



Santas on the Run! | Sunday 14 December 2025

Event Information

Thank you so much for joining the jolliest jog of the year, [Santas on the Run!](#), taking place in Herne Bay on Sunday 14 December 2025. Please find below the essential information that will help you to have a safe and enjoyable day with us, whilst raising vital funds for Pilgrims Hospices. You can also find some [frequently asked questions about Santas on the Run! here](#).

If you have any queries about the event, please do get in touch with us at santasontherun@pilgrimshospices.org or 07923 241617

Date: Sunday 14 December 2025

Time: The fun run begins at 11:00 and **registration will open at 09:30** (please do not arrive any earlier)

Venue: Santas on the Run! starts and finishes at the [Herne Bay Clock Tower, Central Parade, Herne Bay CT6 5JQ](#).

Getting to Santas on the Run!

Santas on the Run! is taking place at a central location in Herne Bay so that it is accessible to all. If you are travelling via public transport, there are multiple bus stops along Herne Bay High Street which is a 5-minute walk from the venue. Alternatively, Herne Bay train station is a 20-minute walk away.

Parking

You can park for free along the seafront for 4 hours. There is also free roadside parking along Mortimer Street. Surrounding roads with a single yellow line are also free to park on during a Sunday unless stated otherwise (please check for signs on nearby lampposts for certainty). William Street car park (opposite Morrisons) is also free to park during this period.

Neptune Car Park (CT6 5JG) nearby is pay and display.

Please be aware that the road running through Central Parade between the junction with William Street (outside Mackaris) to the junction with Richmond Street (outside Connaught Bingo Club) will be closed from approximately 10:45-11:00am for around 15 minutes whilst our Santas set off. This includes access to Market Street and Sea View Square.

Event Check-In

Check-in desks will open at **09:30** at Herne Bay Clock Tower. Upon arrival, please head straight to our registration area, which is where our volunteer elves will check you into the event. **You will be given a numbered participant wristband which correspond to the emergency contact information we hold for you, so please ensure you wear this for the duration of the event.** If your emergency contact has changed since you registered, please let a check-in volunteer know.

****If you've already checked-in when collecting you Santa suit it's really important to make sure you remember to take your identity wristband with you on Sunday ****



For the safety of everyone at the event, **it is essential that you check-in before taking part in the fun run.**

If you didn't already collect your Santa suit in advance at one of our suit collections, you will be able to collect it at the check-in desk. Once you have checked in, please find an open space away from the check-in desks to get suited and booted for your fun run.

If you are wearing your own festive costume, or simply do not wish to take a Santa suit, just let the check-in volunteers know you don't need one.

Please **check in by 10:40** so that you can take part in our warm up. If you're checking in on the day please arrive within enough time as late arrivals will delay our start time.

Entering on the day

Limited on the day registration will be available between **09:30 – 10:40** at the Herne Bay Clock Tower. Places will be given on a first come first served basis. When you arrive, please head straight over to our On the Day registration area, where our volunteer elves will register you for the event and take payment.

On the Day Entry:

- Adult - £25
- Under 18 - £15
- Family ticket - £70 (includes 2 adults & 2 under 18s)

Entry includes a 5-piece Santa suit which you can pick up when you register on the day. Santa suits will be available on a first come, first served basis. Therefore, we cannot guarantee Santa suits for everyone registering on the day.

Santa Suits

You will have the opportunity to have a Santa suit as part of your registration and they will be offered to everyone who has pre-registered. Our Santa suits come in an adult size or child size, so we can't guarantee that the fit will be perfect for you; but that's all part of the fun!



We aim for the event to be as environmentally conscious as possible. Therefore, we kindly ask that you try and keep your Santa suit in as best condition as you can when running, and consider reusing them over the festive season. Please do not drop parts of the suit on the route, and if you don't wish to reuse them please drop them in our suit-drop-off areas at the finish. **This is so the used or damaged suits can be recycled through our charity retail team to raise further funds. Every penny helps!**

Santa Suit Collections

Our Santa suit collection evenings will help you turn up to Santas on the Run! ready and raring to go.

We will be hosting three suit collection dates:

When:

Tuesday 10th December: 16:00 - 18:30

Wednesday 11th December: 16:00 - 18:30

Thursday 12th December: 13:00 - 15:30

Where:

[Pilgrims Hospice Main Reception, 56 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JA](#)

Routes

You have the choice of running a 3k, 5k, or 10k route along Herne Bay seafront. All route distances start from Herne Bay Clock Tower and follow the same route heading west towards Hampton.

The 3k will have a turn-around point on the right-hand side of the route, which will be signposted and marshalled. If you're running the 3k route, we advise that you stay to the right-hand side of the pavement on the lead up to the turn-around point.

The 5k then continues to Hampton Beach, and will loop around Hampton Pier Recreation Ground before heading back to the Clock Tower finish line.

The 10k route continues west from Hampton Beach along the seafront towards Tankerton. You will be following the promenade, before turning around at Swalecliffe Brook and then returning to the finish line at

the Clock Tower. Subject to rain in the days prior to the event, we hope to take in a loop of the Swalecliffe Brook park area. However, if it is wet underfoot then we will remain on the paved pathway immediately turning back on yourself at the turnaround point. Marshals will be present to guide you.

You can view this year's routes using the links below:

- [3k route map](#)
- [5k route map](#)
- [10k route map](#)

After the warm-up, our MC will ask for all participants to gather at the start line in the following order:

- 10k runners
- 5k runners
- 3k runners
- 10k walkers
- 5k walkers
- 3k walkers
- Any wheelchairs, buggies or wonderfully decorated festive sleighs, please join at the back.

Note: The start line will be next to the Clock Tower and the starts will be staggered this year, as we have over 1,000 Santas taking part! The adjacent road will be open to traffic so please ensure you remain on the pavement at all times. We ask that you follow all signage and marshal instructions as they are for your safety.

Please keep in mind that this is a fun run and not a race of any type. If you would like to record your time, please feel free to use your own personal device to do so.

The route will be fully marshalled by volunteers in hi-vis vests. Please adhere to the instructions given to you by marshals, and please be considerate to other path users as we are using shared paths on sections of the route.

In order for all of our Santas to have a safe and enjoyable event, dogs will not be able to attend Santas on the Run! Thank you for your understanding.

First Aid

We will have event medical support provided by BM Ambulance Service, who will be able to attend to any medical non-emergencies. However, if there is a medical emergency, you must call 999 and seek the help of the emergency services who are aware that the event is taking place. You should also tell your closest marshal so they can contact the events team leader, or please call the medical hotline number on **07537 152 310**. This is so our event medics can be mobilised, as often they can arrive on the scene faster than an NHS ambulance.

Toilets

There are public toilets available at the [Central Bandstand, Herne Bay](#) and also Hampton Pier Car Park (approximately 200m metres from 5K turnaround point at the Recreation Ground and Table Tennis club).

Changing Facilities and Valuables

There will be no changing facilities on the day. If you are collecting your suit at the venue, please wear an outfit to keep you warm that you can put your suit on over. There will not be an attended baggage area, therefore we advise that you only bring what you need and keep your belongings with you at all times.

Medals

You will receive a well-deserved finisher's medal when you return from your 3k, 5k or 10k Santa run! When collecting your medal at the finish line, please continue moving forward to avoid congestion.

Refreshments

Makcaris Coffee Shop will be open from 8am for you to purchase refreshments before and after your fun run. You need to **bring your own filled water bottle with you** to ensure that you stay hydrated throughout your fun run. This will also **help to support us in minimising the plastic used at our events**. Large water barrels will be available at the start, finish, 5k and 10k turnaround points to fill up water bottles.



Photography

Our team of photographers will be taking photos and videos throughout the event. We'd love for you to pose for pictures and tell us your reasons for taking part in Santas on the Run! Please let a member of the photography team know if you'd prefer not to have your photo taken or used to illustrate the event.

If you capture your own memories of the day, please do share them with us. We love to see all of your pictures! Please tag us on X and Facebook and use the hashtag #PilgrimsSanta

Sponsorship

Many of you have generously raised sponsorship for Santas on the Run! and this really makes a great difference to the care and support that we can provide to patients and their families. In 2024, Santas on the Run! raised more than £42,000 for Pilgrims Hospices.

Each year, it costs in excess of £17 million to provide our services, free of charge, to over 2,500 patients across east Kent. Every pound you raise will be making a real difference to the many families being cared for by Pilgrims this Christmas; helping patients, and their families, to enjoy the festive season together and make memories that they can treasure forever.

You can create your JustGiving page by [clicking here](#), which is a great way to share your fundraising efforts with friends and family on social media, email and WhatsApp. Your supporters can donate easily and the money comes directly to Pilgrims, meaning it's hassle-free for you too! Alternatively, you can download your printable sponsorship form by [clicking here](#).

If you're not raising sponsorship but would like to make a personal donation towards the skilled and compassionate care that Pilgrims Hospices provide, this can be done via our website at www.pilgrimshospices.org/donate. Just remember to type 'Santas on the Run donation' as the Reason for Donation.

This Christmas your fundraising could pay for:

- **£12** could pay for a patient's Christmas dinner.
- **£20** could pay for a physiotherapy session to help a patient stay active and enjoy festive games with their family on Christmas day.

- **£45** could pay for one-to-one counselling for someone struggling to cope with the loss of a loved one this Christmas.
- **£100** could allow our community nurses to continue making home visits to a patient that wishes to spend their Christmas with family and friends.

If you are raising sponsorship via JustGiving, your money will be forwarded to Pilgrims Hospices automatically. If you are raising sponsorship offline via paper sponsorship forms, you can hand in the money you have raised in the following ways:

- 1) By post to: **Supporter Relations, Santas on the Run!, Pilgrims Hospices, 56 London Road, Canterbury CT2 8JA** (sponsorship forms and cheques only).
- 2) By making a website donation for the equivalent amount and then sending in your sponsorship forms to the above address in order for us to claim any Gift Aid. (Remember to type 'Santas on the Run sponsorship' as the reason for your donation within the website form).

Please try to have your sponsorship money to us by 31st January 2026, so we can shout from the rooftops at how much you've helped us raise! **Please note:** if you have raised sponsorship purely online via a JustGiving page, we will send you an official thank you letter for your total after the above hand-in date.

We hope you have a fantastic day!

If you have any questions in the run up to your event, you can get in touch either on 01227 812 621 or santasontherun@pilgrimshospices.org. There are also [frequently asked questions](#) on our website.

Santas on the Run! couldn't raise the fantastic amount it does for Pilgrims Hospices without the kind support of many people and businesses in our community including [Active Life](#), [Herne Bay Plant Hire](#), [Walker Construction](#), [Herne Bay Pier](#), [Samba Pelo Mar](#), [Cabin FM](#) and Slait Ltd. We also want to say thanks to our MC, Graham Burns, and all our wonderful volunteers for helping to support the event day. We simply couldn't do it without our wonderful supporters!

May we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting Pilgrims Hospices.

With festive wishes,

The Fundraising Team

Ho, ho, ho