

The Parish Church of St Mary & St Eanswythe Folkestone



Choral Evensong

***with the Translation
of the Relics of St Eanswythe***

*Sunday 17th November 2024
4pm*

Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

Tonight's service draws together a beautiful and time-honoured form of worship with a unique moment in the history of this church and town. The re-discovery and analysis of the bones of St Eanswythe through the *Finding Eanswythe* project has offered this town and parish a fresh opportunity to engage with the story and example of its Patron Saint. This evening's service gives us an opportunity to worship Almighty God and to honour our Patron Saint and to restore her mortal remains to an honoured place in this church.

The service is encapsulated within Evening Prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*. Evensong is the Church of England's traditional form of evening prayer, with its rich language still offered day by day around the world. Often, as here today, this includes a choir offering worship through music.

Whilst this is, at heart, a formal service, we hope that you can feel comfortable and relaxed within this church building. Directions about sitting and standing are included to aid the flow of worship, please feel free to disregard them if you need to.

During the service, please join with texts printed in **bold** type.

Please ensure that phones and other devices are set to silent.

Parents and carers of small children, there are toys and activities available in the front left corner of the church, do feel free to make use of them.

Please note that this service is being both streamed *and* recorded for posterity. If you are concerned about the possibility of appearing in the footage, you may wish to sit towards the back of church or in a side aisle.

The organ is played by Tim Clark and our parish choir is glad to welcome singers from many different places to enhance the music of our worship this evening.

The Responses are those set to music by Richard Ayleward (1626-1669) and the Canticles are the Evening Service in B-flat by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

Shortly before the service, The Revd Christopher Johnson, Priest-in-Charge, offers words of welcome and introduction.

Introit

The choir sings

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety.

Words: Psalms 5.8 & 4.9

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Processional Hymn

(please STAND)

**For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. *Alleluia.***

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. *Alleluia.***

**O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. *Alleluia.***

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. *Alleluia.***

**But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way. *Alleluia.***

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost *Alleluia.***

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1867)

Tune: Sine Nomine – Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Responses

The cantor and choir sing

*O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

*O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

*Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.*

Psalm (146) *(please SIT)*

The choir sings

*Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord : yea, as long
as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.*

*O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man : for there is no
help in them.*

*For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth :
and then all his thoughts perish.*

*Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is
in the Lord his God;*

*Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth
his promise for ever;*

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison : the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen : the Lord careth for the righteous.

*The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow
: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.*

*The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore : and throughout all
generations.*

Please STAND for

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.
Amen.*

Chant: Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

Old Testament Reading

(please SIT)

Isaiah 58.6-12

Jenny Coleman, Parish Treasurer and Project Member, reads

The First Lesson is written in the fifty-eighth chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah, beginning at the sixth verse.

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Here endeth the Lesson.

The Office Hymn *(please STAND)*

**The Saints of Kent since days of old
proclaimed your Gospel true and bold;
now we, O Lord, hold true today
the path of Christ in that same way.**

**Augustine, who the Channel forebore,
through doubt and sickness found Kent's shore;
enabled by Queen Bertha's sight,
your glorious Gospel shone its light.**

**Our patron Eanswythe, in her short years,
embraced your faith and showed no fears
through holy life in word and deed,
like her, today your call we heed.**

**Through years of darkness, light and shade,
your Gospel light would never fade
in teacher, martyr, neighbour, friend;
the love of God would know no end.**

**The saints of Kent, today of all days,
both heart and voice as one we raise
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
through time and every age confessed.**

Amen.

*Words: Christopher J. Johnson (b.1988)
Tune: Deus Tuorum Militum – Grenoble Church Melody*

Magnificat *(please remain STANDING)*

During the Magnificat, the altar is honoured with incense as a sign of Christ's presence amongst us and the relics of St Eanswythe are honoured likewise.

The choir sings

*My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.*

New Testament Reading
(please SIT)
1 John 4.7-19

The Revd Dr Lesley Hardy, Priest-in-Charge of the Little Stour Benefice and Project Director of Finding Eanswythe, reads

The Second Lesson is written in the fourth chapter of the first Epistle of St John, beginning at the seventh verse.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Here endeth the Lesson.

Nunc Dimittis
(please STAND)

The choir sings

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the + resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Lesser Litany

The cantor and choir sing

*The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.*

Let us pray. (please SIT or KNEEL)

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

*O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.*

*O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

*Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.*

*O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.*

*Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.*

*O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

The Collects

The Collect for St Eanswythe

Almighty God,
the source of all holiness and author of all charity:
grant that we may so follow the footsteps
of our Blessed Patron, Eanswythe,
that, encouraged by her example and strengthened by her prayers,
we may ever show forth the same spirit of holiness and love
and walk before thee as children of light.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost;
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Lighten our darkness,
we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Anthem *(please SIT)*

The choir sings

*Give us the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.*

*We ask them whence their victory came:
They, with one united breath,
Ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
Their triumph to his death.*

*They marked the footsteps that he trod,
His zeal inspired their breast,
And, following their incarnate God,
They reached the promised rest.*

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Music: Ernest Bullock (1890-1979)*

Hymn
(please STAND)

**Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
behold your Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives!**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise!**

Words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691) & John Hampden Gurney (1802-1862)

Music: Darwall's 148th

Melody by John Darwall (1731-1789)

Harmonised by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Descant by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947)

The Story of St Eanswythe

(please SIT)

Children from St Eanswythe's Church of England Primary School tell the story of St Eanswythe.

The Translation of the Relics

(please STAND)

The reliquary containing the bones of St Eanswythe is borne in procession to her shrine in the Sanctuary.

Children and their carers are warmly encouraged to make their way to the front so they can be part of what's happening. Please be aware, however, that you may appear in the live-stream and recording if you do so.

Whilst this happens, the choir sings in the style of plainsong, the ancient music of the church.

*A God-fearing woman
most worthy of praise,
kept faith with the Lord
through all her life's ways.*

*2. Her hands swift to service,
her words true and wise;
God's peace in her heart,
God's love in her eyes.*

*3. Through labours and trials
adoring him still,
she mirrored the light
of God's holy will.*

*4. All praise to the Father,
all praise to the Son,
All praise to their Spirit,
Our God, Three in One.*

*Words: Golders Green Carmelites
Tune: Stocks Bank (Mode 1:D). Panel of Monastic Musicians
Hymns for Prayer & Praise 337*

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners : and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord : and in his law will he exercise himself day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side : that will bring forth his fruit in due season. His leaf also shall not wither : and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper. As for the ungodly, it is not so with them : but they are like the chaff, which the wind scattereth

away from the face of the earth. Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand in the judgement : neither the sinners in the congregation of the righteous. But the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous : and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Music: Tone 1:1

*An extract from **Profitable Wonders***

When all have gathered, we hear a reading about the nature of relics and their capacity to underline the humanity of the saints who have gone before us.

Dr Ellie Williams, Reader in Archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University, reads

In a qualified sense, the very bodies of saints are held sacred by us and used venerably of us, being gathered to their fathers and honourably disposed of into quiet graves.

For they were once temples of the living God

The store-houses of this holy word

The earthen vessels of heavenly treasures

The living conduit-pipes of the Holy Ghost

The members of our Saviour's body

The relics of celestials kings

The seeds of eternity whom nature teacheth us to handle with respect.

Thomas Traherne (1636-1674)

Dr Andrew Richardson, Archaeologist & Co-editor of Finding Eanswythe, and Jan Clarke, PCC and Project Member, place the reliquary in the shrine.

The Priest-in-Charge then honours the relics with incense, before saying

Christ is the image of the invisible God:

all things were created through him and for him.

The saints proclaim his glory in every age:

and inspire us to follow his example with courage and joy.

Prayer of Dedication

The Archdeacon of Ashford says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
manifested your glory in his flesh,
and sanctified the outward and visible
to be a means by which we may glimpse realities as yet unseen;
as we translate the relics of our Blessed Patron, St Eanswythe
we dedicate this place of honour for them to your glory;
grant that, as our eyes behold these outward signs,
our minds may be drawn to things
which can only be seen through the eye of faith,
and our hearts may be filled with grace
to follow the example of Eanswythe
in all virtuous and godly living,
and come to share those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Vicky Friedrich, Authorised Lay Minister at St Mary & St Eanswythe's,
prays*

Almighty Father,
you have built up your Holy Church
through the love and devotion of your blessed saints:
inspire us so to follow the example of Saint Eanswythe
whom we honour and venerate today,
that we, in our generation, may evermore rejoice with her
in the vision of your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Prayers *(please SIT or KNEEL)*

A prayer for the Town and its people

The Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone, Cllr Abena Akuffo-Kelly, prays

Almighty and ever-living God,
as we celebrate the life of our Patron, Eanswythe,
look favourably, we pray, upon this our town of Folkestone;
bless those who earn their living upon land and sea,
and all who live, learn, and visit here.
Uphold and sustain those who hold office
and authority over others;
enrich our cultural life and community
so that your kingdom may grow in this place
and your glory be seen and known by all peoples.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for those who are vulnerable

Judy Doherty, Co-editor of Finding Eanswythe, prays

Eternal God,
whose blessed Son showed compassion to those most in need,
and so inspired the noble Eanswythe
to use her worldly goods for the care of others,
look caringly upon those who are most vulnerable in our town today;
grant them the strength to endure their current situation
and inspire in each of us that same generosity and compassion
which governed the heart of our Patron
to bring about in our world the change
which brings an end to vulnerability and suffering.
This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for pilgrims and those who pray in this place

Fr David Gilchrist, Parish Priest of The Greek Orthodox Community of St Mark & St Fotini in Folkestone, prays

Merciful God,
lover of souls,
whose servant Eanswythe revealed the loving service of Christ
in her ministry and holiness of life;
may your Holy Spirit guard all who pray at this shrine,
quicken within us the love of Jesus,
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Prayers conclude with

The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Hymn
(please STAND)

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
raise the glad strain, *Alleluia.*
Cry out, Dominions, Princedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

**O higher than the Cherubim,
more glorious than the Seraphim,
lead their praises, *Alleluia.*
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord.
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

**Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluia, alleluia.**
**Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
all Saints triumphant, raise the song
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia.**
**To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Words: John Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)

Tune: Lasst uns Erfreuen

Melody from Geistliches Kirchengesang Cologne (1623)

Harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Prayer of St Chrysostom *(please remain STANDING)*

The Priest-in-Charge says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who hast given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplications unto thee;
and dost promise that when two or three
are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests:
Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants,
as may be most expedient for them;
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth,
and in the world to come life everlasting.
Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest-in-Charge says

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation,
to know the hope to which he has called you.
Amen.

God,
who has shown you a pattern of holy living and holy dying
in the lives of the saints,
bring you to share their glorious inheritance.
Amen.

God,
who calls you no longer strangers
but fellow citizens with the saints,
set your hearts and minds on things above,
where Christ is seated at God's right hand.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*Please remain standing as the clergy process out. You are then welcome
to sit to enjoy the*

Organ Voluntary

Finale Jubilante – Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Refreshments

You are warmly invited to stay for light refreshments which will be served in the north transept (in the middle on the left as you face the front of church).

Financial Donations

A retiring collection towards church funds will be received at the door as you leave. Cashless donations can be made via the QR code, or via the website: stmaryandsteanswythe.org (scroll down the homepage and click 'Donate').



The costs of the Eanswythe Found project and putting on this service this afternoon have been significant for a parish with limited resources. Your generosity is hugely appreciated.

Books and Merchandise

You can find books and information relating to the life of St Eanswythe, including Finding Eanswythe on sale at the back of church. There are also postcards of the icon and the reliquary available to buy.

Information about the Finding Eanswythe project more broadly can be found at: findingeanswythe.uk

A recording of the service will be available via our website later in the week: stmaryandsteanswythe.org

Front cover image: St Eanswythe, by Alexandra Le Rossignol.

Back cover image: Detail from the Reliquary by Sophie Hacker.



We also gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Canon Andrew Piper, Canon Precentor of Hereford Cathedral for sharing his experience and resources from the translation of the relic of St Thomas of Hereford (Thomas Cantilupe).

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