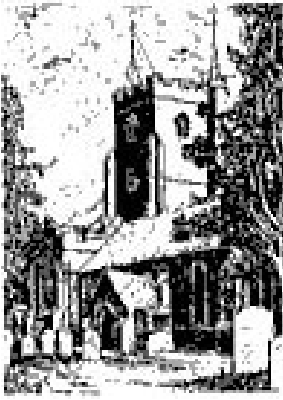


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 50 No. 12 **December 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 Administrator	Rosie Mockett		252947
	email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com		
Churchwardens	Tom Bertram,	07748 434341	01303 890986
	Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road	07860 175123	241124
PCC Hon. Secretary			252947
Hon. Treasurers	} Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2PJ		244876
Planned Giving	} Jenny Coleman		
Gift Aid	}		
PCC Members	Jan Clarke	Jenny Coleman	
	Marilyn Edey	Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep)	
	Catriona Hunter	Pam Keeling	
	Patricia Skelsted	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	Rosie Mockett		252947
Organist and Choir Director	Malcolm Munro	sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com	
Children's Church	Clare Tomlinson		07751 423796
Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Hayward	cazrolinehayward@gmail.com	07876 358918
Church Day Schools	St Mary's, Warren Road	Head Teacher - Amanda Wolfram	251390
	St Eanswythe's, Church Street	Head Teacher - Claire Jacobs	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 (e-mail: epmfurminger@btinternet.com)		265547
Rendezvous Assembler	Andrew Plested (e-mail: andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk)		241124
Rendezvous Distribution	Catriona Hunter (e-mail: trina@monrepos.org)		248006

St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Carol Godden 07894 706971

Front Cover: a Nativity in stained glass

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 December 2023

Sat	2	10.30	Christmas Fair
Sun	3		First Sunday of Advent
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
		16.00	Candlelit Advent Carol Service
Mon	4	19.30	Advent Reflection at the Vicarage
Wed	6	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thu	7	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	10		Second Sunday of Advent
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST with CHILDREN'S CHURCH
		12.00	Shared Lunch
Mon	11	19.30	Harvey Grammar Christmas Carol Service
		19.30	Advent Reflection at the Vicarage
Tue	12	10.30	Town Mayor's Year 6 Christmas Concert
Wed	13	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
		18.00	Creative Quarter Carol Concert
Thu	14	10.30	Holy Communion
		19.00	Sound Meditations with Andre Braga-Verissimo
Fri	15	14.00	St Eanswythe's School Christmas Service
Sun	17		Third Sunday of Advent
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
		16.00	Nine Lessons & Carols
Mon	18	18.00	Living Advent Calendar
		19.30	Advent Reflection at the Vicarage
Wed	20	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thu	21	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	24		Fourth Sunday of Advent
			CHRISTMAS EVE
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
		16.00	Children's Crib Service
		18.00	Living Advent Calendar
		23.30	Midnight Mass
Mon	25		CHRISTMAS DAY
		10.30	Christmas Communion
Wed	27	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thu	28	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	31		The First Sunday of Christmas
			NEW YEARS' EVE
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
<u>January</u>			
Wed	3	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thu	4	10.30	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
Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday

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

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

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.”*

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 ones I have loved
over the border to God's homeland,
and who will present themselves in their absence afresh this Christmas.

I'm thinking of the things our journey with God, conscious or unconscious,
has brought to birth in you; in me.

And I'm thinking of the things our journey with God, conscious or unconscious,
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 challenges you
face, a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of bright hope.

Fr John





Follow The Star

Join the Song

...with three travellers seeking wisdom this Advent.

MONDAY 4 DEC at 7pm: Fr John Tomlinson

MONDAY 11 DEC at 7pm: Vicky Friedrich

MONDAY 18 DEC at 7pm: Fr John Walker

Join us at the vicarage in Priory Gardens on Monday evenings this Advent as Fr John T, Vicky and Fr John W share some insights about what Advent and Christmas mean to them through words, art, film and music.

We'll enjoy some mince pies and mulled wine together and, if you're concerned about travelling home in the dark, we'll arrange some lifts to get you home safely afterwards.

Sign up by adding your name to the sheet at the back of church or by emailing Rosie at sainteanswythe@gmail.com

ADVENT REFLECTIONS AT
ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE FOLKESTONE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Rendezvous needs you! Could you write something?

For the past 25 years we have had a regular contributor to Rendezvous who now wishes to take a well-deserved retirement. We are enormously grateful to our anonymous writer for the many thousands of words and hundreds of items that they have contributed to Rendezvous, and for much else besides. However, it is literally going to leave us with some substantial gaps to fill.

From next year, i.e. January, we need to either have someone else to submit these items, or perhaps you think it is time for something new altogether? Either way, your parish magazine needs you.

Examples of contributions over the last year from our anonymous contributor include:

- Commemorations of the month – saints and famous people from history, (e.g. Nicholas Bishop of Myra, Martin Luther, Wilfred Owen) with Collect and readings.
- Sunday Eucharists and Red Letter Day Gospels.
- Prayers.
- Poems relevant to the season or current events.
- Occasional articles about church festivals or church politics, e.g. Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, General Synod, changes of Bishop or Archbishop.
- Items of general interest, e.g. Songs of Praise.
- Some obituaries, including that of our Late Queen Elizabeth II.
- And much, much more.

As you can see, this comprises much of the religious content of our magazine, and while we want this magazine to be relevant to our whole community, it is also our parish magazine and we think that it should have some church-based content.

Change is healthy and good, but we want our magazine to continue to thrive.

If you feel that you could fill in some of these gaps or write something new entirely on a regular or occasional basis, please speak to Andrew Plested and/or Catriona Hunter. If you would like to take over writing any of the above items, Catriona has some hints and tips regarding sources of information (you don't have to make it up!).

Articles for inclusion in Rendezvous should be sent to Andrew Plested at andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk **by the 20th of each month (but 10 December for the January edition)**. Please submit articles in 16 point text – this shows how much fits on a page once it is reduced for printing.



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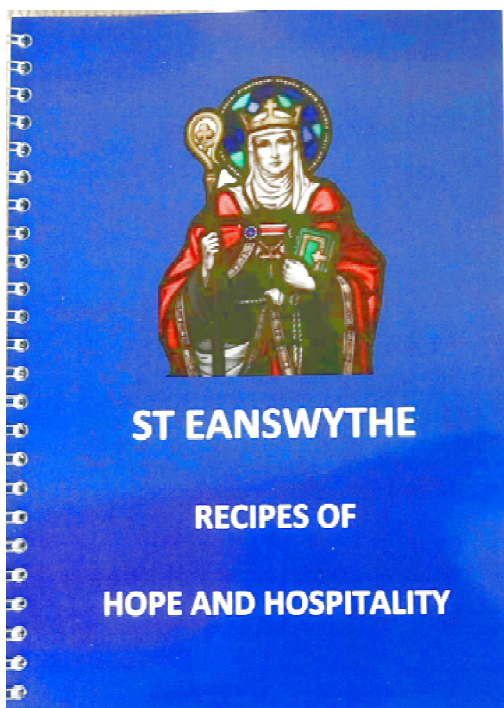
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SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

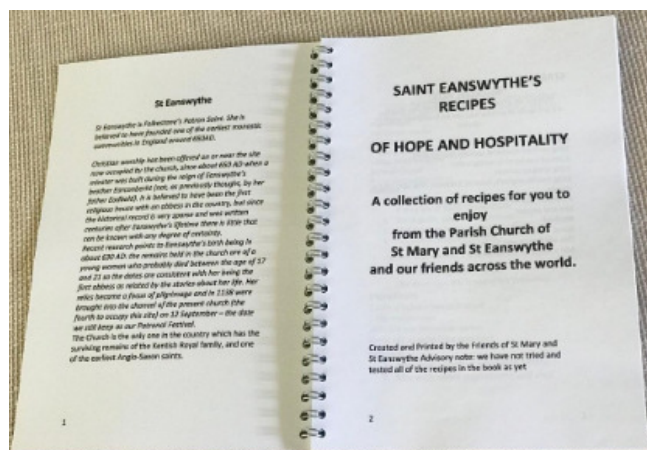
The Lady Chapel is now set apart for silent prayer and meditation on Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Fr John will be there most Wednesdays, and has written a guide available to anyone who would like to explore this ancient Christian way of praying. You will be most welcome to join us.

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.



Bookworm – What Catriona Has Been Reading

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd – Agatha Christie (1926)

I haven't read much Agatha Christie since I was a teenager (and read dozens of them). But this was our book group choice for November, and I found it to be very readable and enjoyable indeed. In fact, the British Crime Writers' Association once voted it the best crime novel ever. It got straight into the story, and I found it much less irritating than modern day cosy crime. Perhaps this was because I was very conscious that any murderer in those days would be subject to the death penalty. Also, I usually dislike Poirot and find him rather creepy, but I had no problem with him here.

Because it was published almost 100 years ago there were some elements that seemed a bit old fashioned, and I don't just mean the casual racism and sexism; for example the way the police work – they seem perfectly happy sharing information about the investigation with the local doctor and Hercule Poirot (who has conveniently retired to the village where the murder takes place), and the police investigation seems very disjointed. Furthermore, I'm sure there are many modern day GPs who would do anything to have such a relaxed working day as Dr James Sheppard has in these pre NHS days.

Unfortunately I was reading this with the knowledge of whodunnit as Lucy Worsley had spoken about this book on her TV programme about Agatha Christie last year and had given away the murderer. I'd also read it more than 50 years ago, but didn't remember any of the plot at all. However, reading the book with this knowledge made me look for clues as I went along, so it didn't totally spoil it for me. And as is the way with Agatha Christie, everything finally hinges on an incident that I didn't even remember being mentioned!

I remember how much I used to enjoy reading Agatha Christie and think that perhaps it is time to reread some of them, particularly those that are deemed to be her classics (the internet is full of lists of her best books). They're a nice easy read, sort of the 'comfy slippers' of books.

Stop Them Dead – Peter James (2023)

This was an outstandingly good read, and almost breathtakingly exciting at times. Unputdownable.

It's the latest in the Roy Grace series and is about the illegal puppy trade – apparently there's more money to be made from the puppy trade than from drugs, and the prison sentences are far shorter. Puppies are imported from eastern Europe, kept in appalling conditions and sold on via the internet with false papers. Many carry terrible diseases.

In this story we have a farmer murdered trying to protect his puppies, dogs being stolen to order, and a young girl bitten on the nose by a puppy – with terrible consequences. Even Roy Grace himself gets caught up in this on a personal level. This is a bit different from the usual storyline in these books, but the villains are just as evil as elsewhere. A terrific read.

Catriona Hunter

Journey Into Space

A long time ago I boarded a flight
To a planet light years away.
Try as I might I can't remember why.
The trip took ages,
I don't recall when it started.
When it wasn't hair-raising it could be fun –
Although definitely not for the
faint-hearted.
Now I've landed on this alien world –
The surreal Planed of the Aged –
Where the air is thin so breathing's hard,
The terrain rugged and tricky to cross.
There are people here, fellow travellers,
But they tend to suffer from memory loss.
Conversations can be bizarre and confusing.
And sometimes amusing.

And then they depart without warning.
This is a place of mourning. And reflection
....

It was the journey that was important,
Not where I've arrived.
Wish I'd known that before.
I'd have lived and thrived in the moment
And savoured it more.

But we can't go back
So we must go on alone, eventually,
From this place into the unknown.
And just maybe *that* journey will turn out
to be,
Of all possible journeys, the most
extraordinary.

Jeanette Walter

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The poster features a festive green background with pine needles, holly leaves, and red berries. At the top, there are several red Christmas ornaments and two golden bells. The text is centered and uses various colors and fonts to create a celebratory feel.

Folkestone Choral Society

The Locke Brass Consort

Conductor Lucy Gove

Come and join our

Christmas Celebration

sing some of your favourite carols
enjoy a glass of mulled wine
and a mince pie

Saturday 9th December 2023 at 3pm

Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone

Tickets £12 (under 18's no charge)

Available from Brandon's Music Shop - Tel: 01303 264429

(open Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

from Choral Society members

on-line from wegottickets.com and on the door

website: www.folkestonechoralsociety.org

Registered Charity No. 275075



Children's Church



Poppies....



Poppies

"They remind us of soldiers who have died."

"They help us to remember people who died in the First and Second World War."

"They help us to remember to thank God for peace."

"We can work for peace too."

Children at Children's Church on Remembrance Sunday had lots of ideas about poppies and remembering. They each created a beautiful poppy which could be held or worn on the wrist or in the hair.

We were able to keep silence at 11 o'clock and thank God for all those people who gave everything for us, and pray that we can be instruments of peace in the world.



NEXT TIME - 10th December
Christingle in Advent!



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

Folkestone Battery

You may not be aware that there is one. It has tall metal gates and lies off St. Eanswythe's Passage (which itself is unmarked) on The Bayle. It is where the guns were mounted to defend the harbour. My family and I had lived there for 52 years until we sold it in June 2023.

It was originally built in 1760 as part of the defences against the French of which the Martello towers and Hythe canal are also a part. It originally had four gun emplacements but only one embrasure and one swivel gun mounting remain. Houses have been built, either side, on part of the original site. One underground powder store remains.

When we bought it, in 1971, there was nothing below the cliff other than the Royal Pavilion Hotel which had been built in its Victorian heyday on land reclaimed from the sea when various harbour arms were built. On the deeds of the house the sea came right up to the foot of the cliff at high tide.

No sooner had we arrived than a planning application was put in to construct the eponymous Motel Burstin (now the Grand Burstin). We did our best to alert others to its height and design, and even helped form the New Folkestone Society, to no avail. It seems that nobody has the right to a view. I subsequently became a town councillor under the Go Folkestone banner and made sure that I was on the Planning Committee!

Although The Battery is in the centre of town it is something of a nature reserve. If you stand on the harbour arm and look back you can see the enormous sett created by both badgers and foxes. Once we had pheasants nesting in the grounds - until the foxes got them! It is visited not only by foxes and badgers, but bats, hedgehogs, slow worms, woodpeckers, owls and squirrels who are often to be seen and heard.

The garden has an eclectic mix of trees including mulberries whose leaves, legend has it, were used by nuns to feed their silkworms. The garden has regularly fed The Bayle with rhubarb and greengages and provided it with unlimited holly and foliage at Christmas.

The back door bears a plaque to John Kinniburgh, the onetime Master Gunner, and the front door porch contains a plaque, donated by their cubs, commemorating the Foxes, who very much enjoyed living there for more than half their lives.

Paul Fox



The Battery



Our band of bellringers would welcome reinforcements.
Contact Dave Robinson at david.m.robinson24@gmail.com

We have a ring of 8 Bells. They are rung before the 10:30 Service on Sundays and there is a practice on Tuesday evenings.

Independent Maintenance Solutions



All maintenance and repair work considered.

Carpentry, plumbing & electrical repair, painting & decorating, odd jobs, gardening and more...

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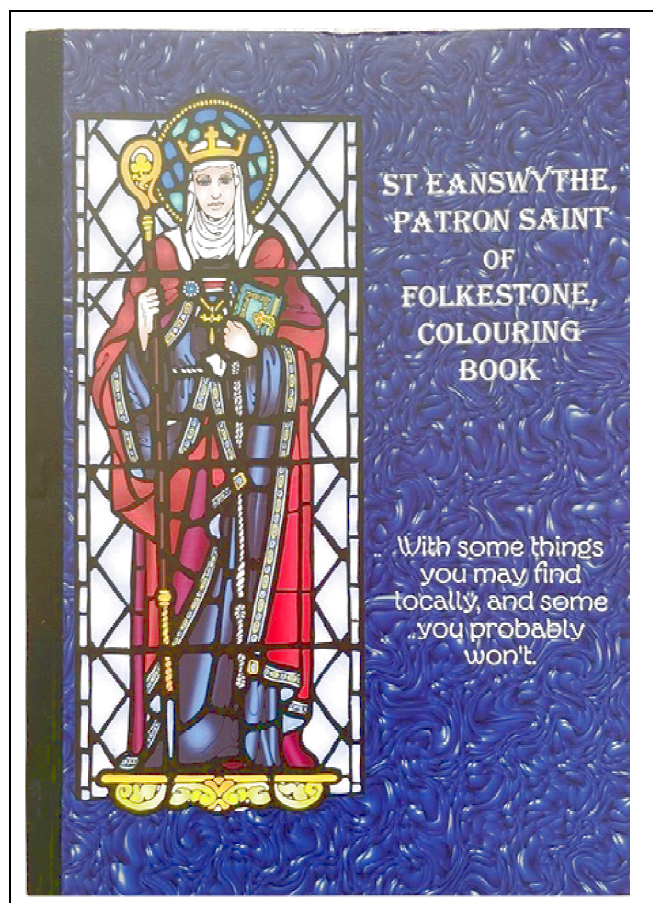
Free consultation
Call Warren on 07958 342 784
Email: imseastkent@gmail.com

St Eanswythe, Patron Saint of Folkestone, Colouring Book

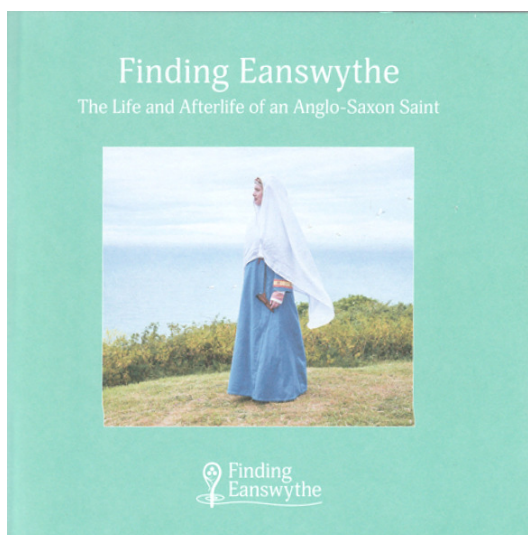
Once upon a time, not so long ago, when Marilyn and Catriona were on church welcoming duty, a father and his two young daughters came into the church. The girls wanted to do some colouring, but although there were plenty of crayons in the children's corner, there was nothing for them to colour in. This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

DO YOU LIKE SINGING?

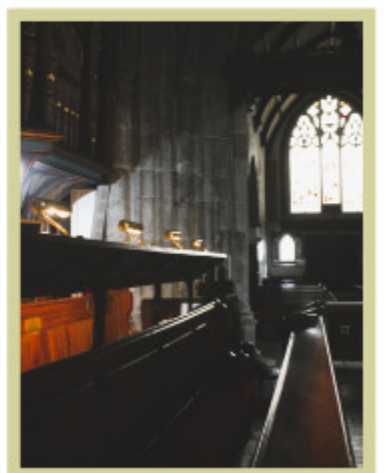
THE CHOIR OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

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



Sunday Eucharist and Red Letter Day Gospels

Common Worship Year B begins

Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday Mark 13.24-37

'What I say to you I say to all: Keep awake'



Sunday 10 December Advent 2 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'

Sunday 17 December Advent 3 John 1.6-8, 19-28

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

Sunday 24 December Advent 4 Luke 1.26-38

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

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

Midnight Mass John 1.1-14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory as of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth.

God, who is beyond 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.

Christmas Morning - Luke 2.1-14



Sunday 31 December First Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2.15-21

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

Red Letter Days

Wednesday 6 December

St Nicholas - See Commemoration of the month.

Tuesday 26 December

St Stephen Deacon and First Christian Martyr

Matthew 10.17-22

Wednesday 27 December

John Apostle and Evangelist

John 21.20-25

Thursday 28 December

The Holy Innocents

Matthew 2.13-18

Prayers for the Holy Land

We continue to pray for justice, reconciliation, peace and an end to hatred and war in the Holy Land using this prayer from Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem.

O God of all justice and peace
we cry out to you
in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear
which prevails in the Holy Land.



Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians
and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord,
for an end to violence and the establishment of peace,
we also call for you to bring just and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom
where all people are treated with dignity and honour
as your children
for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.
In Jesus Name we pray.

The View From the Choir Stalls

Firstly, as you may have guessed, the view that we get from the choir stalls is a bit limited. We can see some, but not all, of the congregation, and we can't see the pulpit at all. But we're used to it! And I know we are always the last to join the coffee queue, but that's because after the service we have to put away our music and cassocks, and check what we'll be singing next week.

Christmas and Easter are the two busiest times for the church, and for those of us in the choir it means lots of music. Some of it will be new to most of us and other pieces will be old favourites. Not only are Advent and Christmas a busy time for us in the church choir, but many of us also sing with other choirs and have additional concerts coming up, or have other seasonal or end of term pressures on our time. We have extra services, full of music that we must rehearse and learn. Usually our only rehearsal time is the hour before the Sunday morning service in which we rehearse the music for that day as well as for future services. However, for Advent and Christmas we will have a couple of Friday evening rehearsals so that we can get through all the music, and we will also rehearse on the afternoons of the Candlelit Songs of Advent, and the Nine Lessons and Carols. That's if any of us can still sing at all after having our traditional choir Sunday Lunches at the British Lion!

Then we have the Creative Quarter Carol Concert, which is always good fun and we get to wear our Christmas jumpers instead of the usual cassocks and surplices. We usually try and recruit some extra singers for that, to make it jollier.

By the time we get to the afternoon of Christmas day all I want to do is sleep. Because let's face it, we've had the Living Advent Calendar on Christmas eve, followed by Midnight Mass and then not enough hours in bed before the eucharist on Christmas day. I'm sure that our clergy have the same feelings of exhaustion on Christmas day, not to mention the parents of excited children!

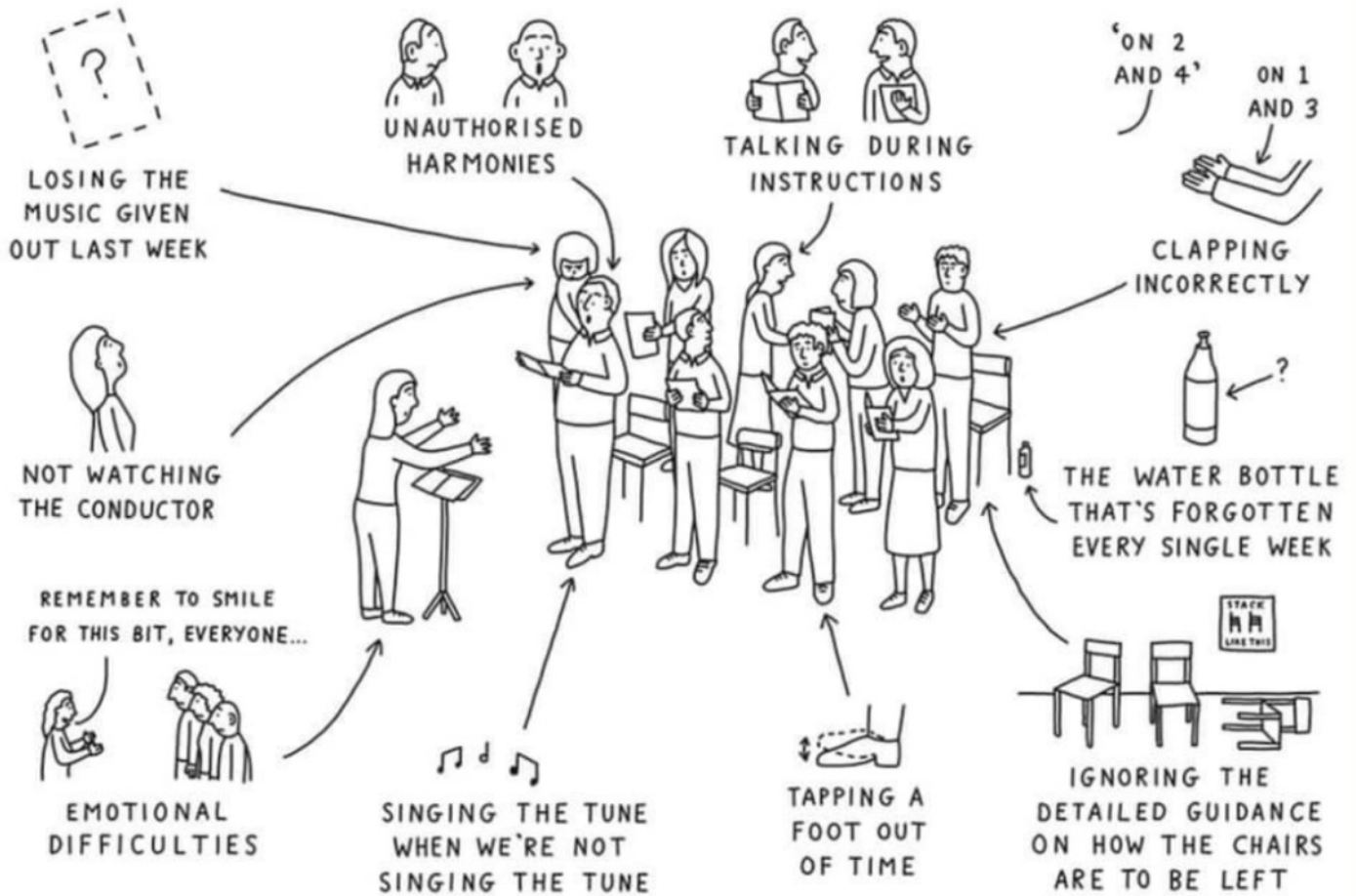
All of us in the choir share the joy of music and we love singing. Our role is to lead you, the worshippers, in your singing and the prayers, and to sing the additional music required by the liturgy and the worship, including the psalm, anthem and communion hymn. We are always keen to have new singers, and we're a friendly bunch. The usual commitment, outside of Christmas and Easter, is a 9.30 a.m. rehearsal before the Sunday service. Not everyone comes every week, but it helps Malcolm to know in advance who will be singing so that appropriate anthems can be selected.

If you're interested in giving us a try take a look at the choir advertisement page elsewhere in Rendezvous, speak to one or two of the choir, check out the church website, and speak to or email Malcolm, our Director of Music.
sainteanswymusic@gmail.com

Catriona Hunter

THE CHOIR REHEARSAL

COMMON PHENOMENA



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

Commemoration of the Month

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

6 December

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century author of his hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. Nicholas is also one of the patron saints of Russia. From him we have 'Santa Claus' – a contraction of his full name.



Collect

Almighty Father, lover of souls,
who chose your servant Nicholas
to be a bishop in the Church,
that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace:
make us mindful of the needs of others
and, as we have received, so teach us also to give;
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

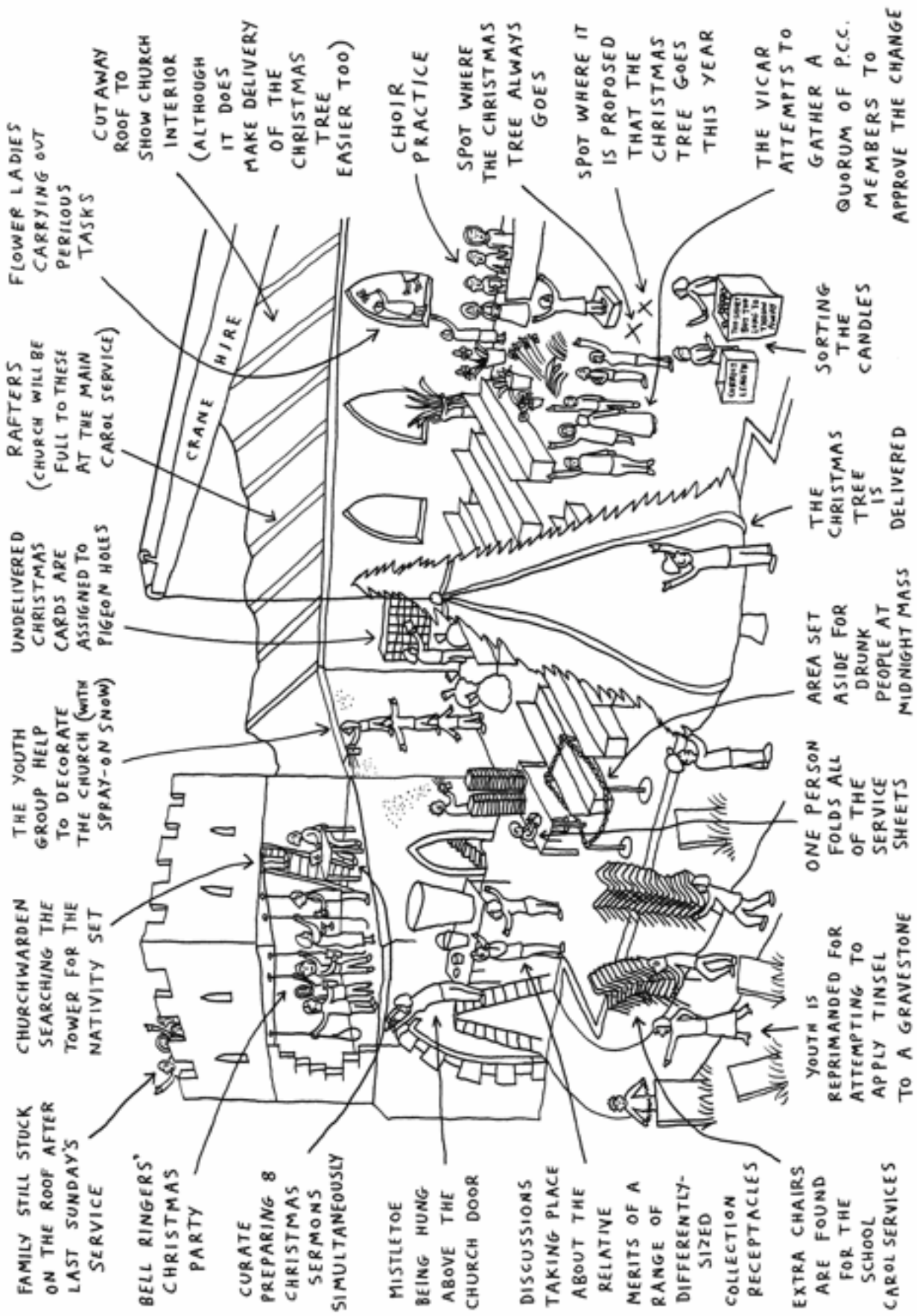
OT-Isaiah 61.1-3 NT-1 Timothy 6.6-11 Gospel-Mark 10.13-16

A Prayer At Christmas

God of light,
in you there is no darkness at all:
shine, we pray, your light into the darkness of our lives,
that we may know the truth of ourselves,
that we may bring healing to places of division and conflict,
and that we may see the path you have set before us to walk in

*Rev Max Kramer,
Chaplain, Keble College, Oxford*

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email: Samaritans: jo@samaritans.org

Telephone: 0330 094 5717 (local call charges apply)

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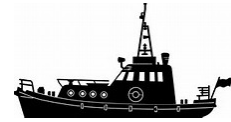
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Companions of Eanswythe – Holy Habits Part 3



Gladness and Generosity

As we approach Christmas, I thought this would be the perfect time to talk about the Holy Habit of Gladness and Generosity. The church was born in gladness: gladness for what God had done through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; gladness at the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. There was gladness in the home, in the temple and out on the streets.

In presenting his portrait of the Christian community, Luke notes in Acts that they had glad and generous hearts. The church embodied the extravagant generosity that is at the heart of the divine Trinitarian community. It was a prophetic countercultural symbol in a world of avarice and greed.

Gladness and Generosity is a joyous and a challenging Holy Habit. As you enjoy its celebratory aspects, they become a light to others. It is often in the darkest places that the light of gladness or joy shines most brightly. You might like to explore gladness in such settings.

As you explore the challenges represented by generosity, remember that we are called to be generous with all we are and have, not just our money. Grace is expressed in generosity and forgiveness. This takes us to the very heart of the gospel message.

Being glad and generous is a Christian way of life.

Gladness and generosity go together in this holy habit because they are inextricably linked. A generously forgiving and trusting nature is often – though not necessarily – a cheerful one. The act of giving gives rise to a cheering feeling; most of us feel better after being generous to someone else. But the root of giving that is generous and cheerful is thankfulness, as we realise what God has done for us and respond with gladness and joy.

There is no 'ought' about being glad – we don't choose how we feel about life – but gladness is more than just a happy or cheerful feeling. Consider what it was like for New Testament churches when they heard Paul was coming – perhaps a bit like an Ofsted announcement! Yet, Paul knew the objective joy of our faith that remains whatever outward mood we may be in. As loving communities, we seek not just to share each other's burdens but also to share each other's joys as we respond to the generosity of God.

Vicky Friedrich, Lay Reader in Training



Music Notes

There are two concerts this month, both presented at The Grand.

On **Saturday 16 December at 3 p.m.** we welcome the Bona Fide Trombone Quartet.



The quartet is a chamber ensemble made up of some of the UK's leading young trombonists, who all currently study in London at the Royal Academy of Music. Their wide-ranging programme will offer a lively afternoon's entertainment. Think you know all about trombones and their music? Well, you 'ain't heard nothing yet'!

Tickets at £18 per head are available in advance from the Ticketsource website here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk> or on the day from 2.30. Children and full-time students are admitted free.

The second concert just a week later **at 3 p.m. on Saturday 23 December** offers a chance to hear Benjamin Britten's enchanting 'Ceremony of Carols' sung by the Bayle Cantata with harpist Alex Rider, an old friend of Bayle Music, making a welcome return. The concert will also include a selection of appropriate seasonal music. It is being presented in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association for which there will be a retiring collection.

Refugee

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

Malcolm Guite (b 1957)

Christmas

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?

The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Verses from 'Christmas' by John Betjeman (1906-1984)



Issues in Church

Heating - Apologies for Sunday 26th of November, we had no heating. The boiler would not light when switched on. An engineer was due to attend two days afterwards to rectify the situation. We still have plenty of oil for this year. Fund-raising for the new electric heating is still continuing and we are getting there. The equipment has been purchased and Diocesan Faculty approval is imminent. We are trying to schedule the installation.



The Tower Mural - There was a fall of plaster from the upper left of the mural in mid-November. The mural has been inspected by a wallpaintings specialist and there are five areas that are bulging and have come away from the wall behind. The area underneath has been cordoned off for safety and we will be getting the whole mural scaffolded so that the mural can be examined, temporary reinforcement can be applied and a report/quotation can be prepared.

Draught from the East - A section of stained glass from the Vesica window at the top of the east wall of the Chancel has been broken. Once we have approval of the insurers and the Diocese the area can be scaffolded inside and out, the damaged section taken out and repaired and temporary weatherproofing applied.

A business card for Gabriela Hart. The card has a white background with a green circular logo on the left containing a footprint icon and the text "All Seasons Foot Care". To the right of the logo, the text "ALL SEASONS FOOT CARE" is written in green. Below this, the name "Gabriela Hart" is printed in large black font, followed by "Dip FH, MCFHP, MAFHP" in a smaller black font. At the bottom, the text "Professional Mobile Foot Health Practitioner" is written in black. A green horizontal bar at the very bottom contains the phone number "07553 221293" and the email address "gabrielahart2012@gmail.com" in white text.

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