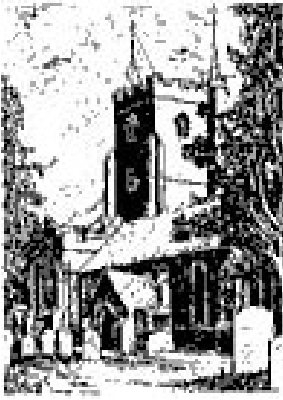


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 51 No. 4 **April 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: sainteanswythe@gmail.com	
Churchwardens	Tom Bertram, 07748 434341	01303 890986
	Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road 07860 175123	01303 241124
PCC Hon. Secretary	Jennifer Griffin	01303 252947
	email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com	
Hon. Treasurers	} Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone CT20 2PJ	01303 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	Jennifer Griffin	01303 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	01303 242159
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St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Carol Godden 07894 706971

Front Cover: The Foreman checking the work on the Calvary

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 2024

Thu	4	10.30	Holy Communion
Fri	5		Wedding of Theodore Gearing & Rachel Gerrard
Sat	6	11:00	Ukrainian Hospitality
Sun	7		Second Sunday of Easter
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
			Baptism of Gladys Ellen McKnight
Thu	11	10.30	Holy Communion
Sat	13	16:15	Sound Bath Project
Sun	14		Third Sunday of Easter
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST with Children's Church
		12.00	Shared Lunch
Thu	18	10.30	Holy Communion
Sun	21		Fourth Sunday of Easter
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST
		12.00	Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Wed	24	13.00	Confirmation Service
Thu	25	10.30	Holy Communion
Fri	26		Wedding of Rosie Mockett and Alex Sowa
Sat	27	11:00	Ukrainian Hospitality
		18:00	Fr. John's Leaving Party at Woodward Hall
Sun	28		Fifth Sunday of Easter
		10.30	THE EUCHARIST

May

Thu	2	10.30	Holy Communion
Sat	4		Wedding of Lynden Spearpoint and Rachel Burrows

Knitters Required

I am hoping to find 5 people to join me to make up a team of 6 to take part in the annual 'knit in' to raise money for the Rainbow Centre. This is taking place on the 10th April and is a sponsored event. Have a word with me so I can give you further details. You do not have to be an experienced knitter so please join me.

I have been told by a reliable source that it is great fun!

Many thanks

Marilyn Edey

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

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

I'm approaching a crossroads at which I'll turn in a different direction to you, and our journeys will diverge but go on. But I'm sometimes confused about exactly how we got here together! I thought there'd be loads of hospitality within our faith community and between it and the wider community in which we're set. Lots of eating, drinking, telling stories, listening, learning, connecting. And the journey hasn't been like that at all.

Covid put paid to most of that. Vast swathes of time when we couldn't be together at all but, even when we could, we couldn't share food or very much proximity. We've had to find different ways of connecting, between ourselves, and with others. In my early years I developed film making and social media skills I never thought I'd have, and the numbers of isolated people both within and beyond our faith community who appreciated the online worship we produced together have surprised me!

I didn't think I'd have to replace one Parish Administrator, let alone recruit four! Or find a new Choir Director. I wasn't expecting to become the Chair of Governors at St Eanswythe School, or be involved in recruiting new headteachers for both our church schools.

I had no idea we'd have to fund-raise for a new heating system, our organ to be restored and a security system for our church, although I was aware we'd have to raise money to repair the Calvary and have a new Reliquary for St Eanswythe designed.

And who could possibly have predicted the extraordinary range of events our church has hosted in the last four years? The classical concerts, yes, but the multi-media concerts and performance arts of dance, poetry, body sculpture and sound baths have involved the most surprising conversations and negotiations about the balance between provocativeness and appropriateness. Worth doing: our church has been packed with folk who are not regular churchgoers on several occasions. For seasonal and civic services too, although these were more expected. Neither could we have anticipated that we would develop a circle of Ukrainian friends who would come to feel that they are very much a part of our extended church family.

Then there have been ground-breaking events of historical significance. The scientific confirmation, beyond reasonable doubt, that we really are custodians of the relics of Holy Eanswythe. Permission from King Charles and his Privy Council for the first burial in our churchyard for some 125 years.

All through this there has been woven the rhythms of our patterns of worship, prayer and study; some week by week; some unfolding with the seasons of the church year. Grounding our common life together as the people of God in this place with the life-giving God who is at the heart of us all, and without whom there would be

nothing extraordinary; nothing vibrant; nothing truly **alive**. Within this rich weaving, we have learned more about being the people of God together; caring for one another and our visitors through our welcome and hospitality; through attentiveness to the challenges we each face through personal support or our Pastoral Care Team; through events to celebrate our common life, whether that might be cakes after services, lunches in the Woodward Hall, or festivals for Eanswythe or Christmas.

And all this **doing** has been held by learning more about the best way of **being**. We've been learning that the way we do anything is the way we do everything. So that it's really important that we cut out gossip, criticism and backbiting; it's vital that ours is a place where it's okay to have a go and where it's safe to make mistakes and learn from them positively. Where we appreciate the qualities we each have, and accept one another's limitations with patience and understanding. We don't always manage it, but we're definitely well on the way.

I've loved being the priest at St Mary & St Eanswythe. It's a wonderful community full of wonderful people and with a wonderful history and facing a wonderful future. Like everyone else here, I have my strengths and my limitations. I hope you have enjoyed and been helped by what I've been able to bring by my own combination of experience, knowledge and skills. And I hope you have not been too distressed by what that combination has **not** offered. For now, at the crossroads ahead where we will part, you have the opportunity to pray for and seek a priest with a new and different combination of experience, knowledge and skills. One that will fit her, or him, to journey well with you on the next stage of the pilgrimage.

Fr John Walker

April 2024

Father John is retiring on Sunday 28 April and we are having a farewell supper for him on Saturday 27 at 6.00 in the Woodward Hall (entry via double doots opposite The Bayle churchyard bollards - there is a lift).

The cost is £5 per head. If you would like to come please put the money in an envelope marked Leaving and your name by April 9 into the collection box at the door of the church.

If you would like to make a cake please leave your name on the list on the sales table. And also what you will be making.

Thank you and we look forward seeing you on the 27th.

Jenny

Folkestone Parish Church (St Mary and St Eanswythe) War Memorial Shrine - The Calvary

At the Church Street entrance to the churchyard stands a small wooden structure. Thought by many to be the remains of an old lych-gate, it is in fact a War Shrine. It was erected in 1917 to remember the war dead of the church congregation and parish. Its centenary of the dedication was on 31st October 2017.

Such Shrines erected during World War One were once a common sight throughout the country. This churchyard Shrine is not Folkestone's first; but it is the town's first public Shrine.



The idea of a Parish church War Memorial had been announced at the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting on 12th April 1917. The Vicar (The Rev. Canon P.F. Tindall) reported that he had been approached by the Mayor (Sir Stephen Penfold) and other Townsmen about the erection of a Shrine to the memory of those men of the parish who had fallen in the war. Sir Stephen's own son, Lieutenant Jeffrey Penfold had been killed at Loos on January 1916.

The Shrine was dedicated on 31st October 1917. The Folkestone Express of 3rd November 1917 describes the Shrine as follows. "The Shrine is an impressive structure, beautiful in its oaken simplicity. Beneath its red tiled roof is a large crucifix, and below are panels which all those who pass by may read: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' "Then follow 39 names of the men from the parish and congregation who gave their lives for their King and Country'. 'Grant to them, Oh Lord, eternal rest, and may Light Eternal shine upon them".



After the Shrine's dedication, more casualties' names were added "on stout cards". In 1922 further subscriptions were obtained and in Spring 1923 a permanent copper on bronze plaque was fitted to the Shrine with now 69 names of the fallen. By 1993 the Shrine was falling into disrepair and there was some vandalism occurring so it was decided that the crucifix and plaque be moved into the church. These are now mounted in the St George's Chapel, to the right of the nave pulpit.

Thanks to generous donations from local people and the War Memorial Trust, work has begun to restore this historical church and town memorial.

David Wright

Photo taken in early 50s



And a thank you to David Wright for his local fund-raising efforts

The structure has been raised and straightened and is awaiting the fitting of ground-level mountings and new oak and tiles



Why a CALVARY?

Because it depicts Christ's crucifixion



Recent photos

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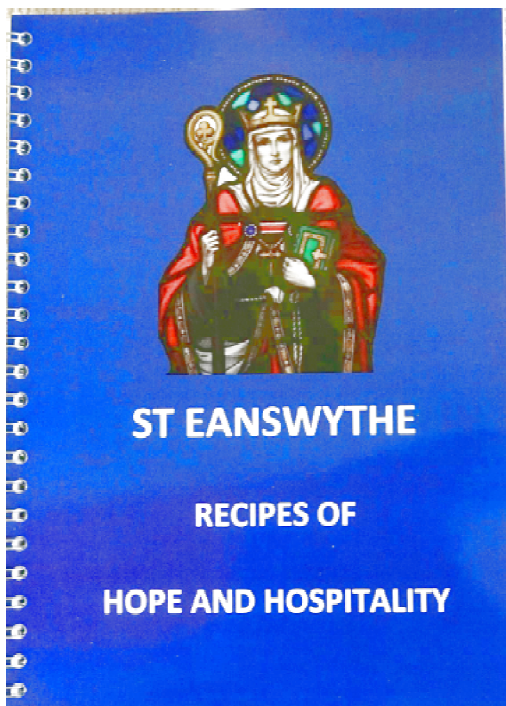
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SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

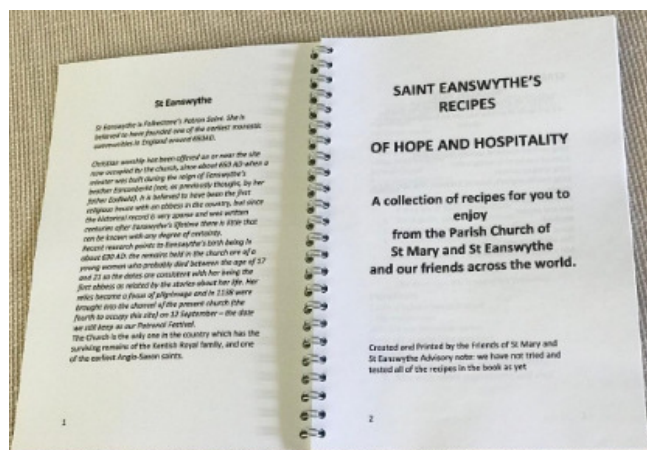
The Lady Chapel is now set apart for silent prayer and meditation on Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Fr John will be there most Wednesdays, and has written a guide available to anyone who would like to explore this ancient Christian way of praying. You will be most welcome to join us.

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 Military Orchid – Jocelyn Brooke (1948, 2011 edition)

The author is obsessed with orchids. Whereas I have never really seen their attraction, and consider them to be fussy, rather unattractive flowers that are far too easy to kill as houseplants.

I am also no botanist, so much of the botanical detail in the book passed me by. Nevertheless, I was fascinated by his quest to find the elusive Military Orchid. For me, the interest in this book lies in the beautiful illustrations and the fact that Jocelyn Brooke (1908-1966) is (was) a local author talking about places in and around Folkestone. (Note that the book was published in 1948.)

I found it a strange, slightly disjointed book. It's in three parts, his early childhood and love for orchids, schooldays, and finally his time in the army during the Second World War. He attended a series of expensive schools, including boarding school, which he went to at quite a young age, as was common for so many children in those days. However, he struggled to fit in because his father, a respectable wine merchant in Folkestone, was in 'trade'. There was also quite a lot about the family's Christian Science beliefs (and he attended a Christian Science school), which made me realise that I knew little about it as a religion.

He was happiest at his final school, Bedales, because he was able to pursue his botanical interests at this liberal progressive school, which also educated girls – remember that this was in the 1920s.

The third part of the book, features his time in the army Medical Corps, working in the unglamorous (but very necessary) surroundings of the VD wards, and his ongoing hunt for the rare Military Orchid.

This book is the first of a trilogy, but I think I will content myself with just this one.

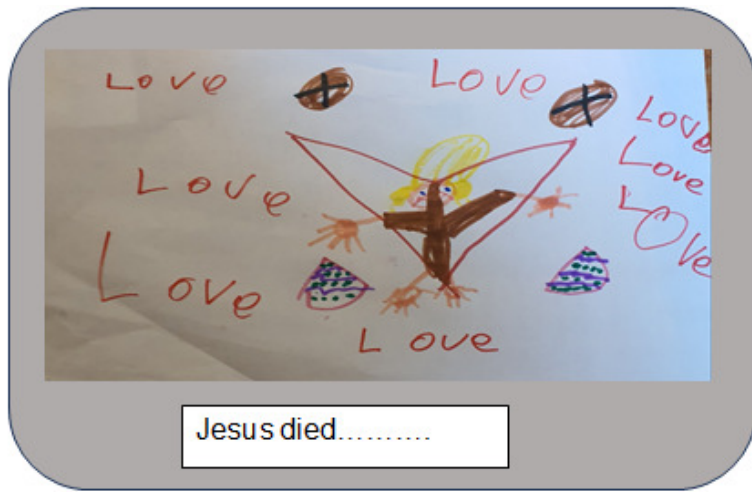
Slide Rule: The Autobiography of an Engineer – Nevil Shute (1954)

This is one of the few Nevil Shute books that I have never read. It's his autobiography, so I really hoped that there would be lots of anecdotes about his life that I would recognise from his novels. That was not the case.

Nevil Shute lived from 1899-1960. This book was published in 1954, but most of it is a very technical account of the time during the 1930s that he spent designing and developing the R100 airship (this was the one that *didn't* crash and burst into flames killing everyone on board) and the build-up of his own aircraft building company, Airspeed.

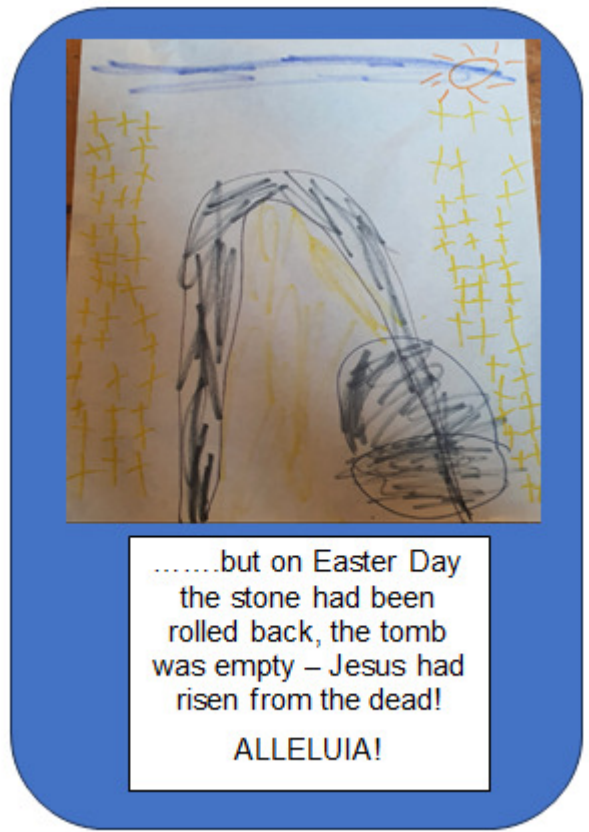
I now know more about airships than I ever did, and far more than I probably need to know. The clue was in the book's subtitle: the autobiography of an engineer. However, I was interested to discover that he served briefly at Shorncliffe airfield, Folkestone at the end of WW1. The narrative stops before the outbreak of WW2 so there is nothing about his service in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, nor his later life in Australia, both of which influenced his later (and best) works. To summarise, it wasn't the book I expected or hoped for, but it was very interesting and I'm glad I've finally got round to reading it.

Catriona Hunter



Jesus died.....

Artwork by
Zoe Hayward
Aged 6



.....but on Easter Day
the stone had been
rolled back, the tomb
was empty – Jesus had
risen from the dead!
ALLELUIA!

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Children's Church



What's coming up?



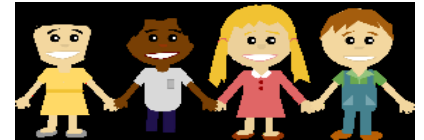
Sunday 12th May
JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU!
Did you know that?



Sunday 9th June
WE ARE GOD'S FAMILY
followed by Children's Church picnic



Sunday 14th July
STAND UP FOR JESUS



Sunday 11th August
JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE!



Children's Church begins in church at 10.30 a.m..

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

† Children's Church 🍷❤️

MOTHERING SUNDAY



and

PEPPERMINT CREAMS!

I'm sure that lots of the Children's Church mums had tea in bed and some lovely flowers on Mothering Sunday, but in Children's Church we decided to make some tasty peppermint creams to give them!

The rolling, cutting, designing (and tasting) of the sweets was great fun but we didn't forget to thank God for our mothers and for all they do for us.

We talked too about Jesus' mother, Mary. We thought that her example of listening to God, being open to God's call and then looking after Jesus was amazing. Mary stood by Jesus all his life, and was even there at his death on the cross. She is truly a great example for us to follow. She never gave up hope and was part of the great band who witnessed to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day!

ALLEUIA!

Clare Tomlinson



Sunday 14th April

JESUS WILL NEVER LET US DOWN!



OPENING THE BOOK at St Mary's School



Did you know that St Mary's School now has its own **Open The Book** team? Look carefully at the photo above – can you spot Carol McBeath and Maureen Foreman (Maureen has a very good disguise!) and Clare and John Tomlinson? We are part of a team of Christians from churches in the Folkestone area who present Bible stories to the children and staff every other Wednesday. It sounds scary BUT we have a great deal of help - the Bible Society had a vision to make it less daunting to share the Good News of Jesus and they developed **Open The Book**.

Open The Book is a wonderful project – each member of the team has a copy of *The Storytelling Bible*, carefully scripted by Bob Hartman. We take it in turns to be narrator, Jesus, disciples and other characters (including the donkey), some of the children volunteer to help each time, and, after a brief introduction, we literally **OPEN THE BOOK** and read the story to the children.



The stories come to life as we each read and act our parts.

It's so lovely to be welcomed by the school community – would you like to come too? Then have a chat with Clare, John, Maureen or Carol – we think it's great and with NINETY stories, it will keep us going a long time!

Clare Tomlinson

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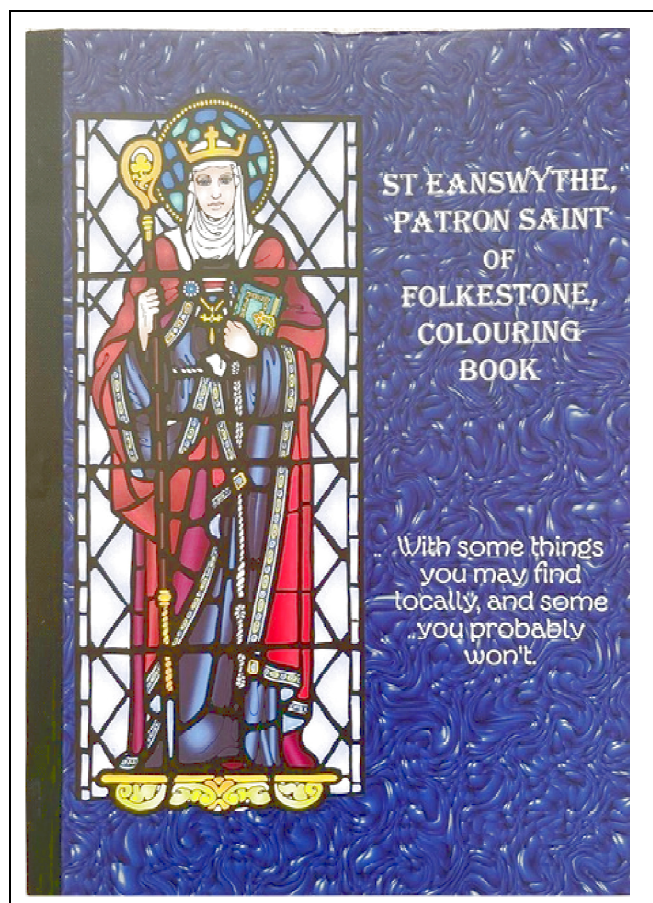
Email: imseastkent@gmail.com

St Eanswythe, Patron Saint of Folkestone, Colouring Book

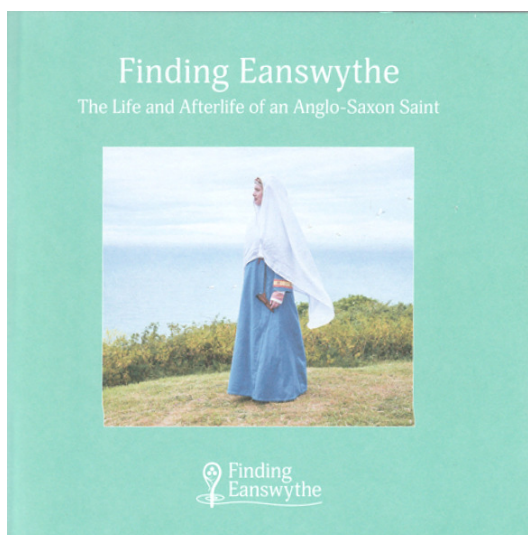
Once upon a time, not so long ago, when Marilyn and Catriona were on church welcoming duty, a father and his two young daughters came into the church. The girls wanted to do some colouring, but although there were plenty of crayons in the children's corner, there was nothing for them to colour in. This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

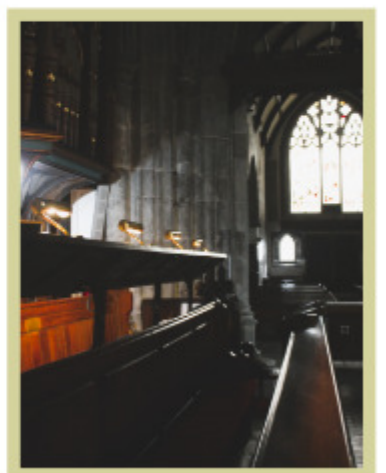
THE CHOIR OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

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

Sunday 7 April – The Second Sunday of Easter – **John 20.19-31**

*It was evening on the first day of the week and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said
'Peace be with you'.*

Joy and confidence are the marks of the Easter people of Christ. Fear and anxiety are not far away. From the time of the Apostles, there has been a need for vigilance in faith.

Sunday 14 April – The Third Sunday of Easter – **Luke 24.36b-48**

'Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.'

The Resurrection brought new power and confidence to those who were its witnesses. The experience of personal encounter with the risen Lord has been granted also to those who have not seen with physical sight.

Sunday 21 April – The Fourth Sunday of Easter – **John 10.11-18**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

In the Easter season, the reality of Christ's suffering does not fade. All preaching of the Resurrection is also a memorial of the Crucifixion.

Sunday 28 April – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – **John 15.1-8**

Whosoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

Fullness of life is found only through Christ. If we live in him and he in us, we are united with God, whom we can never approach by our own efforts.

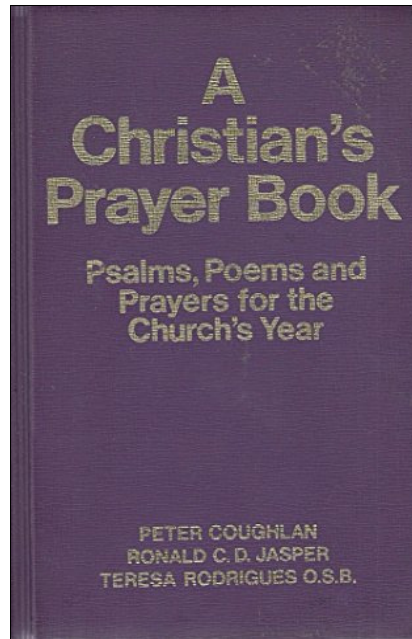
RED LETTER DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday 25 April Mark the Evangelist – **Mark 13.5-13**

The good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

It is in the purpose of God that the good news of the Kingdom should be known to all. In his wisdom, he works through all kinds of men and women to be his chosen messengers.

One for your Library



This little book has been by my side since I bought a copy in 1983. It consists of a selection of poetry, prayer, psalms, canticles and bible readings for the beginning and end of the day. The introduction makes clear that it is intended for those who do not use the official Daily Offices. It can be used individually or in small groups and provides a stimulating selection of texts. The pattern for each day is straightforward: a brief introductory sentence; some poetry for reflection and – in the words of the editors – a springboard for personal prayer. A psalm or section of a psalm follows together with a Bible reading, a canticle and signposts to prayer ending with a closing collect.

I do not use the book every day but put it away and then take it up when I fell drawn to its rather eclectic approach. There is a copy in the St Eanswythe Chapel which you can see and judge for yourself. Copies are available via the internet at www.abebooks.uk

The compilers are: Peter Coughlan a Jesuit priest, who died last year; Teresa Rodrigues, a Benedictine nun and Ronald Jasper, liturgical specialist and Dean of York 1975-1984 who died in 1990.

Father John - Hail and Farewell

Following just over two year's interregnum, the news of Fr John's appointment as our new Parish Priest in 2020 was welcomed with great joy and expectation. We were not disappointed. From his installation by Bishop Rose and Archdeacon Darren on 4 February 2020 we sensed that here was the man for our parish for that moment in our history.



He quickly set about making himself known to the PCC and the congregation and immersing himself in the ins and outs of parish life. The announcement of the investigation into the relics of St Eanswythe was one of the early highlights and we were all looking forward to an exciting time. As it happened, of course, lockdown intervened.

But Fr John was equal to the challenge using his technical knowledge to assemble, Sunday by Sunday, our online Eucharist incorporating readings and intercessions recorded by members of the congregation. His recorded sermons were a great comfort and inspiration. One in particular, recorded on the seashore at Dover in persistent rain, will live long in the memory, not just for the awful weather but for what was said.

In the life of the parish, his authority and sure understanding of worship and ministry shone through all that he did and inspired many of us to further realise our skills and what we might offer. His guidance to the PCC was outstanding, encouraging each member's contribution. He established an excellent relationship with our church schools and will be missed by the staff and children.

Children's Church flourished under the sure guidance of Clare Tomlinson adding another strand to our ministry.

He opened the Vicarage for Advent and Lent courses and other meetings – hospitality being another of his great gifts – most recently providing accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. He also got to know the local community attending events organised by the Bayle Residents' Association.

The foregoing may seem a little impersonal. However it was in individual contact and meetings that Fr John's real talent came into its own. Several of us have cause to be thankful for his wisdom, understanding and comfort at times of stress, the writer being one – Christianity lived not just preached.

So we say farewell and God Speed to Fr John at the end of April. He goes to his retirement in Wales with our love and the very best of our good wishes. We all will have our own memories of his kindness and understanding and will keep them in our hearts.



Thank you John for all that you have given to and shared with us. Your ministry here will not be quickly forgotten. We wish you every happiness in your retirement. Wales's gain is our loss!

Mentor

The Power Behind The Pulpit

I asked permission to use this title, Fr. John laughed but never actually said no....

This past month has seen the continuing addition of beautiful crocuses and blossom in the Church yard, adding a splash of colour and heralding the start of the warmer months. Finally!

It has also seen the significantly less welcome addition of two pigeons who have made the Church their home. Much talk has been had about how to evict them. My excellent idea of waging psychological warfare by walking around the Church talking loudly about how tasty pigeon pie is, was inexplicably ignored...

Jan and Carole covered the High Altar to protect it from the feathered fiends. I gave invaluable support in the form of moving candlesticks and fussing over Jan's dog. I think both ladies would agree they couldn't have done it without me.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Ukrainian Hospitality. It was wonderful to hear the beautiful Ukrainian folk songs filling the Church. The ladies are so talented and it was a joyous event. Do come along to the next one if you can, it really is a treat!

Mothering Sunday saw Children's Church lead us all in a very special rendition of 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands', I was singing "He's got all the lovely Mummy's in his hands" for days afterwards! Got a few funny looks in Sainsbury's....

Had an interesting phone call with a Pastor in Australia who was coming on Pilgrimage and wanted the Church left open to sleep in. "God's Door is always open!" He exclaimed. "God's Door is always open Sir, but our doors are locked!" I replied.

Though several months have passed since I started at St. Mary and St. Eanswythe, I am still struck by how lucky I am to work in this most beautiful of buildings. I've made it a habit to come in early so I can sit in the Church for a little while before going up to the Office. It is a peaceful and inspiring time. Right up until I hear those pigeons cooing!!

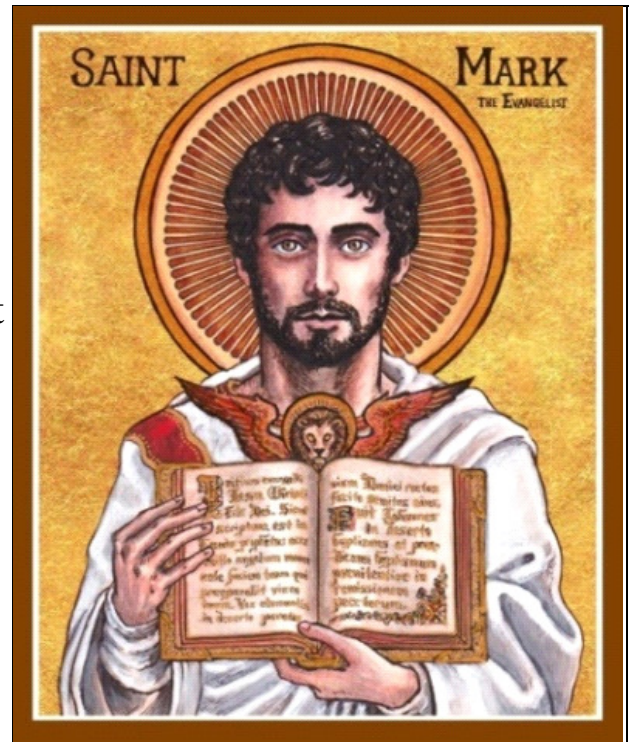
Jennifer Griffin

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. Afterwards, he 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. Sharing in the glory of the resurrection means sharing in the giving of self, both in body and spirit, even to death; sharing the gospel was, for all, in essence both excessively generous and ultimately sacrificial.



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.

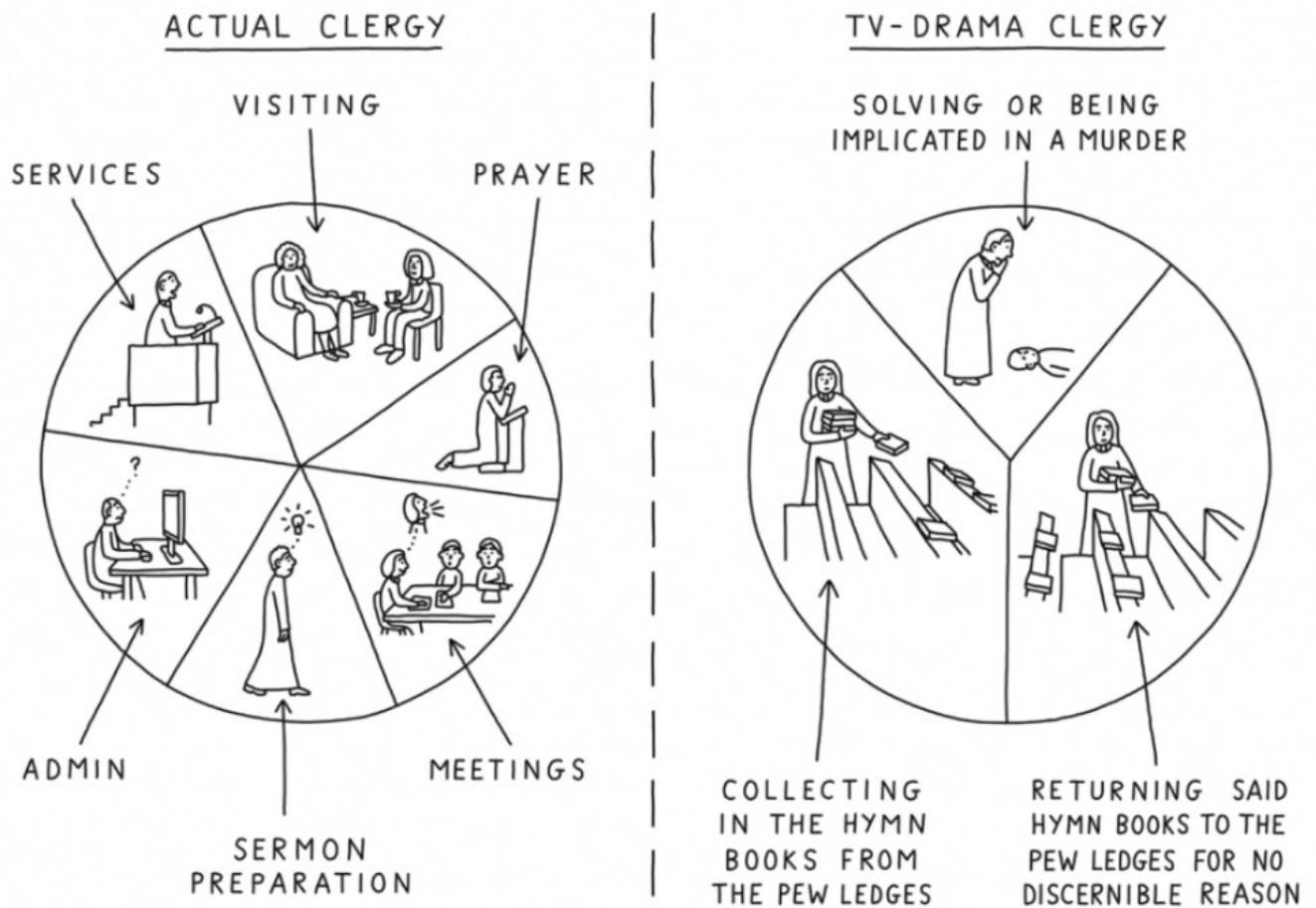
Readings

OT-Proverbs 15.8-33 NT-Acts 15.35-41 Gospel-Mark 13.5-13

Mark is most often depicted writing or holding his gospel.

Traditionally he is symbolised by a lion, which image can be seen three times in our church – do you know where?

ALLOCATION OF TIME



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.

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Telephone: 01303 850733

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email: Samaritans: jo@samaritans.org

Telephone: 0330 094 5717 (local call charges apply)

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Tue 08:00-21:00

Wed ... 08:00-23:00

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Sun ... 00:00-08:00 & 19:00-24:00

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What Happens Next?

As you are aware Fr John will be retiring at the end of April. We have achieved such a lot during his four years of ministry and we are all very sad about this change. Some members of the congregation have been asking what will happen next.

Here is a short outline of the process:

- Firstly the rules within the Church of England do not allow us to advertise a vacancy until the vacancy exists, so we will enter a period of interregnum.
- Nevertheless, the PCC started planning following our meeting with Archdeacon Darren at the end of January.
- You may remember that Fr John came to us as a Mission Priest, meaning that half of our Parish Share (the monthly amount that we contribute to the diocese to pay for mission and ministry, including clergy stipends and housing) was paid in the form of a Mission Grant.
- Even though the Mission Grant has a further year to run, it was dependent on us having a priest and therefore had to be applied for again – with no guarantee that our application would be successful.
- The PCC submitted a Mission Plan to the Archdeacon as the first part of this process. We want to build on everything that we have achieved with Fr John's guidance. However, the rules are much stricter now than they were four years ago, and less money is available.
- In early March we heard that the Diocesan Mission Resources Group (DMRG) had approved a further grant of 5 years, which will pay half of the ministry costs of a new priest in charge. The DMRG also approved payment of the remaining portion of the current grant during the vacancy.
- The next stage will be for the PCC to have an awayday with the Diocesan Mission and Growth Advisor to help us compile our Parish Profile, which will form part of the information pack sent out to priests expressing interest in the post once it is advertised.
- All of this will take time, and while the PCC will endeavour to keep the interregnum as short as possible, there are many things on which we will be dependent on other people.
- During the interregnum we will have visiting priests to supplement Fr John Tomlinson, and to cover the school services.

Please pray for Fr John as he completes the last month of his ministry with us and pray for the future of our church.



MUSIC NOTES

The next Bayle Music concert takes place at The Grand at 3 p.m. on Saturday 20 April. It will be given by our old friends, the Kentish Piano Trio.



Kathy Shave (violin), Helen Crayford (piano) and Julia Vohralik (cello)

The programme is intriguingly entitled ‘A Grand Celebration of Early 20th century Women Composers’ and will include works, amongst others, by British composer and violinist Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979) and Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) the first woman to win the coveted Prix de Rome at the age of just 20 and considered by many as one of the most gifted of early 20th century composers who died at the tragically early age of just 24.

Admission is just £10 per head with children and full-time students admitted free. You can book in advance online, saving yourself time and trouble on the day by visiting this site:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bayle-music

and you can of course pay on the day with your debit/credit card or cash.

Concerts return to church for the spring and summer season with the **Sacconi Festival Friday 17 May – Sunday 19 May** and three further Bayle Music concerts:

Saturday 22 June - Caritas Chamber Choir directed by Benedict Preece, a former organist here

Saturday 20 July - Walter Reiter – Baroque Violin

Saturday 24 August - Heather Sargerson and Marianne Kelly in an exciting programme of suites for piano duet.

All concerts start at 3 p.m. and advance booking is available NOW at the Ticketsource website detailed above. Fuller details will appear each month.

A Certificate from Out of the Blue!

As many of you will know by now, Grenville Hancox and Ian Gordon were nominated for the 2024 Folkestone Town Mayor's Community Award in acknowledgement of their ongoing contribution in bringing international musicians to Folkestone through the Bayle Music series of concerts.



The awards were presented by the Town Mayor, Belinda Walker, on 14th March. Notification came out of the blue as a great surprise. That the concerts have been such a success and so much part of Folkestone's musical life is gratifying BUT they would not have succeeded without the support of our church offering to house them when the use of the Metropole ended; the loyal team of helpers from the church currently Marilyn Edey, Jenny Coleman, Carol McBeath, Dorothy

Douse and Angela Conyers who has taken responsibility for the finances AND the audience, without whom there would be no concerts at all!

So, many thanks to all our performers and supporters and to Grenville, whose sterling efforts in engaging a series of wonderful performers, really makes Bayle Music the force it is in presenting live music month by month here in Folkestone.



News from St Eanswythe's School

Herald Cup first match

St Eanswythe's v Mundella

Final Score 4-4

On the 23rd of February, our fabulous St Eanswythe's football team played their first Herald Cup match against Mundella Academy. Kicking off at 3:45 p.m. was Goldie who gave an assist to Autumn. Autumn then scored our first goal. Just a few minutes into the game, Autumn scored another goal! 20 minutes in, Goldie went for another goal. She scored! Mundella attempted to score but our amazing goalkeeper, Billy, saved it. Florence and Freddie came off and Freja and Pixie came on. Mundella then scored two goals, leaving us at 3-2 at half-time. During the second half, Mundella scored and scored again! Could we get another goal? Just a few minutes left of the game, Autumn gave us another fantastic goal! Leaving us at 4-4 at the end of the match. Charlie was the man of the match and it was very well deserved!

Written by our school Sports Journalists, Missy and Ruby.

Extract from The Castle on the Hill by Elizabeth Goudge

To him it had been given to pass through life and death to life again, and know them one; to rise to the very peak and height of agony and find himself looking into the eyes of God beneath the crown of thorns, to fall through the bottomless abyss and find himself kneeling at the feet of God pierced through with nails, to probe each way through doubting and despair and find the arms of God outstretched in love upon the cross; because he was a man and into man has been breathed the breath of life, and life is God.

What's Happening in the Chancel?

You may have noticed the hole in the Vesica Window (the oval window above the High Altar). Getting quotes and insurance claims tends to be a slow process. To start with we just had a draught. But the one day a passing pigeon saw the hole and fancied a warm roost..... And then another! They left much mess and came and went daily, further damaging the glass. Scaffolding went up on March 19th, the upper left quadrant of the window was removed for repair and a temporary polycarbonate filling inserted. No draught, no more pigeons. The repair should take a month.

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