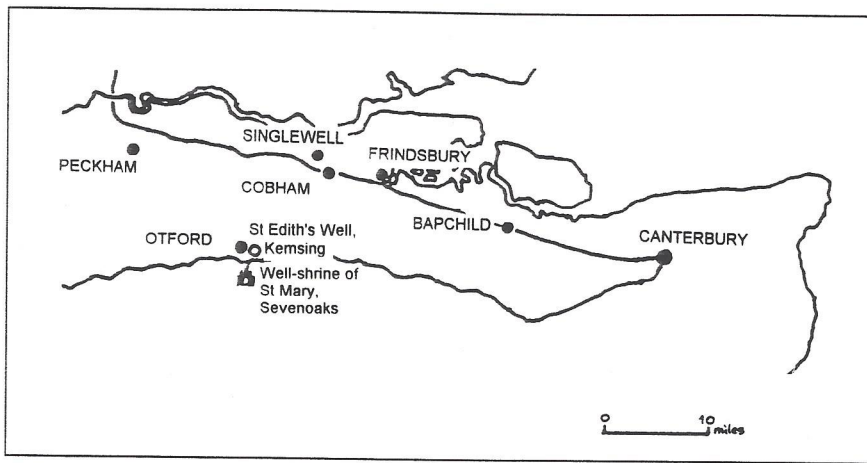


THE LIVING STREAM



Map 8: Pilgrim routes and wells dedicated to St Thomas Becket

cult if ever there was one. He possessed twelve wells, half of them clustered in Kent (the others are at Boxwell (Wiltshire), Derby, Northampton, Peckham (Surrey), Plympton (Devon), and a dubious example at Wadsworth (West Yorkshire)); and Map 6 shows how these are distributed around the main roads. In view of the survival of St Edith's Well at Kemsing these are unlikely to have been rededications, and instead this cluster appears to be the result of a deliberate campaign of new ones. This is understandable, given Becket's political importance as a symbol of the Church's resistance to State interference in its 'rights'. Perhaps the well at Singlewell was the eponymous 'pebbly spring' – though the name is not recorded until 1240, it is true – converted into a holy one (Wallenberg 1934, 100–101).

One cult worth examining is that of the Virgin. Here the pagan image of the Earth as a goddess is relevant in the development of the cult (for example, as in the odd ceremony at Bampton (Oxfordshire): see *Annual Record of the Oxford & District Folklore Society* 1951, p.8); but its psychological aspects are rarely discussed. The connection with the moon is a popular one, and links her with romantic otherworldliness, as well as being a protection at night; and it must have been easy for medieval men to connect the woman in the heart with the woman in the sky. In the *Carmina Burana* the Virgin could be addressed thus:

Tu post dominum  
celi agminum  
magistra

You after God  
The Empress  
Of Heaven's long march,

I no longer  
think so!

From my  
book on holy  
wells.

Virgo  
Luna  
minis

And a se

Ave f  
gemr  
Ave V  
virgo  
Ave I  
Ave I  
Blanz  
Venu

It was p  
pagan g  
literatur  
Graef 1  
number  
(Map 10  
and also  
patterns

Topogr  
The wor  
graphy i  
which th  
patterns

There  
spring c  
embellis  
purpose  
covering  
possibly  
now tra  
example

Howe  
features.  
several c  
Sacred t: