



## St Mary and St Eanswythe Parish Church

In the very centre of Folkestone between the shops and The Bayle lies the beautiful Parish Church.

A priory was originally built on the site in the 12th Century but that building was destroyed and rebuilt in the 13th Century

Membership is open to all and we welcome friends locally and throughout the world.

<http://friendsofstmaryandsteanswythe.org.uk/>

The Friends would like to thank:

Reverend Railton's Family for allowing us to have access to his private letters.

Folkestone Town Council for helping us fund the exhibition.

A.C.Signs Ltd for the amazing workmanship.

Artwork: Picture This Design.

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## St Eanswythe Patron Saint of Folkestone

The Parish Church is unique in the UK as it contains the bones of Eanswythe, patron saint of Folkestone. She was a member of an Anglo-Saxon regal dynasty: granddaughter of Ethelbert, the first English king to convert to Christianity under Augustine.

She is believed to have been abbess of the first nunnery established in England, about AD 660 on the Bayle

These are thought to be the earliest verified remains of an English saint.

St Eanswythe died in her late teens or early 20s; the cause of her death was unknown. Her relics soon became a focus of pilgrimage, and, in 1138, were installed in the present church. They were hidden in 1534 and were only uncovered 350 years later.



## Reverend David Railton M.C. Exhibition

Fri Oct 30th to Thurs Dec 24th  
at Folkestone Museum,  
1-2 Guildhall St, Folkestone CT20 1DY



## The Unknown Soldier

The Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe are delighted to welcome you to this exhibition which includes private letters.

At the west end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey is this grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried here on 11th November 1920.

The grave, which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur.

**F**  
Folkestone  
Museum

Our thanks to Westminster Abbey  
for allowing us to replicate the Grave.

[folkestonemuseum.co.uk](http://folkestonemuseum.co.uk)



**Reverend David Railton M.C.**

## Unknown Soldier

One evening in 1916 the Reverend David Railton returned from the front line to his billet at Erquinghem – Lys, France.

Outside the billet was a small garden and in one corner of the garden, Reverend Railton saw a grave marked with a rough wooden cross.

On the cross was written, in black – pencilled letters, 'An Unknown British Soldier', and in brackets beneath, 'of the Black Watch'.

The sight of this unmarked grave made a huge impression on him. 'How that grave caused me to think, he wrote later. 'But who was he, and who were they (his parents)?... So I thought and thought. What can I do to ease the pain of father, mother, brother, sister, sweetheart, wife and friend?'

Quietly and gradually there came out of the mist of thought the answer clear and strong 'Let this body – this symbol of him – be carried reverently over the sea to his native land.



## Family Home

In 1914 Reverend Railton was the Curate at St Mary and St Eanswythe Parish Church and he lived with his wife and family at 16 Millfield, Folkestone.

He sought permission from the Church to serve the troops as a Chaplain or Padre during the 1914-1918 war.

Reverend Railton was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 for saving an officer and two men under heavy enemy fire.

