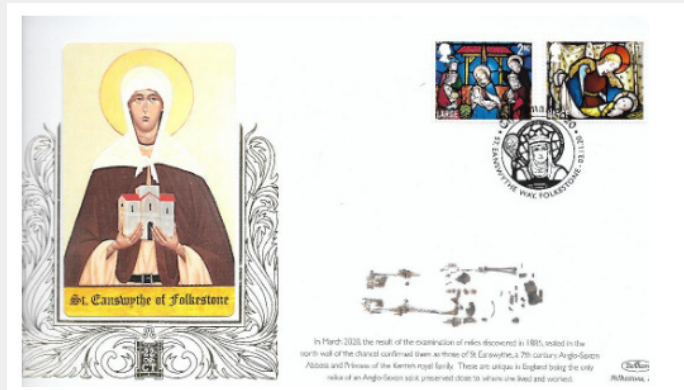


RENDEZVOUS



The Magazine of the Folkestone Town Benefice of
St Mary and St Eanswythe
with
St Saviour

Volume 47 No12

December 2020

60p



Who's Who in the Parish

Clergy

Rev Dr John Walker, The Vicarage, Priory Gardens 07980 692813
rev.dr.john.walker@gmail.com

St Mary & St Eanswythe's

Parish Secretary	Angela Flisher (Monday Wednesday and Friday 10:00 - 12:45)	252947
	email: sainteanswythe@yahoo.co.uk	
Churchwardens	Pam Mullett, 46 Alexandra Road, Capel-le-Ferne	256114
	Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road	241124
PCC	Hon. Secretary	Angela Flisher 252947
	Hon. Treasurers	Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2PJ 244876.
		Jenny Coleman
	Planned Giving	} Norman Cavell, 5 Haven Drive, Hawkinge 890694
	Gift Aid	
	Electoral Roll	Angela Flisher 252947
Organist	Dr Toby Huitson	
Verger		
Sacristan		
Child Protection Officer	Marilyn Edey 7 The Bayle, Folkestone	223049
Church Day Schools	St Mary's, Warren Road	Head Teacher - Trevor North 251390
	St Eanswythe's, Church Street	Head Teachers - Miss Laws/
		Mrs O'Callaghan 255516
Church Flowers		
Servers Guild		
Church Welcomers		
Bell Ringers	Mike Godfrey, 6 Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne	242159
Missionary and Unity		
Rendezvous Advertising	Paul Furminger, 37 Dymchurch Road, Hythe	265547
Rendezvous Assembler	Andrew Plested (e-mail: andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk)	241124

St Augustine's

St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Carol Godden 07894 706971

CALENDAR

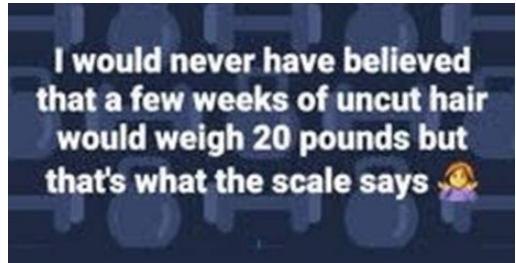
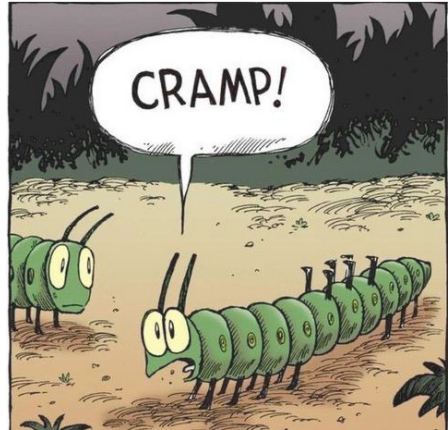
December 2020

Services and Events in December

Sun	6	The Second Sunday of Advent 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST 4.00 p.m. From Darkness to Light : Advent Carol Service
Mon	7	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Tues	8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed	9	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Thurs	10	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sun	13	The Third Sunday of Advent 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Mon	14	John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Tues	15	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed	16	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Thurs	17	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sun	20	The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Mon	21	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Tues	22	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed	23	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Thurs	24	Christmas Eve 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST
Fri	25	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Sun	27	The First Sunday of Christmas 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Thurs	31	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sun	3 Jan	EPIPHANY 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Mon	4	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Tues	5	8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed	6	Epiphany 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer



Smiles



Our revised opening and service times are as follows:

- Mondays - Saturdays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Morning Prayer Sundays to Thursdays 8 a.m.
- Midweek Eucharist Thursdays 10.30 a.m. (BCP)
- Sunday Eucharist 10.30 a.m. (Common Worship)

Subject to Covid restriction changes

The **Woodward Hall** is available for hire
for Wedding Receptions, Family Parties, Club Meetings etc.



Priest's Letter From Father John

Dear friends

It's Advent; a traditional time for reflecting and taking stock of our spiritual lives.

It's Advent and I'm thinking about the adventure of journeys.

The packing; the setting out; the travelling; the arrival.

And, shot through all these stages of a journey, the sense of anticipation, either of things that will be challenging, or of the pleasure of it.

I'm thinking of the countdown to Christmas, and whether that fills you with the anticipation of pain or pleasure.

I'm thinking of a new church year begun today that will take us to places we have never been before, in sorrow or in joy.

I'm thinking about the Three Wise Men, the Magi, the Kings who will arrive at Epiphany in 5 weeks' time but who I imagine to be setting out now.

I'm thinking of the gifts the Wise Men will bring – rich and costly.

But these powerful men know that for their lives, riches and gifts to mean anything, the must be laid at the feet of the God who gives up everything to be vulnerable alongside me; alongside you.

I'm thinking of the gifts you have; I have; that are also rich and will be costly to give to our vulnerable God, should we also be wise enough to do so.

I'm thinking of those who might say they have no gifts.

But they are surely there: in lying in your luggage but forgotten.

You might have to rummage around to find them, dust them down and clean them up before they can be given.

I'm thinking of the birth and death the Wise Men experienced in their journey. TS Eliot speaks of it:

*"...were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods."*

/continued overleaf

I'm thinking of the death of the vulnerable God foretold in the gift of myrrh;
of his death and resurrection ripping through the tide of time,
causing in those who wisely journey to him
a kind of death of a life lived in his absence;
a kind of new birth in his presence.

I'm thinking of the journey made by so many
who have been afflicted by Covid-19
The journey to the borders of death, and back to full recovery for some;
to continued ill-health for others;
over the border to God's homeland for so many.
And the journey to the dark depths of grief for those left behind.

I'm thinking of the things our journey to and with God
has brought to birth in you; in me.
And I'm thinking of the things our journey to and with God
has put to death in me; in you.
And of whether we might be open to new things being brought to birth or put to death
in us as we journey on in this Advent, this year, this life.

I'm thinking of the gifts that will be offered, received and transformed in what seems
like an arrival, but is really only a stop on the way.

I'm thinking of those other than ourselves who will need those gifts and the
compassion in their giving in the coming year, like those who have lost businesses,
jobs and homes in this bleak economic recession, and countless others in crushing
need.

And I'm thinking of the vulnerable God who will journey with you; with me if we
will only choose to journey with him.

May you have a reflective and fruitful Advent and, whatever the restrictions placed
upon you, a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of bright hope.

Fr John



Commemoration of the Month

Thomas Becket – Archbishop of Canterbury

29 December

Thomas was born in London in 1118, of a family of merchants. After a good education, he served as clerk to another burgess then entered the service of Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury. Thomas proved himself an excellent administrator and skilled diplomat. In 1155 he was appointed chancellor by King Henry II. For several years, king and chancellor worked harmoniously together in mutual admiration and personal friendship. As a result, the king nominated Thomas as Archbishop of Canterbury to succeed Theobald in 1161. From the start, there was friction, with Thomas insisting on every privilege of the Church. The conflict worsened until 1164 when Thomas fled to France. Encouraged by the Pope he pursued his arguments from exile, sending letters and pronouncing excommunications. Three efforts at mediation failed before an apparent reconciliation brought him back triumphant to Canterbury in 1170. But the nobility still opposed him, and words of anger at court led four knights to journey to Canterbury where they finally chased Thomas into the cathedral, and murdered him on the steps of the altar on this day in 1170. For all his gifts, Thomas was undoubtedly a proud and stubborn man and his personal austerities as archbishop were probably an attempt at self-discipline after years of ostentatious luxury. His conflict with King Henry stemmed from their equal personal ambitions, exacerbated by the increasingly international claims of the papacy, played out in the inevitable tension between Church and State. 2020 marks the 850th anniversary of Thomas's murder.

Collect

Lord God,
who gave grace to your servant Thomas Becket
to put aside all earthly fear
and be faithful even to death:
grant that we, disregarding worldly esteem,
may fight all wrong, uphold your rule,
and serve you to our life's end;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings

OT-1 Kings 19.9-13 NT-Hebrews 13.10-16
Gospel-Matthew 10.28-30

*Thomas Beckett as
depicted in medieval
stained glass in
Canterbury Cathedral*

The Advent ‘O Antiphons’

Traditionally sung in the days preceding Christmas

We might imagine the monks chanting these beautiful and inspiring words in our chancel over the centuries before Folkestone Priory was dissolved in 1535,

O Sapientia

We long for your coming, O WISDOM;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and teach us the way of understanding;
You are the living word.

O Adonai

We long for you, O LORD AND RULER;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and stretch out your arms and redeem us;
You are the living word.

O Radix Jesse

We long for you, O ROOT OF JESSE;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come to deliver us and do not tarry;
You are the living word.



O Clavis David

We long for you, O KEY OF DAVID;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and bring forth the captive from his prison,
Who sits in the shadow of death.

O Oriens

O DAWN OF THE EAST,
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and lighten those who sit in darkness
And in the shadow of death.

O Rex Gentium

We long for you, O KING OF THE GENTILES;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and deliver man whom you formed
Out of the dust of the earth.

O Emmanuel

O EMMANUEL! When will you come?
Come to save us, O Lord our God.

A Generous Bequest



We are very grateful to the late Joyce Barber who has left a generous bequest of over £27,000 to our church. This has enabled the Treasurers to pay all our outstanding bills and our Diocesan Quota for the year.

Joyce Renee Barber died on 2 February 2016, aged 90, having sung in the choir every week until a few months before her death. The following obituary appeared in the March 2016 edition of *Rendezvous*.

Joyce was a faithful member of our congregation for well over 30 years from when she and her late husband, Hugh, joined the church here in Folkestone.

Joyce sang with our choir for over 20 years. She was possessed of a beautifully clear soprano voice, which had graced many choirs of which she was a member in the course of her long life.

Not only did she sing regularly in church Sunday by Sunday and on high days and holy days, but she also travelled with the choir on their summer cathedral trips to sing the services whilst the cathedral choir was on holiday – an adventure she embraced wholeheartedly.

Her indefatigable energy and boundless good humour made her a great and much valued companion and true friend. Her enthusiasm for all the many activities in which she became involved was much valued and will be sorely missed.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory, and take her place in that heavenly choir forever singing God's praises around His throne.

What would you like your legacy to be?

While we are not suggesting that all bequests need to be as large as the one we have recently received, leaving money to the church in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that our church will be here for future generations. There are also some benefits for your Inheritance Tax bill.

No matter how large or small, your gift could really make a difference towards keeping our beautiful, historic church cared for in the future. Please give this some thought.

To find out more about leaving a legacy visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk or call the Church Legacy and Wills information line on freephone 08445 870875.

ACROSS

- 1 Heaven and earth will ____ away, but my words (Matt 24:35)
5 Can a man ____ fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? (Prov 6:27)
9 Moses saw that though the ____ was on fire it did not burn up (Ex 3:2)
13 not during the feast, they said, or the people may ____ (Mark 14:2)
14 Let their table be made a snare, and a ____ (Romans 11:9)
15 Would all of you throw him down this leaning wall, this tottering ____ ? (Ps 62:3)
16 dead man, "by this time there is a bad ____ (John 11:39)
17 it is a ____ thing that the king requireth (Dan 2:11) KJV
18 and offered burnt offerings on the _____. (Gen 8:20)
19 Esau went to the field to hunt for ____ (Gen 27:5) KJV
21 Men of all ____ came to listen to Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 4:34)
23 Of them which thou gavest me have I lost ____ (John 18:9) KJV
24 "Is that your own ____" Jesus asked (John 18:34)
25 The sons of Japheth: Gomer, ____, Madai, Javan (Gen 10:2)
27 a way that seems right to a man, but in the ____ it leads to death (Prov 16:25)
28 vain for you to rise up early, to sit up ____ (Ps 127:2)
32 He brought out Israel, ____ with silver and gold (Ps 105:37)
33 All day long the battle ____, and the king of Israel (2 Chr 18:34)
35 The LORD that delivered me out of the ____ of the lion (1 Sam 17:37)
36 as a mountain ____ and crumbles (Job 14:18)
38 the wicked will drag them away, for they ____ to do what is right (Prov 21:7)
40 they shall run to and ____ to seek the word of the LORD (Amos 8:12)
41 Delilah took new ____ and tied him with them (Judg 16:12)
43 Unless I see the nail ____ in his hands (John 20:25)
44 more tolerable for ____ and Sidon at the judgement (Luke 10:14)
46 But Jonah ____ away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish (Jonah 1:3)
47 You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with ____ in it (Hag 1:6)
48 silver in two bags, with two ____ of clothing (2 Kings 5:23)
50 I have neither ____ on usury, nor men have lent to me (Jer 15:10)
52 Wherever there is a ____, there the vultures will gather (Matt 24:28)
55 The LORD has opened his ____ and brought out the weapons (Jer 50:25)
58 and like ____ out of dry ground (1,4) (Isa 53:2)
59 ____ no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips (1,3) (Dan 10:3)
61 Awake, and ____ to my defense! Contend for me, my God (Ps 35:23)
62 The ____ will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced (Mic 3:7)
63 Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ____ (Jude 14)
64 son of Seth (Gen 4:26) KJV
65 drove the sea back with a strong ____ wind (Exod 14:21)
66 She crieth at the gates, at the ____ of the city (Prov 8:3)
67 The animals take cover; they remain in their ____ (Job 37:8)

DOWN

- 1 What can we sav? How can we ____ our innocence? (Gen 44:16)

All references are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.

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58						59	60				61		
62						63					64		
65						66					67		

Sorry no solution for November





Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 295

Matt.28:1-20

N I A T N U O M H R D R O L J
K N O W S T O N E T E E F E E
E M A N T P L A N D A H O G S
B W O R S H I P E D K B T N U
G A L I L E E I M R G E B A S
T N H E L Y F L A O N K E A F
S O I D S I A U G N I T E W S
R O E H C T T W D R N D I E S
G R L U C H O C A E T M R T P
S U R D O A H L L V H A S K I
H C A R I E E O E O G R I O R
O O I R A E I T N G I Y E O I
L T B V D V R W E F L D F T T
Y O E E R S A S M N E S I R E
R N C Y Y D G N I Z I T P A B

He Has Risen

AWAY ANGEL
DAWN AUTHORITY
FEET BAPTIZING
FIRST CRUCIFIED
HOLY ELDERS
KEEP FATHER
KNOW GALILEE
LORD GOVERNOR
MARY GUARDS
NAME HEAVEN
OBEY JESUS
PLAN LIGHTNING
RISEN MAGDALENE
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN
STOLE SABBATH
STONE SOLDIERS
TOMB TEACHING
TOOK VIOLENT
WEEK WORSHIPED

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right



- 50 About ten days _____, the LORD struck Nabal (1 Sam 25:38)
51 he will _____ those who fear the LORD (Ps 115:13)
52 Moses brought their _____ before the LORD (Num 27:5)
53 He traveled through that _____, speaking many words of (Acts 20:2)
54 were as swift as the _____ upon the mountains (1 Chr 12:8)
56 are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only _____ in the morning (Acts 2:15)
57 _____ honors his father, and a servant his master (1,3) (Mal 1:6)
60 Go to the _____, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! (Prov 6:6)

Church Christmas Cards



The Friends are absolutely delighted to announce that there are two designs of Christmas Cards that will soon be available. Both are in packs of 10 and cost £5. Please contact Pam Keeling (01303 244876) for details

The greeting inside these cards reads
May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours
and may the coming year
be filled with happiness and good health



St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone

Painted by Roger Joyce

The greeting inside these cards reads
May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours
and may the coming year
be filled with happiness and good health



The Way We Were

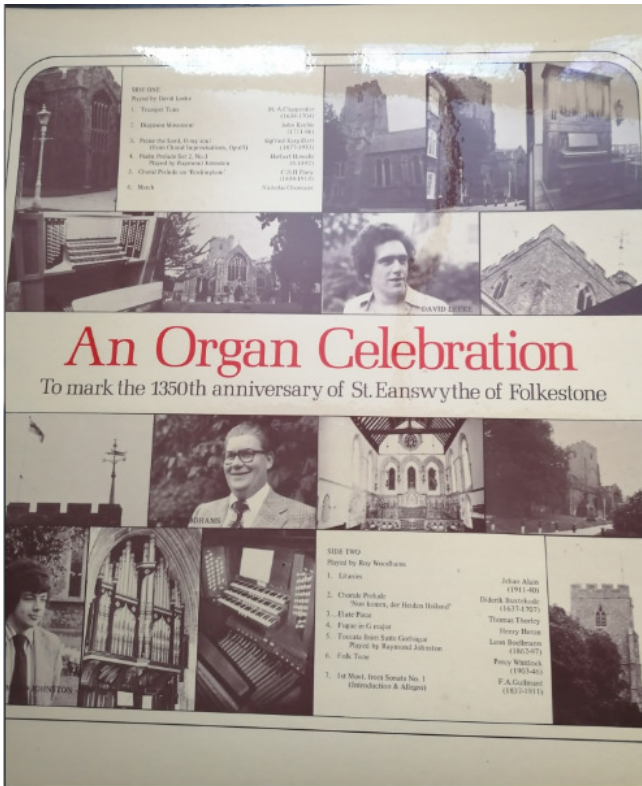


The Fish Market and Stade before WWII



A view of the Harbour station showing the marshalling yards

LPs For Sale!



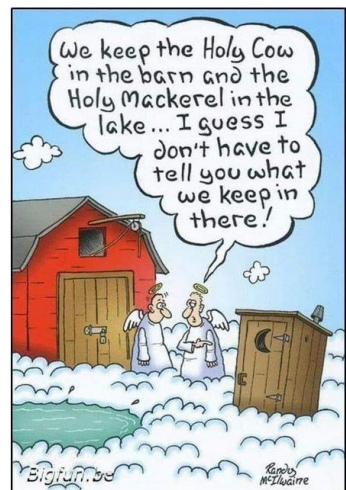
Back in the dim distant days of 1980, three organists (David Leeke our then organist, Roy Woodhams from Margate and Ray Johnson, David's assistant) recorded an LP using the three organs in the parish, The 1894 Hill Organ, the short-lived Copeman Hart electronic organ and the chamber organ at St Augustines.

This was to mark the celebration of 1350 years of St Eanswythe.

When Fr John moved into the Vicarage, a large number of these LPs were found.

They are now on sale at the back of the church for £5.

A CD version will be available later.



Finding Eanswythe

Finding Eanswythe

The Life and Afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon Saint



Whilst the Finding Eanswythe Project has come to a conclusion, the working group will continue with their research. This book covers the findings over the six-year program with a series of essays covering such topics as The Legend of St Eanswythe, A Minster in the early Mediaeval Landscape, Minster to Priory, Folkestone and the English Reformation, St Eanswythe's Water, St Eanswythe's Chapel, Matthew Woodward and Eanswythe Found. All by various members of the Research Group.

This 54 page book is available from our sales table priced at £5.

Support Folkestone Rainbow Centre and the Winter Shelter



We can all help by donating these items.
Please leave them in the orange bin by the porch. THANK YOU!

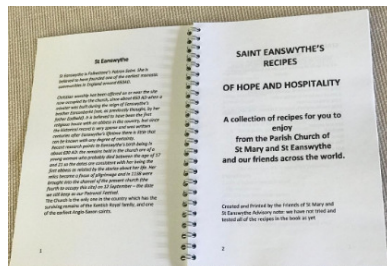
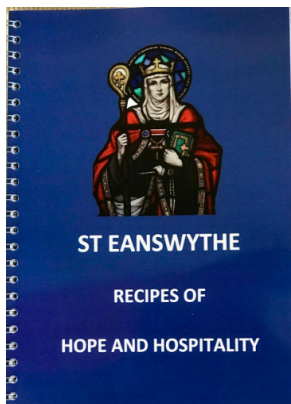


Recipes of Hope and Hospitality

The Recipe book is now available at £5 per book. I am taking some to the church tomorrow and they are also available from myself or Jenny .

We have already had some orders and people are buying as gifts etc.

Proceeds are going to straight the Fabric Fund.



BOOKWORM:



The Lindchester Chronicles – Catherine Fox

This truly wonderful trilogy of books was written by the wife of the then Dean of Liverpool Cathedral – so we assume that she must know a thing or two. A homage to Trollope's Barchester Chronicles, they take a wry look at the Church of England and all its foibles and tell of the dilemmas of daily life among the clergy and laity in the fictional Diocese of Lindchester.

Acts and Omissions – Catherine Fox (2014)

There is the delightfully named Father Wendy (her parishioners think that Mother Wendy just doesn't sound right), the outrageous Freddie May (former chorister), the exuberant Archdeacon (will his love life reach a happy conclusion?), the evangelical Bishop Paul (is he gay?) and his wife Susanna (who resorts to baking cakes when things get tough), to name but a few.

In the background the Same Sex Marriage Bill is being debated, several employment tribunals and safeguarding issues affecting the diocese roll on, and there is the ever-present question of who will be the next Archbishop of York.

Unseen Things Above – Catherine Fox (2015)

The Rev Dr Veronica da Silva is managing to get up everyone's noses, but has she even been properly ordained? Who spilt the beans to the press with the name of the new bishop? Do we have some instances of conduct unbecoming for members of the clergy? How much more extreme can Freddie May's behaviour become? Could a mentor help to control him? And finally, the marriage dilemma: we have Father Ed and his fiancé Neil, desperate to get married but to do so would not be acceptable in the eyes of the church; and Jane struggling to overcome her deeply-rooted feminist principles so that she and Archdeacon Matt can live happily ever after.

Oh, and there is some sound advice for visiting choirs to cathedrals (repeated several times, so it must be important): don't overextend yourselves; stick to familiar repertoire. (You know it makes sense.)

Realms of Glory – Catherine Fox (2017)

This book is set in 2016. For many in Lindchester, the worst year ever. The year of the Brexit referendum, Trump, and a restructure in the diocese. (What on earth would they make of 2020?)

There are many questions for the reader, including: who will be the next Bishop of Barcup? Is Jane going to become a Bishop's Wife? Can Father Dominic cope with having his mother living with him permanently? Will dear Miss Blatherwick ever finish reading Adam Bede? Will there be a happy ever after for Freddie May? And most important of all, who will be getting a puppy for Christmas?

I lived and breathed the lives of these characters for just over a fortnight and now it's all over! These books often made me laugh out loud and I will most certainly be reading more of Catherine Fox's books. What a huge relief that there are more.

Catriona Hunter

Unique Souvenir First Day Covers

2020 has been a special year for us at St Mary & St Eanswythe's. In celebration of the fact that the relics of St Eanswythe have been proved to be genuine and that our Chancel is 800 years old this year, unique, Limited Edition, First Day Covers have been created by Benham – one of the country's leading FDC producers. The covers carry a unique combination of Royal Mail Christmas stamps, depicting the Virgin and Child as portrayed in stained glass together with images from our beautiful, historic church. The small number of each cover available makes them highly collectable. They would, of course, also make excellent Christmas presents.

There are two individual covers and a set of eight all with a special pictorial St Eanswythe postmark

Cover 1 St Eanswythe Stained Glass window

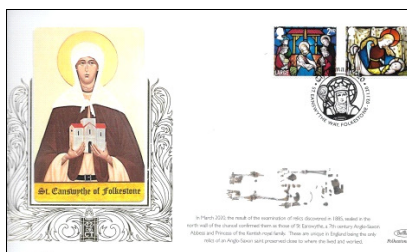
£17.50 Edition Limit 20

Signed by Bishop Rose £22.50 Edition Limit 5

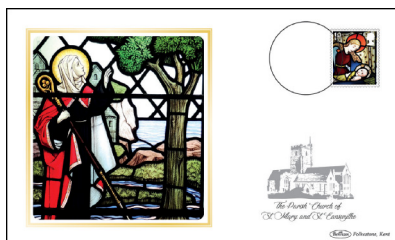


Cover 2 St Eanswythe Icon with a 22ct gold-leaf frame **£20** Edition Limit 20

Signed by Bishop Rose £25 Edition Limit 5



Set of eight with images from our own stained glass - just one of which is shown here – total cost for **all eight £40** Edition Limit 25 sets.



Images of all the covers can be seen in Church. Orders with cheques payable 'St Mary and St Eanswythe's Parish Church Folkestone' to Ian Gordon 16 Bayle Court, The Parade, Folkestone CT20 1SN.

Prompt ordering is recommended in view of the small numbers available.

Where did Christmas come from?

To us, Christmas and December are inseparable. But for the first three centuries of Christianity, Christmas wasn't in December—or on the calendar anywhere!

If observed at all, the celebration of Christ's birth was usually combined with Epiphany (January 6), one of the church's earliest established feasts. Some early church leaders began to speculate on the date. Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-c. 215) favoured May 20 but noted that others had argued for April 18, April 19, and May 28. Hippolytus (c. 170-c. 236) championed January 2: November 17, November 20, and March 25 all had backers as well. A Latin treatise written around 243 picked March 21, because that was believed to be the date on which God created the sun. Polycarp (c. 69-c. 155) had followed the same line of reasoning to conclude that Christ's birth and baptism most likely occurred on Wednesday, because the sun was created on the fourth day.



The eventual choice of December 25, made perhaps as early as 273, reflects a convergence of concern about pagan gods and the church's identification of God's Son with the celestial sun. December 25 already hosted two other related festivals: *natalis solis invicti* (the Roman "birth of the unconquered sun") and the birthday of Mithras, the Iranian "Sun of Righteousness" whose worship was popular with Roman soldiers. The winter solstice, another celebration of the sun also fell just a few days earlier. Seeing that pagans were already exalting deities with some parallels to the True Deity, church leaders decided to commandeer the date and introduce a new festival.

Western Christians first celebrated Christmas on December 25 in 336, after Emperor Constantine had declared Christianity to be the Empire's favoured religion. Then in the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory devised a new calendar, which was not adopted universally. The Eastern Orthodox and some Protestants retained the Julian calendar, which meant they celebrated Christmas 13 days later than their Gregorian counterparts. Nowadays, most—but not all—of the Christian world agrees on the Gregorian calendar and the December 25 date.

The pagan origins for many Christmas customs (gift-giving and merrymaking from Roman *Saturnalia*; greenery, lights, and charity from the Roman New Year; Yule logs and various foods from Teutonic feasts), have always fuelled arguments against the holiday. "It's just paganism wrapped with a Christian bow," naysayers argue. But while kowtowing to worldliness must always be a concern for Christians, the church has generally viewed efforts to reshape culture—including holidays—positively. As a theologian asserted in 320:

"We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."

From Daily Reflections shared during lockdown.

From Fr John

Deliver us, O God from
the insecurity that leads to fear
the fear that leads to defensiveness
the defensiveness that leads to isolation
the isolation that leads to prejudice
the prejudice that leads to discrimination
the discrimination that leads to conflict
the conflict that leads to oppression
the oppression that leads to slavery
and enslaves us as victims of violence,
cruelty and hatred.



Release to us, O God
the dignity which promotes confidence
the confidence which promotes openness
the openness which promotes cooperation
the cooperation which promotes understanding
the understanding which promotes inclusiveness
the inclusiveness which promotes partnership
the partnership which promotes growth
the growth which promotes freedom
and frees us to act with kindness,
compassion and respect.

Thinking about our Sunday Gospels

As we look at the Gospels for Sundays in December and for the Christmas Festival, these words might help us and guide us now and through the coming year.

‘The Christian year accompanies us through our daily lives, through the highs and the lows, the joys and the sorrows, providing rhythm, stability and hope. As we follow its cycle, we are drawn again and again into the presence of the God who created us; who loves and forgives us; who nourishes and redeems us.’

From the introduction to Michael Perham’s
‘One Unfolding Story – Biblical Reflections through the Christian Year.’

/continued on page 21

Martin Moore - RIP 2 November 2020

It was with sadness I learned of the recent death of Martin Moore from pancreatic cancer on 2 November this year.

I remember Martin and his elder brother Anthony from the 1950s when we were youngsters together during Canon John Hough's time as vicar. Martin and I sang in the choir under Reg Adams. He was a capable singer and like the rest of us flourished under Reg Adams' inspired and inspiring leadership. He became a server when his voice broke and we went our separate ways when we left school.

I had the unexpected pleasure of meeting Martin, who was living in Sandgate, earlier this year when he visited Folkestone to see his half-brother who had recently moved into Bayle Court. We exchanged memories and stories about our memories of the church in those distant days and some of the characters we remembered from Canon Hough to Tommy Ring (bass) and the curate Kingsley Fleming to the redoubtable Don Cottage (tenor). Martin's death came all too quickly six months later.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



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December Sunday Eucharist Gospels

Advent 2020 brings us to Year B in the three-year liturgical cycle during which the Gospel readings are taken predominantly from Mark.

Sunday 6 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent: Mark 1.1-8

The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

God deals patiently with his people waiting for them to return and repent of their sins and leading them like a shepherd. But his mercy does not diminish the power that will come at last to judge the world.

Sunday 13 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent: John 1.6-8 & 19-28

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

God has appointed his prophets and teachers to proclaim the good news of salvation, but all who have heard it receive in their turn the same responsibility to testify to their faith.

Sunday 20 December – 4th Sunday of Advent: Luke 1.26-38

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

Mary was the one chosen to make actual the promises of God that salvation would come to his people. Her human obedience and the divine love together brought God himself into the world, the Word made flesh.

Sunday 27 December – John, Apostle and Evangelist

1st Sunday of Christmas: Luke 2.15-21

Mary kept all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The glory of God fills all things, from the distant spaces of the universe to the depths of the human heart. Our response may be to make it known, or sometimes to be silent and wait for the fuller revealing of the divine will.

Friday 25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY: John 1.1-14

The word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only son, full of grace and truth.

God, who is beyond our understanding, is revealed in Jesus Christ. All that we can know or need to know in this world of divinity is made known to us in the record of his humanity.

Saturday 26 December – Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr: Matthew 10.17-22

Monday 28 December – The Holy Innocents: Matthew 2.13-18

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We are grateful to the Headteachers of St Eanswythe's School for allowing us to use the school playground as a car park on Sundays and on other occasions. In order to protect the school's security, the gates will now be locked on Sunday morning at 10.25 and opened when the service is finished. On other occasions the gates will be locked 5 minutes before the service or concert begins and opened immediately afterwards. Thank you for your co-operation.

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