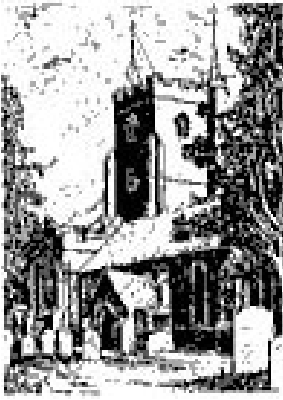


# RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 52 No, 12    **December 2025**    **£1.20**



## Who's Who in the Parish

### Clergy

Priest-in-Charge Rev Christopher Johnson

07931 804952

vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com

## St Mary & St Eanswythe's

Parish Administrator Santa Vessey Office Hours Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 01303 252947  
email: [sainteanswythe@gmail.com](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com)

Churchwardens Tom Bertram, 07748 434341 01303 890986  
Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road 07860 175123 01303 241124

PCC Hon. Secretary Santa Vessey 01303 252947  
email: [sainteanswythe@gmail.com](mailto: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  
please contact the Parish Office (01303 252947)

Electoral Roll Santa Vessey 01303 252947

Organist and Choir Director *vacant*

Children's Church Clare Tomlinson 07751 423796

Safeguarding Lead Tom Bertram 07748 434341 01303 890986

Safeguarding Officer Caroline Hayward [cazrolinehayward@gmail.com](mailto:cazrolinehayward@gmail.com) 07876 358918

Church Day Schools St Mary's, Warren Road Head Teacher - Richard Paez 251390

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

Church Flowers Jan Clarke and Jenny Coleman

Church Welcomers Pam Keeling [tpdkeel@aol.com](mailto:tpdkeel@aol.com)

Bell Ringers Mike Godfrey, 6 Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 242159

Rendezvous Advertising Paul Furminger, 37 Dymchurch Road, Hythe 01303 265547  
(e-mail: [epmfurminger@btinternet.com](mailto:epmfurminger@btinternet.com))

Rendezvous Assembler Andrew Plested (e-mail: [andrew\\_plested@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk)) 01303 241124

Rendezvous Distribution Catriona Hunter (e-mail: [trina@monrepos.org](mailto:trina@monrepos.org)) 01303 248006

## St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Santa Vessey 01303 252947  
email: [sainteanswythe@gmail.com](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com)

*Front Cover: Nativity*

**Deadline for the next Rendezvous Edition: 20th of the month, but December 10th for the January edition. Please submit articles in 16 point text - this shows you how much fits on a page once it is reduced for printing.**

**Please contact Andrew Plested as above**

# CALENDAR

## Services and Events in December 2025

Thu	4	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Fri	5	15:00	Sound Emergence event
Sat	6	11:00	Ukrainian Hospitality
Sun	7	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Mon	8	8:30	St Eanswythe's School Stay and Play
Tue	9	8:30	Collective Worship
		10:30	Year 6 Mayor's Carol Service
Thu	11	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
		18:00	Creative Quarter Carol Service
Fri	12	19:00	Yesterday's Flowers concert
Sat	13	19:00	Folkestone A Cappella Christmas Concert
Sun	14	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
Wed	17	18:00	St Eanswythe School Exhibition
Thu	18	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Fri	19	14:00	St Eanswythe's School Service
Sun	21	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		16:00	Nine Lessons and Carols
Wed	24	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
		16:00	Crib Service
		23:30	Midnight Mass
Thu	25	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Sun	28	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST



## January 2026

Thu	1	10:30	Holy Communion
Sat	3	12:00	The Rainbow Centre Walk of Kings - <i>see pages 26,27</i>
Sun	4	<b>Epiphany Sunday</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	8	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	11	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church



### 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](http://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 2026?

We will announce subscription rates for 2026 in the January issue

### 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](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com)

01303 252947

The **Woodward Hall** is available for hire  
for Wedding Receptions, Family Parties, Club Meetings etc.

Details from Tracy Arnold at St Eanswythe's School on 01303 255516 during school hours





## Priest's Letter From Father Chris



I'm not necessarily renowned for my patience – being chief of staff to a beagle sets life at a certain pace and any slackness in meeting demands in a timely manner is greeted with a chorus of disapproving howls. Sister Jemima-Mildred often takes Psalm 59 verse 15 a little too literally for my tastes. But, four-pawed taskmasters aside, I'm generally someone who likes to get on with things and complete tasks in a timely manner. It's a continued work in progress to sit back and savour things more.

In theory, December is a time of waiting and of preparation. The season of Advent calls us to 'stay awake' and 'be prepared' for the arrival of Jesus. It's also one of those seasons where we are invited to shine a light into dark places and allow God to do the same with us and our lives; that light being the light of Christ.

In reality, Advent is undoubtedly a time of preparation and one where we find we stay awake but rather than pondering God's presence with us, it can be because of a slight panic as to whether we've remembered to post something in time or if we've got the particular thing that so-and-so likes for lunch etc.

It's not uncommon for vicars to get 'grumpy' about the loss of Advent as a season of preparation and recollection – not just of the first coming of Jesus but also of his second coming at the end of time. Sometimes vicars just like an excuse to be grumpy but there's probably something else underlying it.

The celebration of Christmas is wonderful and a great joy (hopefully!) but let's make sure that the trappings and the tinsel don't obscure the real power of this time of year - the reminder that God became one of us in the person of Jesus and will return one day at the end of time to be our judge. Those things have profound consequences that will long outlast the last pine needle on the tree and the sigh of relief at getting everything back in the loft again. As we move through December, can you take some time to ponder those deeper implications a bit? And check out the Christmas services page so we can celebrate this great festival together!

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas (when it arrives!),

**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>

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025



9 Lessons and Carols by  
Candlelight

4pm Sunday 21st

Crib Service  
(Come dressed as your  
favourite nativity character!)

4pm Wednesday 24th

Midnight Mass

11.30pm Wednesday 24th

Christmas Day Eucharist

10.30am Thursday 25th



# Children's Church! @



## What's it all about?

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
CHRISTINGLE!



**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
BEGINNINGS!



**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
THE LITTLE THINGS!



**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
LIVING WATER



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)





## **It's All About BEING ALIVE!**

**We are trusting Jesus, all his words are true!**

In Children's Church we talked about Jesus' promise of life with him in heaven after our bodies have worn out and we die. We also remembered those people who have known the promises of Jesus and have given their lives to defend our country. To help us remember them, we spent some time in silence, and we made poppies!



We even made a  
– it was placed in  
the Railton memorial  
able to see it.



wreath of poppies  
church. next to  
so you will be

Thank you for joining in with our song – here are the words for you to sing at home.

*We are trusting Jesus, all his words are true.  
He's living and he loves us, me and you.  
Jesus is our sunshine; he holds us in our pain.  
He gives us new life as he's alive again!*

Clare Tomlinson

Next time:

**St Mary and St Eanswythe's  
Children's Church**

**NEXT TIME -----**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

***It's all about***  
**CHRISTINGLE**



**Hope you can come!**  
**Bring a friend!**

# THE FRIENDS SIPS AND SAINTS EVENING

On the evening of All Saints Day, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November the Friends held a wine tasting session with a difference. Our wine tasting expert was a wonderful young lady called Mary Lehner who is in fact the wine buyer for Keppel's Bar.

Mary served a variety of more unusual wines, three white and three red from various countries. We all attempted to discern the various flavours and aromas involved and decided which we preferred. Mary then told us about the wines and how much they cost per bottle.

During a break between the two groups of wine whilst everyone was enjoying the incredible spread of cheeses, breads and fruits Mary had provided, Ian Gordon gave a talk entitled 10 Saints in 10 minutes.

Appropriate for the day, all Saints were based upon links to Kent. Ian started by saying –

**What's a Saint? Cardinal Newman said that**

**Every saint has a past and every sinner a future.**

*No one is so good that he hasn't failed at some point, and no one is so bad that he cannot be saved.*

All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the church, as a whole, has seen the grace of God powerfully at work.

The evening was a huge success and many people have asked if we could have another wine tasting session – Dan and I think that it is a definite possibility but during summer months as the refreshment area was decidedly chilly. Certainly, the first time that I have truly got to grips with cupping a glass of red wine to warm it up!

The pictures are of Mary Lehner and the wonderful array of food and some of the people attending.



*Pam*





# Sunday and Red Letter Eucharist Gospels

*Note: for the Church Year Advent 2025 - Eve of Advent 2026, the Sunday Eucharist gospel reading is taken from that of Matthew with John's gospel featuring on notable feast days.*

*These notes are from 'Following the Gospel Through the Year' by Fr Raymond Chapman, a non-stipendiary priest in the diocese of Southwark, Emeritus Professor of English in the University of London and a Vice-Chairman of the Prayer Book Society. He died in 2013.*

Sunday 7 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent: **Matthew 3.1-12**

*John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness.*

We do well sometimes to withdraw from the comforts and activities of daily life, and find time for quiet reflection. Even a few minutes waiting in stillness upon God can give much strength.

Sunday 14 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent: **Matthew 11.2-11**

*'Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?'*

God works quietly but with complete constancy. When doubts and anxiety come close, we remember how his promises have been fulfilled in all ages.

Sunday 21 December - 4th Sunday of Advent: **Matthew 1.18-25**

*'You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'*

The Bible tells of many battles and conflicts, some hard to reconcile with the divine call to love. But Christ's conquest of evil is our assurance that we need fear no assaults upon the soul.

Sunday 28 December – Holy Innocents: **Matthew 2.13-18**

*'When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated and sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under.'*

All through history, suffering has come to the innocent as much as to those who have done no wrong. Only faith in the ultimate power of love can support us in this terrible mystery.

## Red Letter Days

**Monday 1 December – Andrew the Apostle: Matthew 4.18-22**

**Monday 8 December – Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
Luke 5.17-26**





**Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day: John 1.1-14**

*‘The word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father’s only son, full of grace and truth.’*

God, who is beyond understanding, is revealed in Jesus Christ. All that we can know, or need to know in this world, of divinity is made known to us in the record of his humanity.



**Friday 26 December – Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr:  
Matthew 10.17-22**

---

**Waiting in Worship – an Advent prayer**

Lord we pray for your church that throughout our Advent journey we may be filled with expectation, and glorify you in the beauty of our worship, the depth of our prayer and the devotion of our service.

God of gods  
whom saints and angels worship and adore,  
as we prepare our hearts for your Son’s coming  
renew our spirits with the joy of your hope,  
that reaching out to you in our waiting,  
and praising you in our worship,  
we may come to know more deeply the mystery of Christ  
and the fullness of your divine compassion in our world  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Collects for the Church and the World  
Rev M. J. Kramer  
Chaplain Keble College Oxford*

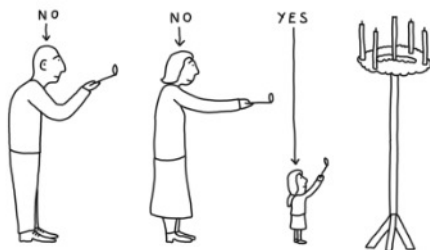


# Dates For Your Diary

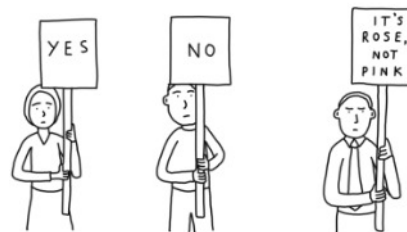
*Some forthcoming events in our church calendar. Please put these in your diary*

Saturday, 18 October – Sunday 29 March	Closed Mondays	What Remains? Exhibition at The Beaney, in Canterbury. <i>St Eanswythe's original lead reliquary is included in the display.</i>
Thursday, 11 December	6 p.m.	Creative Quarter Carol Service
Friday, 12 December	7 p.m.	An evening with Yesterday's Flowers and Friends
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 a.m.	Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
Saturday, 3 January 2026	Lunchtime	Hosting the Walk of Kings
Thursday, 14 May – Sunday, 17 May 2026		Sacconi Quartet Chamber Music Festival

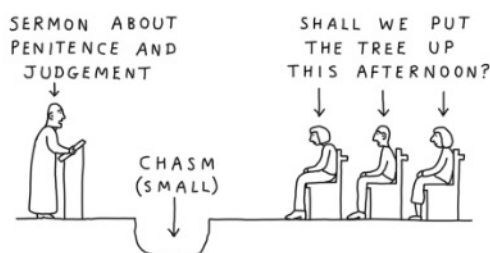
## ADVENT CONTROVERSIES



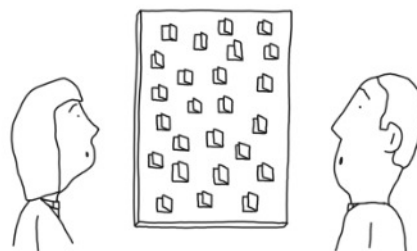
WHO WILL LIGHT THE CANDLES  
ON THE ADVENT WREATH?



SHOULD THE WREATH HAVE  
ONE PINK CANDLE?



WHETHER TO PREACH ON  
CHALLENGING ADVENT THEMES



WHO COULD HAVE EATEN THE  
VESTRY ADVENT CALENDAR CHOCOLATES?

I A I N . S

# Radford Electrical

C O N T R A C T O R S



**NICEIC**  
APPROVED  
CONTRACTOR

Solar PV & Battery Installs • Landlord Certificates - EICR  
EV Charging Points - OZEV Approved  
Domestic • Commercial • Industrial



**ECA**  
Confederation in Electrotechnical  
& Engineering Services

WWW.RADFORDELECTRICAL.CO.UK • 07775 871805

## **RICHARD AMOS**

**18 The High Street  
Hythe**

Antiques and Architectural Salvage  
Items Bought and Sold  
**Telephone 01303 221050**  
**Mobile 07785 594384**

**HOUSE CLEARANCE**  
Complete houses cleared  
or single items purchased

also  
**RUBBISH CLEARANCE**  
Houses - Lofts - Garages -  
Sheds  
Garden Waste Cleared

7 Audley Road,  
Folkestone  
Kent CT20 3QA

## **News from St Eanswythe' School**

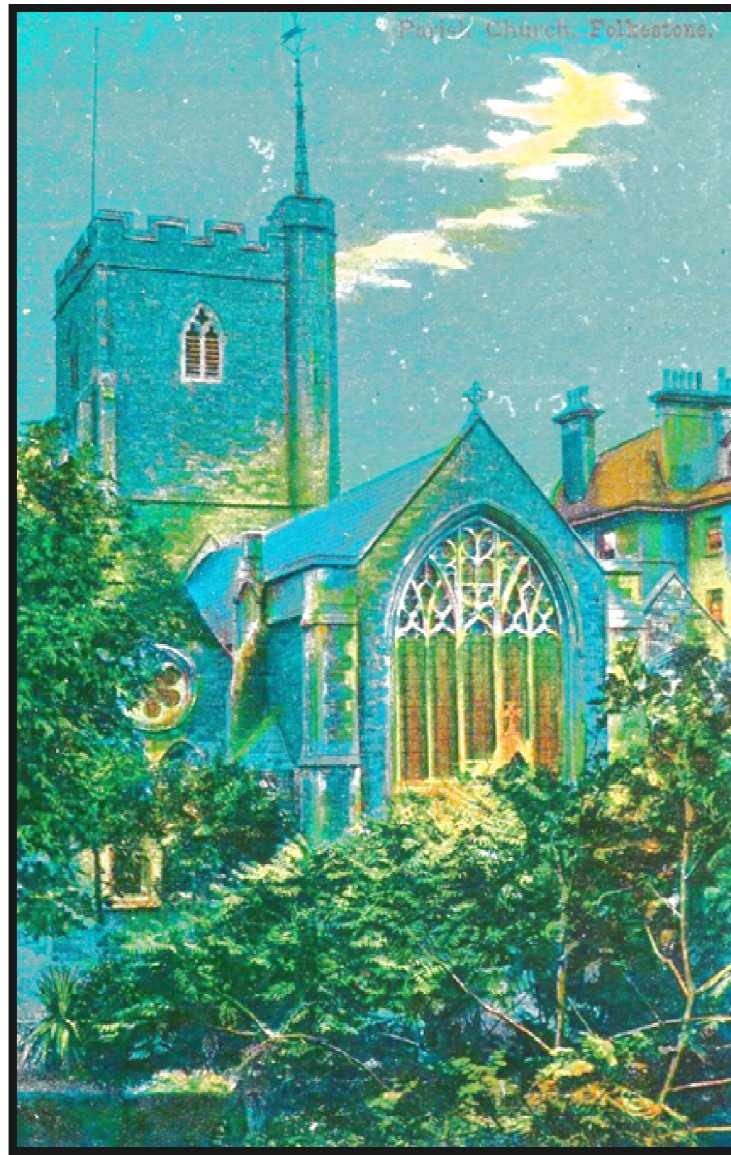
Greetings from St Eanswythe's School

We have all returned from our half term break, refreshed and ready for the fun and mayhem which is the lead up to Christmas..

We have lots to look forward to, plays and Nativities, pantomime, visit to the cinema, Christmas lunch and parties as well as our Christmas Fair. We had our termly school Mass on Wednesday, and was nice to see a couple of parents there, all are welcome at the next School Mass next term. In amongst all this fun and celebration, we remember the true meaning of Christmas, when God sent his only Son Jesus, to be born in a lowly stable amongst the animals, to go to preach God's message of love and forgiveness to us all.

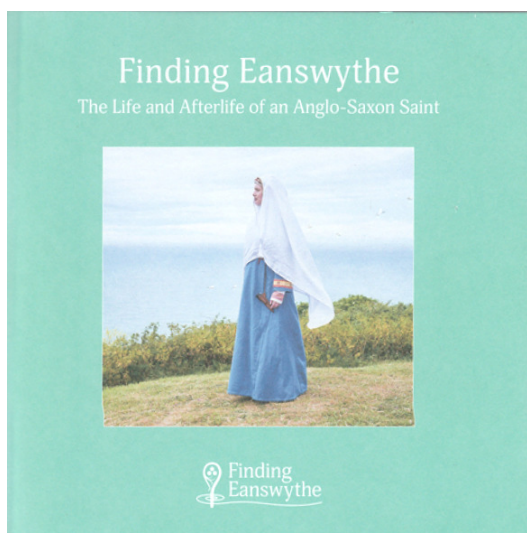
We wish you a Holy, Happy Christmas from us all at St Eanswythe's

*Kim*



*Our church at night from a postcard printed in Germany.*

## 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**.



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



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

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](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com)

## How well do you know our church?

Last month we were asked to find a memorial to a mother of two daughters and seven sons one of whom grew up to be a world-class 17th century scientist. Well, the mother was Joan Harvey, who died in 1605. Her memorial is to be found in an engraved brass plaque mounted on the wall by the door to the Vestry. This is believed to be a copy of her gravestone – the words *‘Whose soul rests in Heaven her body in this grave’*. Standing by this plaque and looking to the west we can see the glorious Harvey Window filling the west wall of the nave installed in memory of her son, William.

This month’s challenge is to find the piece of furniture in our church that was made from the belfry beams when the new set of bells and framework was installed in 1879. Good hunting!



# The Canterbury Auction Galleries

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1911

*Auctioneers of the rare, the collectible and the exceptional*



## 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

## Have something to sell?

From watches, jewellery, cameras, art and antiques to 20th Century collectibles, The Canterbury Auction Galleries has a strong track record in achieving worldwide saleroom prices.

**Contact us today for a free valuation**

Telephone **01227 763337** Email [general@tcag.co.uk](mailto:general@tcag.co.uk) Visit [thecanterburyauctiongalleries.com](http://thecanterburyauctiongalleries.com)

# Commemoration

*This new series of Commemorations is drawn from a splendid, comprehensive book 'Prayers for Saints' by Rupert Bristow, Canterbury Diocesan Director of Education 1995-2008 and Reader in the Holy Trinity Benefice here in Folkestone. He died in 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer.*

## **John of the Cross** **poet, teacher of the faith, priest** **14 December**

Born at Fontibere near Avila, into an impoverished noble family, Juan de Yepes was brought up by his widowed mother and went to study at the college of Jesuits. At 21 he joined the Carmelite Friars in Madeira, studied theology at Salamanca and was ordained priest in 1567. Invited to reform the Carmelite house of Duruelo by Teresa of Avila, he laboured against great opposition and was eventually confined in Toledo, where he was inspired to write some of his spiritual poetry, including *The Dark Night of the Soul*. Escaping after nine months, he acted as superior in various houses, taking the moderate line in disputes within the order and continuing his writing, before once again being banished, to Andalusia in Spain, where he died.



*'Silence is God's  
first language'*

### **Collect**

Lord, you endowed St John of the Cross  
with a spirit of self-denial and love of the Cross.  
By following his example  
may we come to the eternal vision of your glory.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

---

## **From the Parish Registers**

**Baptism** *We welcome into the Lord's family*  
**November** Dottie Kennedy

**Funeral** *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*  
**November** George Eustace Renwick





# SUPPORTING ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE'S CHURCH FINANCIALLY

Our church life costs approximately **£1500 a week** to run (not including special projects like Eanswythe Found or major building repairs).

## BECOME A REGULAR DONOR

If you're tech-minded, there's this QR code or the website:  
[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://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.

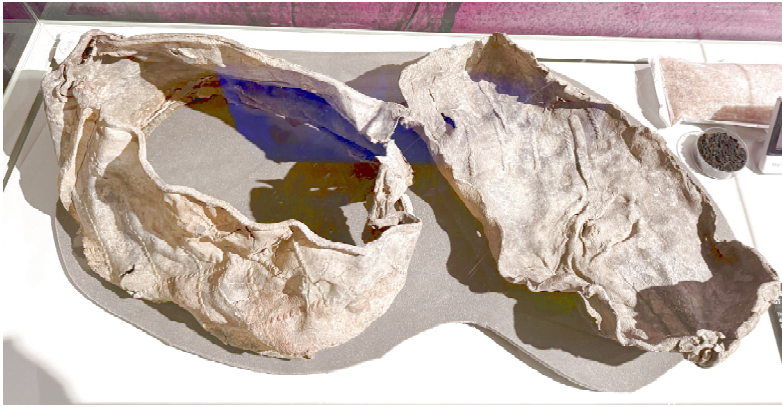
## COULD YOU REMEMBER ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE'S CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your generosity could have a massive impact on future ministry here – even whilst you're rejoicing on another shore! Get in touch with the Parish Office for more information or to discuss it further.



# St Eanswythe's Lead Reliquary at The Beaney

It felt very special indeed to visit the temporary exhibition at The Beaney in Canterbury, where the original lead reliquary that held St Eanswythe until 2020 is currently on display.



I found it really quite beautiful in its own way, with a simple decorative pattern, but very distorted (probably crushed from its round/oval shape to hide it in the wall during the Reformation), and far larger than I imagined in comparison with the new reliquary.

The lead reliquary was discovered hidden in the north wall of the chancel in June 1885. It is believed likely that it was made from lead panels from a Roman coffin and reconfigured during Anglo-Saxon times. The photos show the reliquary with the lid removed, and a contemporary drawing of it in 1885.



We spent a long time looking at it and watching the film *Three Days* in January about the examination of the bones by the archaeological team in 2020. You can view the 16 minute film on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHX-PGgi6oM>

As you know, since 2024 St Eanswythe's relics have been held in a new, specially commissioned reliquary in our church as the lead one was damaging the bones.



I would encourage you to visit the exhibition if you can: *What Remains? An exhibition about Canterbury's ancestors, ethics, history and science* in the Special Exhibitions Room at The Beaney, Canterbury until 29 March 2026. Closed Mondays.

*Catriona Hunter*





## **Bookworm: What Catriona Has Been Reading**

### **The Rose Code – Kate Quinn (2021)**

This was a wonderful book about three very different young women (and many more people) working on the top secret codebreaking work at Bletchley Park during WW2.

The main characters are Osla – upper class socialite whose boyfriend is none other than Prince Philip; Mab, who is 6 foot tall and from the east end of London; and Beth – initially quiet as a mouse and under the thumb of her domineering and spiteful mother. Osla works on translations as she speaks German, Mab starts off typing but then moves onto the hot and sweaty work with the bombs (code breaking machines) for which her height makes her ideal, and Beth turns out to be one of Bletchley Park's best codebreakers.

We follow the ups and downs in their friendship and romances, life at Bletchley Park, the progress of the war, and the terror and frustration of one of them who has been committed to an asylum. There is also the discovery that there was a traitor in their midst. Some of it is heartbreaking, but it is also very exciting. The author's note at the end tells how the characters are based on real people and it becomes clear just how well researched this book is.

For me this was 600+ pages of joyous reading about a subject that fascinates me. I've only given you a very sketchy idea of the storyline because otherwise there would be loads of spoilers. But it's a book I wanted to go on for ever and I can't recommend it enough.

### **A Good Man in Africa – William Boyd (1981)**

In my opinion William Boyd is at his best when he is writing about Africa (as in this book) and thrillers. This is his first novel, published in 1981; it won the Whitbread First Novel Award, and rightly so. It's brilliant!

Morgan Leafy, is First Secretary at the British High Commission in the West African state of Kinjanja. This is a third, or even fourth, rate posting for diplomats, and he's not terribly good at his job. He gets into a lot of scrapes, giving the reader plenty to laugh at. It's really rather a humorous book.

Despite being portrayed as being unattractive and decidedly overweight, Morgan is surprisingly popular with women, and remarkably promiscuous, but something always goes wrong with his relationships, and none of his choices of partner are very wise.

There is plenty about the complexities of African politics and corruption, and the effect on the lives of the British diplomats and other ex-pats. There is also the impact of superstition and beliefs, which give our hopeless hero the problem of removing the dead body of a servant before the arrival of the Duchess of Ripon (the nearest thing they get to a Royal visit).

This is a wonderfully enjoyable book, which has reminded me that I must get on and read the rest of Boyd's earlier work. I adored this book and I'm sure you will too.

*Catriona Hunter*



# NINE LESSONS

LEARNED AT THE CAROL SERVICE

①



YOU WILL NEED TO GET THERE EARLY IF YOU WANT A GOOD SEAT

②



PARKING SPACES WILL BE HARD TO COME BY

③



THE WORLDWIDE CANDLE SHORTAGE HAS NOT KICKED IN YET

④



THE SERVICE SHEET LOOKS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S

⑤



CAROLS WORK BEST WHEN EVERYONE HAS THE SAME WORDS

⑥



OASIS IS FLAMMABLE SO IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PUT CANDLES IN IT

⑦



SMALL CHILDREN DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY LISTENING TO NINE READINGS

⑧



PARENTS DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY RESTRAINING THEIR CHILDREN DURING NINE READINGS

⑨



YOU ARE HIGHLY LIKELY TO CATCH A COLD IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE ONE



Telephone  
255066

5 West Terrace  
Folkestone

## Anthony Cowie

Furnishing Fabrics  
Loose Covers  
Curtains and Blinds

*FURNISHERS OF  
BEAUTIFUL HOMES*



## David Payne Carpets

**Domestic and  
Commercial Flooring**

108 Sandgate Road  
Folkestone CT20 2BW  
01303 257306

esther@davidpaynecarpets.co.uk  
www.davidpaynecarpets.co.uk



**HAIR NOW**

**1 Church Street  
Folkestone  
Kent  
CT20 1SE**

**01303 210711  
07484 081808**

**Looking  
FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

We have a wide range of stylish  
spectacle frames and sunglasses  
from many of the top designers at  
prices to suit every budget



Celebrating over 90 years of  
professional eyecare  
122 Sandgate Road, Folkestone  
01303 254471



**J.STEED**

(Building Services) Ltd.  
www.steedbuilding.co.uk

Building and Plumbing

**Tel/FAX 01303 892488**

Unit G Forge Meadow, Hawkinge,  
Folkestone CT18 7JA

**Help!!!!**

**I'm Empty**

**To Advertise here  
see page 24**

## HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### **Rainbow Centre**

69 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2AF

**email:** enquiries@rainbow-centre.org

**Telephone:** 01303 850733

**Help Through Hardship** - to be assessed for a Shepway Foodbank Voucher and for other assistance **Telephone:** 0808 208 2138 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### **Samaritans**

**National telephone:** 116 123 (this number is free to call)

**email:** Samaritans: jo@samaritans.org

### **The Salvation Army**

Canterbury Road Folkestone CT19 5NL **Telephone:** 01303 251379

**Website:** www.salvationarmy.org.uk

**email:** folkestone@salvationarmy.org.uk

### **Cruse Bereavement Care**

**Telephone:** 0844 8009104 **email:** southkent@cruse.org.uk

**National helpline:** 0808 808 1677

If you live in postcodes CT14 to CT22 and TN23 to TN30 you are located in the South Kent Area of Cruse and we are here to support you. Don't be put off because our Area Office is located in Ashford - in the majority of cases we travel to you.

### **Age UK**

For advice on money, care or health 0800 055 6112

65 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone CT19 4NS.

**Telephone:** 01304 272499 Opening hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

### **Citizens Advice**

For advice and assistance on benefits, Universal Credit, debt, employment, housing, legal issues.

**Telephone** 01304 353861 – for a local advice and call back service.

**Telephone** 0808 278 7961 - for free Kent advice line service

**Website** www.citizensadvice.org.uk

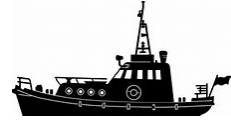
Drop ins - Thursdays only - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m, at Rainbow Centre, 1st Floor, 69 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2AF





# Wanted

Advertisers for  
Rendezvous Magazine



Advertising Rates: £40 per annum for one sixth of a page  
£60 per annum for one third of a page  
£90 per annum for one half of a page  
£180 per annum for one full page



please contact **Paul Furminger**  
**01303 265547**  
epmfurminger@btinternet.com



## NZ PLUMBING AND HEATING Ltd.



**Mark Smith**

**07810 872751**

[nzplumbingandheating@gmail.com](mailto:nzplumbingandheating@gmail.com)

# Wanted

Advertisers for  
Rendezvous Magazine

Please contact **Paul Furminger**  
e-mail: [epmfurminger@btinternet.com](mailto:epmfurminger@btinternet.com)



[www.sterryfuneral.co.uk](http://www.sterryfuneral.co.uk)

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Home visits
- Private chapel of rest
- Floral tributes
- Eco/Greenspecialists
- Prepaid funeral plans



## Sterry Funeral Service



**Hythe**

**01303 264 400**

41 High Street,  
CT21 5AD

**Folkestone**

**01303 272 525**

93 Cheriton High Street,  
CT19 4HE

Call us for immediate support, advice or to  
arrange a home visit. We are here to help  
24 hours a day.



## MUSIC NOTES

Our December Bayle Music concert takes place on **Saturday 20 December at 3 p.m. at The Grand** and is built around Benjamin Britten's '*Ceremony of Carols*' for choir and harp directed by Prof. Grenville Hancox. We are delighted to welcome back an old and much-loved friend of Bayle Music, Alexander Rider, who will take the virtuoso harp part and perform solo works on that most heavenly of instruments.



Admission remains at £15 for adults – children and full-time students free. Doors open at 2.30

We do encourage you to book your place online at the following website: [www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk](http://www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk) and follow the link to Bayle Music.

Booking online assures you of a seat and helps us manage these increasingly popular concerts.



*The Annunciation and The Nativity  
by Kempe Studios*

# What is the Walk of Kings?

In essence the Walk of Kings is a sponsored walk in aid of the Folkestone Rainbow Centre, but you can just give a donation if you prefer.

Each year a different church hosts the event and this year it's our turn.

Just like the three Kings, you can start your walk anywhere you like – from your home, a bus stop, as a round trip from the church, or from your favourite place – and you walk (or travel on a camel if you can find one) to eat and worship together. The destination is St Mary and St Eanswythe Church, and we hope that you will arrive around midday for a simple lunch of soup, and bread and cheese. There may even be a special cake! At 1245 Father Chris will lead a short service.

Of course, there's no such thing as a free lunch, but there is no set charge either. All we ask is a donation towards the cost – whatever you think it's worth.

Last year the Walk of Kings was based at Dymchurch Methodist Church. Chris and I walked for an hour along the coast from Littlestone on a beautiful, crisp, sunny morning. We really enjoyed it.

It would be immensely helpful to the organisers if you would let us know that you're going to do this, apart from anything else so that there is enough food and tables to sit at. You can book your lunch by emailing [events@rainbow-centre.org](mailto:events@rainbow-centre.org) or phoning Andrew Bragg on 01303 850733 by 20 December please. But if you make a last minute decision to join in, just let Jenny and Catriona know if you can, and come along anyway – we'll prepare some extra food just in case.

If you don't feel like walking then Jenny and Catriona would welcome some help with the setting up, so please let us know if you would like to do that.

## 12 reasons why you should join in

1. Your dog needs a good walk and will thank you.
2. Your children need to burn off some energy and will thank you.
3. You could catch up on the gossip with a friend or two.
4. You need a little walk on your own after all the hurly burly of the festive season.
5. You could burn off some of those extra calories you consumed over Christmas.
6. You can walk as far or as little as you want. It's completely up to you – the point is that you start wherever you choose and we all end up in the same place.
7. You don't have to raise sponsorship if you don't want to, you can give a donation instead.
8. The Rainbow Centre falls within our parish and you could help raise some money to help vulnerable people in and around Folkestone.
9. It will be fun!
10. Somebody needs to eat all the food!
11. What else are you going to do that day?
12. Do you really need another reason?

*Catriona Hunter*



# The Walk of Kings

A sponsored walk in aid of the Rainbow Centre

**SATURDAY 3 JANUARY 2026**

Just like the three Kings, you can start your journey from different places and arrive at the same place to eat and worship together

**Walk** with your friends, family, dog or by yourself  
**Fundraise** with sponsorship or make a donation

**Start**

from your home, church or beauty spot

**Finish at**

**St Mary & St Eanswythe Church**  
Church Street, Folkestone. CT20 1SE

**Arrive around noon** when a light lunch will be served followed by a short service at 12:45

**Book your lunch by 20 December by emailing**  
[events@rainbow-centre.org](mailto:events@rainbow-centre.org)



## The 'O Antiphons' of Advent

The "O Antiphons" are prayed for seven days in preparation for Christmas. They are based on Isaiah's prophecies and reveal the different titles given to the Messiah. Since each antiphon is short, it is helpful to spend time reading it each day, pondering it and praying it meditatively throughout the day as a way to make immediate spiritual preparation for Christmas.



### December 17

*O Sapientia* - Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

### December 18

*O Adonai* - Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty  
power!

### December 19

*O Radix Jesse* - Isaiah 1:1; 11:10

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

### December 20

*O Clavis David* - Isaiah 9:6; 22:22

O Key of David, opening the gates of  
God's eternal kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

### December 21

*O Oriens* - Isaiah 9:1

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in  
darkness and in the shadow of death.

### December 22

*O Rex Gentium* - Isaiah 9:5 2:4

O King of all nations and keystone  
of the Church: come and save man,  
whom you formed from the dust!

### December 23

*O Emmanuel* - Isaiah 7:14

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of  
Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!



## **D.E. Sutton**

Plumbing and Heating  
Systems Power Flushed  
Gas Services - Property Maintenance  
**Darrell Sutton**

Greenbanks, 304 Dover Road,  
Folkestone, Kent CT19 6NZ  
Telephone: 01303 226099  
Mobile: 07986 807676

[darrell.sutton@ntlworld.com](mailto:darrell.sutton@ntlworld.com)



## **stem by stem**

.....love flowers

Visit our lovely Victorian shop for top quality, seasonal flowers, plants and other gifts.

Flowers for funerals, christenings, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries.

Wide area covered for local deliveries.

Open six days a week 9-5  
National and international delivery service available via Interflora

**5 Church Street  
Folkestone CT20 1SE  
01303 252626**

## **OCLEE & SON**

JEWELLERS-  
OFFICIAL SERVICE AGENTS FOR



*Quality Jewellery, New and Secondhand,  
Modern Silver Jewellery, Specialist Repair Service*

35 SANDGATE ROAD, FOLKESTONE CT20 1SD

Tel: (01303) 252654

email: [contact@ocleeandson.co.uk](mailto:contact@ocleeandson.co.uk)

**You could  
Advertise  
HERE!**

**DJANGO'S**  
JAZZ CAFÉ & TERRACE



17 Rendezvous Street  
enough said





You can pay for Rendezvous and other merchandise, or make a donation by scanning this QR code.

**CHANNEL CARS**  
~~~~~

**For a prompt efficient  
service**

**Any destination**

**FOLKESTONE**

**(01303) 252 252**

## **W. J. Farrier & Son Ltd.** **Funeral Directors**

Independent Family Concern

Established 1948

24 Hour Personal Service

“Let our family help yours”

**FOLKESTONE**  
**37 Bouverie Road West**  
**01303 245500**

**DOVER**  
**161 London Road**  
**01304 201665**



**British Lion**

The Real Ale Capital  
of Folkestone

**Nick and Dee**

Welcome you to their  
Warm and friendly atmosphere  
With good beers and  
Home cooked food  
10 The Bayle, Folkestone,  
Kent CT20 1SQ  
01303 251478

**MOTIS**  
ESTATES

Sales, Lettings and Commercial Agent,  
RICS Valuation and Holiday Letting  
Services

Suites 1&2, Motis Business Centre,  
Cheriton High Street, CT19 4QJ

**Tel:** 01303 212020

**Email:** sales@motis-estates.com

**Web:** www.motis-estates.com

Lettings Agent of the Year 2025, in the  
Kent Business Awards