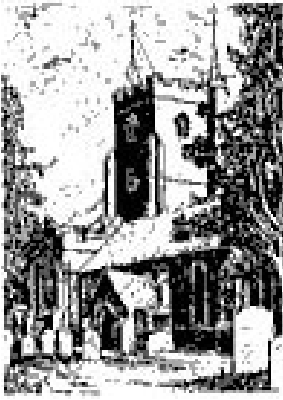


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 52 No, 10 **October 2025** **£1.20**



Who's Who in the Parish

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07931 804952

vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com

St Mary & St Eanswythe's

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email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

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Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road 07860 175123 01303 241124

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email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer } Jenny Coleman,

Gift Aid }

Planned Giving Pam Keeling

PCC Members Jan Clarke Jenny Coleman
Marilyn Edey Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep)
Elaine Furminger Catriona Hunter
Carol McBeath Patricia Skelsted

If you would like to get in touch with any member of the PCC
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Electoral Roll Santa Vessey 01303 252947

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Safeguarding Officer Caroline Hayward cazrolinehayward@gmail.com 07876 358918

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St Eanswythe's, Church Street Head Teacher - Claire Jacobs 255516

Church Flowers Jan Clarke and Jenny Coleman

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Front Cover: Vineyard Harvest 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 October 2025

Thu	2	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
		14:00	St Eanswythe's School Harvest Service
Sat	4	11:00	Ukrainian Hospitality
Sun	5	Sixteenth Sunday of Trinity	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	9	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	12	Seventeenth Sunday of Trinity Harvest Festival	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Thu	16	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	18	12:30	Eucharist St Luke the Evangelist
Sun	19	Eighteenth Sunday of Trinity	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		19:00	GenZennial Faith (in The Pullman)
Thu	23	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	26	Last Sunday after Trinity	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	30	10:30	Holy Communion BCP



November

Sat	1	10:30	All Souls Eucharist
Sun	2	All Saints Sunday	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	6	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	9	Third Sunday before Advent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
Wed	12	8:45	St Eanswythe School Eucharist
Thu	13	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	15	11:00	Ukrainian Hospitality
Sun	16	Second Sunday before Advent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	20	10:30	Holy Communion BCP



Mailing List

We now have a regular weekly e-mailing list which is free to join. You can scan the QR code to sign up, or you'll also find a link on the homepage of our website: stmaryandsteanswythe.org

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 in 2025?

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.



The church is 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 Chris



It is hard to believe that I've been in post for nearly a whole year! Unbelievable in the sense of the passage of time *not* because I'm not enjoying and appreciating my time here!

What follows is a slightly longer letter than usual, but I hope it's both interesting and encouraging as we share in ministry together in this place.

One aspect of ministry here is that may not be so well known is that a significant part of our parish share is subsidised by the Church of England's *Lowest Income Communities Fund* or '*LinC*'. This is a huge blessing to our parish at a time when resources are challenged in so many different ways. A caveat of receiving this funding, however, is that there are certain 'agreed objectives' to work on through the year, set by a 'reference group' with parish and diocesan representatives. It's a helpful group as we discuss as 'critical friends' the parish situation and the work that we've been doing.

I recently wrote a report looking back at how we'd sought to meet some of those objectives and it was *really encouraging* to see how God has been at work within our parish and how we, as a church, have sought to join in. I thought it might be good to share some aspects of the report so you can see some of what's been going on (assuming you're not already taking part anyway!). One crucial thing is that when I say 'we' it's very much *not* the 'royal we'; ministry here is a team effort and I'm hugely grateful to all who play their part in the life of our church, so thank you! If you're not already taking part, do think about how you can be involved. If nothing else, please remember us in your prayers!

With best wishes,

**For those who missed the Translation Service
or would like to see it again**

View the recorded service using the link
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBS9ny>

1: Development of a Unique Selling Point (USP) for the parish

Holy Week & Easter 2025 was confident, faithful and clearly rooted within the catholic tradition of the Church of England and clearly embodied the joy and celebration of the resurrection. We began our Palm Sunday service outside the Town Hall and processed up to church. The traditional services of the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday were observed with dignity and solemnity, drawing people more deeply into the mystery of God. The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (the first for *many* years) attracted 40 people from across Folkestone. Participants spoke of the way they felt encouraged in their relationship with God and the depth of it as they journeyed through that week. One person visiting Folkestone that weekend came on Maundy Thursday and then joined us for the remainder of the weekend.

We've picked up a morning/ lunchtime eucharist on Feast Days during the week, continued to develop and hone the Sunday eucharist, and through teaching and preaching sought to establish clear links between what we believe and what we do. We have had a couple of pilgrimage groups and others who have been walking the Kentish Camino. We also host Orthodox communities as they worship God together and make pilgrimages to honour St Eanswythe.

2: An understanding of what the registers are telling us, and how we should respond

The Sunday congregation has a mixture of ages and church backgrounds. There are routinely some young families (not just on *Children's Church* Sundays), some Gen-Zs & millennials, along with the more established generations within the CofE; each of whom attends regularly and faithfully. We also often have people who are 'just visiting' the town and wish to worship somewhere during their visit.

Occasional Offices (e.g. baptisms, weddings and funerals) remain comparatively minimal - as per trends nationally but also partly due to the location of the church in relation to its wider parish. It has been a delight, however, to prepare candidates for confirmation and to host the local schools' confirmation service and to share in preparing the candidates there too.

Since March we have been monitoring visitor numbers mid-week. The total number of visitors since we started monitoring is over 2500 adults and around 350 under 18s. This number includes some planned group and pilgrimage visitors, but consists mainly of ad hoc tourists. The number doesn't include those who drift in before or after the Sunday service or whilst a midweek Eucharist is happening. We have been increasingly attentive to making sure that ad hoc visitors are welcomed and allowed to explore the building prior to a service.

3: Development of the interpretative offer

A major development has been the appointment of our new parish administrator. Santa has brought significant gifts to the parish, including experience of building brand identity and visual merchandising. As such, we have been able to take what was already very good historical interpretation and refresh it into something visually appealing and engaging in 2025.

Sister Jemima-Mildred's Church Trail is already proving a hit with younger visitors, offering an opportunity to explore the key features of the church. Since it launched in mid-July we estimate that 50 children and their families have looked to 'follow the trail and complete the trail!'

We've also been very glad to work with the Generous Giving department at the Diocese to partner in their work in improving welcome and making the most of the missional opportunities that the building presents. A project for later this year will be utilising a diocesan special offer and launching the *Church Explorer App* tools for both adults and children.

4: Development of the overall offer

The overall offer has been varied, as can be seen above and we acknowledge that much has been focused in and around St Mary & St Eanswythe's. This is because we need to make sure the foundations are good for what we do, but also acknowledge the building is a tool for mission and proclamation *in and of itself*. In addition to what's been outlined above:

- ♦ We've started a 'Genzennial Faith' group which meets once a month in the Pullman pub opposite church. We've got 5 or 6 regulars from amongst the congregation, but it's something we can invite others to and it's also an opportunity for some visibility in a local place and to build some relationships with people there.
- ♦ As part of the theological imperative to offer the best of what we are and what we have to God in worship, our orders of service have been completely overhauled with a redesign in SM&E livery and high-quality print finish.
- ♦ Relationships with the schools remain good. We're working with St Eanswythe's on a termly KS2 eucharist in the new school year to consolidate the work done with confirmation candidates and to proclaim the gospel afresh to a new generation. There are also plans to develop a 'stay and play' type coffee morning in partnership once a month as of the autumn. At St Mary's members of the congregation here are part of an ecumenical *Open the Book* team and enjoy that ministry. Fr Chris is a governor in both schools and regularly leads collective worship.
- ♦ Children's Church is lay-led and has a faithful following once a month. The *Good Friday Special* was a wonderful event, attended by 20 children and their families and there's talk of trying some other 'specials' during the year (including at Advent).
- ♦ For the first time last winter, members of the SM&E congregation had their 'own night' on the rota cooking meals for the *Folkestone Churches winter night shelter*. An act of service was very much appreciated by both the centre and its guests.
- ♦ Fr Chris remains a participant in the *Church Urban Fund* 'Learning Academy' as a way of keeping a wider perspective on issues that may be relevant and shared experience from others ministering in deprived contexts. He is also actively seeking to build on relationships with civic figures, partly through civic chaplaincy this year, as a means to keep a finger on the pulse of what's happening within the wider parish and to ponder how the parish church may seek to play its part as best it can.

*It's all about Saint Eanswythe! (and it was **PARTY TIME!**)*

We began Children's Church by singing a special song written by Clare.

*Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
And she listened to Jesus*

*Chorus Jesus our King is calling,
 Jesus our King is calling
 Jesus our King is calling
 Let's all listen to Jesus*



*Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
And she listened to Jesus*

*Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Let's all listen to Jesus*



We chatted together about Eanswythe growing up as a young princess, hearing about the Christian faith and making her decision to serve God and care for people around Folkestone.

The children knew that Saint Eanswythe probably lived around the year 640 AD. Her godly example still inspires us today and we prayed this prayer together.

Dear Jesus.

Thank you for your love for us and for all peoples.

Thank you for calling us to follow you.

Thank you for Saint Eanswythe who loved you and listened to you.

Thank you Jesus

Please help us to love you and to listen to you.

Please help us to follow you.

Amen.

*Then it was **PARTY TIME** and the children had fun decorating balloons! Later we shared our joy with the church family, waving the balloons and singing our special song.*

Sue Bauhahn

*Next time - 12th October - It's all about remembering to say
"Thank You" - and it's our **Harvest Service***

CHILDREN'S CHURCH! @



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

IT'S ALL ABOUT
ST EANSWYTHE



SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

IT'S ALL ABOUT
REMEMBERING
TO SAY

**THANK
YOU!**

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

IT'S ALL ABOUT
BEING ALIVE!



SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

10:00AM – 11:30AM

IT'S ALL ABOUT
MAKING BIRTHDAY CAKES
FOR JESUS!



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

(CHILDREN MUST BE BROUGHT BY AN ADULT, AND UNDER 5'S MUST BE SUPERVISED)

Company; drinks; chat
about life, God and faith.



GenZennial



Faith

A group for young(ish) adults who consider themselves
Millennial or Gen Z and are old enough to meet in a pub!

Hosted by Fr Chris, vicar of St Mary and St Eanswythe's.

Venue: The Pullman on Church Street

First drink on the Vicar!

Any questions, Whatsapp Fr Chris - 07931 804952

Sunday 19th October @ 7pm

Plant bulbs at St Eanswythe's!

October 18th 10am-12pm



Tea and coffee!



Cake!



Gardening satisfaction!



More New Events Posters continued from page 33 onwards

Dates For Your Diary

Some forthcoming events in our church calendar. Please put these in your diary

Saturday, 18 October	10 a.m. – midday	Bulb planting in the churchyard
Sunday, 19 October	7 p.m.	GenZennial Faith (in The Pullman)
Saturday, 1 November	10.30 a.m.	All Souls Eucharist
Saturday, 1 November	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Saints and Sips – wine tasting and talk about saints
Wednesday, 5 November	7.30 p.m.	Back to Basics (in the Vicarage)
Thursday, 6 November	11.15 a.m.	Back to Basics
Wednesday, 12 November	7.30 p.m.	Back to Basics (in the Vicarage)
Thursday, 13 November	11.15 a.m.	Back to Basics
Wednesday, 19 November	7.30 p.m.	Back to Basics (in the Vicarage)
Thursday, 20 November	11.15 a.m.	Back to Basics
Wednesday, 26 November	7.30 p.m.	Back to Basics (in the Vicarage)
Thursday, 27 November	11.15 a.m.	Back to Basics
Saturday, 29 November	6 p.m.	Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter Dedication Service
Sunday, 30 November	4 p.m.	From Darkness into Light: Advent Carol Service
Thursday, 11 December		Creative Quarter Carol Service
Sunday, 21 December	4 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday, 24 December	4 p.m.	Crib Service
Wednesday, 24 December	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Thursday, 25 December	10.30 am	Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
Saturday, 3 January 2026	Lunchtime	Hosting the Walk of Kings
Thursday, 14 May – Sunday, 17 May		Sacconi Quartet Chamber Music Festival

Generosity, supporting the parish church, and how we go about it

Generosity is such an important part of life – from generosity of spirit, time and gifts through to how we use the contents of our wallets too. How we approach each of those things can say a lot about us and who we are and what we believe in – including our response to God and his church.

We're very blessed at St Mary and St Eanswythe's that people give so generously of their time, talents and resources to sustain the work we do - if you're already one of them, thank you so very much!

We'll be writing to our regular donors in the next few weeks to say thank you and also to update them on what we're up to. *(If you're a regular donor and don't seem to have received anything by mid-October, do please get in touch and help us to thank you and make sure our records are up to date!).*

We're keen to make best use of those resources and to use them wisely, especially in terms of making the best use of people's time and energy. One of the ways we're doing this is by adopting systems that save some time and effort for our volunteers.

A big example of this is that we've signed up for the *Parish Giving Scheme*, a direct-debit system which costs us nothing as a parish (because that is borne by the Church of England nationally) but does all the work of claiming Gift Aid for us and saves a good amount of volunteer time as a result. We're hoping that our supporters will feel able to use this for donations going forward *(if you need any help signing up or further information, do please get in touch).*

We estimate that it costs us about £1500 per week to keep things going (and that's not including special projects or building work beyond routine maintenance) so we're hugely grateful for all the support we receive, whatever the amount is. We also welcome donations of time and skills in the service of God's church, from baking, to polishing, to pastoral care, to welcoming visitors into our amazing building - and a host of other things in between. If you think that's something you might like to be involved with, do please let us know.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to consider a regular donation (or even a one-off), why not check out the *Parish Giving Scheme*?

If you're tech-minded, there's this QR code

or the website: www.parishgiving.org.uk (click 'Find your parish' and enter parish code: 060606098)



You can also get a paper form from the Parish Office or call PGS directly on 0333 002 1271 and quote the parish code above.

If you have any questions or would like more information, do please get in touch with the Parish Office – contact details are inside the front cover of this magazine.

Sunday and Red Letter Eucharist Gospels

Sunday 5 October – 16th after Trinity – Luke 17.5-10

‘When you have done all that you were ordered to do, say “We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!”’

Whatever we do must be from love and duty, not to gain merit.

Sunday 12 October – 17th after Trinity – Luke 17.11-19

Jesus asked ‘Were there not ten made clean? But the other nine where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God, except this foreigner?’

God’s love is unbounded and those who claim to follow him have the greater duty to acknowledge it.

Sunday 19th October – 18th after Trinity – Luke 18.1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

Our encounters with God are often exacting and demand perseverance. He does not withhold his love, but he may test our sincerity and the depth of our faith.

Sunday 26 October – Last after Trinity – Luke 18.9-14

‘All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

There is no sin that will not be forgiven if it is followed by true repentance and the resolve to do better. Those who believe they have done nothing wrong are in greatest danger.

Red Letter Day

Saturday 18 October – Luke the Evangelist – Luke 18.1-18

‘The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few’.

Some have given all in this world for the service of God. Everyone who believes in him has something to be used if it is freely offered.

All Souls Service – A Time to Remember

Saturday 1st November 10.30 a.m.

We’ll have a Eucharist on **Saturday 1st November** at 10.30 a.m. to remember before God those who have died. The service will last about 45 minutes and there’ll be the opportunity to light a candle to remember departed loved ones and we’ll read names aloud too. There’ll be a list on the day that you can add names to, but we’ll also put a list in church in the weeks leading up to 1st November and you can send names via the Parish Office if needed. For more information, please feel free to contact Fr Chris.

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A Seasonal Verse

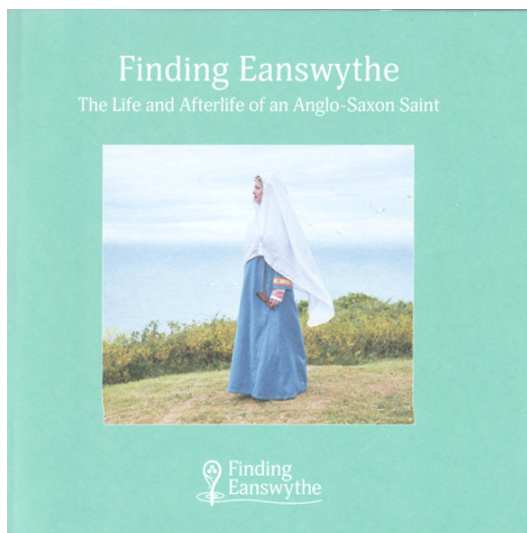
As the evenings draw in, here are some seasonal words from John Clare, the son of a farm labourer whose poems chronicling the English countryside through the year, whose poems have become well known and much loved.

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;
The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides,
 narrow lanes and every street causeway;
Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind
 halloos in the oak-top like thunder;
The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying
 unseen into the bushes;
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as
 crows, puddocks, buzzards;
The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves.
 and the patter of squirrels on the green moss;
The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on
 the hazel branches as they fall from ripeness;
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles –
 how sweet such pictures on dewy mornings, when the
dew flashes from its brown feathers.

John Clare (1793-1864.



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**.

	8			2				7
			1			5		
		7		9		4		
	9		5	7				6
6					4			2
1			9				4	
		5		3		6		
		6			9			
3				8			1	

7				3		4	8	9
5						6		
6	9	8				1		
			2		9			
2				1				4
			7		6			
		9				2	7	8
		2						3
8	4	7		5				6

We all love our church and its beauty and we want it to look as wonderful as possible as we are expecting lots of visitors.

We are desperate for helpers with the cleaning - we have a very small and dedicated team but **WE NEED MORE PEOPLE!**

Please get in touch with Jenny Coleman

email sainteanswythe@gmail.com

What do you know about our church?

Last month involved the great Latin Hymn of Praise '*Te Deum*'. This was translated into English beginning 'We praise thee O God' and incorporated into Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer as part of the service of Matins. This month's question is where in our church can you see words from the *Te Deum* on display?

ANSWER TO FOLLOW

From the Parish Registers

Baptism *We welcome into the Lord's family*
September Ruben Mooring



The Canterbury Auction Galleries

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2025 AUCTION DATES

14th & 15th
FEBRUARY

Entry deadline now closed

11th & 12th
APRIL

Entry deadline 7th March

6th & 7th
JUNE

Entry deadline 2nd May

1st & 2nd
AUGUST

Entry deadline 27th June

3rd & 4th
OCTOBER

Entry deadline 29th August

28th & 29th
NOVEMBER

Entry deadline 24th October

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Commemoration

28 October - St Simon and St Jude Apostles

Simon and Jude were named among the twelve apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Simon is called 'the Zealot', probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposing the Roman occupation forces. There is no indication in the gospels whether Simon moved from the Zealot party to be a follower of Christ or, on the other hand, if after the resurrection he became a supporter of that group, seeing it as a response to God's call to proclaim the kingdom.



Luke describes Jude as the son of James, while the Letter of Jude has him as the brother of James, neither of which negates the other. It seems he is the same person as Thaddæus, which may have been a last name. Owing to the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot, Jude was rarely invoked in prayer and it seems likely that because of this, interceding through him was seen as a final resort when all else failed. He became known, therefore, as the patron saint of lost causes.

The two apostles are joined together on this day because a church, which had recently acquired their relics, was dedicated to their memory in Rome in the seventh century.

Collect

Almighty God,
who built your Church upon the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief corner-stone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

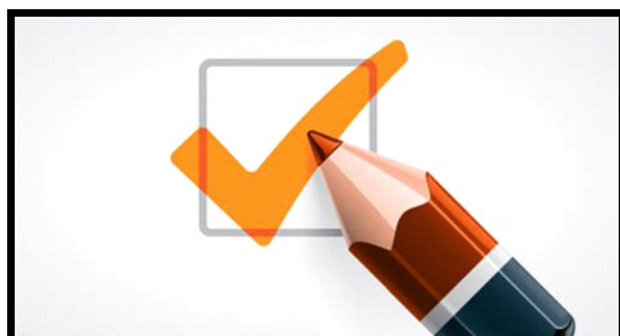
OT- Isaiah 28.14-16 NT-Ephesians 2.19-22 Gospel-John 15.17-27

ANSWERS TO THE EANSWYTHE FAIR PRIZE QUIZ

1 Radnor	19 steven	37 Westminster Abbey
2 Mick Jagger	20 umbrella	38 Ben Nevis
3 Adam		39 Ermine Street
4 Fleming	21 Denis the Menace	40 70 miles (Allow 65-75)
5 Tom	22 Matilda	
	23 Samuel	41 Hamelin
6 E	24 Pip (Philip Pirrip)	42 Sir John Betjeman
7 1313	‘Great Expectations’	43 George Orwell
8 The Lady Chapel floor	25 Prince George of	44 Colin Dexter
9 1445	Wales (b 2013)	45 Jane Austen
10 (Matthew) Woodward		
	26 $9 + 12 = 21$	46 The Glums
11 Pete Best	27 $55 \times 4 = 220$	47 1851 Gt Exhibition
12 Michael Caine	28 $27 - 12 = 15$	building
13 Sir Alec Douglas	29 $150 / 50 = 3$	48 Thomas Cook
Home	30 $3 + 9 = 12/4 = 3$	49 Napoleon Bonaparte
14 The Victoria Line tube		50 Spencer Percival
15 Lady Chatterley’s	31 David Jason	
Lover	32 Cliff Richard	
	33 Boris Karloff	
16 The turn of the screw	34 John Wayne	
17 metre	35 Julie Andrews	
18 patella	36 Tay	

Many thanks to all of you who took part. Just over £60 was raised for church funds. Congratulations to the prize-winners who each scored full marks and received a £15 book or gift token: Judy Doherty, Catriona Hunter, Chris Doherty and Chris Hunter.

Shall we have another one next year? Please let Ian Gordon know.



Ride and Stride happened on Saturday 13th September. Things did not go quite as planned. Otis is now too heavy for the child seat on the front of Patricia's bike so she had thought of putting him in the bike trailer, which can seat two, but that would have presented problems in bringing it into church with all the people there for the Festival. Then there was the torrential rain until after 11 which delayed our start. So we decided to use two scooters, me on one and Patricia and Otis on the other. Frank still rode his bike.

We headed off to the Salvation Army and then St Peter's with Frank cycling on the pavement behind Mum. We then descended The Durlocks very slowly (vital on a scooter as the weight is all on the front wheels going down and the brakes are on the back wheels, which skid!) down the pavement. Unfortunately, near the Lifeboat pub there is a big bump across the pavement so both scooters had only one wheel on the ground and skidded. The bump also threw Frank off his bike. Fortunately no damage done but after the corner Frank tried to overtake Patricia on the inside and jammed his pedal between the tyre and mudguard of the scooter - he needs to learn his Highway Code!

So we arrived at St Mary and St Eanswythe's in the dry and refuelled from the delightful cake stall. After watching the dog show we carried on our way to Our Lady Help of Christians and St John's.

The only problem was.... Both scooters got slower and slower, both needing human assistance to get home - just as well we hadn't been more ambitious!

Andrew

This year the event took place in heavy rain! In fact one gentleman who signed in with me had been stranded at St. Peter's Church for almost 2 hours, as the downpour had been so intense.

However our stalwart team comprising Andrew on his mobility scooter, Patricia, and Frank and Otis who didn't get wet did exceptionally well.

Thank you on their behalf to all sponsors. At least £200 has been raised to date, but donations are still welcome.

As usual half will help maintain St Mary and St Eanswythe and the rest will be gratefully received by Kent Churches in general

Marilyn Edey



Bookworm: Catriona Has Been Reading The ‘Old Filth’ Trilogy

Old Filth – Jane Gardam (2004)

Sir Edward Feathers QC is something of a legend in his profession, a formidable but highly revered judge and barrister, also known as Old Filth (Failed In London Try Hong Kong). Well, he certainly spent a chunk of his career in Hong Kong, but he was anything but a failure.

Now in his late 70s and retired to Dorset he still talks constantly to his wife Betty who has recently died. He finds that he doesn't quite know what to do without her. He is also thinking back on his life.

Eddie, as his cousins call him, was one of the Raj Orphans (indeed the book is dedicated to the Raj Orphans and their parents). Born in Malaya, like all other children of the British Empire, he was sent 'home' to Britain aged 4 or 5 to live with relatives he'd never met (who didn't particularly want him) and to attend boarding school. His mother died in childbirth and he never saw his father again. He was passed from pillar to post, and one 'aunt' to another, sometimes receiving brutal treatment from his foster parents and certainly never feeling that he belonged anywhere. He never felt loved and consequently found it hard to love anyone else – although he was broken hearted after Betty's death. Unsurprisingly he developed a stammer.

All this makes for an immensely moving book. Towards the end he sums up his life saying: "All my life ... I have been left, or dumped, or separated by death, from everyone I loved or who cared for me".

I found this to be a delightful book, full of gentle humour, sadness, hope, and shocks. It just got better and better, the more I read. I was also extremely pleased to discover that this was the first part of a trilogy and that there were two more books to enjoy about the wonderful characters I had grown to love.

Jane Gardam is a new author to me. I've no idea why I've never heard of her before, as she has won several awards, but I will most certainly be reading more of her books. Sadly I discovered that she died in April of this year. Yet again thanks to my book group for introducing me to her work.

The Man in the Wooden Hat – Jane Gardam (2009)

This is the sequel to *Old Filth* and tells of events from Betty's point of view as wife of Sir Edward Feathers. It fills in lots of gaps, in particular their ex pat lifestyle in Hong Kong, her love for Eddie's professional rival, Veneering – something that was hinted at in the previous book but never really acknowledged. But despite this, she remains loyal to her husband whom she has promised she will never leave, because all his life those he loves have left him. Their marriage seems quite cold, but when we learn that Eddie has nightmares all his life about a man he condemned to death, he somehow becomes a kinder, more human character.

Betty's childhood was harsh, much of it being spent in a Japanese internment camp, which was where her parents died. Subsequently she worked in a top secret role at

Bletchley Park – I can't quite understand the timing of this and can only think that she worked at Bletchley Park after the war.

There's also lots about Albert Ross, now a very successful solicitor, whom Eddie met on the fateful voyage to Singapore that is detailed in the previous book.

I thoroughly enjoyed this excellent book and literally couldn't put it down. I read it in 2 days, something that I usually only manage if we are on holiday.

Last Friends – Jane Gardam (2013)

This is the third book in the *Old Filth* trilogy, and while I didn't find it quite as gripping as the other two books, I still enjoyed it very much indeed.

It starts with Eddie Feathers' memorial service and events after his death, some of which are new to the reader because they are told from the point of view of Dulcie, widow of Betty's godfather, the late Judge 'Pastry Willy', who lives in the same Dorset village as did Feathers and Veneering. In this book we learn a great deal about Veneering's background and childhood, as well as about Dulcie, and Fiscal-Smith. All of which is very enlightening and full of surprises.

This is a book that is both happy and sad, about enduring love and friendship, and about loneliness, getting old, and death.

I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed this series. I have become so involved with the characters that I am going to miss every one of them. It's a series that I think I will read over and over again, and the books will certainly stay with me for a long time to come.

Catriona Hunter

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MUSIC NOTES

Bayle Music presents a fascinating and varied programme to keep you entertained this autumn.

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Saturday 27 September

'From Vienna to the New World', a programme of piano duets – Marianne Kelly and Heather Sargeson, four hands at one piano. Music by Copland, Mozart, Barber, Schubert and Gershwin.

Saturday 18 October

The Tamesis String Quartet with music by Purcell (arr. Britten), Haydn and Mendelssohn.

Saturday 15 November

'Ode to Joyce' performed by Cheryl Knight. Originally conceived for Joyce Grenfell's centenary, this presentation recreates the setting of one of Joyce's ever-popular stage shows.

Saturday 20 December

Grand Mansion Voices with Alex Rider (harp)

The programme will include seasonal works culminating in Benjamin Britten's evergreen 'Ceremony of Carols'.

Admission remains at £15 with under-21-year-olds admitted free.

This season, we are offering a combined ticket for these four concerts for just £50 – a saving of £10. Also, if you are not able to attend a particular concert, you can transfer your ticket to a friend.

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Individual concert tickets can be purchased in advance at this website:

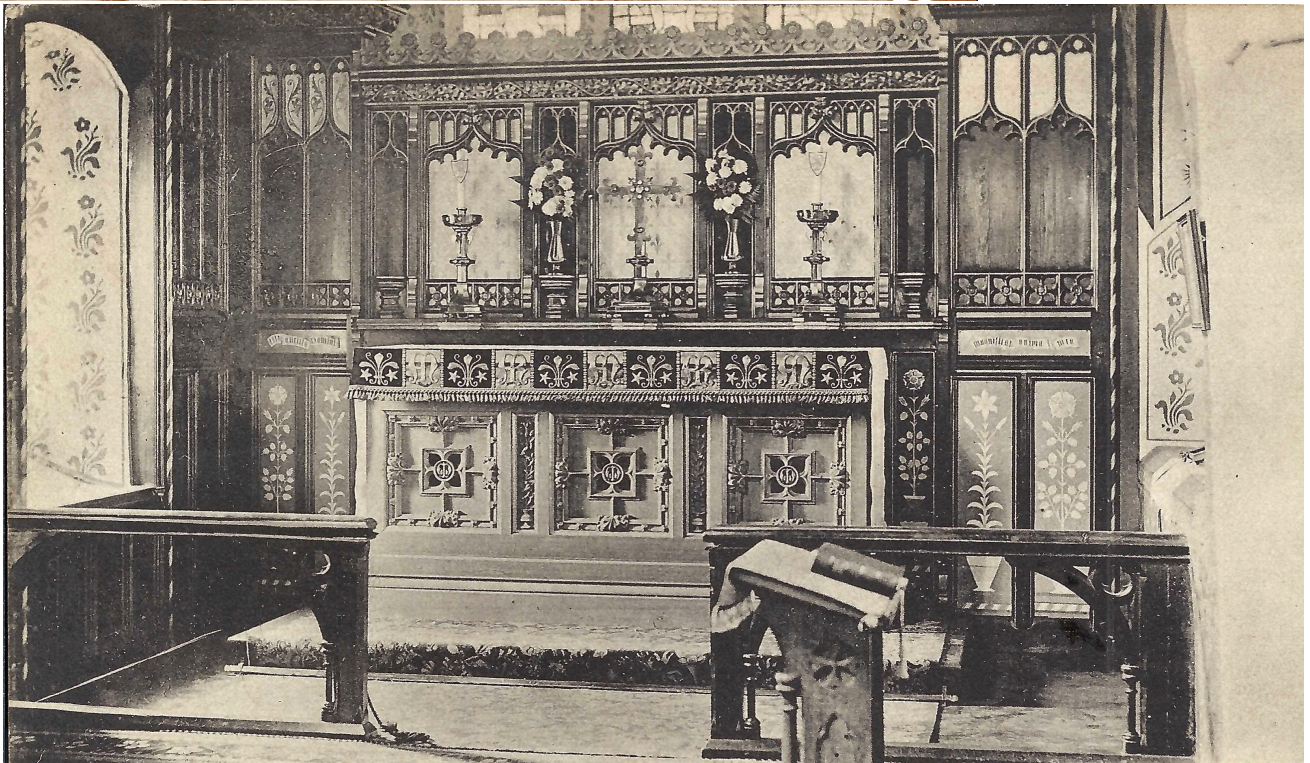
www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk - follow the Bayle Music link.

A Window into the Past

We are indebted once again, to Robert Mouland for these two photographs of the church as it was many years ago.



This is the view from Church Street showing the Calvary, bearing the names of those from the parish who gave their lives during World War I, and the churchyard with trees which now have grown to such a size so as to obscure much of the view of the church.



This photograph, from a greetings card postmarked September 1913, shows our Lady Chapel as Woodward developed it. The fine altar and reredos are of beautifully gilded wood. The chapel was restored in 1934 and five years later the magnificent carved and gilded reredos, which we now see, was installed. The original wooden altar and reredos were given to the Royal Victoria Hospital for the chapel there. However in the 1980s that chapel was closed and the altar and reredos returned to church. You might recognise the altar, which – now mounted on wheels – is that which we use Sunday by Sunday at our Parish Eucharist. The reredos can be seen at the west wall of the South Transept.

“Any old Iron...!”

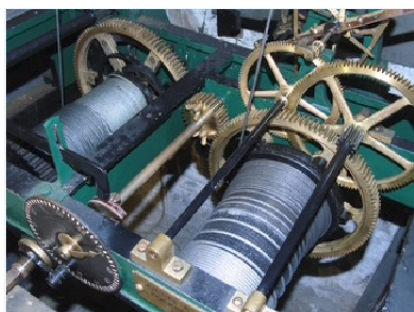


For years it has stood in the corner of the Harvey Aisle, a rusty heap of iron on a wooden frame, returned by the town's museum because they no longer had the room to keep it. More likely, they were glad to get rid of it because it was just as untidy there. Many in the church have expressed the same kind of sentiment since.

However, on Friday 19th September, as part of the “Heritage Open Days” scheme set up by the Council of Europe in 1985, Terry Begent gave a talk on the clock, in the church, to

the small group of people who had booked a place at the event.

The Attwood clock, named after the first clock-maker known to have worked on it in 1540, is in fact one of the most important in the country. Installed somewhere around 1400, it gave continuous service for 537 years before it was replaced by the Ocle clock in 1938, making it a contender for the oldest working clock in its original location.



The clock would have cost about £15 to install (that's £14,403.28 today) which is likely to have been paid for by the town council since the church/priory were too poverty-stricken in those days. That lack of money is why the clock was modified to keep up with the changes with horological science that have taken place over the years, instead of being replaced as other, richer churches did.

That's why William Attwood, got involved. In 1540 he was summoned to Folkestone from Sussex and spent three weeks working in a local smithy to add a single hour hand to the clock. These were usually in the form of a carved hand with a pointing finger, which is why all subsequent clock indicators continue to be called “hands”.

Until then, the clock had been just a “ringer”, with an attached bell that used to ring the changes in the “town watch”. There was no point in having hands, even if the technology had existed, since the common man couldn't read, let alone tell the time.

Attwood moved the clock from the corner of the tower to the North Wall and ran the rod that turned the hands through an existing window in the tower (still there). The rest, as they say, is history, and that history, as well as an explanation of how the clock worked, was the subject of the talk. As a finale, for the first time in nearly a hundred years, the clock was fitted with a weight and started. It worked, albeit briefly, but it actually ran.

St Eanswythe Festival 2025 – 7–14 September

This year we had a week-long celebration for St Eanswythe. We have organised a varied programme of events involving our local community.

We began on Sunday 7 September with a special service for St Mary, who of course is also our patronal saint.

On Tuesday 9th the Friends of St Eanswythe held their Annual General Meeting in the church. This was well attended, we had drinks and nibbles, Dan & Pam Keeling updated us on the Friends' fundraising for our beautiful church and Dr Andrew Richardson (who we think of as 'our' archaeologist) gave a fascinating talk on the Kentish royal family and reiterated the exciting Anglo-Saxon history we have in our area. We said a very sad goodbye to Judy Doherty who has organised and led our Welcoming Team and been involved in the telling of the church's history for several years. Judy is now moving to Shropshire with her husband Chris. We wish them a very happy life in the hills they love.

On Wednesday Fr. Chris and I accompanied Andrew Richardson to St Eanswythe's school where he talked to Years 3,4,5 and 6 about St Eanswythe and her life here. The children are very familiar with the history of St Eanswythe and were able to answer many questions. They particularly loved seeing and being able to handle pieces of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a brooch and shield badge.



On Thursday our preparations for Saturday's Fete began and we set up tables, unpacked boxes of lots of generously donated items and started to feel slightly ready.

We continued on Friday and some of our stall-holders came to set up also. We had a plant stall for the first time and a very well-organised book stall. We were as ready as we could be!

Having constantly checked the weather forecast it was not surprising to wake on Saturday to heavy rain! After 6 Festival years this was the first wet one and our plans for being outside for some activities were thwarted. But of course, we had Plan B. We had so much food to put out the tables were laden and looked wonderful and inviting on such a dull morning.

And the rain hadn't put anyone off – thanks to a heavy invasion of social media we had a steady stream of visitors all day. They could enjoy coffee/tea and homemade cake/savoury goodies and beer while they perused the books, plants, bric a brac, ceramics, guessed how many cherries there were in a beautiful Christmas cake and of course buy beautiful hand-crafted items from the stalls. Even turn water into wine! And most importantly, also view the beautiful Reliquary containing St Eanswythe's relics placed on the altar.



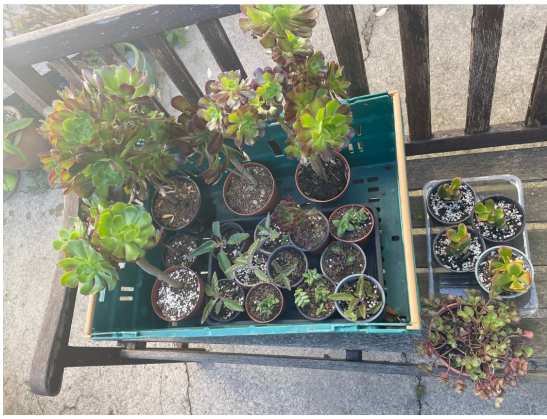
We listened to music from local musicians while taking the opportunity to try a tasty snack before we drew the Raffle prizes and also awarded the prizes to the winners of our very special (and difficult) quiz

And then, to round off the day we had the Dog Show which was great fun. We had 8 entries, all very well behaved even in the final category in which dogs and owners had to eat a sausage as fast as they could to win!



And so, although the day had dawned wet and gloomy we had the best Festival we have ever had and

everyone really enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful team event and my grateful thanks go to **everyone** who helped in so many different ways.



As a final celebration on Sunday we had services in the Chancel so that we could view and be closer to St Eanswythe's Reliquary. In the morning, a special Eucharist for St Eanswythe and in the afternoon, Choral Evensong, with a choir of 17 singing beautifully chosen arrangements of the Stanford in C Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. A huge thank you to the choir and Organist for a very special service.

I think we can agree we have paid a fitting tribute over the week to our dear St Eanswythe and very importantly, made people aware of the important part she plays in our community.

Huge thanks again to **everyone** who has helped to make our tribute such a success.

Jenny Coleman

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THE SEALED CRYPT THAT WE DO NOT TALK ABOUT

Sermon for the Feast of St Eanswythe

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-62.5, Luke 12:32-37 & 1 John 2:15-17 Theme:
“Where Your Treasure Is”

On Sunday 14th September, we celebrated the Feast of St Eanswythe, a woman whose life, though quiet and contemplative, still speaks with power across the centuries. She lived in the 7th century, in a time when Christianity was still young in these lands. And yet, her witness - rooted in prayer, simplicity, and devotion - offers us a striking model of what it means to live with our lamps lit, our hearts set on heaven, and our treasure stored in the eternal.

Our Gospel reading began with a gentle, almost whispered reassurance: *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* What a beautiful promise. Not a kingdom earned by merit or seized by force, but one given freely - out of divine delight. This is the heart of the Gospel: that God longs to share His life with us, to draw us into His joy, to make us heirs of a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

And yet, this promise comes with a challenge. Jesus continues: *“Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven.”* In other words, live lightly. Let go of what cannot last. Invest in what endures.

This is where the reading from 1 John deepens the conversation. *“Do not love the world or the things in the world,”* John writes. *“The desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches - these do not come from the Father.”* It’s not that the world is evil in itself. Creation is good. Beauty is good. But when our hearts cling to what is passing, we lose sight of what is eternal. The world and its desires are fading. Only those who do the will of God, John reminds us, *“live forever.”*

St Eanswythe understood this. Born into royalty, she could have had wealth, status, and influence. But she chose a different path. She founded a monastic community here in Folkestone - one of the earliest in England - and gave herself to a life of prayer, study, and service. She did not love the world or the things in the world. She loved Christ. And in doing so, she found a treasure that moth and rust could not destroy.

Her life was a living sermon. She made purses that did not wear out. She stored up treasure in heaven. And she lived with her lamp lit, waiting for the Master to return.

Let’s pause here and reflect on that image. Jesus says, *“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet.”* This is not passive waiting. It’s active, alert, expectant. It’s the posture of someone who knows that the kingdom is near, and who wants to be ready when it breaks in.

And then comes the astonishing twist: *“Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.”* The master becomes the servant. The Lord of the feast waits on His people. This is the upside-down kingdom of God, where greatness is found in humility, and glory is revealed in service.

St Eanswythe lived in this upside-down kingdom. Though noble by birth, she became a servant of Christ. Though she could have ruled, she chose instead to kneel and to serve. Her monastery cared for the poor, the sick, the hungry. Her life was not cloistered in isolation but rooted in compassion. She gave alms - not just in bread or coin, but in time, in presence, in love.

And now we turn to Isaiah, whose words lift our eyes to the joy and beauty of God's redeeming work. *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation."* This is the language of celebration, of transformation. The prophet speaks of righteousness springing up like shoots from the earth, of vindication shining like the dawn, of salvation blazing like a torch.

Isaiah's vision is not just personal - it's communal. *"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent... The nations shall see your vindication... You shall be called by a new name... You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord."* This is a promise of restoration, of identity, of divine delight.

And here, again, we find resonance with Eanswythe's life. She was clothed not in royal robes, but in the garments of salvation. She adorned herself not with jewels, but with holiness. She bore a new name - not princess, but servant of Christ. And in her, righteousness and praise sprang up before the nations.

Isaiah speaks of a land once called Forsaken, now called *"My Delight Is in Her."* What a beautiful reversal. And perhaps this is the name God speaks over each of us when we turn to Him - not forgotten, not desolate, but delighted in. Married to the divine. Rejoiced over by our Creator.

And so we ask ourselves: *Where is our treasure?* What are we storing up - not in bank accounts or accolades, but in the quiet places of the heart? Are we dressed for action? Are our lamps lit?

The readings for St Eanswythe's Day invite us to examine our attachments. What do we love? What do we desire? What do we pride ourselves in? Is it the fleeting things of the world, or the enduring things of God?

We're not being asked to reject worldly comforts or live a harsh, minimalist life just to prove a point or just because simplicity is virtuous. It's a call to freedom. When we let go of what cannot last, we are free to receive what cannot be lost. When we stop chasing after the world's approval, we are free to rest in the Father's delight.

And this freedom is not just for saints in monasteries. It's for all of us. Whether we live in Folkestone or far beyond, whether we are young or old, busy or retired, busy *AND* retired - each of us is invited to live with our lamps lit, our hearts set on heaven, and our hands open in generosity.

St Eanswythe's life reminds us that holiness is not about grand gestures. It's about daily faithfulness. Quiet devotion. Steady love. She did not seek fame, and yet her name endures. She did not seek power, and yet her witness still shapes this community.

And perhaps that's the final lesson for today: that the world and its desires are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever. Not just in the sense of eternal life, but in the sense that their lives echo beyond their own time. Their faith becomes a seed that bears fruit in generations to come.

So let us honour St Eanswythe not just with words, but with lives that reflect her example. Let us live lightly, love deeply, and wait expectantly. Let us make purses that do not wear out. Let us store up treasure in heaven. And when the Master comes, may He find us ready - our lamps lit, our hearts open, our hands full of grace.

Amen.

*Sermon preached by Vicky Friedrich on the Festival of St Eanswythe,
Sunday 14th September 2025*

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

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

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