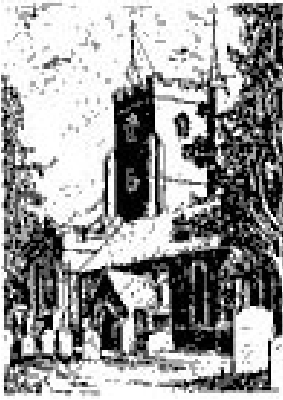


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 4 **April 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: 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

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 James Brown sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com

Children's Church Clare Tomlinson 07751 423796

Safeguarding Officer Elaine Furminger safeguarding.sme@gmail.com 07974 140713

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

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

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St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Santa Vessey 01303 252947

email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Front Cover: The Crucifixion 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 April 2026

Wed	1	19:00	Compline and Address
Thu	2	Maundy Thursday	
		10:30	Prayers for Holy Week
		14:00	St Eanswythe's school Easter Service
		19:30	Maundy Thursday Liturgy
Fri	3	Good Friday	
		10:00	Children's Church Service Good Friday Special
		14:00	Good Friday Liturgy
Sat	4	Holy Saturday	
		10:00	Church Cleaning
		20:00	Easter Vigil
Sun	5	Easter Day	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	9	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	12	Second Sunday of Easter	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
Mon	13	8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Thu	16	8:30	School Confirmation classes
		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	19	Third Sunday of Easter	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	23	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	26	Fourth Sunday of Easter	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	30	10:30	Holy Communion BCP



May

Sun	3	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		12:00	APCM see Page 21
Thu	8	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	10	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's church
		11:30	Children's church picnic
Mon	11	8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Thu	14	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	17	Seventh Sunday of Easter	



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 Co-ordinator, 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

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



Hopefully you've had your copy of *Rendezvous* just in time to be reminded of all the wonderful and amazing services that are due to happen this Holy Week (and therefore had the opportunity to come and join in too!). But, even if you're picking this up over a leisurely Bank Holiday cup of tea, the events of Easter offer a new perspective on the world and our lives of faith.

Our services in church reflect a greater and more joyful reality for the life of the world and for each of us. For Christians, the events of Good Friday and Easter Day transform not just time but eternity too. They also pose the challenge of how our lives might be changed and different as a result of what we've experienced and shared together in our worship.

CS Lewis, perhaps most famous for *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, wrote lots about the Christian faith as he embraced and engaged with his faith over time and the greater understanding of life that it gave to him. On one occasion he wrote,

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else."

The events of the Christian faith are amazing and something in and of themselves, but that's not the be all and end all. They shine a light on the rest of life too. The events of the Cross on Good Friday transform our relationship with God as Jesus suffers with us and for us. In rising from the dead on Easter Day, Jesus opens the way to eternal life. The bonds of sin and death are broken and a new joy fills the world.

In the midst of the challenges that we face in life – in our own lives and the troubles that we see around us – how might that light break into our lives this Easter and shine through the darkness in our words, our actions and our communities? How might that light illuminate things for you in a different way, perhaps encouraging or even challenging you to view things differently. How might God allow you to view life and faith from a new angle?

With very best wishes for a Happy and Blessed Easter (whether it's arrived quite yet, or not!)

The Reader's Ramblings

Small Acts of Repair



April is the month when the earth seems to take a long, waking breath. The soil is still cool, the winds still sharp, yet something in the light has changed. Buds tighten with promise, birdsong lengthens, and even the most reluctant shrubs begin to stir. For many in our parish, this is the moment when the gardening gloves come out again — whether for a whole allotment or simply a pot of herbs on the windowsill.

There is something profoundly spiritual about this seasonal turning. Gardening invites us into a rhythm that is older and wiser than we are. It teaches patience, attentiveness, and the quiet courage to begin again. In a world that often prizes speed and spectacle, tending a patch of earth is a reminder that God works through slow, steady transformation. Seeds do not rush. Soil does not hurry. Resurrection, too, begins in the dark.

Many people speak of gardening as a kind of prayer, and perhaps that is because it draws us into a posture of care. We kneel, we notice, we tend, we hope. We learn to read the signs of life and the signs of strain. We discover that small acts — watering, mulching, clearing a corner of weeds — can make a surprising difference. Creation care often sounds like a grand, global task, but in truth it begins with these small acts of repair: choosing to nurture rather than neglect, to restore rather than discard, to pay attention rather than look away.

This April, you might find moments of holiness in the simplest places. The first cuppa taken outside, steam rising into the cool morning air. The sudden burst of blossom on a tree you'd stopped noticing. The robin who watches you dig as though supervising your technique. These are not distractions from prayer; they can be prayer in themselves — invitations to gratitude, wonder, and delight.

Our church life echoes this same calling. When we choose reusable cups at coffee time, when we share food rather than waste it, when we care for the churchyard as a habitat rather than a burden, we are participating in the same quiet ministry of tending. The churchyard in spring is a sermon all of its own: moss softening ancient stones, crocuses and primroses brightening the edges, insects beginning their busy work. It reminds us that resurrection is not only a story we tell but a pattern woven into creation itself.

Perhaps this April, we might each ask: *What small act of repair can I offer?* It might be planting something new, mending something old, or simply pausing long enough to notice the beauty that is already there. In these gentle, faithful gestures, we join in God's ongoing work of renewal — one seed, one cup, one moment of attention at a time.

Vicky Friedrich

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

AT ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE'S

Palm Sunday (29th March)

10.30am Procession and Sung Eucharist

We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with shouts of 'Hosanna!' and we begin with a procession from outside the Town Hall up Church Street to St Eanswythe's.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

7.00pm Compline & Address

A 30 minute service of peace and quiet including an address.



Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

10.30am Prayers for Holy Week

7.30pm Eucharist
to remember the events of the day, including washing of feet, stripping the church of its adornments ready for Good Friday, and keeping watch (this will happen for one hour and you're invited to stay for all of this)

Good Friday (3rd April)

A Holy Day of Obligation during which all Christians are expected to attend an act of worship unless they are unavoidably prevented from doing so.

10.00am Children's Church Good Friday Special

Activities for primary aged children and their families.

(Children must be brought and accompanied by a responsible adult at all times)

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Including the reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

Holy Saturday (4th April)

8.00pm Easter Vigil

The First Eucharist of Easter, including the lighting of the New Fire, a Sung Exsultet, darkness into light and lots of shouts of Alleluia! Followed by a glass of something bubbly...

Easter Day (5th)

10.30am Festival Sung Eucharist

We celebrate Jesus rising from the dead together as the whole church family. There's an Easter egg hunt afterwards too!



10AM-12PM

3RD APRIL



GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL!



STORIES!

SONGS!

PRAYERS!

HOT CROSS BUNS!



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)

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

It's all about asking questions



SUNDAY 10TH MAY



It's all about loving Jesus - followed by the Children's Church Family Picnic!

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

It's all about team work



SUNDAY 12TH JULY

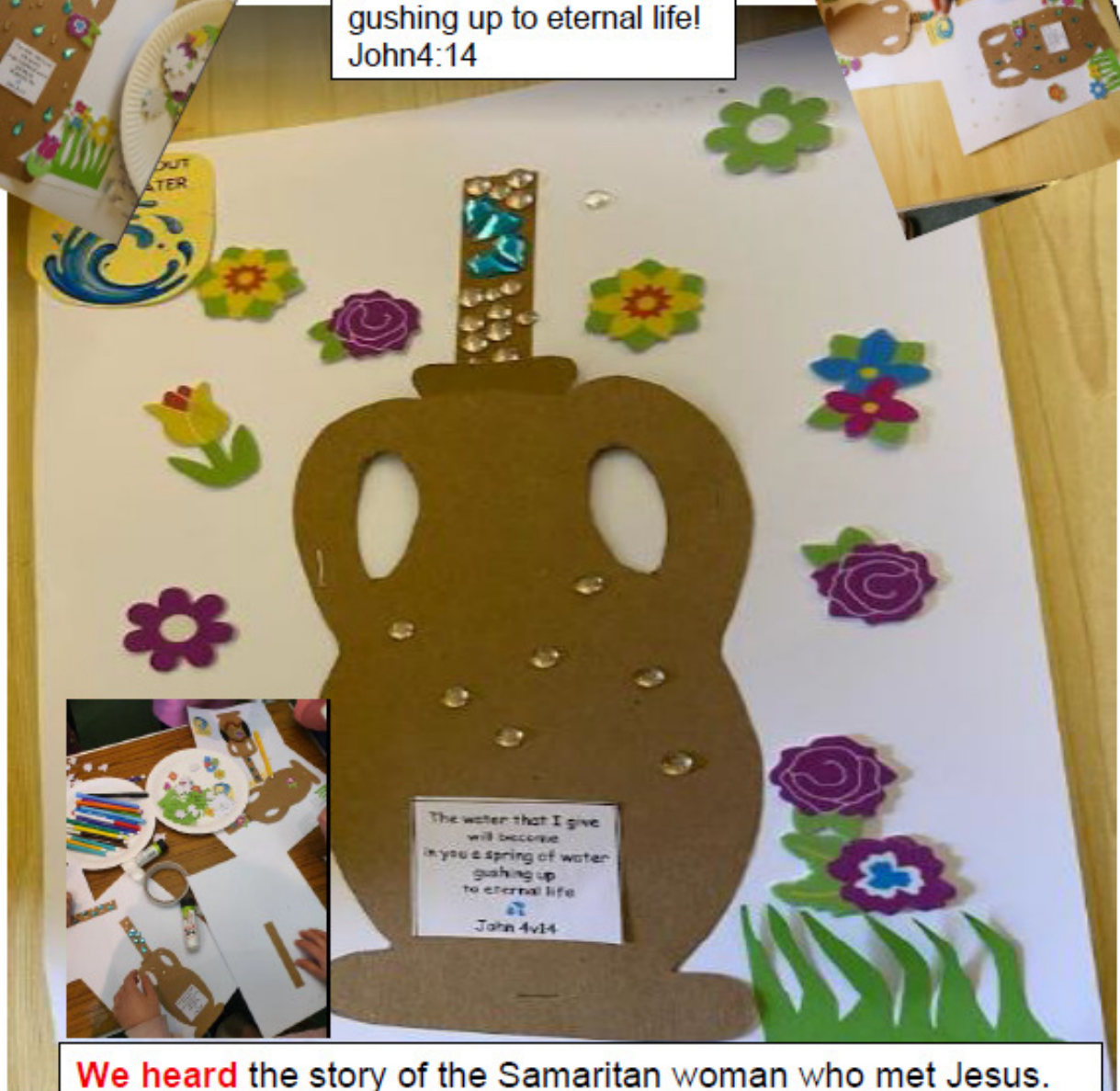
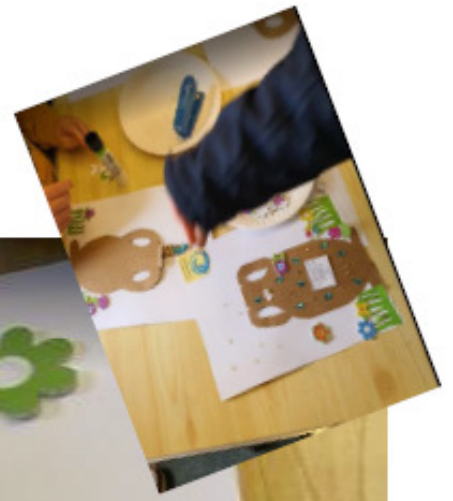


It's all about growing with Jesus



It's All About LIVING WATER!

Jesus said, "The water that I give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life!"
John 4:14



We heard the story of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus.
We learned about Jesus' love which is for EVERYONE!
We had loads of fun making jugs with gushing water AND
We shared our memory verse with everyone at church!

Clare Tomlinson



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY JUNE 7 AT
12:00 PM
(AFTER THE SERVICE)
ST EANSWYTHE'S
CHURCH
ENTRY BY TICKET
ONLY - £5 A HEAD

765TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

(OR THEREABOUTS)

THIS YEAR THERE ARE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION HAVING BIG BIRTHDAYS! SO WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!



TICKETS FROM JENNY AND
CATRIONA - MUST BE
PURCHASED IN
ADVANCE, BY 31 MAY

IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A CAKE OR
A PUDDING, PLEASE LET JENNY OR
CATRIONA KNOW.



This summer at St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church!



Follow the trail, complete the trail and receive a special stamp!

Visit Wednesday - Saturday 11am - 1pm
or join us on a **Sunday** at 10.30am
and follow the trail after the service!

Dates For Your Diary

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

Sunday, 3 May note new date	12.00 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		Pentecost
Sunday, 31 May		Trinity Sunday
Sunday, 7 June	12 p.m.	Big Birthday Bash – 765 th Birthday Party
Tuesday, 9 June		Wit and Wisdom Quiz (<i>Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe</i>)
Monday, 13 July	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Tuesday, 8 September		Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe AGM
Saturday, 12 September		Festival of St Eanswythe
Monday, 21 September	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 11 October		Family Beetle Drive (<i>Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe</i>)
Sunday, 8 November		Remembrance Sunday
Monday, 23 November	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 29 November		First Sunday of Advent

CHURCH CLEANING



Saturday 4th April 10am-12pm

Come join us us for a cleaning party!
We'll have coffee and cake, and a good
time is guaranteed

Even if you can only join for half an
hour, all help is appreciated!

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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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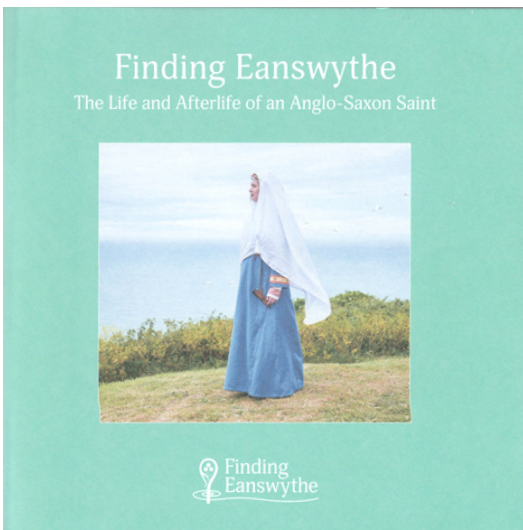
Telephone **01227 763337** Email general@tcag.co.uk Visit thecanterburyauctiongalleries.com

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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

Finding Eanswythe



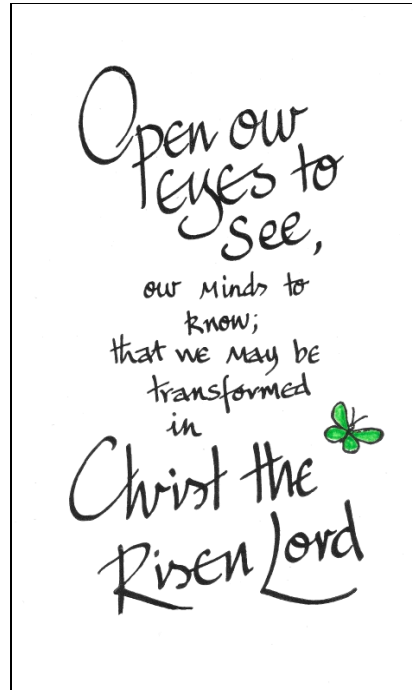
Whilst the Finding Eanswythe Project has come to a conclusion, the working group will continue with their research. This book covers the findings over the six-year programme with a series of essays covering such topics as The Legend of St Eanswythe, A Minster in the early Mediaeval Landscape, Minster 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**.

Sunday Eucharist and Red Letter Day Gospels

Sunday 5 April-EASTER DAY Matthew 20.1-10

Jesus met them and said 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet and worshipped him.



Sunday 12 April-Second Sunday of Easter John 20.19-31

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

Sunday 19 April-Third Sunday of Easter Luke 24.13-35

Then their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus.

Sunday 26 April-Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10.1-10

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Days of Special Observation

Thursday 2 April-Maundy Thursday John 13.1-17, 31-35

Now the Son of man has been glorified and God has been glorified in him.

For many centuries the Passover meal has been celebrated by the Jewish people for their release from Egypt. On the night before Good Friday, Christians share a meal that commemorates release not from material slavery but from the slavery of sin, release sealed not in the blood of the lamb but in the blood of him who is called the Lamb of God.

Friday 3 April-Good Friday John 18.1 – 19.38

They crucified him and with him two others one on either side with Jesus between them.

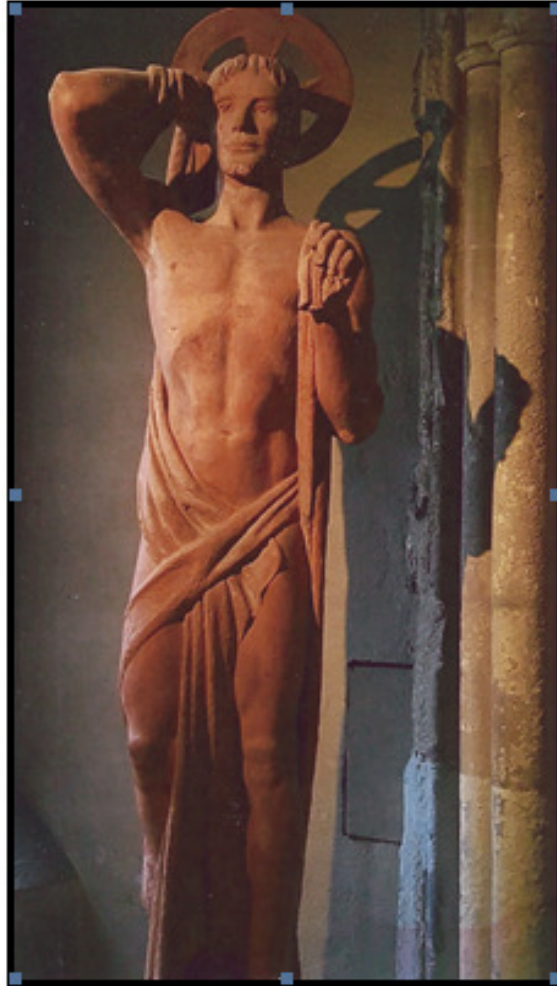
The unique heart of the Christian faith is the sacrificial death of God incarnate in a human being. Though some of the prophets had a vision of a suffering Messiah, none came near to the awful and wonderful truth of the mystery.

Thursday 23 April-George, Martyr, Patron of England John 15.18-21

Jesus said to his disciples 'If the world hates you, beware that it hated me before it hated you'.

Saturday 25 April-Mark the Evangelist

The good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.



The Rising Christ

By Josepina Alys Hermes de Vasconcellos (1904-2005), an English sculptor who lived much of her life in Little Langdale, Cumbria. This striking statue can be seen in St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, London.

An Introduction to Holy Week

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew ‘Passover’) was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, with all the great themes of redemption included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ’s own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, ‘commandment’, because of the use of John 13.34 in the ceremonies) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ’s washing of his disciples’ feet, the institution of the Eucharist, and the perfection of Christ’s loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil (‘Could you not watch with me one hour?’) Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes. The veneration of the Cross is the older observance with the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours’ Devotion being introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion. The church itself remains stripped of all decoration and continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the Son of God lying in the tomb, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

This ‘Week of Weeks’ preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories.

Adapted from the C of E ‘Prayer and Resources for Holy Week’

Rosemary Siebert (23 July 1948 - 24 February 2026)

It is with no little sadness that we record the death of Rev Rosemary Siebert, who ministered here from 2008 to 2015. Following a career as a solicitor, she trained for the ministry at the South East Institute of Theological Education and was ordained deacon in 2008 and as priest by Archbishop Rowan Williams here in our church in 2009. She moved to Oxfordshire in 2015 where she served in the parish of All Saints, Marcham, until she retired in 2018.

Rosemary's contributions to the life and ministry of our church covered many activities. She was a governor of St Eanswythe's School and a trustee of The Rainbow Centre where she was fully involved with the Winter Night Shelter project.

She was instrumental in the formation of The Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe's church where her legal expertise greatly helped in the writing of its Constitution and Aims and Objectives. She also assisted at the Living Well – a centre for healing and wholeness in Nonington. Speaking with parishioners, who remember her ministry here, one attribute shines out in all her work – her care and concern for all our church members through gentle guidance and advice as they faced the many difficulties and challenges of life.

Following the birth of her first grandchild in 2015, she moved to Marcham in Oxfordshire to be near her family and was able to assist in parish ministry there.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



First Easter

Lost, alone, she stood there weeping
Grief and trouble lined her face
All the world, and hope, were sleeping
Of her Lord, now not a trace

Then the 'gardener' spoke her name
And in that sudden gleam of light
Hope ignited, like a flame
A baffled, bubbling joy so bright

Bruce Gulland





Bookworm: What Catriona Has Been Reading

Don't Let Him In – Lisa Jewell (2025)

This was an astonishingly good book. The sort of book you'd read at one sitting if you could. Because it's a real page turner.

Nina is recently widowed and finds herself getting involved with a man who is beyond perfect. Stunningly good looking, wealthy, and the perfect companion. His job takes him away for lengthy periods of time, but she understands. It all seems too good to be true. And of course it is.

I don't want to say a lot more than that because you will rightly accuse me of spoilers. So I'll just say, all is not as it seems. And gradually things become very sinister and extremely chilling. It is also very exciting for the reader. A real rollercoaster of a read.

This is one of the best psychological thrillers I've read for a long time. I'm sure you will love it too. And whatever you do, don't let him in.

Hamnet – Maggie O'Farrell (2020)

This is the story of (part of) the lives of the Shakespeare family: Agnes (whom we would think of as Anne), William (never named in the book), and their three children Susanna, and the twins Judith and Hamnet. It is a wonderful and compelling read; a book that grabbed my interest from the start, although it wasn't a quick read.

It's about love and loss, grief, loneliness, the plague, and late 16th century family life in Stratford upon Avon and London. It contains moving descriptions of a mother's love for her children and her overwhelming grief at the loss of her young son. Agnes' character is well developed, and we see the changes in her love for her husband who is mostly absent in faraway London. The hustling, bustling London, with its severed heads displayed on London Bridge, that Agnes found so shocking when she visited. (Though I would also be shocked by severed heads!)

It's about the very special bond between twins, and the grief of a twin who feels incomplete without her other half. Why is there no word for a surviving twin in the way that a surviving wife or husband becomes a widow(er)?

The book also has an interesting parallel between the bubonic plague and our own Covid 19 pandemic, although it was published in March 2020, at the beginning of the first lockdown. And guess what, they had Lockdowns during the plague as well. As girls did not attend school, few of the female characters in the book are able to read. Towards the end, it becomes clear that Agnes has learned to read and is able read the playbill for Hamlet. This bothered me. Why did the reader not share the process of her learning to read? Who taught her?

I did find the timeline confusing in the first half of the book, and I would also have welcomed a family tree, but the second half of the book, after Hamnet dies, is just one long chapter as Agnes and Judith grieve endlessly.

So. This was a very good read indeed. All the more so because I wasn't particularly looking forward to it and the reviews I had seen were very mixed. But it is quite topical at the moment, although, strangely, I really don't want to see the film

Catriona Hunter

Please Can You Help?



Roman Trachuk has been an active member of the church for quite some time since being sponsored to come here from Ukraine. For those of you who don't know Roman's background he was a Professor of Religious Studies in Ukraine and is a Doctor of Divinity.

The problem is that his beloved wife Yulia and their son

Mykola, who loves to read and ride his bike, are still in the Ukraine as they too need a sponsor. Recently the windows were all blown out of the family home and power cuts mean they only have power for two hours each day. The temperature in Kiev at present is averaging around -18 degrees Celsius, colder of course at night!

You could help or by sharing the information with others, we as a community can help to unite this family. Why not talk to Roman?

Call Roman on 07543421011 or email: djentl.roman@gmail.com

APCM

Sunday 3rd May is the date appointed for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (essentially, our 'AGM' as a charity).

From 5th - 18th April, we'll be revising our Electoral Roll (the list of regular worshippers who are eligible to vote, should the need arise at the APCM). If you're not already on the Electoral Roll, please pick up a form in church or contact the Parish Office. There will also be nomination papers for Churchwarden, PCC Membership and Deanery Synod available too. Deanery Synod membership is particularly significant this year as it's also an election year for General Synod (Lay members of Deanery Synod form the electorate for Lay General Synod members).

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HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

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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.

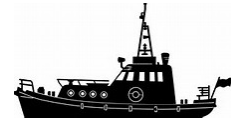
Telephone 0808 278 7961 - for free Kent advice line service

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



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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



Christ Church Gate n Canterbury has been restored and looks stunning in the March sunshine.

However, if you look to the right of the head of the bronze figure it looks rather like a blue 'L Plate' - it's as if there's a new member of staff!!!



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 (click 'Find your parish' and enter parish code:
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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 **PCC of Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary & St Eanswythe** (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.

RENDEZVOUS

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

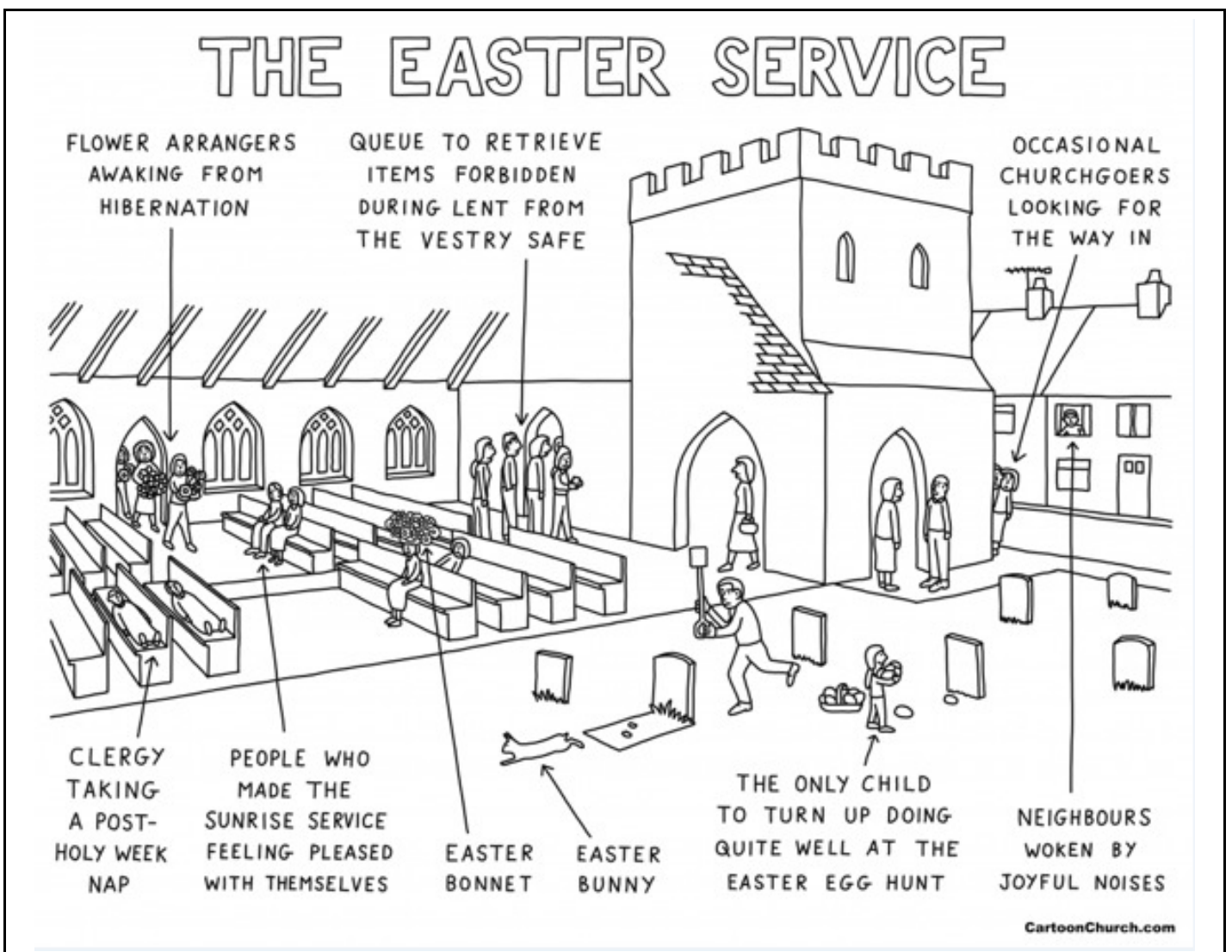
View the recorded service using the link
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBS9ny>

What would you like your legacy to be? Leaving money to the church in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that our church will be here for future generations. There are also some benefits for your inheritance tax bill, too. So, if you're thinking of adding a charitable bequest in your will, here's what you need to know.

Big or small, your donation could be of huge help in keeping our beautiful church cared for in the future.

As you may already know, like money you leave to your spouse, gifts to charities aren't taxed. And if you leave at least 10% of your estate to a charitable cause, your inheritance tax rate drops from 40% to 36%. This means that for every £100 you leave to charity; it only really costs your family £24.

Please give this some thought



Excerpts from an Unexpected Pilgrimage by Peter Lord

Saturday evening

I arrived at the old school nearly half an hour before the meal was due to start at 7 p.m.. Originally due to start at 7:15 p.m., it had been brought forward so we could remember those of us Harveians that had died in the preceding 12 months. Most well-known of all these was Nigel 'Nat' Thomas, my one-time English teacher, aged 89. He'd given me a very good mark for my précis of Homer's *Illiad*, which made a huge positive impression on my 14-year-old science and maths-based self.

Fortunately, there were no speeches after the meal, but unexpectedly at the end, someone arrived at the grand piano, and we all stood to sing the School Song. I remembered quite a bit of it! The lyrics were ancient and mostly to do with the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, with nary a mention of the blood circulation discoverer William Harvey or indeed his Uncle Eliab who founded the school. The name 'Harvey' apparently means 'Battle worthy', which I've just found out. The Song is always a rousing few moments, and our performance did it justice this evening.

*'Now, we are gathered here, shoulder to shoulder,
Let us our voices in unison raise'*

Folkestone Sunday 7th December

The morning

I hadn't arranged a hotel breakfast, but needed to book out of the Clifton, so showered, dressed and packed. I'd picked up quite a few leaflets the day before, and looked forward to reading them properly. Pride of place went to a booklet called '*Finding Eanswythe*', which had a lot of information on the Saint, including recent discoveries. She was the only British Saint whose relics were to have been found still in 'her' church, as the other Saints' relics were lost or destroyed in Henry VIII's Reformation. Her bones had been in a lead, originally Roman, casket, hidden in the wall of the Chancel, where they'd been placed in 1138, and they remained undiscovered there until some rebuilding work in 1885.

I headed for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at the Parish Church. It was a delight to meet Pamela again, and a friendly tall man called Ian Gordon also introduced himself. I sat near the back, together with my clobber, and enjoyed the Advent #2 service, presided over by the priest, Fr. Christopher Johnson. The format was the same as that in my church with some minor tweaks. It was just wonderful to be a part of this service. My first time as an adult in 'my' original church, and of course my first ever communion there, as I'd only been confirmed in 1985. The sermon was good, and delivered from the pulpit, again different to how we do it, but again, somehow more authoritative I think, though this isn't important. The Church of England, wherever we meet, is always welcoming, and I stayed for tea afterwards. The lack of breakfast led me to eat two mince pies! I used the facilities (and therefore walked past the Eanswythe alcove without knowing it), before reluctantly leaving my new acquaintances, feeling wonderful to have completed this 'journey'.

Concluded from the March Rendezvous due to lack of space

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stmaryandsteanswythe.org

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