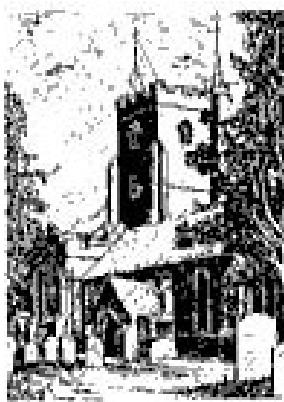


# RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 2    February 2026    £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: <a href="mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com">sainteanswythe@gmail.com</a>	
Churchwardens	Tom Bertram, Andrew Plested, 201 Canterbury Road	07748 434341 07860 175123	01303 890986 01303 241124
PCC Hon. Secretary	Santa Vessey		01303 252947
Hon. Treasurer	}{ Jenny Coleman,		
Gift Aid	}{		
Planned Giving	Pam Keeling		
PCC Members	Jan Clarke Marilyn Edey Elaine Furminger Carol McBeath	Jenny Coleman Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep) Catriona Hunter 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	James Brown	<a href="mailto:sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com">sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com</a>	
Children's Church	Clare Tomlinson		07751 423796
Safeguarding Lead	Tom Bertram	07748 434341	01303 890986
Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Hayward	<a href="mailto:cazrolinehayward@gmail.com">cazrolinehayward@gmail.com</a>	07876 358918
Church Day Schools	St Mary's, Warren Road St Eanswythe's, Church Street	Head Teacher - Richard Paez Head Teacher - Claire Jacobs	251390 255516
Church Flowers	Jan Clarke and Jenny Coleman		
Church Welcomers	Pam Keeling	<a href="mailto:tpdkeel@aol.com">tpdkeel@aol.com</a>	
Bell Ringers	Mike Godfrey, 6 Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne		01303 242159
Rendezvous Advertising	Paul Furminger, 37 Dymchurch Road, Hythe (e-mail: <a href="mailto:epmfurminger@btinternet.com">epmfurminger@btinternet.com</a> )		01303 265547
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Rendezvous Distribution	Catriona Hunter (e-mail: <a href="mailto:trina@monrepos.org">trina@monrepos.org</a> )		01303 248006

## St Augustine's Centre

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

*Front Cover: Candlemas - the presentation of Christ at the Temple, in stained glass*

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

Please contact Andrew Plested as above

# CALENDAR

## Services and Events in February 2026

Sun	1	<b>Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		16:00	Choral Evensong for Candlemas
Thu	5	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	8	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
Mon	9	8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Thu	12	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	14	18:00	Supper with the Saints
Sun	15	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Wed	18	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
		10:30	EUCHARIST
		19:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	19	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	22	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	26	10:30	Holy Communion BCP



## March

Sun	1	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Wed	4	8:45	St Eanswythe's School Eucharist
		12:00	Stations of the Cross
Thu	5	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	8	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
Mon	9	8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Wed	11	12:00	Stations of the Cross



### 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?

Subscriptions to Rendezvous run from January to December, and the annual subscription rate for 2026 is £12, which saves you £2.40 on the cost of 12 individual issues - or to look at it another way, buy 10 and get 2 free! Contact Catriona Hunter, Distribution Coordinator for more information.

### 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)

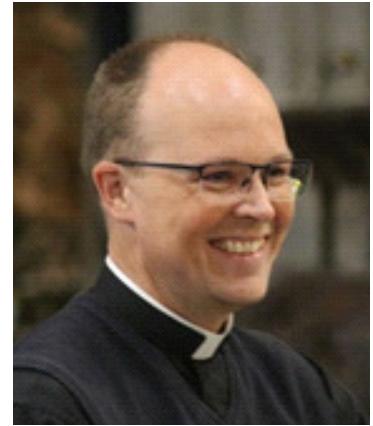
01303 252947

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 writing this a few days after the conclusion of the ill-fated Ashes tour... Non-cricket fans do bear with me, it won't be a complete rant and there's a message behind it.

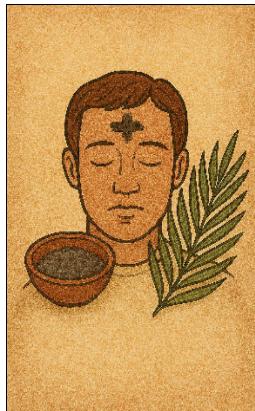
There have been a number of facets of the series that have stood out, not least a total playing time of just 16 days out of the 25 available (with only part of two days lost to bad weather). But the thing that's been particularly apparent is the relationship between the individual player and the whole team and the impact this has had for the whole side. England relied rather on 'a clutch of individuals being brilliant' to carry the whole side through, whereas Australia went for a more traditional 'we'll all put our shoulders to the wheel' and push through together. Unfortunately for England, a 'clutch' of good individuals was rarely even a 'brace' in each match and that lack of responsibility towards one another rather really showed. Individual brilliance and persistence is no bad thing, but no single player can bear the whole team's load (unless Jesus himself decided to strap his pads on – and we've yet to see *that* particular miracle played out at home or away!).

So, what am I pondering this month? Well, on the 18<sup>th</sup> we will be making our way into the wilderness of Lent. 40 days and 40 nights. It'd be nice to take the Bazball approach and bash swiftly through that particular innings towards Easter in just 2/3s of the allotted time but, a) we can't just tear up the rule book like that and, b) it would be missing a valuable opportunity to allow God to play the long-game with us over that period of time. This might perhaps be done through a developed habit or by giving up something that gets in the way. Lent is an important time of individual development in our relationship with God and seeing how we can grow in faith and character. It's an opportunity to face up to the things we need to change within ourselves – rather than just deflecting or blaming circumstances, things or others. It's also an important time for developing 'the team' too. As we grow in faith and relationship with God as individuals, so too we can journey together as a team or community towards Easter and to seek to 'discern' – to work out and understand – what God would have us do and how. Groups, teams or institutions that rely on the shoulders of one person or just a few find themselves vulnerable. It doesn't have to be showy or spectacular. If each player can put a few runs on the board and hold their catches, it's amazing what a difference it can make to the result. It might be as simple as numbers on the hymn board or some prayers from the stands; how might you be able to play your part in the team this Lent (and beyond)?

With every blessing for the weeks ahead,

# The Reader's Ramblings

## Ash Wednesday and the Gift of Beginning Again



February always feels like a transition month — winter still holding on, but the first hints of light beginning to return. This year, that sense of transition is echoed beautifully in the Church's calendar, as we step into Lent with Ash Wednesday on 18th February. It is a day that invites us to pause, to breathe, and to remember who we are and *whose* we are.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of prayer, fasting, and generosity that prepares us for Easter. It is a solemn day, but not a gloomy one. When we come forward to receive the cross of ash on our foreheads, we hear words that are both honest and hopeful: a reminder of our mortality, and a call to turn again towards God. The ashes themselves are made from the palms of last year's Palm Sunday — a quiet sign that even our celebrations, once past, can be transformed into something that helps us grow.

Lent is often described as a journey of forty days, echoing Jesus' time in the wilderness. It is a season that asks us to slow down, to pay attention, and to make space for God. Many people choose to give something up; others choose to take something on. But at its heart, Lent is not about self-improvement or spiritual achievement. It is about returning — returning to God, returning to ourselves, returning to the path of love that we so easily wander from in the busyness of life.

Perhaps this year, Lent might be less about "trying harder" and more about "coming home." What would it look like to create small moments of stillness in your week? To pray with a simple sentence each morning? To reach out to someone who needs encouragement? To give generously, not out of duty, but out of gratitude? Lent is not meant to weigh us down; it is meant to free us.

Ash Wednesday, with its stark honesty, is the doorway into that freedom. When we receive the ashes, we acknowledge our frailty — but we also acknowledge God's mercy. We begin the season not with despair, but with hope. The shape traced on our foreheads is the same shape traced on us at baptism: the sign of belonging, the sign of love that does not let us go.

As we move through February and into Lent, may this season be for each of us a time of gentle turning. A time to rediscover prayer. A time to notice God's presence in the ordinary. A time to let go of what burdens us and to take hold of what brings life. And above all, a time to walk with Christ — through the wilderness, towards the cross, and into the joy of Easter morning.

May we enter this season with open hearts, ready to begin again.

~ Vicky Friedrich ~

# 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 **BEGINNINGS**

In our first Children's Church of 2026 we were thinking about  
**BEGINNINGS!**

However, before you find out about that, we need to look back to December and our Christingle making and lighting - a great



opportunity to talk about God's plan of salvation as we all joined in with the making (and so what if a few jelly babies didn't make it into church!)

**AND also in December -**

After our epic stirring up of the Birthday Cakes for Jesus, (see December magazine) the cakes were decorated for collection after the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

On this occasion the church welcomed shepherds, angels, wisemen and of course, Mary and Joseph as the story was retold beautifully and carols sung.



**Happy  
Birthday  
Jesus**

Now back to January 2026!

The Gospel reading for the day showed us Jesus marking the beginning of his ministry by being baptised by John in the River Jordan. This was another opportunity for some acting and discussion about our life with Jesus.

God challenges us to follow him and just as God cared for Jesus starting his ministry, so God will care for us in our journey of faith. We will need guidance, nourishment and attention – God gives us all these – through the Bible, our prayers and other people.

One way we can remember that God cares for us is to care for something ourselves – and what better way than to begin some new lives with CRESS SEEDS?



We prepared our growing medium (cotton wool in an empty egg shell – spot the faces!).



We sowed our seeds – and as long as we look after them, giving them light and care -

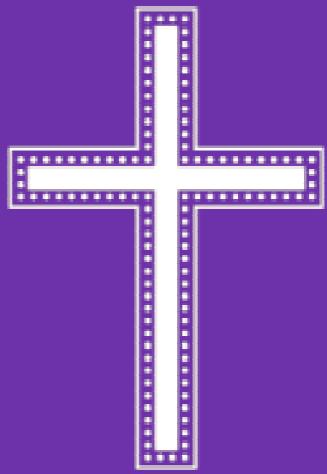


in a week's time, we should have a crop of tasty cress!

And next time – it's all about **#the little things!**

Clare Tomlinson

# LENT SERVICES 2026



Ash Wednesday - 18<sup>th</sup> February

10.30am

Said Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

7.30pm

Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays during Lent - from 25th February

12:00pm

Stations of the Cross

Lent Course - from 25th February

A few of my favourite hymns

Explore some key themes of Christian Faith through the lens of some hymns chosen by members of the congregation. No prior knowledge necessary!

Wednesdays 7.30pm at The Vicarage (from 25th Feb)  
Thursdays 11.15am in Church (from 26th Feb)



# SUPPER WITH THE SAINTS

A delicious three course supper with snacks to start, taking place by candle light in the Lady Chapel of St Eanswythe's church.

February 14th

6:30pm

£25

Bring your own booze



Supper with the Saints is a series of supper clubs each themed around a particular saint with food from their home country and some light-hearted wit and wisdom from our vicar, Fr. Christopher Johnson.

On February 14th, we'll be enjoying a candlelit authentic Italian feast. Singles and friends welcome as well as couples looking for something deliciously different for Valentine's Day!

Email [sainteanswythe@gmail.com](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com)  
for tickets and more details!

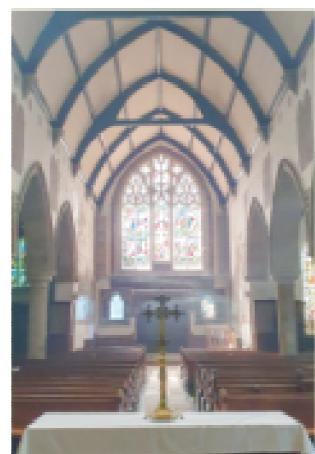




Featuring:

Dyson in D

Wood - O Thou the Central Orb  
and some great hymns



Followed by:

drinks and nibbles

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February - 4pm

# CHORAL EVENSONG

St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church, Folkestone

Singers welcome!

Please contact [sainteanswythe@gmail.com](mailto:sainteanswythe@gmail.com) for more info

## Sunday and Ash Wednesday Eucharist Gospels

### Sunday 1 February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Luke 2.22-40

*Lord you now dismiss your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation.*

When the promise of the Messiah was fulfilled,  
few could recognise him in the human child.

### Sunday 8 February – Second Sunday before Lent: Matthew 6.25-34

*Today's trouble is enough for today*

We are not to run ahead of God: his time is not our time.

Worrying about what now seems uncertain  
is a denial of his loving purpose for all that he has made.

### Sunday 15 February – Sunday next before Lent: Matthew 17.1-9

*When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone*

The signs of God's glory have appeared in all ages,  
but only in Jesus Christ were they fully revealed.

### Sunday 22 February – First Sunday of Lent: Matthew 4.1-11

*Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness  
to be tempted by the devil.*

Yielding to temptation has been the failure of men and women since the beginning.

In Christ we find the human example of resistance  
and the divine guidance which enables us to rise above  
our bad inclinations.

### Ash Wednesday 18 February: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

*'Where your treasure is there your heart will be also'.*

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

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>

## 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, Canterbury. <i>St Eanswythe's original lead reliquary is included in the display.</i>
Wednesdays, 25 February – 1 April	12.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - in the Nave Lent course – <i>A few of my favourite hymns</i> (in the Vicarage)
Thursdays, 26 February – 2 April	11.15 a.m.	Lent course – <i>A few of my favourite hymns</i> (in the Church)
Sunday, 8 March	10.30 a.m.	Children's Church <i>It's all about living water</i>
Monday, 23 March	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 29 March	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist
Thursday, 2 April		Maundy Thursday
Friday, 3 April		Good Friday
Sunday, 5 April	10.30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 10 May	12.30 p.m.	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thursday, 14 May		Ascension Day
Thursday, 14 May – Sunday, 17 May		Sacconi Quartet Chamber Music Festival
Monday, 18 May	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 24 May	10.30 a.m.	Pentecost Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 31 May	10.30 a.m.	Trinity Sunday Sung Eucharist
Monday, 13 July	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Saturday, 12 September		Festival of St Eanswythe
Monday, 21 September	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Monday, 23 November	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 29 November	10.30 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent Sung Eucharist

## From the Parish Registers

**Baptism** *We welcome into the Lord's family*

Romi Greenaway



I A I N . S

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# The Canterbury Auction Galleries

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



2026  
AUCTION DATES

13th & 14th

FEBRUARY

Consignment deadline  
now closed

10th & 11th

APRIL

Consignment deadline  
6th March

5th & 6th

JUNE

Consignment deadline  
1st May

31st & 1st  
JULY & AUGUST

Consignment deadline  
26th June

2nd & 3rd

OCTOBER

Consignment deadline  
28th August

27th & 28th

NOVEMBER

Consignment deadline  
23rd October

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

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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)

## Finding Eanswythe

### Finding Eanswythe

The Life and Afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon Saint



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.

## Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February this year and is a holy day of prayer and fasting marking the first day of Lent – forty days of prayer, fasting and abstinence before the arrival of Easter.



At our special Ash Wednesday services we receive ash on our foreheads as the wearing of ashes has been a sign of repentance since biblical times. The imposition of ashes is typically done with the sign of the cross, signifying that the recipient is a follower of Jesus accompanied by these words: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

### Ash Wednesday Collect – used at our Eucharists throughout Lent

Almighty and everlasting God,  
You hate nothing that you have made,  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we worthily lamenting our sins,  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Additional Lenten Collects

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
In the darkness of our sin,  
your light breaks forth like the dawn  
and your healing springs up for deliverance.  
As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,  
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
and open our lips to sing your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from their offences,  
that through your bountiful goodness  
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins  
which by our frailty we have committed;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

---

## Our Lord's Teaching . . .

### Concerning Fasting

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites; for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

### Concerning Treasures

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## News from St Eanswythe's School

Dear All

St Eanswythe's School has returned from our Christmas holidays refreshed and ready for learning. There are lots of sporting opportunities for the whole school to enjoy from Hockey, Squash and Knuckleball to Reception Class having a lovely sporty time at 3 Hills Sports Centre. We are looking forward to our termly Mass next week, with children from Worship Leaders and After School Club taking part as servers, bringing up the offertory, to writing and leading our prayers. Half term will be with us soon, how this term is flying by, and when we return we will begin Confirmation Class for children in Years 4, 5 and 6. On the theme of looking forward, we begin to set our sights on the season of Lent, Holy Week and our Lord's Glorious Resurrection at Easter.

With our love and prayers from all at St Eanswythe's School.

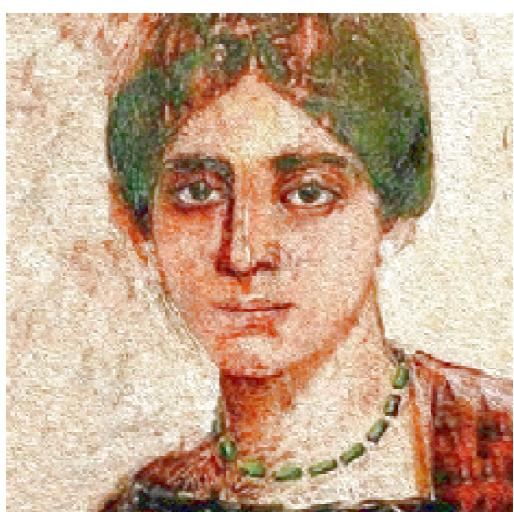
*Kim*

## On the 40th Day of Christmas .....



..... we mark the Presentation of Christ in The Temple otherwise known as **Candlemas**. The Feast of the Presentation or Purification is one of the oldest feasts of the church. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus and his parents were met At the Temple by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World. The pilgrim Egeria recorded how it was celebrated in Jerusalem in the late 4th century:

*'But certainly the Feast of the Purification is celebrated here with the greatest honour. On this day there is a procession to the Anastasis; all go in procession, and all things are done in order with great joy, just as at Easter. All the priests preach, and also the bishop, always treating of that passage of the Gospel where, on the fortieth day, Joseph and Mary brought the Lord into the Temple, and Simeon and Anna the prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, saw Him, and of the words which they said when they saw the Lord, and of the offerings which the parents presented. And when all things have been celebrated in order as is customary, the sacrament is administered, and so the people are dismissed.'*



We will read more about Egeria when we mark Good Friday and the tradition of the *Via Crucis* – the way of The Cross.

Egeria was an Hispano-Roman Christian woman, widely regarded to be the author of a detailed account of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land about 382–384. The text is a narrative apparently written at the end of Egeria's journey from notes she took *en route*, and addressed to her 'dear ladies': the women of her spiritual community in Rome.

## Ruth Simpson 12 May 1937 - 6 January 2026

It is with no little sadness that we record the death of Ruth Simpson on 6 January 2026.

Ruth and her late husband John joined the congregation here at St Mary and St Eanswythe in 2000, following John's retirement as Dean of Canterbury Cathedral and their subsequent move to Folkestone. They quickly became valued members of our church family - Ruth becoming a member of the PCC and John assisting Fr David in our worship and ministry.

Ruth was an exceptional lady, of firm opinions and the gift to contribute constructively in groups and at PCC meetings. Her comments were always anticipated with interest and discussions were enhanced by her contributions borne of a wide experience of life as a mother of three and with John in his church life. Amongst her many talents, she was an artist of no mean ability, creating pictures of wildlife and the countryside around her home in France and from her travels around the world with her husband.

Personally, her concern and natural interest in friends' welfare were second to none. The writer of this appreciation has good reason to testify to that gentle but firm support.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



*Ruth with her grandson,  
Benjamin in 2021*



*A French landscape - watercolour by Ruth*



## Bookworm: What Catriona Has Been Reading

### **Nesting – Roisin O'Donnell (2025)**

Domestic abuse may not be the most appealing subject to read about, but this book reads like a thriller. There is a constant air of menace and impending doom throughout this tension-filled novel, especially when Ryan, Ciara's vindictive and manipulative husband is around.

Ciara is trying to be the best mum she can be while at the same time being subjected to emotional and psychological abuse from her husband (whose jaw clicks when he is angry). It takes her a while to see that she is being coercively controlled and is in an abusive relationship – because Ryan doesn't actually hit her.

Set in Dublin in 2018-2019 this excellent and very credible story addresses domestic abuse and homelessness (I have a professional interest in both topics) as well as families, friendship, love, hope, courage, resilience, Ireland, and how the cards appear to be stacked in favour of men. The book is both insightful and extremely moving, as well as heart-warming, and at times almost heart stopping. It's a very exciting read and I'd have read it in a single sitting if I could.

Long-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2025, I am astounded that it didn't win!

### **The Hawk Is Dead – Peter James (2025)**

This is the latest in the Roy Grace series and as you'd expect from Peter James it's a very good, fast paced read. Ultimately it became unputdownable.

The Royal train is derailed in a tunnel approaching Brighton and then one of Queen Camilla's party is shot by a sniper. All of which is how Detective Superintendent Roy Grace ends up leading the most important and high profile case of his career. Of course nothing is straightforward and it gradually becomes apparent that there are several very bad people working in the Royal Household. Unlike almost everyone else, including the King, Roy Grace is convinced that the Queen was not the intended target, but how can he prove it?

It's an excellent book, with an intricate plot, which I thoroughly enjoyed. There's also lots of fascinating detail about how the Royal Household works, and a high speed chase through the corridors of Buckingham Palace.

Highly recommended.

### **The Red Shore – William Shaw (2025)**

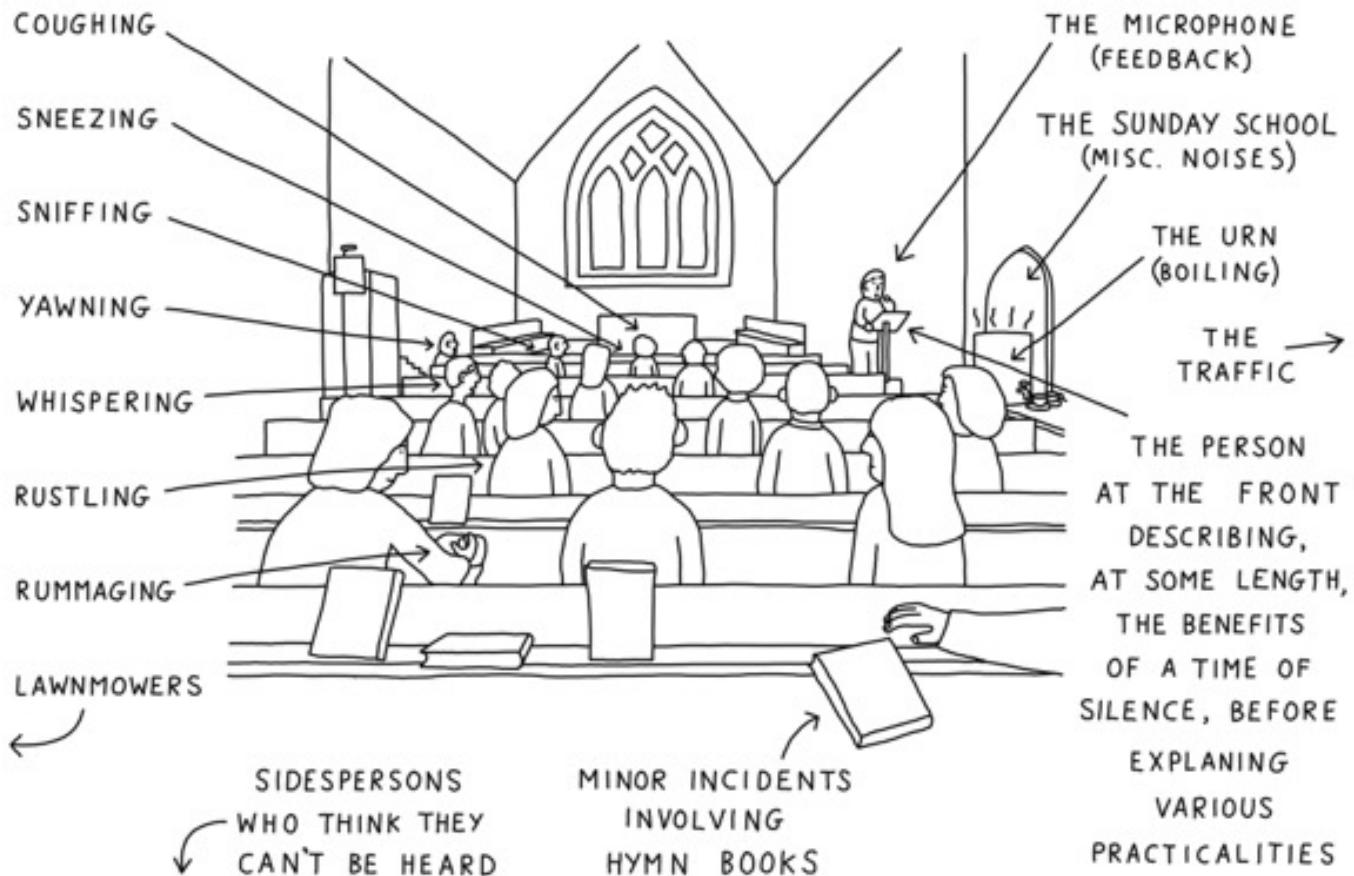
This was such a good book, indeed the second half was unputdownable. Sergeant Eden Driscoll of the Met police is called urgently to Devon where his estranged sister has gone missing on her boat. The authorities believe she has drowned, and Eden finds himself looking after the nine year old nephew he never knew he had. What follows is his investigation into what happened to his sister, something that leads him into great danger, and the discovery that all is not as it first seemed.

It's a very exciting book, with quite a high body count, and the first in a new series set in Devon. I didn't think anything could be as good as William Shaw's Dungeness books, but I was wrong. He just gets better and better. And I can't wait for the next in the series.

*Catriona Hunter*

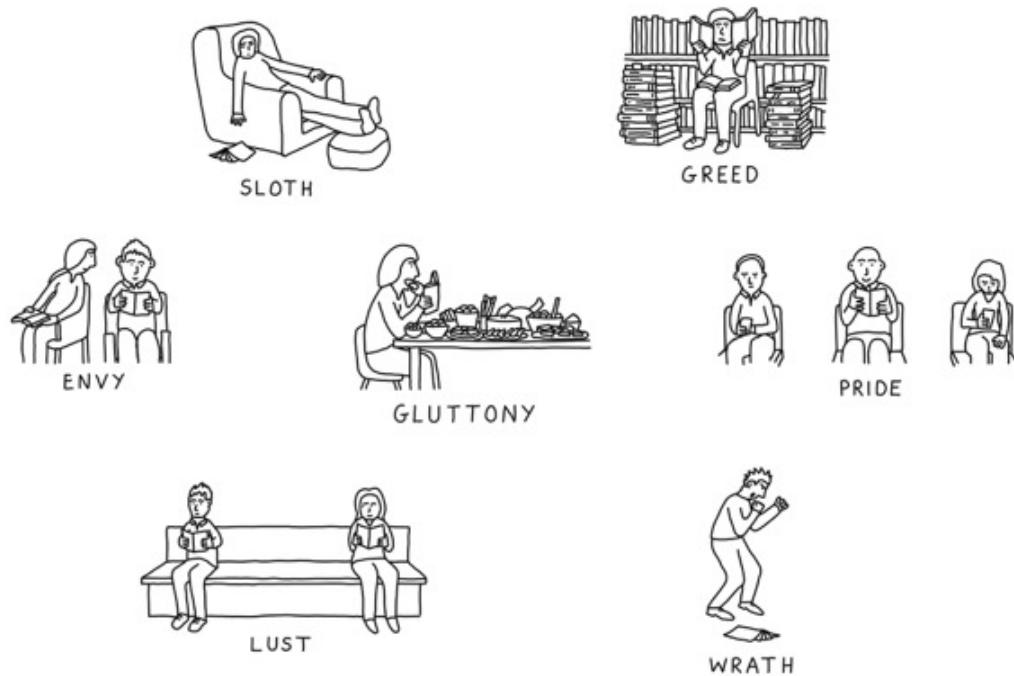
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**Telephone:** 01303 850733

**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](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

## **The Salvation Army**

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

**Website:** [www.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk)

**email:** [folkestone@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:folkestone@salvationarmy.org.uk)

## **Cruse Bereavement Care**

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**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](http://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



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## Music Notes

The February Bayle Music concert takes place at **The Grand** at **3 p.m. on Saturday 21 February** and marks a return by old friends of Bayle Music, the international opera singer, **Matthew Rose** and pianist **Anna Tilbrook** who will be presenting a performance of Schubert's song cycle *Schwanengesang* published in 1829, the year after his death, comprising 14 songs with words by three poets.

Doors open at 2.30 and admission remains at £15 for adults with children and full-time students admitted free.

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 plan these increasingly popular concerts.

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## How well do you know our church?

Last month we were challenged to find a stained glass window depicting both John the Baptist and John the Evangelist. The window is in the west end of the South Aisle and depicts incidents from both their lives and is probably seen to its best advantage in afternoon and evening sunshine. This month's challenge is to find the memorial to **Canon Peter Tindall, vicar here from 1914 to 1927** which carries this inscription:

*'In the years of the Great War, he made this church and parish a home for all who served their king and country.'*



Canon Tindall was also instrumental in the construction of the Calvary at the entrance to the churchyard from Church Street which carried the names of those servicemen from our parish who died in the Great War, later moved to a place of safety in the niche to the right of the Pulpit together with the figure of Christ originally on the cross but vandalised, restored and brought into the church.



# Join our Choir!

## New voices welcome

Do you enjoy singing and have always wanted to give it a try?

We are a friendly, welcoming choir and are always pleased to invite new members to join us.

We sing every Sunday as part of the church's worship, performing a wide range of music and enjoying both the musical and social sides of choir life. Singing together is a rewarding way to support our services while being part of a supportive and sociable group.

We rehearse each Sunday at 9.30am, before the 10.30am Eucharist.

If you're interested or would like to come along and listen, contact

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

# 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:  
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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.



## Rendezvous Subscriptions For 2026 Are Now Due

Subscriptions to Rendezvous run from January to December each year and payment for 2026 is now due. The **annual subscription rate for 2026 is £12**, (the same price as last year), which saves you £2.40 on the cost of 12 individual issues – or to look at it another way, buy 10 get 2 free! If you have any questions about subscriptions or distribution, please contact Catriona Hunter, Distribution Co-ordinator. Her contact details are on the inside front cover of every issue of Rendezvous.

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

**Payments to your distributor** may be made by cash or cheque made out to Rendezvous Magazine (preferably in an envelope addressed to Catriona Hunter, Rendezvous Distribution Co-ordinator – but don't forget to include your name and address too). However, if you wish to pay by credit card you can do this in one of three ways:

- i. use the Donation Station in church
- ii. use the Donate button on our website <https://stmaryandsteanswythe.org>;
- iii. scan the QR code on the back cover of Rendezvous

Note that if paying by credit card it would help us enormously if you would let Catriona know that you have paid your subscription so she can keep a record of subscribers.

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

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



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