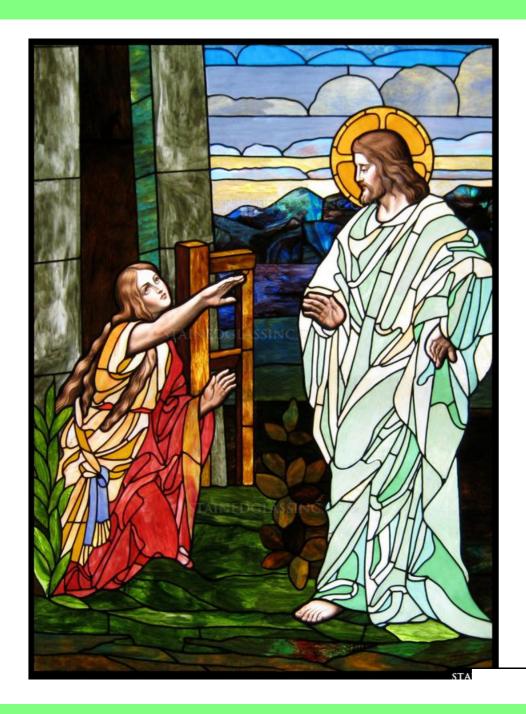
RENDEZVOUS



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

St Saviour

Volume 50 No. 4 April 2023 £1



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 252947 email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com Churchwardens 07748 434341 Tom Bertram. 01303 890986 Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road 241124 **PCC** Hon. Secretary 252947 Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2PJ 244876 Hon. Treasurers } Jenny Coleman Planned Giving Gift Aid **PCC Members** Maurice Bauhahn Jan Clarke Jenny Coleman Marilyn Edey Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep) Catriona Hunter Pam Keeling Patricia Skelsted Clare Tomlinson (Synod Rep) David Wright If you would like to get in touch with any member of the PCC please contact the Parish Office (01303 252947)

Electoral Roll 252947 Organist and Choir Director Malcolm Munro sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com Children's Church Clare Tomlinson 07751 423796 Safeguarding 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 Teacher - Mrs O'Callaghan 255516 **Church Flowers** Jan Clarke and Jenny Coleman **Church Welcomers** Judy Doherty judy.doherty59@gmail.com **Bell Ringers** Mike Godfrey, 6 Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne 242159 Rendezvous Advertising Paul Furminger, 37 Dymchurch Road, Hythe 265547 (e-mail: epmfurminger@btinternet.com) Rendezvous Assembler Andrew Plested (e-mail: andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk) 241124 Rendezvous Distribution Catriona Hunter, Cliff Haven, The Bayle, Folkestone CT20 1SQ 248006 (e-mail: trina@monrepos.org)

St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Carol Godden 07894 706971

Front Cover: Stained glass Risen Christ and Mary Magdalene

Deadline for the next Rendezvous Edition: 20th of the month, but December 10th for the January edition. Please submit articles in 16 point text - this shows you how much fits on a page once it is reduced for printing.

Please contact Andrew Plested as above

CALENDAR

Services and Events in April 2023

Sun	2	Palm Sunday 10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
		1.00 p.m. Baptism – Zuri Diuno
Mon	3	7.30 p.m. Companions of Eanswythe
Wed	5	9.30 a.m. St Mary's School Year 3 Easter Celebration
		7.00 p.m. Sound Meditation – Andre Verissmo
Thurs	6	Maundy Thursday
		10.30 a.m. Prayers for Holy Week
		7.30 p.m. The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday
Fri	7	Good Friday
		10.30 a.m. The Liturgy of Good Friday
Sun	9	EASTER DAY
		10.30 a.m. The Easter Liturgy
Mon	10	9.30 a.m. Companions of Eanswythe
Thurs	13	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
		7.30 p.m. Concert – John Woolrich
Sun	16	Second Sunday of Easter
		10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
Mon	17	7.30 p.m. Companions of Eanswythe
Thurs	20	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sun	23	Third Sunday of Easter
		10.30 a.m. THE EUCHARIST
		12.00 p.m. APCM
Mon	24	9.30 a.m. Companions of Eanswythe
Wed	26	1.30 p.m. St Eanswythe School Confirmation Service
	27	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sat	29	1.00 p.m. Wedding – Ricky Hope & Liz Beer
		3.00 p.m. Woodward 125 Lecture by Rev Tony Shepherd,
		Canon Woodward's biographer and former curate
Sun	30	Fourth Sunday of Easter
		10.30 a.m. FESTAL EUCHARIST - Bishop Llewellin preaching
		Followed by Parish Lunch in the Woodward Hall, tickets
		from Jenny Coleman
		1.00 p.m. Baptism – Blu McDowell
Mon	1 May	12.00 p.m. Full guided tour of the church highlighting Matthew
1,1011	1 1714	Woodward's heritage see page 6
		7.30 p.m. Companions of Eanswythe
Thurs	4	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
	-	- · · · · · · //// - ·

Don't forget the Donation Station!

There are so many ways that you can make donations or pay for our range of merchandise.

Cash and cheques can be placed in the box by the main door, and credit card payments can be made in several ways:

- by scanning the QR code on the weekly pew sheet or the back of Rendezvous;
- by clicking the Donate Button on our website; or
- by using the Donation Station adjacent to the sales table.

The Donation Station is a very easy way to donate or pay by credit card. It has a touch screen, works just like the card machines in shops and takes contactless and chip-and-pin payments. You can even add Gift Aid to your donation. If you need a hand with it the first time, just ask for help.

Why not subscribe to Rendezvous?

Save money. £10 for an annual subscription starting in January. Have it delivered or collect from church. Ways to pay - use the QR code on the back cover, the Donation Station in church, the Donate Button on our website, cash, or cheque inside a named envelope in the donation box. Or contact Catriona Hunter - details inside front cover.

Parking in the School Playground

We are grateful to the Headteacher 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. Parking permits for Sunday services are available from the Churchwardens.

Thank you for your co-operation.

The church is now open for private prayer. The schedule is:

• 11.00-13.00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday



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

Details from Tracy Arnold at St Eanswythe's School on 01303 255516 during school hours

Priest's Letter From Father John



Dear friends,

On this cold March day I am so weary of icy winds and chill rain; the numbness of fingers and toes at the close of Sunday worship. I'm wondering if the crocuses and daffodils chuckle darkly at the hope they inspire; knowing that the warmth of Spring is not yet, not yet.

I have had such moments of despair in spiritual seasons of winter, too: Bewildered, trapped in mortal clay,

I'll stomp the coastlands, the edge of things, searching, searching in visible and rising panic. God! If only wise men and women could ease that tidal dread.

And in lighter moments, at despair's low tide, we'll all flock there, frantically gathered under the too-brief sun in accessible places, building, building those dream-sand-castles of altered reality to ease the moment when fear's crashing waves flatten all, leaving fantasy's construction, hope, once more hid from our eyes.

I'm always mindful of fellow travellers still deep in the despair of the dread of God's absence when Easter comes for the rest of us – all those hollow hallelujahs; all that forced jollity. And yet we yearn; yearn for God, for peace, for presence, for the Spring:

God, you are elusive, like the sun shrouded by swirling, shifting mist.

You appear as a pale silver disc for an instant but I feel no warmth, only the cold damp touch of the tendrils of grey. I shiver and you are gone.

So I stand very still and wait and look. Is there a shimmer, a glimmer in the gloom that might be a way?

Please, if that's you, find a quiet place, hunker down and watch and wait. Wait for the stirrings that are not for you to force:

Winter's grip cannot forever hold us fast. Iced rain softens: buffeting gales blow out, and, tamed, caress as breezes; the late Spring frost melts at the smile of the morning sun. Bright beams catch copper maple buds to make them gleam and fire tips flaming Pieris brands calmed only by its foaming cream cascade. And my heart, too, stirs at last! Hope frozen by too long a winter's-grip sends out buds to catch that first, fleeting Spring sun. Summer's promise.

The spiritual Springtime of Easter comes to each of us at the right moment for us, because it is the gift of the one who knows us so well:

Six stone water jars waiting to wash away

not the uncleanness of hands but the howe of hardness

in our hearts a mountain moved

not by the work of attrition but by the faith of quaffing

with joy the wine of the one

who waits on us to know our need for

not one but two

miracles of transformation.

The Springtime of Easter will come.

Father John

Easter Lilies

Please let Jenny Coleman know if you would like a lily to remember a loved one in church on Easter Day by Friday March 31.

The lilies cost £6

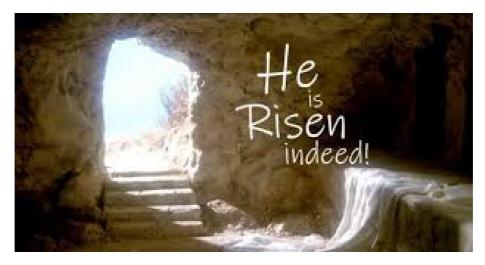
April Sunday Eucharist Gospels

Sunday 2 April-PALM SUNDAY Matthew 16.14-27 and 27.11-54

Jesus, already accepting complete humility in his Incarnation will not draw back from any aspect of human suffering or death.

Sunday 9 April-EASTER DAY Matthew 28.1-10

Jesus met them and said 'Greetings'. And they came to him, took hold of his feet and worshipped him.



Sunday 16 April-Second Sunday of Easter John 20.19-29
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

Sunday 23 April-Third Sunday of Easter Luke 24.11-35

Then their eyes were opened and hey recognised Jesus.

Days of Special Observation

Thursday 6 April-Maundy Thursday John 13.1-17, 31-35

Now the Son of man has been glorified and God has been glorified in him.

Friday 7 April-Good Friday John 18.1 – 19.38

They crucified him and with him two others one on either side with Jesus between them.

Monday 24 April-George, Martyr, Patron of England

(Transferred from Sunday 23 April) John 15.18-21 *Jesus said to his disciples 'If the world hates you, beware that it hated me before it hated you'*.

Tuesday 25 April-Mark the Evangelist (See April Commemoration)

The good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Woodward 125



1 May 2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the death of Canon Matthew Woodward, vicar of our parish from 1851 until his death in 1898. He was by any criteria a remarkable man. His 47 years as vicar saw the church transformed from the 'half a wreck' he inherited in 1851 to a building worthy of the worship of God. His ability to inspire and lead – despite quite furious opposition sometimes from the congregation and the town – attracted the very best of artists, stained glass designers, craftsmen and architects whose work continues to provoke admiration and interest.

This anniversary will be marked with an exhibition of historic photographs assembled by Folkestone historian Alan Taylor; a special lecture by Rev Tony Shepherd, Woodward's biographer and former curate, in church at 3 p.m. on Saturday 29 April and a Festival Eucharist at 10.30 on Sunday 30 April when we will welcome as our preacher, Bishop Richard Llewellin, former Bishop of Dover.

This service will be followed by a celebratory lunch in the Woodward Hall for which you will need tickets.

At 12 noon on Monday 1 May there will be a full guided tour of the church highlighting Matthew Woodward's heritage followed by wine, soft drinks and savoury snacks'. You will need tickets for this event.

Look out for further details.

See also images on pages 16, 17 and 28.

Some notes for your diary

As you will see elsewhere in this month's Rendezvous we are having a lunch on **Sunday 30 April** in the Woodward Hall.

Lunch will be a Ploughman's and the cost will be £5 per head (vegan options available)

We would also like to have a range of desserts and cakes to follow. If you would like to make something for us that would be great. I will put a form on the table in church and perhaps you could add your name with your suggested dessert/cake). Thank you.

Also, it's early I know but we will be celebrating **St Eanswythe's Day** with a Festival on **Saturday September 9**. We will need lots of help as always with cleaning, washing up. and cakes and gifts for our church stall.

So please put it in your diaries and start looking in those cupboards!

And if you know anyone who would like to have a stall please let me know and I will be in touch with them.

We will be having a concert later in the day and would love to include performances by local children – playing an instrument or singing.

If you are able to help in any way on our special day please let me know.

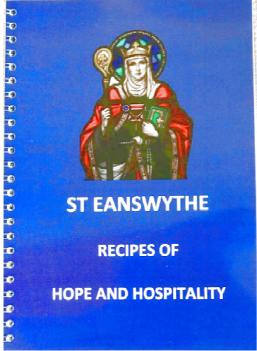
Thank you as always - Jenny

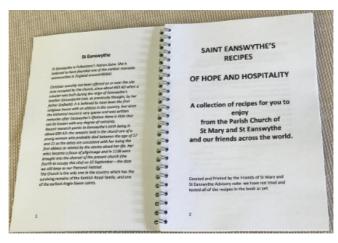
Recipes of Hope and Hospitality and Notelets

A collection of recipes from members of the congregation and many friends. The

Recipe Book is available at £5 per copy from the sales table by the main door, please use the Donation Station for card payments or put the money in the box.

Notelets are available at £5 per pack – all photographs taken by members of the congregation.





All proceeds are used to take care of the Fabric of the Church.

The Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe

The Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe were formed in 2014. The Friends are dedicated to the preservation of St Mary and St Eanswythe's church as a place of Christian worship and a focal point of historical interest for residents and visitors to Folkestone. All funds raised are devoted to the upkeep of the building and to the furtherance of public understanding of its history, architecture, and significance.

To find out more please visit http://friendsofstmaryandsteanswythe.org.uk

Single Membership £10 per annum. Joint or Family membership £15 per annum. Reduced income £5 per annum.

Cash or cheques made payable to The Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe can be sent to Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone, CT20 2PJ.

Electronically: Barclays Bank sort code 20-02-62:

Account number 93016250

Please use your surname as the reference.

New Membership Form

Email: info@friendsofstmaryandsteanswythe.org.uk

For existing Friends annual subscriptions are due now and if you were uncertain how to pay please see the above details.

Full name:	·
Partner's name:	
(Only fill this out if this is a join	t membership)
Address:	
	Post code:
Email:	
Phone no:	

Bookworm - What I've Been Reading

Shuggie Bain – Douglas Stuart (2020)

This is one of those books that was actually better on reflection than at the time when I was reading it. The subject matter is consistently depressing and at 430 pages it is perhaps too long – I felt that it just went on and on, with more and more examples of a dreary, wretched existence. But that did serve to drive home the message of Agnes and Shuggie's cheerless lives even more. Nevertheless, the book was more readable than I expected for one written in dialect and a Booker prize winner to boot (two elements that I generally try to avoid in a book). Fortunately the Glasgow dialect was one that was fairly familiar to me, though I did have to look up a few words.

The descriptions are raw, the subject matter both heart breaking and sombre. It's about: working class culture in a 1980s Glasgow housing scheme (estate) where everyone knows everyone else's business, disintegrating family life, alcoholism, self-destruction, poverty and unmanageable debts, domestic violence, broken relationships, deep despair, child abuse and neglect, sexuality, perseverance, hunger, unemployment because the coal mines are all closed or in the process of closing down, low wages for those fortunate enough to have a job, and appalling living conditions.

There is a constant theme of 'being different'. Shuggie and Agnes are deemed 'posh' by their neighbours because of the way they speak, and Agnes' craving for respectability and belief that you should always try to look your best. There is also the importance of catholic/protestant loyalty, which is like a gang culture in the Glasgow of this book, whether or not you are actually 'religious'. If you support the wrong football team you'll be beaten up. Failing that, you'll be bullied and beaten up for attending the 'wrong' school or for being a sissy. School was not always a happy place for Shuggie, who was coming to terms with his own sexuality. Throughout this we see young Shuggie's unconditional love for his alcoholic mother, with him frequently staying off school to look after Agnes. Why on earth didn't the truancy officers and social services do something? Like so many children, Shuggie just fell under the radar of the authorities.

The portrayal of the 1980s brought back so many memories, though I don't think I was ever addicted to my Freemans catalogue in the way that Agnes was. However, the descriptions of so many young people with a mouth full of false teeth are things I would associate with the 1950s and earlier rather than more recent times. This intense and moving book grew on me and I think it will haunt me for a long time. I found the first half rather slow and then suddenly I couldn't put it down. And once I'd finished it, the more I thought about it, the more I liked it. There were some real shocks in the plot, which I won't divulge here; it was definitely worth sticking with. Thanks yet again to my book group for choosing a book I might otherwise not have read.

And if you want to know more about Douglas Stuart and the autobiographical elements of this, his first novel, pick up the edition of Imagine featuring him, which was shown on BBC1 at the end of last year.

Catriona Hunter

St Mary and St Eanswythe Children's Church

What's coming up?



Sunday 2nd April Hosanna! Hosanna!





Sunday 9th April

Easter Sunday!

Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard after the 10:30 Service



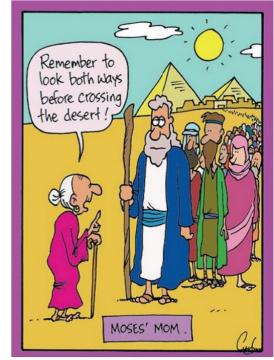
Children's Church begins in church at 10.30 am. We do hope you can join us for

- © singing,
- © making things,
- © learning about Jesus and
- © much much more!

All children are welcome, pre-school with an adult please. To find out about it, ring Clare Tomlinson 07751 423 796

PS look out for our puzzles and colouring sheets in the Family Corner – there's a new one EVERY WEEK!

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Children's Church

Jesus is the Living Water



To start our session this week we had a fun water relay game! 2 teams of 5 children, took it in turns to take a cup of water from one bowl and run down to the other end of the room and pour it into another bowl. They were amazing and had such steady hands they hardly spilt a drop!!

Clare then told us the story of Jesus asking a Samaritan woman at the well for a drink and how the woman was amazed when Jesus told her that He could offer her living water so she would never become thirsty again. We learnt that Jesus offers us that living water too. Jesus pours His love into us until we are full and running over. We sang a specially composed song for the session (sung to the tune of Old McDonald had a farm) and later taught it to the church family. 'Jesus gives us the water of life, He loves us so. Jesus gives us the water of life, He loves us so. It's not a little splish and it's not a little splush, when Jesus gives water, it's a great big woosh. Jesus gives us the water of life, He loves us so'.



We made dangling drops of water and stuck on these words 'Jesus gives us the water of life! He loves us so!' The water relay was such a success that we even managed to play it again at the close of our session!



News From St Eanswythe's Primary School

Term Four: Healthy Me!

Smoothie Bikes

Today, the whole school were lucky enough to participate in using Smoothie Bikes! This was a fun and creative way to explore our "Healthy Me" topic as a whole school. We began by first thinking about ways that we can keep both our bodies and our minds healthy. We then shared our ideas together. After this, each class had the chance to create their own smoothie from a huge selection of wonderful fruits provided by our parents and carers. Of course, we all got the chance to sample the smoothies at the end of the session!



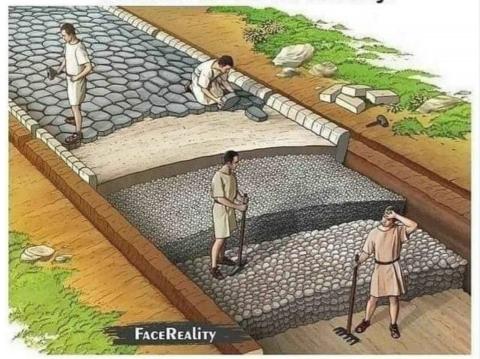






Romans

Without a single degree, they built us roads that have lasted an eternity.



and then, the engineers arrived!



Forwarded

Since Youngsters of Today have their Texting Codes (LOL, OMG, TTYL, etc.) the Oldies decided not to be outdone by these kids, and now have developed our own codes too:

ATD - At the Doctor's

BFF - Best Friend's Funeral

BTW - Bring the Wheelchair

BYOT - Bring your own teeth

FWIW - Forgot Where I Was

GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery

GHA - Got Heartburn Again

TFT - Texting From Toilet.

Now share this with some other oldies and make their day

15.0

Church Hire

For information about hiring the church, with or without use of the grand piano please contact the Parish Office

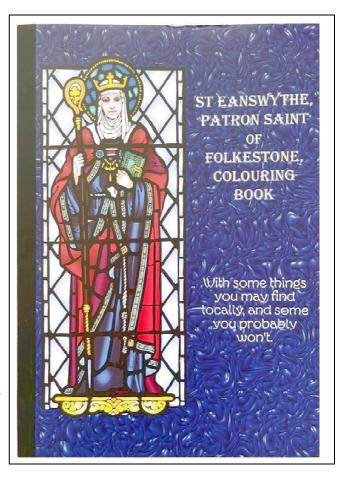
sainteanswythe@gmail.com 01303 252947

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St Eanswythe, Patron Saint of Folkestone, Colouring Book

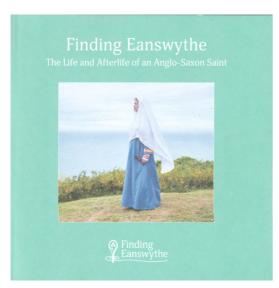
Once upon a time, not so long ago, when Marilyn and Catriona were on church welcoming duty, a father and his two young daughters came into the church. The girls wanted to do some colouring, but although there were plenty of crayons in the children's corner, there was nothing for them to colour in. This was how the idea for a St Eanswythe colouring book came about.

We have worked with local artist, Dandi Palmer, to create a beautiful colouring book with 40 varied pictures and something for all ages. We hope that it will give a true feeling of what you may be able to see in and around the church. You'll find pictures of St Eanswythe, the Reverend David Railton MC, the church organ, various plants and animals that you might find inside the church or in the churchyard, even the church mouse and one of the spiders. Though please forgive us our artistic licence over the likes of the kingfisher.



We are grateful to Rendezvous magazine for sponsoring the printing of the colouring book. You can buy the book at the sales table for £5, which we are sure you will agree is very good value indeed. Even if colouring isn't your 'thing', this is a book you will want for your coffee table.

Finding Eanswythe



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 programme 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.

SINGINGS SINGINGS

THE CHOIR OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

We are a small, friendly choir with a wide repertoire. We are keen to hear from singers from all voice parts.

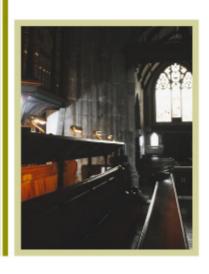
Experience can be an advantage but lots of support will be available.

For more details visit the church website or email Malcolm, our Director of Music

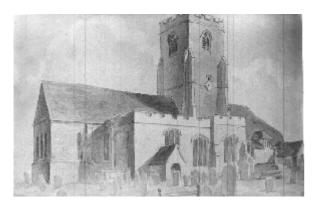
stmaryandsteanswythe.org sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com



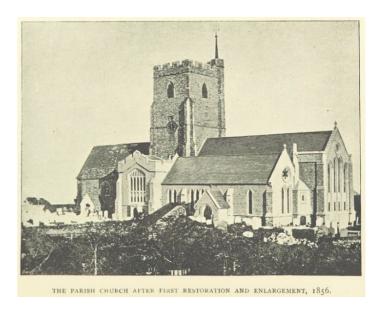




Woodward's Legacy



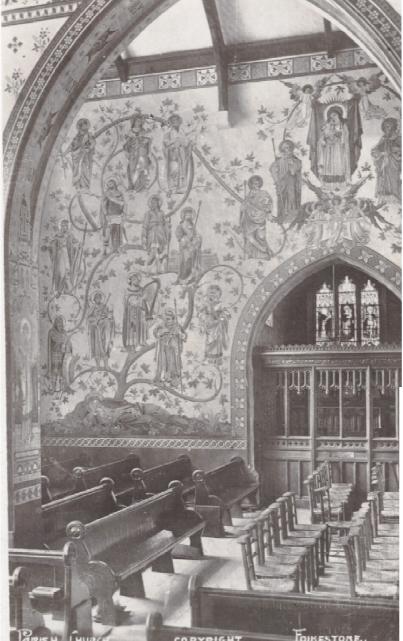
When Woodward arrived in 1851 the church had a very truncated western end thanks to the 1705 storm and years of neglect. Yet only five years



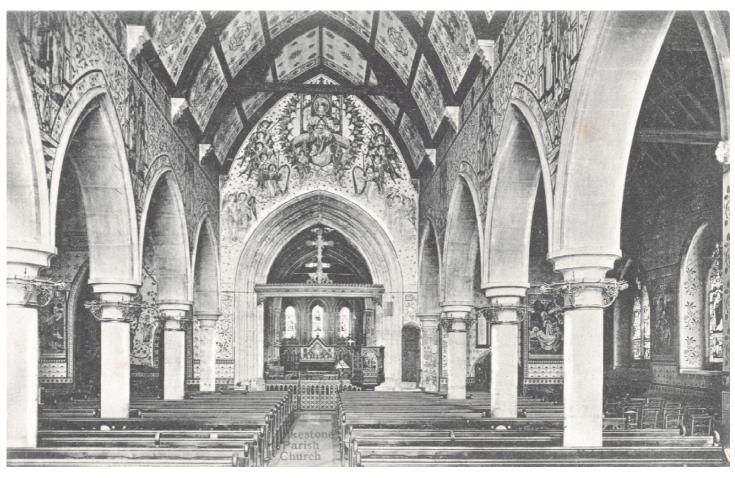
later the building had been transformed. In 1756 the church was almost complete externally, a few years later the Harvey Window and the West Porch completed the works (the present NW Porch was rebuilt in 1955).

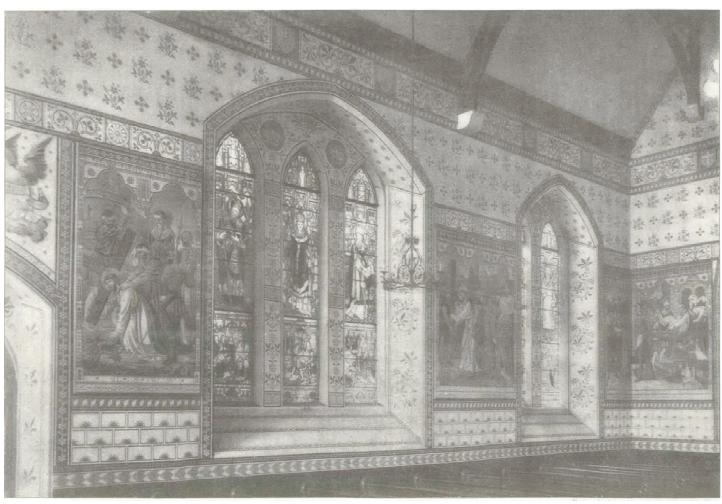
Then the stained glass and wall paintings began. The paintings and some windows were by A.O.Hemming most of the other windows were by Kempe.

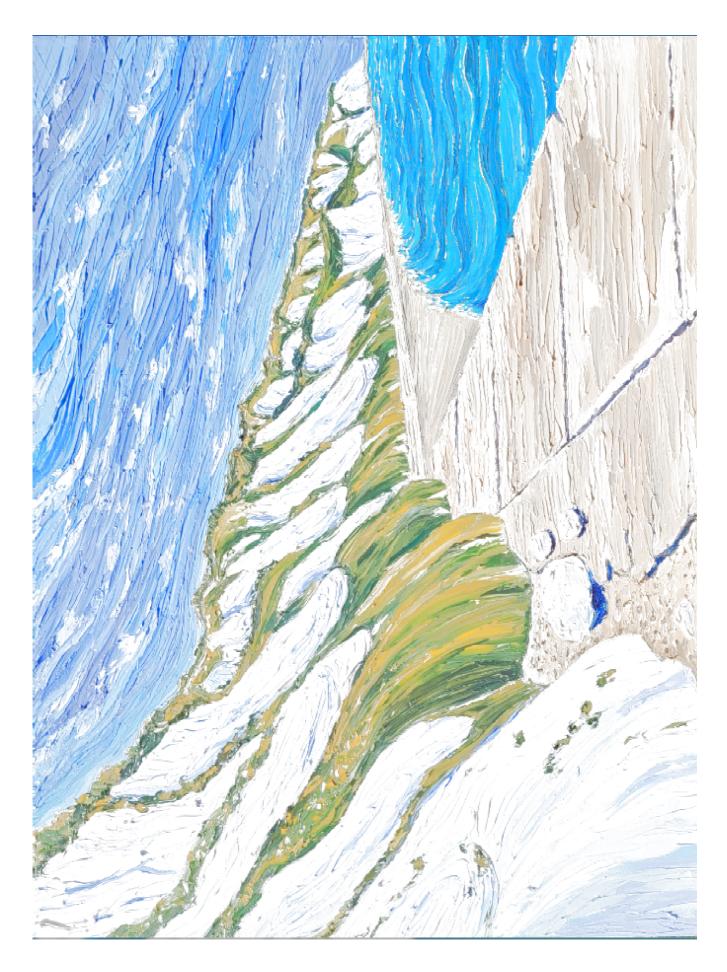
Sadly, Hitler caused loss of nearly all northern windows and a lot of decorative work was whitewashed in the 1950s.











This painting by Kerry Record is of The Warren Folkestone titled "Peace of Mind" 23.5"x 31.5" Oil on canvas. Her paintings/prints are available to buy from her Etsy shop at the link below. Apologies for last month's edition when this image disappeared from the printing master.

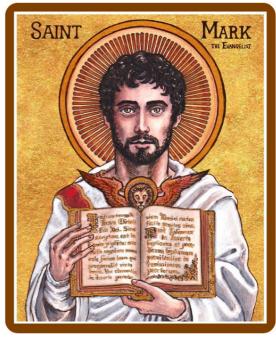
https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KerryRecordArtShop?ref=profile_header

Kerry's latest painting of the walk along the North Downs towards Folkestone titled "Walking Forward By Faith" foil on canvas 36"x24"

Commemoration of the Month

Mark the Evangelist - 25 April

John Mark was a Jew and, according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, was cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey and then went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter. Mark's gospel is generally regarded as the earliest and was most likely written whilst he was in Rome. It was probably based as much on Peter's preaching of the good news as on Mark's own memory. Mark's gospel has a sharpness and an immediacy about it and he does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption.



Collect

Almighty God,
who enlightened your holy Church
through the inspired witness
of your evangelist Saint Mark:
grant that we, being firmly grounded
in the truth of the gospel,
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;
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

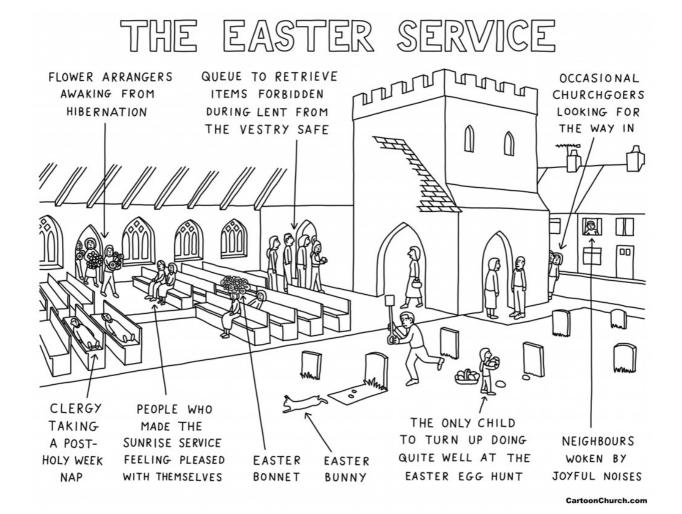
OT-Proverbs 15.28-33; NT-Acts 15.35-41; GOSPEL-Mark 13.5-13

What would you like your legacy to be? 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, too. So, if you're thinking of adding a charitable bequest in your will, here's what you need to know.

Big or small, your donation could be of huge help in keeping our beautiful church cared for in the future.

As you may already know, like money you leave to your spouse, gifts to charities aren't taxed. And if you leave at least 10% of your estate to a charitable cause, your inheritance tax rate drops from 40% to 36%. This means that for every £100 you leave to charity; it only really costs your family £24.

Please give this some thought



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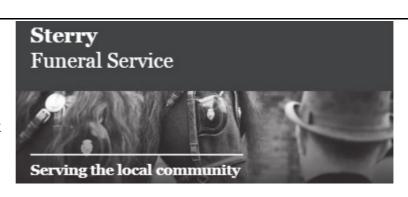
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A topical quote from the prophet Jeremiah:

'Why does the way of the guilty prosper?
Why do all who are treacherous thrive?
You plant them, and they take root;
they grow and bring forth fruit;
you are near in their mouths
yet far from their hearts.
But you, O Lord, know me;
You see me and test me — my heart is with you.'

Jeremiah 12.1-3

Think before you speak!

HOW TO AVOID TOXIC POSITIVITY

INSTEAD OF SAYING... SAY... "It's hard but I believe "You'll get over it." in you." "Don't be so negative!" "It's okay to feel bad sometimes." "It can be difficult to see the "Always look at the bright side!" good in this situation, but we'll make sense of it when we can." "Failure is not an option." "Failure is part of growth." "Things can get really tough, "Think happy thoughts!" I am here for you." "It could be worse." "Sometimes we experience bad things. How can I support you?"

Give it a try - it's not difficult!

Music Notes

There are two more concerts in the current Bayle Music season.

The first will take place at **The Grand on Saturday 15 April at 3 p.m.** when we are delighted to welcome and old friend of our concerts, harpist Alex Rider.

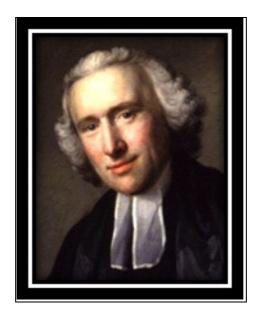


Then **in church at 3 p.m. on Saturday 10 June,** we welcome another long-standing friend of Bayle Music, Alan Shellard with two of his colleagues who form the Alan Shellard Clarinet Trio.



Admission is £15 per head on the day or in advance by following the Bayle Music link on the Sounds Folkestone website www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk

The Singing Church Rev John Newton (1725-1807)



'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds And drives away his fear.' (*NEH 374*)

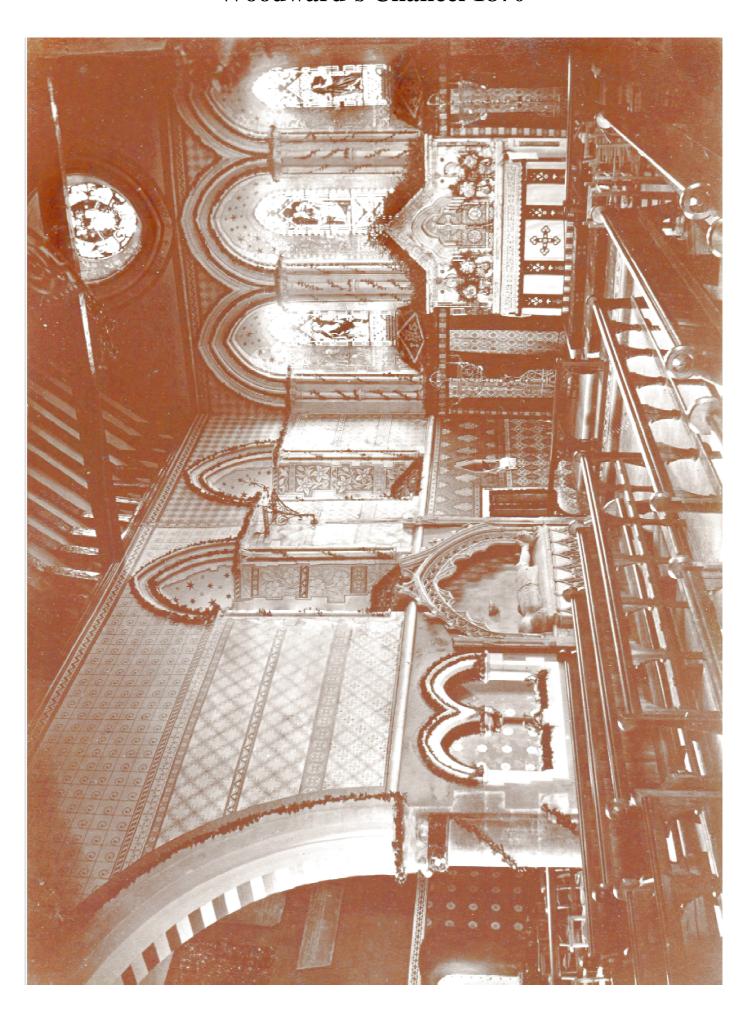
These inspiring words from a familiar hymn, which we often sing here, were written by John Newton who was an evangelical Anglican cleric and slavery abolitionist. He is noted for being author of other well-known hymns such as 'Amazing grace' and 'Glorious Things of thee are spoken'.

Newton went to sea at a young age and worked on slave ships in the slave trade for several years. In 1745, he himself became a slave in what is now Sierra Leone. After retiring from active seafaring, he continued to invest in the slave trade.

In 1748, during his return voyage to England aboard the ship *Greyhound*, Newton had a spiritual conversion. Some years later Newton later renounced his trade and became a prominent supporter of abolitionism. He was ordained priest on 17 June 1764 and served as parish priest at Olney, Buckinghamshire, for two decades. He wrote a number of hymns, three of which feature in the New English Hymnal: '*May the grace of Christ our Saviour*' (298) and '*Glorious things of thee are spoken*' (362) as well as no. 374 quoted above.

Newton became an ally of William Wilberforce who sought spiritual guidance from him. John Newton lived just long enough to see the British Empire's abolition of the African slave trade in 1807, just months before his death on 21 December that year.

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