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**KENT CHURCHES**  
**GOODNESTONE (FAVERSHAM) – ST. BARTHOLOMEWS**



Goodnestone was called ‘Godwineston’ in 1242 – suggesting that it may have been the ‘ton’ (farmstead or settlement) of a person called Godwine. There is another village with the same name in East Kent south of Wingham.

The Church is very small as will be seen by the photographs above. It served only 33 communicants in 1578 and 24 in 1640. About 50 people live in the village today. The church is still consecrated but services are no longer held. It is maintained by The Churches Conservation Trust to be preserved and conserved by and for the Church and the Nation. All Saints Church at Graveney, which is about a mile away, serves the parishioners.

In 1594 it was reported that the register was ‘unrepaired, rotten and illegible’ having been kept in a parish chest made of green wood causing the sap and moisture to spoil it.

The Church ceased to be used for regular worship in 1982. Permission was given for its conversion into a dwelling but fortunately this was not taken up, and in 1996 it was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust (originally the Redundant Churches Fund).

Extensive repairs were carried out in 1997. The Church is notable as an unspoilt example of a church built by the Normans in about 1100. It has never been enlarged and, standing atop a little knoll, is quite conspicuous.

One of only five Kent churches dedicated to St. Bartholomew, with its narrow single-light Norman windows, must have been rather dingy, but the insertion of wider windows in the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries made it much lighter. It has fine 14<sup>th</sup>-century crown-post roofs and a good stained glass east window (1864) by Thomas Willement, who was then living at Davington Priory.

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An information leaflet is obtainable from The Churches Conservation Trust at 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (Registered Charity No. 2588612).

