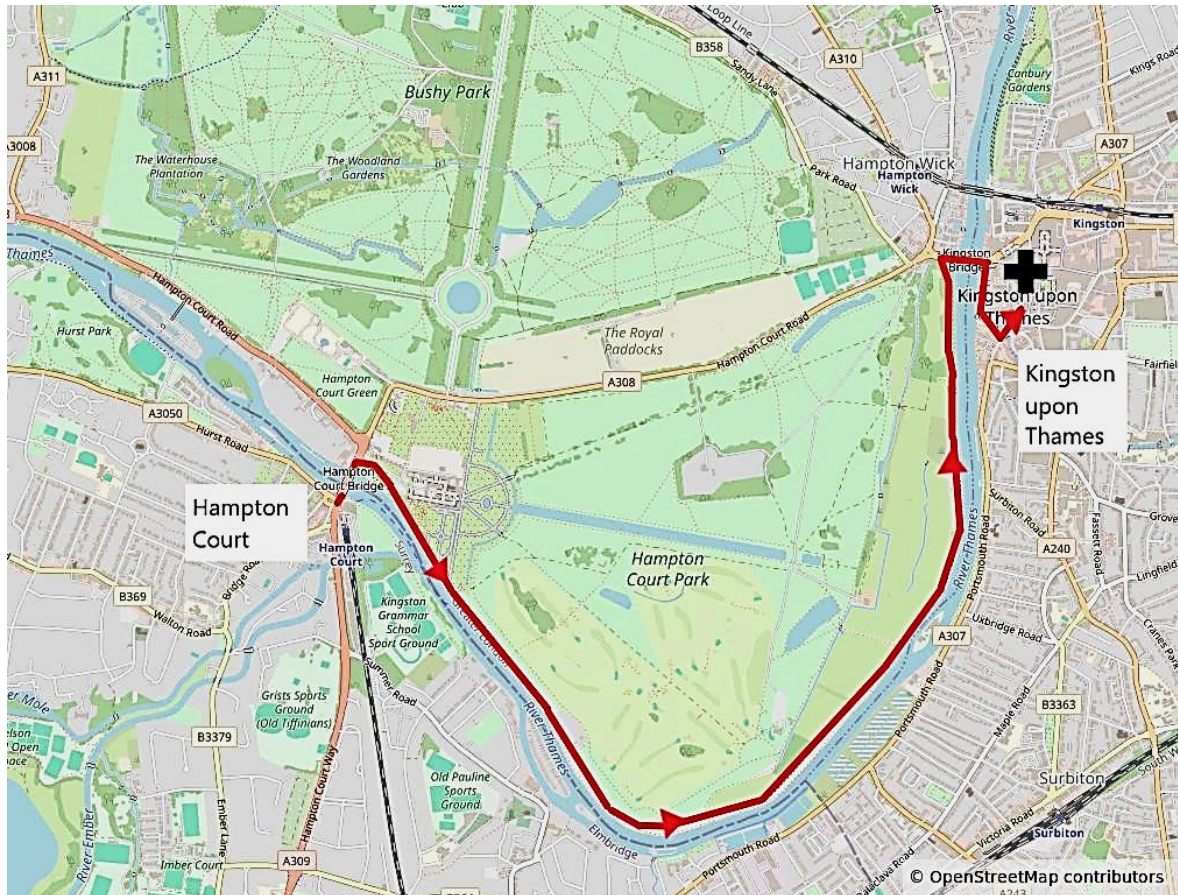# Day 11: Hampton Court to Kingston

Day 11 *The final, short, stage in our pilgrimage walk takes us along the historic Barge Walk towpath, skirting the grounds of Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace to arrive at Kingston Bridge.*

Distance: 3¼ miles
Duration: 1¼ hours
Maps: Ordnance Survey 161
Car parking: Hampton Court Green: £1.80 per hour, max 12 hours. Kingston: Rose Theatre multi-storey (£16 for the day/evening)
Public transport: Hampton Court station and Kingston both have trains from Waterloo
Refreshments and toilets: Various places at Hampton Court, and in Kingston

1. No directions are necessary, as we follow the river's left bank all the way to Kingston Bridge.

Kingston Bridge

Until Putney Bridge was opened in 1729, Kingston Bridge was the only crossing of the river between London Bridge and Staines. There has been a bridge at Kingston at least since the 1100s, and the current structure was opened in 1828, replacing a dilapidated wooden bridge which was a few metres downstream. The bridge has twice been widened since its opening, first in 1912 and subsequently in 2000. The 12th century stone footings of the old wooden bridge can be seen in the basement of the John Lewis building, in a community arts space called 'The Fusebox'.

Day 11: Hampton Court to Kingston

2. At Kingston Bridge we cross to the right bank, then go down the steps and turn right to walk back on ourselves for a couple of hundred yards past the riverside restaurants; then after Browns pub we turn left to walk alongside the Hogsmill river to Clattern Bridge.

Clattern Bridge

Clattern Bridge, which dates from 1175 and crosses the Hogsmill River as it enters the Thames. The bridge, which is one of the oldest intact stone bridges in England, takes the Old Portsmouth Road south from the Ancient Market Place and remains a fully functioning road bridge. The bridge replaced an earlier Saxon crossing which was known as the 'Clatrung Bridge' (or *Clattrynghbrugge*).

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3. After climbing the steps alongside Clattern Bridge we are opposite the historic Coronation Stone, the other side of the road in front of the Guildhall. We will return to this later, but for the moment we'll turn left into the historic Market Place and towards All Saints Church.

All Saints Church

The coronation place of seven (possibly eight) Saxon kings, including King Athelstan in 925. Kingston was an important river crossing at the border between Wessex and Mercia, and a royal manor (hence *'Kynges–Ton'*), although not actually a town in Saxon times. The traces of a Saxon chapel (St Mary's) are visible in the south churchyard of All Saints Church. The Council of Kingston took place in 848, convened by King Egbert (of Wessex) and attended by leading churchmen; the meeting was designed to improve relations between the king and the church. The present All Saints Church is believed to have replaced the Saxon church of All Hallows, which was destroyed by the Danish incursions along the Thames in the 880s, and subsequently by the Vikings in the early 11th century. Work on the new church, which stands on the highest point of a low gravel island and which it shares with the Ancient Market Place, began early in the 12th century, under the auspices of Merton Priory and carried out by Gilbert, Sheriff of Surrey. No trace of Gilbert's building survives, although a photograph of the Norman west porch, taken during the Victorian restoration in the 1880s, shows that the west end of the building was in the same position as it is today. The oldest stonework in the church is believed to be within the four massive piers supporting the tower. A fragment of a Saxon stone cross is displayed in a cabinet at the west end of the church, along with replicas of Athelstan's coronation regalia.

Timings for Thursday 4th September (approximate):

8.45-9.00	Registration and briefing at Hampton Court Bridge
9:00	Set off from Hampton Court
10:30	Reception at All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1JP

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With thanks to John Dewhurst, Churchwarden of All Saints, Kingston, for the information in the panels