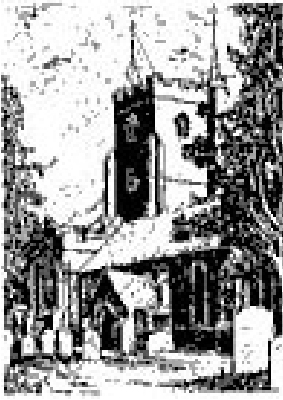


# RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 51 No. 2    **February 2024**    *£1.20*



## 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	Jennifer Griffin	01303 252947
	email: <a href="mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com">sainteanswythe@gmail.com</a>	
Churchwardens	Tom Bertram, 07748 434341	01303 890986
	Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road 07860 175123	01303 241124
PCC Hon. Secretary		01303 252947
Hon. Treasurers	} Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2PJ	01303 244876
Planned Giving	} Jenny Coleman	
Gift Aid	}	
PCC Members	Jan Clarke Marilyn Edey Catriona Hunter Patricia Skelsted	Jenny Coleman Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep) Pam Keeling 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	Jennifer Griffin	01303 252947
Organist and Choir Director	Malcolm Munro	<a href="mailto:sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com">sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com</a>
Children's Church	Clare Tomlinson	07751 423796
Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Hayward	<a href="mailto:cazrolinehayward@gmail.com">cazrolinehayward@gmail.com</a> 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	<a href="mailto:judy.doherty59@gmail.com">judy.doherty59@gmail.com</a>
Bell Ringers	Mike Godfrey, 6 Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne	01303 242159
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Rendezvous Distribution	Catriona Hunter (e-mail: <a href="mailto:trina@monrepos.org">trina@monrepos.org</a> )	01303 248006

## St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Carol Godden 07894 706971

*Front Cover: Candlemas 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 February 2024

Thu	1	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	4	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
Wed	7	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thu	8	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	11	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
		12.00	Shared lunch
Tues	13	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	
		10.00	Standing Committee
Wed	14	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
		19.00	Ash Wednesday Service
Thu	15	10.30	Holy Communion
		11.00	Lent Group
		12.00	Lent Lunch
Sun	18	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
Wed	21	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thur	22	10.30	Holy Communion
		11.00	Lent Group
		12.00	Lent Lunch
		18.30	Saint Eanswythe Research Group
Sun	25	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
Wed	28	11.00	Lectio Divina & Silent Prayer
Thur	29	10.30	Holy Communion
		11.00	Lent Group
		12.00	Lent Lunch
March			
Sun	3	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
Thur	7	10.30	Holy Communion
		11.00	Lent Group
		12.00	Lent Lunch

## 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. **£12** 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](mailto: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 been a really dark winter across the world. Wars. Death. Oppression. Persecution. Threats to democracy. Broken governments. High prices. Severe weather.

But Candlemas (2 February) marks the increase of light in our world. Candlemas, when we remember the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is held at the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the Spring equinox. It is a time when we really begin to notice the increasing strength of the life-giving sun.

In the Candlemas Gospel reading, Simeon prophesies that this baby will be  
a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Well, that covers everybody! Jesus is the light who will lighten the whole world. He will save us all from darkness. No wonder Christians in ancient times held this festival at this point in the year, replacing pre-Christian celebrations of hope in the increasing sun. They wanted to tell of the hope brought to everyone by God's own son.

Can Jesus make a difference to the darkness we experience?

Well, that's what this scripture and the festival of Candlemas proclaims.

Christ is a candle that carves a cave of light in the shadow places of our mind and soul.

Jesus our saviour is the Spring sun who brings warmth and new life to our cold, cruel, wintry world.

This morning, I basked in the sun as it streamed through my study window. Though it was bitterly cold outside, I could feel it doing good to me; warming body and soul.

Take time to bask in the Son of God this month – today, if possible. Read scripture and ponder it. Worship. In that glow, let go of any resentment or bitterness freezing your heart. Let him warm your cold fear into hope. Pray for whatever or whomever comes to mind.

Let the warmth of God's Son rise upon you and generate new life; new growth. Let the light of God's Son rise upon you and allow you to see the world differently. As somewhere fallow, but ready and waiting; bursting with the potential for fruitfulness.

*Fr John*



**ST MARY &  
ST EANSWYTHE  
FOLKESTONE**

# **Praying Lent**

## *with the Saints*

**A Lent course learning how to pray with...**

**St Benedict of Nursia**

**St Teresa of Avila**

**The Jesus Prayer**

**St Ignatius of Loyola**

**Our Lady**

*Thursdays at 11am in the Vicarage followed by a  
simple Lenten Lunch*

*15 February - 21 March*

*All resources provided, but please sign up!*

# **Rev Canon Peter G. L. Cole 1927-2024**

**Vicar, St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Augustine, Folkestone 1972-1987**

## **An appreciation**

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Peter Cole, at the age of 96, peacefully at his home in Sussex. After periods in Britain and Southern Rhodesia, he was appointed to St Mary & St Eanswythe's Folkestone in 1972, inheriting a large and faithful congregation and began a fourteen-year ministry which kept the ancient C13 parish church front and centre in the town's spiritual and cultural life.



His pastoral work consumed much of his time. Newcomers to the church were greeted personally as they left the building and were usually visited that same week. Not for nothing at one stage, did the parish present him with a new bicycle! He maintained and developed strong links with the two church schools, accompanied the church choir on their visits to sing at various cathedrals and travelled most summers on the Parish holiday, so ably organised by Sandra Bierman and her husband Michael.

He set about carefully reordering the church opening up an uninterrupted view from west to east – as can be seen in the photograph above. Pews in the south-west area of the nave were replaced by a mission centre, and the chancel, Lady Chapel and St Eanswythe's Chapel were redecorated, drawing on in-house resources. Some of his proposals were not entirely popular, including the installation of a replacement analogue organ by Copeman Hart, but by careful preparation and honest discussion he achieved his aims. At a time of deep-rooted experiment and change in liturgy he steered a conservative course, keeping the Parish Church and its traditionally-based congregation on what has been described elsewhere as "the shiny side of central" whilst cautiously embracing new styles at the more evangelical daughter church of St Augustine's. He also oversaw the transformation of the Parish Magazine for the parish and town of Folkestone named 'Rendezvous'.

Building on his predecessors' work he developed links with the town, particularly through participation in the Rotary Club, instituting an annual Actors' Service and the biennial celebration of the Folkestone International Folklore Festival in the church culminating with the congregation reciting the Lord's Prayer, each in their own language – an experience not to be forgotten.

He rejoiced in the history and traditions of the church and its fine Victorian glass and wall paintings. He was conscious also of the heritage of St Eanswythe whose relics rest in the present church and its predecessors. In 1980 Eanswythe's '1350th Anniversary' was marked by a series of concerts, talks, audio-visual presentations and the performance of 'The Message' – a miracle play-style dramatised history of Christianity in this part of Kent from the time of St Augustine.

At other times a successful ‘Son et Lumiere’ was presented as well as concerts by the church choir and dramas performed by the St Eanswythe Players.

His wisdom and guidance of the clergy who trained with and served with him was also much appreciated as Rev Neville Gallagher (1971-74) remembers:

‘Working with him I learned so much about life in general and parish ministry in particular. His faith was confirmed by his own grasp on the presence of God honed by a sharp intellect tempered with compassion’.

It is difficult to encompass Peter’s many achievements in a short appreciation like this but the people who knew and worked with him will testify to his commitment and energy in his ministry to parish and town in his own inimitable and inspiring way, ably supported by his late wife Marian and their five children.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

---

## **Meet Jennifer Griffin, the new Parish Administrator**

*We are delighted to welcome Jennifer who officially took over the role of Parish Administrator from Rosie on 4th January. She introduces herself to us below.*

I was running my own business when I got the job here, before that I was a Recruitment Administration Assistant, which is very busy and very stressful! Although it did teach me that the MOST important thing any Admin can have in their desk is.... chocolate. I was so excited to get the role! I can’t wait to get to know you all better and be part of your beautiful Church.

I have two lovely daughters, Violet and Ada, who I adore but they’re teenagers so they only tend to adore me when they’re hungry or want money.

I’m an obsessive reader and own over a thousand books, which constitutes a small library apparently. A fact I find wonderful and my children find ridiculous. I love to cook, although I’m afraid enthusiasm significantly outweighs talent in that particular department! I am fanatical about music, very outdoorsy, and a complete nerd; I love Xena: Warrior Princess, Robin of Sherwood, and anything to do with history.

I’m very friendly and love a chat so please always know you can come up and talk to me (if I’m not wearing my glasses you will have to come right up to me, I’m all but blind without them!). I understand that a Church is a Community and I would love to be a part of yours. I am not AN Administrator, I am YOUR Administrator. I want you to always feel comfortable coming to talk to me because I will always want to talk to you.

I wanted to keep this very light and fun but I feel compelled to add my thanks for your exceptionally warm welcome. Without boring you with details, it’s been an incredibly difficult few years. To find such acceptance and kindness has deeply moved me, and made me more grateful than you could possibly know. Thank you!

*Jennifer*



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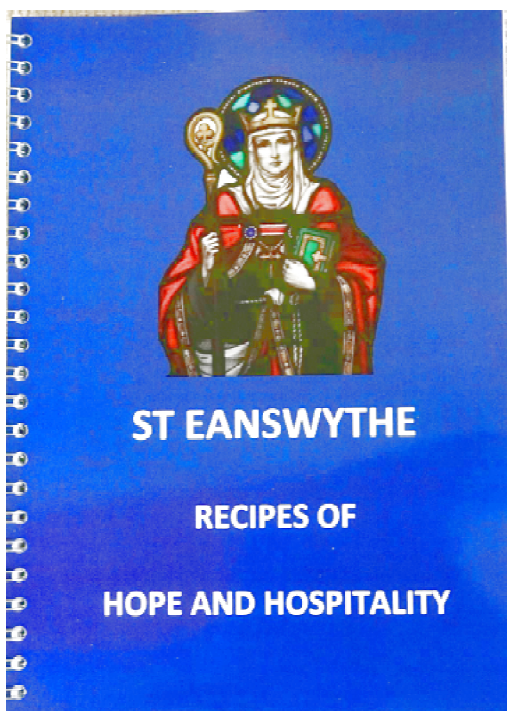
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## SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

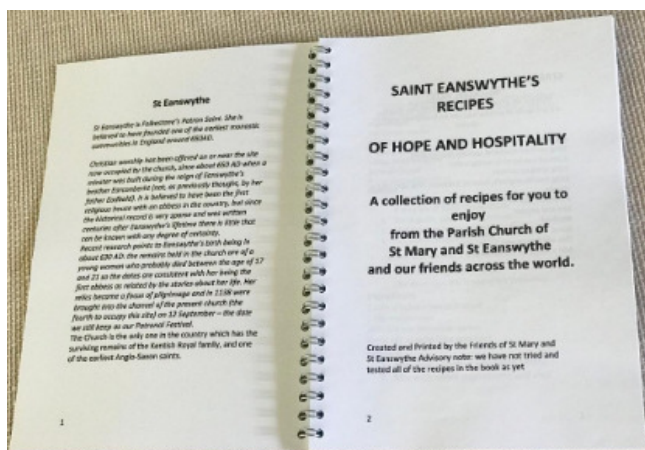
The Lady Chapel is now set apart for silent prayer and meditation on Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Fr John will be there most Wednesdays, and has written a guide available to anyone who would like to explore this ancient Christian way of praying. You will be most welcome to join us.

## 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**

### **A Game of Lies – Clare Mackintosh (2022)**

There's nothing real about reality TV is the message of this book. It's all lies.

At least, it's all lies on the reality TV show 'Exposure' being filmed half way up a mountain on the Welsh/English border. The producer is corrupt, the filming is being manipulated, and the public votes make no difference because it has already been decided who will win and who will be leaving, and when. The contestants all thought that they'd signed up for a survival exercise, but they quickly realise that their lives are going to be ruined by their deepest secrets being exposed to the world. Is it worth it for the £100,000 prize money? Especially as they are also likely to be exposed to their greatest fears and phobias, be they spiders, snakes or whatever.

But it all goes even more wrong when one of the contestants escapes and a body is found.

This is the second book in the DC Ffion Morgan series, which also features DS Leo Brady and (star of the book) an enormous, out of control dog called Dave.

And if you've been hooked on Traitors (which I confess I haven't watched) you really do need to read this book!

### **The Figurine – Victoria Hislop (2023)**

This is a terrific book, I think Victoria Hislop's best since *The Island*. It really was a compelling read and I became completely absorbed in it.

It's about archaeology and the illegal trade in antiquities, with the military dictatorship that ruled Greece from 1967-74 and the repercussions of it in the background. It's also about families, friendship, love, betrayal, and revenge.

Helena, the main character, is half Greek but her mother left Greece as soon as she became an adult and has never returned. We soon understand why when we realise what a nasty bit of work Helena's grandfather is - a brutal bully with an unhealthy interest in historic artefacts. Helena is sent out to Athens to stay with her grandparents every summer and learns to speak the language fluently. Subsequently she volunteers at some archaeological digs on the Greek islands. All of which forms the basis of a very exciting story.

It's a real page turner of a book, but doesn't suffer from being over-researched, which has often been my criticism of Victoria Hislop's work. Yes, there's lots of information but it's not overwhelming. If you like a good story you'll love this - even more if you're interested in Greece too.

### **The Only Suspect – Louise Candlish (2023)**

This was a very good book indeed. It's Louise Candlish's most recent book, only recently in paperback. Set in 1995 and the present, it's about how your misspent youth can suddenly catch up with you. Well, that's rather oversimplifying the plot of this psychological thriller where no one is who they seem to be. But I don't want to say too much and then give away what happens. It's certainly a very good read, with some absolutely knockout twists that I just didn't see coming at all. Strongly recommended.

*Catriona Hunter*

## Red Blooded Sea Shells

Scallops of the heart  
Stained, crimson, poppies, reflecting on the past  
Bloody the scarlet petal, embellished with army, khaki, green  
Black high glossed, glass eyes, remembering visions they had seen  
They watch the future, but not from Flanders' fields  
They reflect on time, when man couldn't yell  
The hundred or more, jet black pupils look out  
Blindly mute, they violently shout  
No more war, least we don't forget  
Taken generations, in deep solemn regret



Written by Ian D'Age reflecting on  
David McCart's Remembrance Poppy Sculpture  
at The Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe,  
Folkestone 2023 - *further images on page 26*

A yellow poster for 'ART SHOP'. At the top, 'ART SHOP' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below this, a cartoon character wearing a cap and a uniform is running to the right, carrying a large stack of books or papers. To the left of the character, the word 'SEEKING' is written vertically in large, bold, black letters. Below the character, a starburst shape contains the text 'THE ART HAUS ART SUPPLY STORE 3 GRACE HILL FOLKESTONE'. At the bottom, the word 'CUSTOMERS' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below 'CUSTOMERS', it says 'OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK'. At the very bottom, the website 'arthusfolkestone.com' and the social media handle '@arthusfolkestone' are listed.

The Art Haus is a brand new art supply store, event space and gallery located at 3 Grace Hill, between the Library and Market Square. For more info visit [arthusfolkestone.com](http://arthusfolkestone.com) or contact [info@arthusfolkestone.com](mailto:info@arthusfolkestone.com)

St Mary and St Eanswythe



# Children's Church



What's coming up?



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
**LISTENING TO JESUS**



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

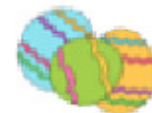
**MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Come and find out a bit more about  
Jesus' mum,  
**AND** make something for your own mum!



**EASTER SUNDAY**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Come to Church to celebrate this momentous day!  
Stay for an **EASTER EGG HUNT!**



Sunday 14th April  
**JESUS WILL NEVER LET US DOWN!**



Children's Church begins in church at 10.30am.  
We do hope you can join us for....  
singing,  
making things,  
learning about Jesus and much, much more!  
To find out about it, ring Clare Tomlinson 07751 423 796

**JESUS KNOWS MY NAME - HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT ME!**

It must have really surprised Nathaniel (in the Gospel reading for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January) that Jesus knew all about him, but it shouldn't really be a surprise for us! However, in reality, we always expect to have some secrets – but, as we found out in Children's Church, God knows ALL ABOUT US!

God knows our names

God knows what we love

God knows what frightens us

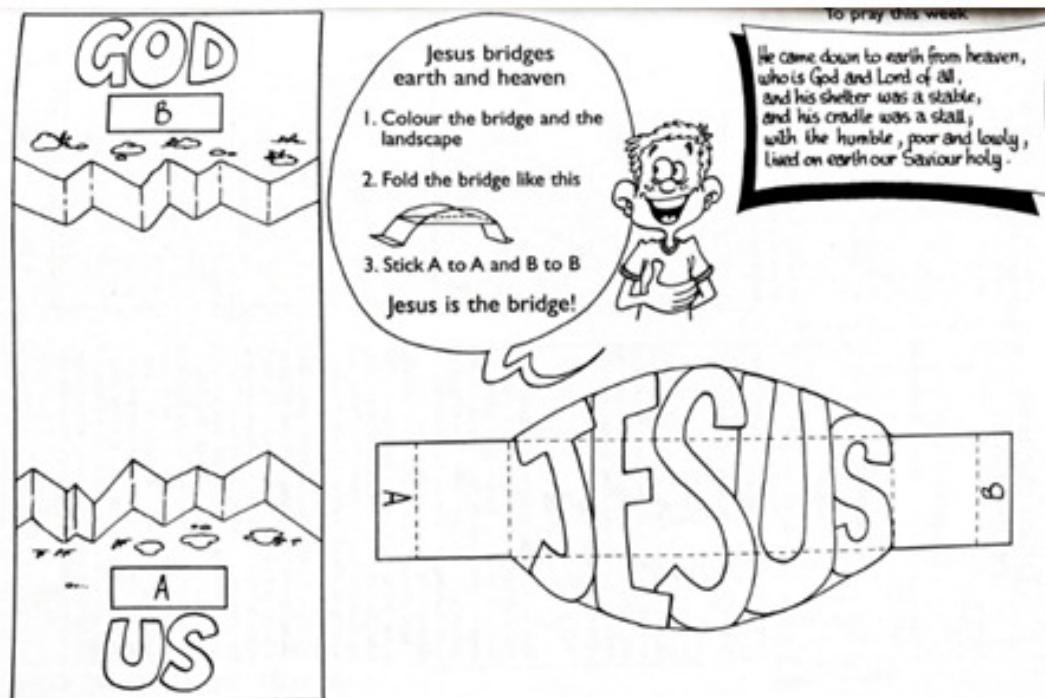
God knows what we're good at (and what needs a bit more practice)

God knows what we long for.....

And Jesus is our way to God the Father.

We made bridges to remind us that Jesus will lead us to God and celebrated the things we love to do.

Here's the bridge for you to cut out and make! ENJOY!



Clare Tomlinson

Bridge from Living Stones by Susan Sayers

# **FOLKESTONE CHORAL SOCIETY**

**and Orchestra**

**Conductor: Lucy Gove**

**KARL  
JENKINS**



# **THE ARMED MAN**

**A MASS FOR PEACE**

**FAURÉ: REQUIEM**  
**Cantique de Jean Racine**

**SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2024 at 7.30pm**

**The Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone**

**Tickets: £18 £21 & £25**

**Full information and seating plan on our website**

**[www.folkestonechoralsociety.org](http://www.folkestonechoralsociety.org)**

## Winter fair: “Winter with Ukraine”



Our grateful thanks to our Ukrainian friends, not only for organising a wonderful event in church but also for donating the £570 proceeds to our Organ Restoration Fund



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**Gabriela Hart**  
Dip FH, MCFHP, MAFHP

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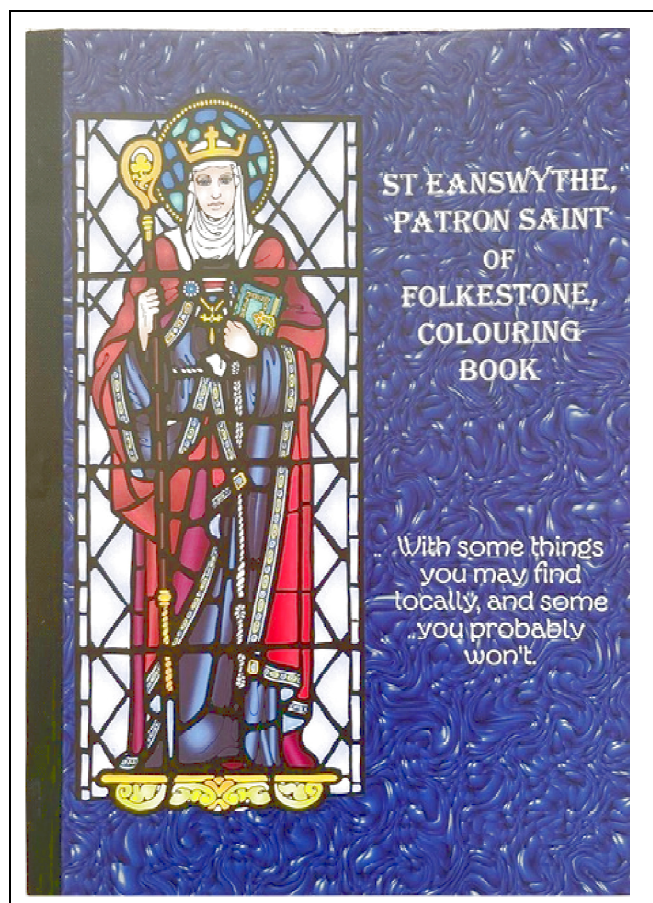
Free consultation  
Call Warren on 07958 342 784  
Email: imseastkent@gmail.com

# St Eanswythe, Patron Saint of Folkestone, Colouring Book

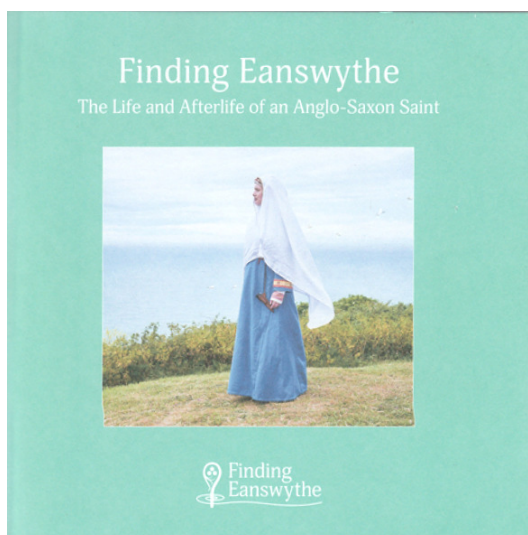
Once upon a time, not so long ago, when Marilyn and Catriona were on church welcoming duty, a father and his two young daughters came into the church. The girls wanted to do some colouring, but although there were plenty of crayons in the children's corner, there was nothing for them to colour in. This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

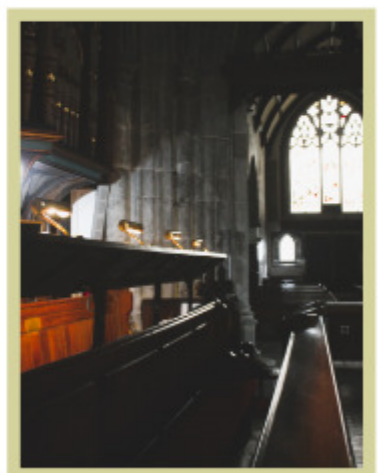
## THE CHOIR OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

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](http://stmaryandsteanswythe.org)  
[sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com](mailto:sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com)



# Sunday Eucharist and Red Letter Day Gospels

## **Sunday 4 February – Second Sunday before Lent: John 1.1-14**

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

The light of God, revealed to the world in Christ, has no limit of time and space. It shines through all things, seen or unseen by mortal eyes, and affirms the power of life.

## **Sunday 11 February – The Sunday next before Lent: Mark 9.2-9**

*As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one what they had seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead.*

God who is always with us, always working in the world, does not always reveal himself openly. Waiting for him to show the next step forward is a vital part of our faith.

## **Sunday 18 February – the First Sunday of Lent: Mark 1.9-15**

*The spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.*

*He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.*

We are sometime called to go apart from our usual way of life and accept some deprivation or discomfort, confident that obedience will bring new blessings.

## **Sunday 25 February – the Second Sunday of Lent: Mark 8.31-38**

*Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*

*But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.*

The faithful followers of God in all ages have trusted in his promises and not been turned aside from the way set out before them, even when his will was difficult to understand.

## **Friday 2 February – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas): Luke 2.22-40**

*Master now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation.*

When the promise of the Messiah was fulfilled, few could recognise him in a human child. The vision of one man was the beginning of the revelation to come.

## **Day of Obligation**

### **Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday: Matthew 6.1-6. 16-21**

*Where your treasure is your heart will be also*

Repentance for sin is commanded throughout the Bible. It must be proved by suitable words and acts of contrition, but the pardon, which it brings, is absolute and leaves no burden of unresolved guilt.

## Rendezvous Prices for 2024

The costs for printing Rendezvous have increased considerably over the past few months and our printer, who gives us an extremely competitive rate, has been losing money for a while and has been forced to increase the charges from January 2024. This means that we have had to pass on this increase and **your monthly Rendezvous will now cost £1.20. Annual subscriptions will be £12.** We sincerely hope that this will not put you off reading Rendezvous, which we believe still represents good value for money.

### *Rendezvous subscriptions for 2024 are now due.*

Subscriptions to Rendezvous run from January to December each year and payment for 2024 is now due. The **annual subscription rate for 2024 is £12**, which saves you £2.40 on the cost of 12 individual issues – or to look at it another way, buy 10 get 2 free. If you have any questions about subscriptions or distribution, please contact Catriona Hunter, Distribution Coordinator. Her contact details are on the inside front cover of every issue of Rendezvous.

If you have your magazine delivered we have asked your distributor to collect your payment.

**Payments to your distributor** may be made by cash or cheque made out to Rendezvous Magazine (preferably in an envelope addressed to Catriona Hunter, Rendezvous Distribution Coordinator – but don't forget to include your name and address too). However, if you wish to pay by credit card you can do this in one of three ways: i. use the Donation Station in church; ii. use the Donate button on our website <https://stmaryandsteanswythe.org> ; or iii. scan the QR code on the back cover of Rendezvous. Note that if paying by credit card it would help us enormously if you would let Catriona know that you have paid your subscription so that this money can be separated from general church funds.

**If you pay by subscription but collect your own copy in church** you can pay in any of the ways outlined above – envelopes containing cash or cheques can be placed in the donations box in church.

**If your copy is sent by post** we would very much appreciate a donation towards the cost of postage. If you do not want to pay online, please send your payment to Catriona Hunter, Distribution Coordinator at Cliff Haven, The Bayle, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1SQ. Cheques should be made payable to Rendezvous Magazine.

Thank you for reading Rendezvous. Rendezvous is an important source of income for our church, but it also provides information about our church, parish, and community, and generates a sense of community by including contributions from a wide range of people from the church and community at large.

## Meet the Newer Members of the Choir

Meet the People of the Church is an intermittent series of articles introducing you to some of the people who contribute to life of the church. Here we introduce you to the newer members of the choir, so that we are more than just a voice in a cassock.

### **Caroline Dowling – Soprano/Alto**

I've been singing with the church choir since early autumn last year. The choir that I had previously been singing with had wound up and I was missing the regular opportunity to sing. My friend Friesia, who also sings in the choir, suggested that I give the choir at St Mary and St Eanswythe's a go – and here I am!

I'm really enjoying it, and everyone in the choir is so friendly and supportive. For me it's the people that make it, though I'm less keen on the early mornings to get to choir practice before the service.

I am heavily involved with the Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society (FHODS) and am currently co-directing (with Friesia) our forthcoming production of *A Murder Is Announced*, which will be on stage in March (14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> if you're interested). I am also a keen juggler, and can ride a unicycle, though I have to confess that I haven't done that for a while, so am probably a bit rusty.

I live in Sellindge with my 14 year old black cat called Eli (short for Elijah). I love studying and have managed to acquire degrees in both chemistry and psychology as well as a Master's in religious studies. I enjoy working with people and all the jobs I've had have been in public facing roles.

### **Catherine Fell – Alto**

Hi! My name's Catherine and I'm a newer member of the church. If you regularly attend, you may have seen someone stood in the choir and thought to yourself 'now *that's* some crazy coloured hair going on over there'. Yep, that's me! Getting to sing in the choir is a real privilege, and it combines the two essential pillars of my life; music and God.

I study at the London College of Contemporary Music, known as LCCM, a university for all things music. I do song writing and performance, where I get to accompany some incredible emerging young talents behind my drum kit. I'm set to finish my course in May 2024.

This draw to music came from my time in 6th form at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, where I spent 2 years in the school's corps of drums, the concert band, big band, and chapel choir. I also got the chance to write one of the songs for the school's inter-house song competition and teach two classes of beginner snare drummers in my final year.

In my free time I love either story writing, song writing, or playing any one of the many instruments in my house, including my drums and other instruments I can play at a beginner level like acoustic guitar, piano, flute, or the newest addition, my sparkly bass guitar!

My first day with the choir found me nervous, but the second I stepped foot into the room, the nerves melted away and I was met with a group of incredibly accepting, kind and interesting people. I never stop thinking about how blessed I am to have such a friendly, welcoming community at St Mary and St Eanswythe's, and I look forward to many more services with the lovely people I get to spend my Sundays with!

### **Helen Govier – Alto**

I'm the newest member of the choir – Catriona pressganged me (gently) into singing at the Christmas services and I enjoyed it so much that I decided to sing with the choir more often. I really enjoy singing anthems and motets, and other tuneful pieces of music; basically anything that's in harmony. I'm less keen when the church is cold but find that wearing a cassock keeps out some of the chill.

I also sing with Folkestone Choral Society, Shepway Voices, and the choir at Our Lady Help of Christians. When I'm not singing I enjoy anything to do with history (I'm a real history buff) and have been researching my family tree. I've got back to about 1570 and found that many of my ancestors were ironmongers or weavers. However, one ancestor was midwife to Queen Victoria and responsible for delivering Prince Edward, when she apparently uttered the immortal line, "it's a prince not a son".

I enjoy walking and used to do a lot of long distance walking with my mother, but she's now 91 and unable to walk as far as she used to.

I have two ginger cats, Oliver (age 12) and Rufus (aged 2 ½), who get on well together despite their age difference.

Although I am accountant by profession I am currently teaching maths, economics, business, and politics to students in Canterbury with Special Educational Needs.

### **Marianne Kelly – Alto**

It's almost two years since I joined the choir. I've enjoyed singing in church choirs in the past and just happened to see a poster asking for singers when I was walking past the church. I love the constant new repertoire on not much rehearsal and have made some lovely friends in the choir. What I don't like is the cold and I have resorted to taking a hot water bottle into the choir stalls, which helps.

My musical career has included performing, teaching, composition, and orchestra management. After graduating from Sheffield University I completed my studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London and then embarked on a successful career as a chamber pianist and I was a founding member of the Rossetti Ensemble. I managed to combine parenthood with an extended career in orchestra management, (including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic), and subsequently returned to performance and composition (gaining a distinction for my MA at Salford University). I currently perform regularly with my piano duo partner Heather Sargeson and teach piano to around 60 pupils a week in my music studio at home in Folkestone and at schools in Ashford and Canterbury. Not surprisingly, this doesn't leave me with much spare time, and when I'm not teaching I need the rest of my time for practising; but I do like the Guardian's cryptic crossword. I also exercise regularly doing a mix of weights classes and yoga/Pilates – it's important to stay healthy at my age! I also sing with Folkestone Choral Society and Shepway Singers in Hythe.

I have 4 children. Suzy is an opera singer in Berlin and has a daughter of nearly 9 months. Joe is a graphic designer and lives with his wife in Edinburgh. Jake lives in Dover and works for Migrant Help. Clara recently returned from a year in Canada as part of her university degree and now lives with me while working at MacDonalDs and planning the rest of her life.

# Commemoration of the Month

**Anskar**

**3 February**

Born near Amiens, France in 801, he became a Benedictine monk. Following visions which seemed to call him to missionary work, he dedicated himself to living a holy life. Denmark's King Harold had been exiled by his people. During his exile, he converted to Christianity and was baptised. Now he was going home and asked Anskar to come with him. In that way, Anskar began his missionary work in Scandinavia.

His task was not easy and he saw many setbacks in his lifetime. Bishop Ebbo of Rheims had already tried to convert the north of Europe and failed. Part of the problem was that the Vikings prided themselves on oath-breaking and revenge. Imagine trying to convince them that truth and forgiveness were virtues! Anskar's approach was to establish a school at Schleswig with the help of another monk, Autbert. This proved successful.



King Harold, however, did not know how to manage people. He pushed them so hard to become Christians that they threw him out of the country again. Anskar and Autbert had to leave, too.

But King Bjorn of Sweden had heard of the success of Anskar's school. He invited the monk to Sweden. In the company of a French embassy, Anskar headed north. The embassy was attacked and robbed. Even Anskar's religious books were taken, but although his companions wanted to turn back, he would not. He pressed on to Sweden, where he converted Herigar, the chief royal counsellor, who then built Sweden's first church in 832.

A year and a half later, Anskar left Sweden. The pope had appointed him bishop (and later Archbishop) of Hamburg. Now he was responsible to oversee most of Northern Europe, including Iceland and Greenland. An abbey in Flanders was given him. He opened a school there.

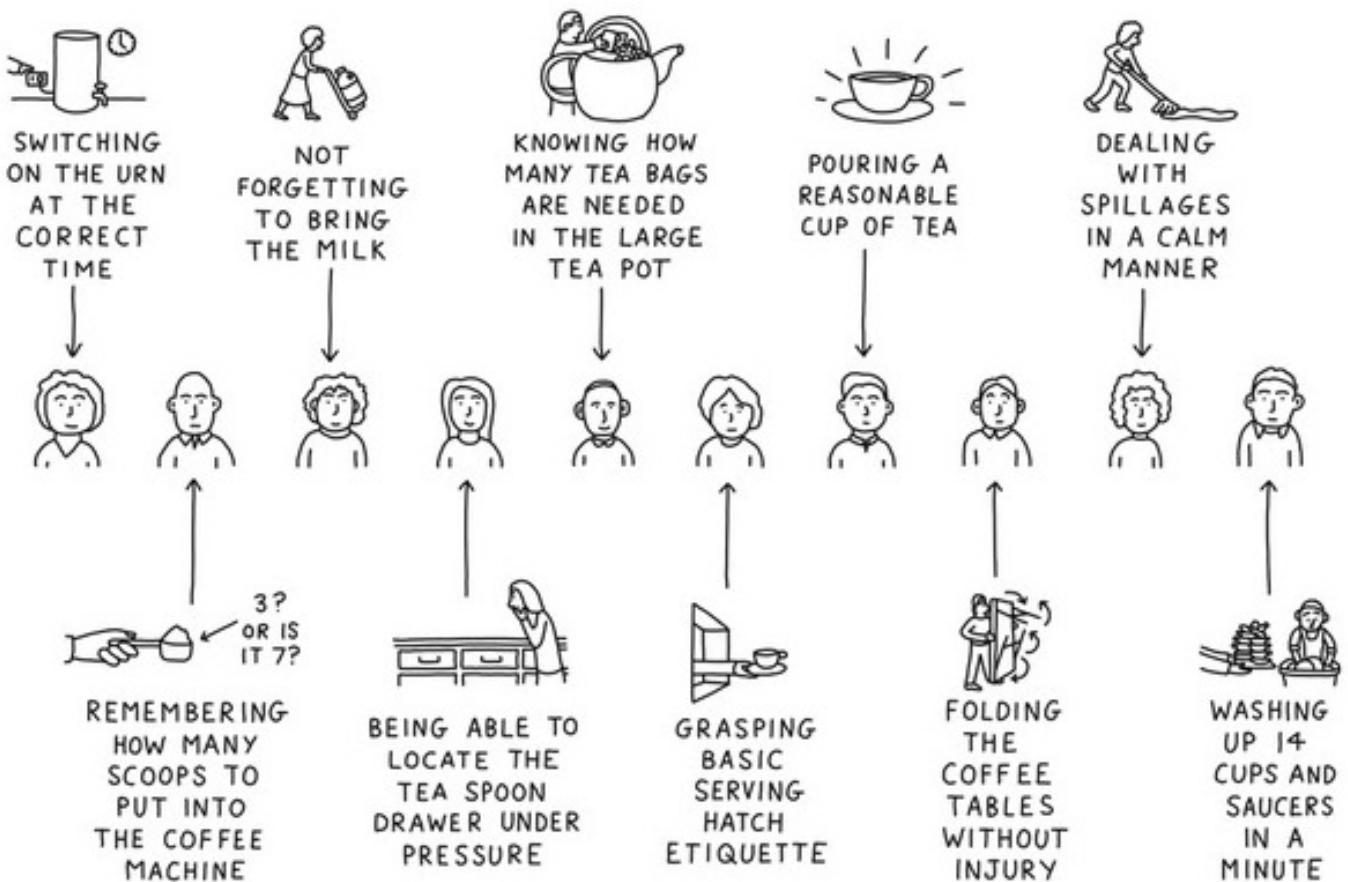
In 845, King Eric of Jutland (northern Denmark) attacked Hamburg with 600 ships, destroying the city. Anskar became a fugitive. Rather than moan over all that he had lost, including his library, he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Charles the Bald, King of the Franks, took away Anskar's abbey school. But the gallant evangelist would not give up. He went to Jutland, won Eric's friendship, convinced the king to treat slaves more kindly and got permission to start a church.

Anskar himself never ate, unless some poor person could be brought in to share the meal with him. While he worked, he could be heard chanting psalms. He built hospitals, gave alms freely and ransomed captives. Many sick sought him out, convinced that he could heal them. He took no credit for any success, laying it to the account of others. The archbishop died on February 3, 865.

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## Companions of Eanswythe – Holy Habits Part 4



### Sharing Resources

In Acts 2:44–45 and 4:32–37, Luke presents pictures of the early Christian communities of disciples supporting one another and those in need in the wider community by the generous sharing of their resources. They shared and sold possessions to create a common fund which could be used to support those in need of income or resources. The fund may also have supported the apostles and, later on, the deacons and others. It was a powerfully prophetic, counter-cultural expression of community then. It remains so today. Much of 21st century western culture encourages us to live separate, independent lives protecting our individuality, our privacy and our belongings. The same attitude is also becoming more prominent within the politics of nation states.

In Acts 2:44, we hear that the disciples were together and had ‘all things in common’. As you explore this habit of Sharing Resources, you may like to reflect on what having all things in common meant to those early Christians, and how we relate that to our lives today personally and collectively in holy living.

This is a particularly challenging habit. It is not about offering others what you can spare. Nor is it about taking from others what you fancy. To share something requires us to change our relationship with that item, perhaps relinquishing our power over it, or taking more account of how we use it. Sharing roles or gifts may mean accepting that a task is not completed to your own exacting standard. Sharing ideas or thoughts may make you vulnerable. True sharing is about working together in an open, honest and thoughtful manner without any hidden agendas. Sharing can be costly and demanding but it is a way to life-giving and transformational experience.

To have ‘all things in common’ is about both giving and receiving, and it needs to be mutual. It could mean sharing belongings, skills, ideas, time or roles. Sharing may not be the obvious route to take, and it may take courage to initiate it, but from those occasions where we have shared deeply with others, we know that it is often ultimately more rewarding than simply giving.

Sharing resources involves changing the way we think and the way we operate. As you explore this holy habit, think about the different relationships that you have, with individuals, the church, the community and the world. What do you currently have in common and what opportunities are there for sharing and growing that commonality or understanding? How will your relationships grow and become more exciting by sharing more?

*~Vicky Friedrich, Lay Reader in Training~*



David McCart's Remembrance Poppy Sculpture was exhibited in the South Aisle of the Nave.

It is made of real scallop shells painted blood red and army green and black precision plastic balls.

Put together with metal threaded rods and chrome tubing on a wooden backing.

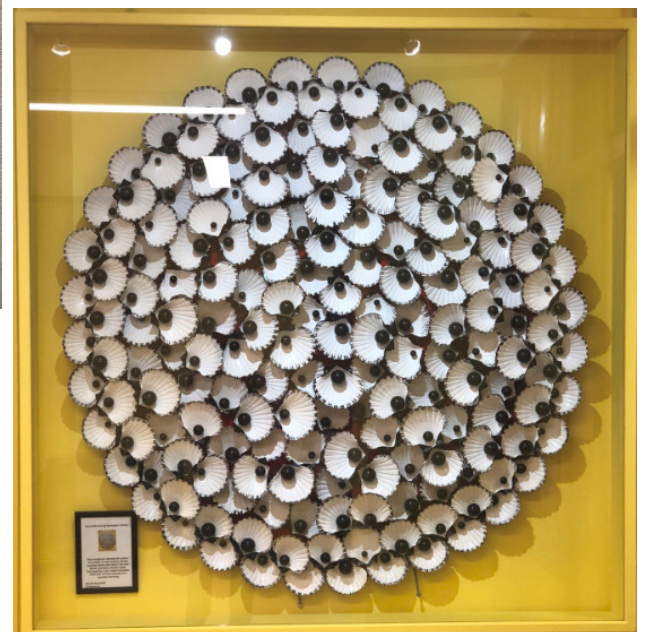
After retirement he took up painting. He likes using various media such as acrylic and nail varnish for his paintings, but also uses pistachio and scallop shells combined with precision plastic balls to create unique sculptures.

Since he moved to Folkestone he has exhibited in various shops and galleries.

The Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe seems a fitting place to show his Remembrance poppy sculpture as it holds so much history and remembrance in Folkestone.

Single 'Poppy Shells' can be purchased in the Church.

His sculpture representing Peace, which is shown right, hangs permanently in the Sandgate Library



## THE TROUBLE WITH EANSWYTHE!

First a little background. Over 10 years ago when we started the Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe, we opened a bank account with Barclays Bank. Shirley, a committee member and trustee, set up the website and we also set up a page on the Just Giving forum.

Last year it was agreed that the Just Giving Appeal could be used by the church to raise funds for the new reliquary for St Eanswythe and the Friends would transfer the money into the church account.

In November I received emails and a letter telling me that the account would be frozen until I had contacted Barclays to answer questions. I did as instructed and spoke to a lady who asked me all sorts of questions including why all of the Trustees were not signatories to the bank account. My response was that they did not want to be signatories! Having answered all the other questions it seemed that we were OK.

About three weeks later, I received another email followed by a letter telling me that the account was frozen until I spoke to someone. Sure enough, I could not access the account online, and I called the number. The automated voice announced that I could wait for around 90 minutes, or they could call me back.

Around 7.00 p.m. I was called and to the amusement of my husband and grandchildren the following conversation took place. I believe that the lady I spoke to was in fact in India.

Having ascertained who I was, she asked me to tell her about the most recent transaction on the account. I explained that I could not access the account and so she asked me any transactions I could recall, and I assume that she was happy with my response and that I was the person she wanted to speak to.

She then asked me who this Just Giving person was and what is their address? I tried to explain that several people paid into an account we have which deals with charities. She reiterated the question, who is this person and why are they putting money into our account? More explanations from me when she switched to her next question. Who is Eanswythe and why are we giving this person money?

Whilst my family laughed, I tried to explain that Eanswythe is the Patron Saint of Folkestone and before I said anything else I was asked "what is her address?" I told her that Saint Eanswythe died around 1,364 years ago but that we had the bones in the church. I was asked why was I paying someone who had died? After more attempts of explaining in various formats that the payments had been made for Eanswythe's Reliquary. She finally asked me how to spell Reliquary and told me that I would probably be hearing from someone else!

Thankfully, it looks as though someone has listened to the recording and accepted that all is well.

## Lent

Lent is the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry.

Lent is a period of grief that necessarily ends with a great celebration of Easter. Thus, it is known in Eastern Orthodox circles as the season of "bright sadness" – a wonderful spiritual paradox!

The purpose of Lent is the preparation of believers for Easter. Apart from giving up certain luxuries, many Christians also add a spiritual discipline such as a daily devotional reading or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God. Lent is demanding. It strips us back, asks us to set aside the amusements that distract us and the comforts that cushion us in order that we may be more truly known. Whether disturbing, strange or assuring, there will be company on our journey through Lent.

This year, we are invited to a series meetings entitled '*Praying Lent with the Saints*' each Thursday at 11 am in the Vicarage. Full details will be found elsewhere in Rendezvous.

*From 'The New Canterbury Book of Prayers' by Rev Max Kramer, Chaplain of Keble College, Oxford.*

God of compassion,  
you keep on loving us when we go astray,  
and in your gentleness call us back to yourself.  
Have mercy on us when we fail you  
through cruelty or laziness or lack of self-control,  
and as you forgive us, help us to forgive ourselves  
and to dedicate our lives to your service  
and the service of others.



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## News from St Eanswythe's School

Our school year finished with some excellent theatrical performance staged by the children throughout the school. We had a visit from a roving theatrical company and all enjoyed Robin Hood. This was arranged by the PTFA, so thank you to them. The last day of term saw our combined Carol and Christingle service. The children made a circle around the pews and the lights were turned off. The Church looked amazing lit by 218 bright candles.

2024 will be another busy year, with lots of trips and activities planned, in fact we are already organising our May Fete and Festival. We hope that your Christmas was a good one, and would like, on behalf of all the staff and pupils of St Eanswythe's School, to wish you a Happy and Joyful New Year.

*Kim*

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