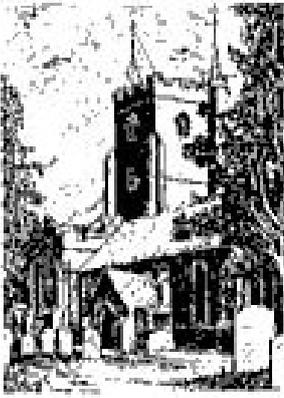


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 3 **March 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 Lead Tom Bertram 07748 434341 01303 890986

Safeguarding Officer Caroline Hayward 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

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)

Rendezvous Assembler Andrew Plested (e-mail: andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk) 01303 241124

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

St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Santa Vessey 01303 252947

email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Front Cover: Palm Sunday 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 March 2026

Sun	1	Second Sunday of Lent	
		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	Third Sunday of Lent	
		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
Thu	12	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	15	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Wed	18	12:00	Stations of the Cross
Thu	19	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	22	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Mon	23	19:00	PCC Meeting
Wed	25	12:00	Stations of the Cross
Thu	26	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	29	Palm Sunday	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST and procession
Mon	30	19:00	Compline and Address
Tue	31	19:00	Compline and Address

April

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
		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



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

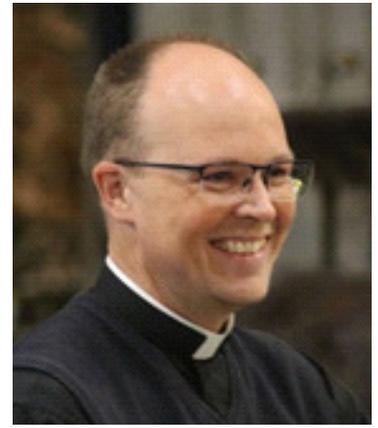
sainteanswythe@gmail.com

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



Among my occasional purchases from charity bookshops are the books of ‘unpublished letters’ to national newspapers, mainly for the amusement of things witty and borderline-unpublishable but just making it over the line.

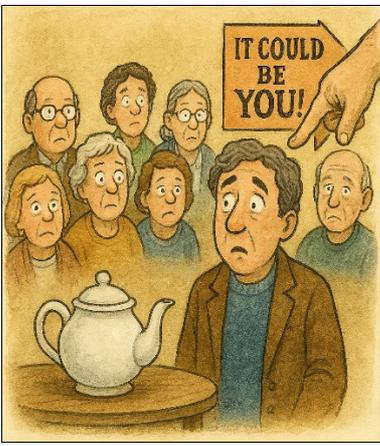
Perhaps also because they’re small enough for the smallest room or, indeed, pocket; to borrow a line from Oscar Wilde, ‘one should always have something sensational to read on the train...’

The latest edition I found came from 2020/21 and there was much reflection on how normal life had changed – in some people’s opinion for the better as they were free to enjoy some peace and quiet or a break in their customary routines and expectations. Many of us, however, will recall the challenges of this time six years ago, especially the uncertainty and the sense of fear at the unknown. There was also much pondering of what a ‘new normal’ might look like. It didn’t take long before the elements of the old ‘normal’ crept back in, be it political intrigue or the usual sporting failures that may *occasionally (frequently?)* trouble English teams. All of this was reflected in various and often wryly cutting ways in the book as people came to terms with the situation we were all plunged into and the swiftly hackneyed phrase of the time that everything was ‘unprecedented’.

In the coming weeks (and before the next edition of *Rendezvous* hits the shelves) we’ll be plunged into our own recollection and remembrance of several ‘unprecedented events’ that had an impact not just on time but eternity too. On Sunday 29th we’ll begin Holy Week, recalling the events of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem before the Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection. Each of these events is marked with a special service in St Eanswythe’s and it’s a week where it definitely pays to immerse yourself and commit a good chunk of time to it. Whilst we ‘re-enact’ elements of that week through what’s said and sung and also some of the things that we *do* within our services, this is also an opportunity to ‘re-engage’ with God and the events of that extraordinary and ‘unprecedented’ week 2000 years ago. We will go through joy, sorrow, triumph, amazement and a host of other feelings and emotions too as we place ourself back there but also seek to live in the light of those events today. What happened in the Cross and Resurrection really *did* create a ‘new normal’ for the world. How, I wonder, might you engage with that in 2026 and beyond?

I really hope to share the week with you - there are details later on in *Rendezvous* about what’s planned and if you’d like to learn more about it, do please get in touch!

With every blessing for the weeks ahead through Lent and into those most holy of days,



The Reader's Ramblings

Answering the Nudge

I don't know about you, but over the past few weeks I feel as though God has been doing that thing he does when he's trying to get our attention — the gentle-but-persistent elbow in the ribs. Everywhere I turn, the same theme keeps popping up: *calling*.

Fr John preached about it on the Conversion of St Paul — how God calls unlikely people to do unlikely things. Then the Sunday readings echoed it again. And just when I thought I might be

imagining it, along came Fr Chris' piece for February's Parish Magazine, saying much the same thing. At this point, even I can take a hint.

It seems God is reminding us that calling isn't just for prophets, apostles, or people with dramatic Damascus-road moments. It's for ordinary Christians in ordinary parishes — people like us, here at Ss Mary & Eanswythe — who are invited to offer what we have, however small or simple it may seem.

And that's the thing about calling: it rarely begins with a trumpet blast. More often it begins with a nudge. A thought you can't quite shake. A sense that "someone should do something about that," followed by the uncomfortable realisation that the someone might be you.

At the moment, our church family could really do with a few people responding to those nudges.

Could you be a sidesperson?

It's not complicated. It's about welcome — offering a smile, handing out books, helping someone find a seat. It's one of the most quietly important ministries we have, because it shapes the way people feel the moment they walk through the door.

Could you help with refreshments?

Tea, coffee, biscuits, and conversation are part of our ministry of hospitality. You don't need to be a barista. If you can pour a cup of tea and chat to someone who looks a bit lost, you're already qualified.

Could you lead the intercessions?

This one often feels daunting, but it doesn't need to be. Intercessions are simply the prayers of the people — and if you can pray at home, you can pray in church. Support and guidance are always available.

None of these roles require you to be a Jeremiah or a Paul. You don't need to be eloquent, confident, or "holy enough." You just need to be willing. God has always worked through ordinary people offering ordinary gifts — and somehow, mysteriously, He turns them into blessings.

So if you've been feeling a little nudge lately — in a sermon, in a reading, in something you've read in the magazine — perhaps this is the moment to pay attention. Perhaps God is whispering, "Get up, and enter the city... and you will be told what you are to do."

If you'd like to explore helping in any of these ways, please speak to one of the ministry team or churchwardens. We would love to help you find the right place to serve.

Because this is how the church grows — not through grand gestures, but through many small acts of love, offered faithfully, by people who simply said "yes" to the nudge

Vicky Friedrich

Children's Church! @



What's it all about?

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

IT'S ALL ABOUT
CHRISTINGLE!



SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY

IT'S ALL ABOUT
BEGINNINGS!



SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE LITTLE THINGS!



SUNDAY 8TH 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)

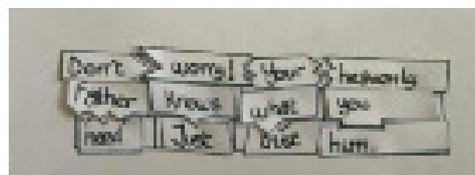


It's All About **THE little THINGS!**

Jesus told his friends and the crowds who gathered to listen to him, that birds and flowers don't worry about life – and God looks after them. God has the whole world in his hands! Jesus reassured his listeners (and he reassures us) that we are worth far more than birds or flowers!

We created pictures of the little things that God cares for and completed a puzzle to help us remember these words

DON'T WORRY - TRUST GOD!



Next time 8TH March - It's all about **LIVING WATER!**

Clare Tomlinson

Opening the Book at St Mary's School



Would YOU like to join the team?

We are so privileged to share Bible stories with the children and staff at St Mary's School.

The stories we tell and act have been retold by Bob Hartman and the Bible Society to appeal to all hearers – and we enjoy them too! We **don't** have to learn a script or improvise - all the words are provided in our lovely books. (Spot the books in the photo)

At the moment we have a team of eight – four from our church, two from the local Methodist church and two from Harbour Church – but there is room for more.

I think that, at first, we were all a bit wary, however, over the two years of our involvement we have found our visits to be great opportunities, rewarding experiences and good fun too!



If you'd like to find out about **Open the Book** – or read the stories for yourself – speak to Clare, Maureen, Carol or Fr John – we'd all be happy to tell you more.

Clare Tomlinson

LENT COURSE 2026

We'll be exploring some themes of Christian life and faith through the lens of some well-known hymns, chosen by members of the congregation.

Week 1 (25th & 26th Feb)

Come down, O Love Divine

Week 2 (4th & 5th Mar)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Week 3 (11th & 12th Mar)

Amazing Grace

Week 4 (18th & 19th Mar)

Be thou my vision

Week 5 (25th & 26th Mar)

There's a wideness in God's
mercy

Wednesday sessions run from 7.30pm – 9pm at the Vicarage

Thursday sessions run from 11.15am – 12.45pm in Church

You don't need to book, but it's always helpful to know how many chairs we might need! Drop a note to vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com or sign up in church.



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

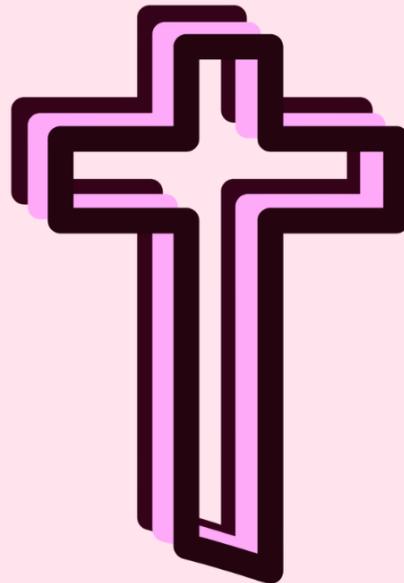
We celebrate Jesus rising from the dead together as the whole church family. There's an Easter egg hunt afterwards too!



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



GENZENNIAL



FAITH

A group for young(ish) adults who consider themselves Millennial or GenZ and are old enough to meet in a pub! Hosted by Fr Chris, vicar of St Mary and St Eanswythe's.

Venue: The Pullman on Church Street
(what3words: ///pilots.pockets.materials)

First drink is on the Vicar!

Any questions, Whatsapp Fr Chris - 07931 804952

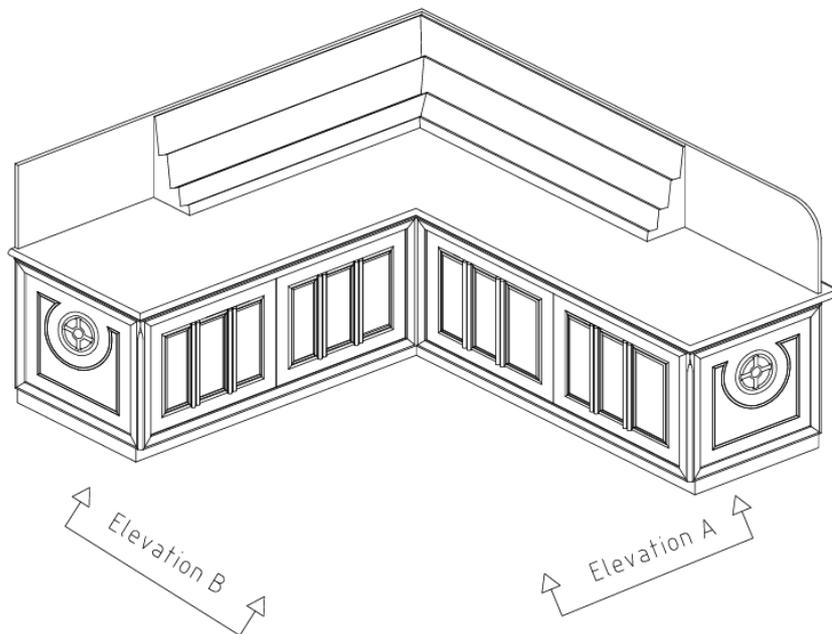
Sunday 8th March @ 7pm

A new Display Cabinet for the North Aisle

Thanks to a generous bequest made to the Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe's, the PCC has been exploring options for a new, bespoke, display cabinet in the north aisle, to replace the mixture of furniture that we have at present. Alistair Coney (who created the coffee bar for us) has designed the cabinet below. The Diocesan Advisory Committee has approved our plans, so we've submitted them to the Commissary General (ecclesiastical judge) for a faculty. If all goes to plan, the cabinet should be in place later this year!

The design incorporates storage for merchandise as well as a significant display area for the various pieces of information that we make available to visitors, worshippers and pilgrims.

It's been designed so that its colour and detailing matches the north porch by which it will stand.



The PCC is also exploring the possibility of removing the blue carpet tiles which are past their best and sanding and varnishing the floor, so watch this space!

If you have any questions, do please speak to Fr Chris.



How well do you know our church?

This month, we are asked to find a brass plaque commemorating the installation of two spotlights for the Rood Screen in 1979. Where is that plaque and what does it celebrate?

Last month we were asked to find the memorial to Canon Peter Tindall, vicar here from 1914 to 1927. It can be found on the south face of the tower pillar adjacent to the North Transept.

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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2026
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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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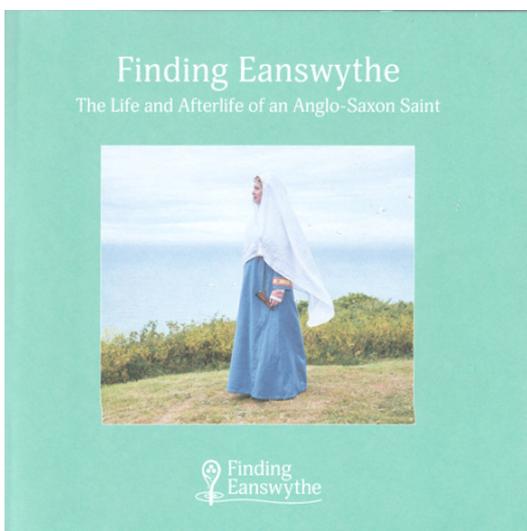
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We all love our church and its beauty and we want it to look as wonderful as possible as we are expecting lots of visitors.

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 1 March – Second Sunday of Lent – John 3.1-17

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him

God is constant in his promises, unchanging in his nature. It is only his love that sets mercy between us and his judgement.

Sunday 8 March Third Sunday of Lent – John 4.5-42

‘Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done’

We too often try to conceal our sins of to justify them by pleading special circumstances. True repentance that brings pardon requires complete honesty with ourselves and with God.

Sunday 15 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

Luke 2.33-35

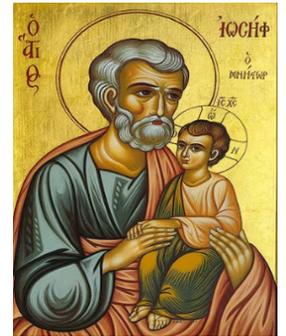
‘A sword will pierce your own soul too’

No one is so loving or so vulnerable as a mother. The Bible tells of many mothers who bore heavy burdens, above all Mary the Mother of the Lord.

Thursday 19 March – Joseph of Nazareth

Collect

God our Father,
who from the family of your servant David
raised up Joseph the carpenter
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son
and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
give us grace to follow him
in faithful obedience to your commands;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings

OT 2 Sam. 7. 4-16: NT Romans 4. 13-18: Gospel Matthew 1.18-25

Sunday 22 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent – John 11.1-45

Jesus said to her ‘I am the resurrection and the life’.

Death is a mystery which even the most devout cannot face without anxiety. Natural fear of the unknown is overcome only by faith in new and eternal life in the risen Christ.

RED LETTER DAY – 25 March
The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

The story of the announcement of the coming of God made flesh in the person of his Son, Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One, is heard in today's proclamation of the good news from the gospel of Luke. The feast marks the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary and has been celebrated in the Church at least since the late fourth century. The perfect humanity and the complete divinity of Jesus is affirmed, following the controversies around those orthodox assertions, which themselves led to the acknowledgement of Mary as *Theotokos*, God-bearer, which in the West became translated as Mother of God. The celebration thus took on strong associations with the person of Mary, and became known in England as *Lady Day*. In recent years, the Church has re-affirmed the day as a Feast of our Lord, on which his virgin-mother has a unique place of honour and veneration.

Collect

We beseech you, O Lord,
pour your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation
of your Son Jesus Christ
by the message of an angel,
so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings

OT: Isaiah 7.10-14 NT: Hebrews 10.4-10: Gospel Luke 1.26-38

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday – Matthew 27.11-54

All of them said 'Let him be crucified'.

Jesus, in complete humility in his incarnation, enters Jerusalem and does not draw back from any aspect of human suffering and death.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;

and the sceptre of, your kingdom is a righteous sceptre. */concluded overleaf*

You have loved righteousness and hated evil:
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Additional Prayers



Passiontide

God of Love
whose only Son took on himself the weight of all human suffering,
that in our times of struggle we would know we are never alone
shine your light into our hearts
that in all our confusion we would know your guidance,
in all our despair know your hope
and in all our loneliness know your friendship
in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ,
the crowds acclaimed you as king
yet later called for your death;
your disciples followed you in life
yet so many of them abandoned you at the last.
Help us in our weakness to follow you
on our journey through this sacred week
that we may keep our eyes fixed on your
Passion
and through it come to know the glory and hope of the Resurrection,
which you hold out to all who follow you,
O Jesus Christ our Lord.



*Rev Max Kramer
Chaplain, Keble College Oxford*

25 March - Lady Day – New Year's Day?

In England, Lady Day was New Year's Day (i.e., the new year began on 25 March) from 1155 until 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted in Great Britain and its Empire, and with it the first of January as the official start of the year in England, Wales and Ireland. A vestige of this remains in the United Kingdom's tax year, which ends on 5 April, or "Old Lady Day" (i.e., Lady Day adjusted for the eleven "lost days" of the calendar change in 1752). Until this change, Lady Day had been used as the start of the legal year but also the end of the fiscal and tax year.

Lady Day was also a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands, with some regional variations. Farmers' time of "entry" into new farms and onto new fields was often this day. As a result, farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day. In 1752, the British Empire finally followed most of western Europe in switching to the Gregorian calendar from the Julian calendar, which lagged 11 days behind the Gregorian, and hence 25 March in the Old Style calendar became 5 April ("Old Lady Day"), which assumed the role of contractual year-beginning for the majority of legal agreements.

Lady Day is known in the 1549 prayer book of Edward VI and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as "The Annunciation of the (Blessed) Virgin Mary" but more accurately (as in the modern Calendar of the Church of England) termed "The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary". It is the first of the four traditional English quarter days.



The Annunciation Triptych on the east wall of our South Aisle



Bookworm: What Catriona Has Been Reading

Vianne – Joanne Harris (2025)

Ultimately this terrific book is about magical realism, but I found it very easy to suspend belief while I was reading it. It's the prequel to *Chocolat*, which was a bestseller published in 1999, and which became a successful film in 2000. It's about cooking and chocolate making, but also addresses issues of homophobia, homelessness, bereavement, tarot cards (which give me the creeps) and more.

Vianne is pregnant and newly arrived in Marseille, still grieving for her mother. She quickly finds herself a job and miraculously learns to cook using the magic in the recipes of a dead woman, mixed with a touch of chocolate. Most of the customers in the café love her, but one character takes much longer to win round – he was very reminiscent of the angry and bitter priest in *Chocolat*.

Throughout her life with her mother she has never stayed long in any location, changing her name at every new place for reasons that slowly become clear. But in Marseille she starts to put down tentative roots and make friends for the first time in her life; however, this also makes her uneasy. I found the suspense of her late mother's voice telling her to move on and her own wish to stay and become settled almost unbearable at times, and it filled me with anxiety, because I so much wanted her to remain in Marseille and live happily ever after. And there was further suspense wondering who is the Man in Black who is stalking her.

This was an exciting book full of uncertainty and plot twists. The more I read the more I wanted to keep reading, and it's one of those books that I didn't want to get to the end of even though I couldn't put it down! Now I want to read it all over again, but maybe I'll read the wonderful *Chocolat* again instead.

A Neighbour's Guide To Murder – Louise Candlish (2025)

It's not giving anything away to say that a landlord gets murdered by their tenant, because that happens in the first couple of pages before the book goes back in time to the events leading up to the murder.

In this exciting story the author looks at some angles of the housing crisis – the challenge of unaffordable rents and the possibilities for exploitation of tenants in morally questionable ways, as well as the issue of adult children moving back into the parental home and paying little or no rent. It also looks at interactions between neighbours in an upmarket mansion block, and the effects media exploitation.

All of which might sound somewhat dull and boring. But this is a psychological thriller, so I was constantly on edge wondering what was going to happen next, and with the knowledge that an unknown person was going to meet a violent death. I didn't know who or what to believe, and in some cases I'm still not entirely sure where the truth lay. Of course there were lots of twists in the plot too.

Catriona Hunter

Come and sing Stainer's *Crucifixion* in aid of Pilgrim's Hospice

Palm Sunday, 29 March 2026
St Martin's Church, Horn Street,
Cheriton CT20 3JJ

Tenor *Patrick Bayford*
Bass *John Tattersfield*
Organ *Brian Thorne*
Conductor *Duncan Lord*

3 - 5pm chorus rehearsal

5pm break (*tea or coffee provided,*
bring a 'nosebag' if you need more sustenance)

6pm performance

We need to know who is taking part so if you would like to sing, please email jennybayford@yahoo.co.uk with your name and voice (SATB). If you are not 'on-line' you can ring Jenny on 01303 271509 and leave a message.

Please let us know no later than Wednesday, 25 March 2026.

Please bring your own score if you can, but there will be some available for hire.

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and greet visitors from all over the world and we'd love to see you too!

For more information (or if you can't make the 17th but would still like to learn more -
or maybe even consider some volunteering) please contact Pam Keeling at
tpdkeel@aol.com

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

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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**

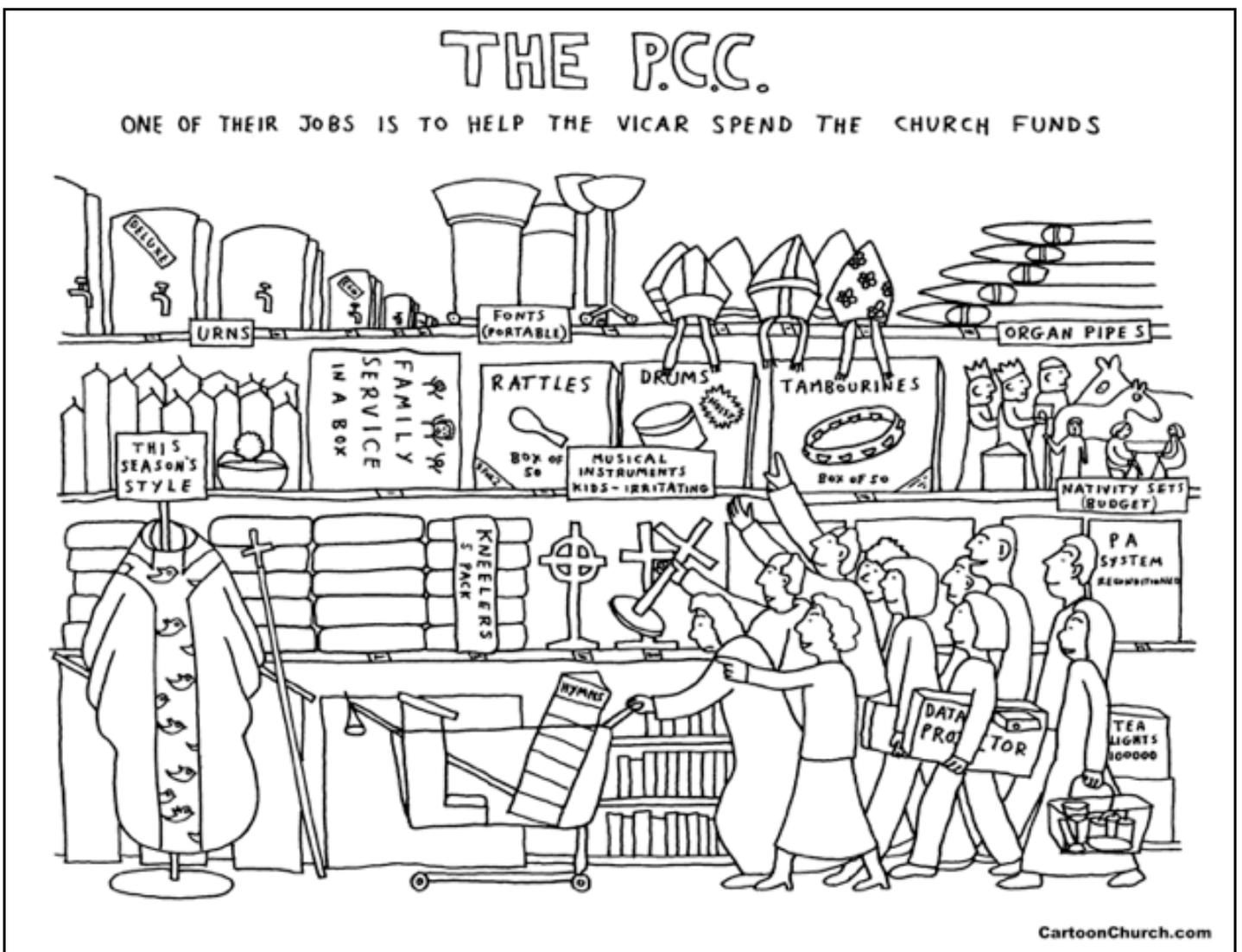
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What would you like your legacy to be? Leaving money to the church in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that our church will be here for future generations. There are also some benefits for your inheritance tax bill, too. So, if you're thinking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



Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter 2025-2026

– Our Contribution As A Church

By the time you read this the Winter Shelter will be done and dusted for another year. But at time of writing there are still two weeks to go.

The Winter Shelter is a service provided jointly by Churches Together Folkestone and the Folkestone Rainbow Centre over the coldest months of the winter, from 1 December to 28 February. Twelve beds were available for rough sleepers in a local B&B, in en-suite rooms, and every evening our guests enjoyed delicious home cooked food, prepared by volunteers from local churches and other organisations.

We as a church were responsible for preparing and serving the food to the 12 guests in this year's Winter Shelter on the 13 Monday evenings during which the shelter was open. We cooked and served the food, welcomed and chatted to the guests, and washed and cleared up afterwards. I had a dual role as I was the Rainbow Centre member of staff on duty in addition to being the venue co-ordinator.

The role of the Venue Co-ordinator is straightforward (in theory) – to compile the rotas for cooking, which was done by the volunteers at home, and for the on-site volunteers to welcome and chat to the guests, serve the food, and wash and clear up afterwards. Of course, as anyone who has ever had anything to do with rotas knows, it's never as simple as that. Indeed, compiling volunteer rotas is part of my day job, and I am often heard to mutter darkly, "Never take a job involving rotas"! Sometimes volunteers fell sick and I had to find someone to fill in at short notice; or, on one occasion, having submitted lists of what the cooks were planning to prepare, we suddenly discovered that the guests were going to be served apple crumble three nights running; delicious as this might have been we quickly substituted jam roly poly on the Monday evening to provide greater variety. Thank goodness for the WhatsApp group we set up for Monday volunteers; it was optional to join, but almost everyone did and it was exceptionally useful for sorting out such issues quickly and effectively. It also gave the volunteers the valuable sense of belonging to a larger team.

Fortunately we didn't have to do this all on our own and had the support of volunteers from other churches, or those with no church connection at all. I knew most of the volunteers either from having worked with them last year, or because they are Rainbow Centre volunteers, as well as those I know well from church. But there were some new faces too. Each week the team was different, but without exception everyone was terrific to work with, and there was lots of fantastic teamwork. My only regret this year is that there were so many volunteers for Monday evenings that not everyone was able to volunteer as often as they would have liked – though I did my best to ensure that the rota was as fair as possible.

The food was beyond amazing and greatly appreciated by the guests, whose appetites increased significantly over the first couple of weeks. It was without

exception, delicious. Anything left over was given to the guests in the form of seconds and thirds, plus takeaways. There was rarely anything left after that to freeze! Though I must confess to having done some important 'quality checks' with a small spoonful here and there.

Here are some facts and statistics:

- The first night of Winter Shelter was a Monday, so we were in right from the start – no pressure there!
- Out of the 13 Mondays, volunteers from our church prepared 9 main courses
- and 8 puddings.
- The main courses provided by our church volunteer cooks were:
 - Spinach, chickpea and lamb curry
 - Beef stew
 - Turkey, cranberry and stuffing pie (Christmas dinner in a pie!)
 - Lasagne and garlic bread
 - Sausage, broccoli and cheesy bake
 - Beef bolognese with jacket potatoes
 - Cottage pie
 - Chicken casserole
 - Chicken and rice (official name – Marry Me Chicken!)
- The puddings volunteers from our church provided included:
 - French apple cake
 - Ginger cake
 - Sticky toffee pudding
 - Pineapple upside down pudding
 - Jam roly poly
 - Fruit pie
- We used countless gallons of custard, and nearly as much gravy.
- A third of the volunteers (6 out of 18) working in the kitchen and serving were from our church.

There was a great vibe in the dining room, and as the guests got to know each other better they moved from sitting on their own to sitting in larger groups round the tables. Of course I knew the guests well from my work in the Homeless Support Service, but the relationship with them over meals was more informal than at the Rainbow Centre. They would often share problems with us as well as happy news, for example, we were shown photos of their children.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the part that you have played in this year's Winter Shelter. I thoroughly enjoyed working with you all and am enormously grateful for all your hard work.

Catriona Hunter

Winter Shelter Venue Coordinator – Monday Evenings

Excerpts from an Unexpected Pilgrimage by Peter Lord

I am the grandson of Percy Lord, who took over the Bouverie Hotel license in 1929. His son, my father, Robert Lord, but always known as Bob, shared the management with Percy after the war, until he retired to Hythe in 1982. He was popular and very well known in Folkestone, and he managed and supported an amateur football team called *The Regents* for a very long time. His wife Joan, my mother, was a nurse in the ‘front line’ at Dover Hospital in the war, where she met Dad. Her mother May Pledger was a matron at the hospital and had, according to family legend, between part of a trio of singing women, called *The Three Mays* in her spare time. Mum ran the hotel and catering part of the Bouverie. I was born and brought up in Folkestone but have lived in ‘exile’ since 1969 through university and work.

Why the Trip to Folkestone?

The first weekend in December is always the date of the Old Harveians Association (OHA) annual dinner. Back in the sixties my old friend Ian and I had attended the Harvey Grammar School (HGS), which was originally founded in 1674. We were in different academic years, though we were born in the same actual calendar year. Later, post HGS, we would be in the same first year at Churchill College, Cambridge. Ian could be over here from the States on the date for the dinner. Also, there was a strong possibility of visiting our renowned and brilliant old primary school, called *St Eanswythe’s C of E Primary School*, for the first time since we’d left.

I knew Ian was keen to talk to our old primary school at about 2 p.m. Friday afternoon, but I wasn’t as keen. After a gap of several decades (Ian’s work as a diplomat required confidentiality and discretion) Ian and I had started an email correspondence at the time of the Churchill College reunion in 2019. This was to celebrate half a century since our ‘matriculation at’, or our ‘going up to’, Churchill in those exciting and almost revolutionary days back in 1969.

When we’d decided to go to Folkestone, Ian booked into the Clifton Hotel. This was an old, established and popular hotel, in a pleasant central location on the world-famous Leas. The Leas is a place where Victorians had strolled or ‘perambulated’, and it makes an appearance in H.G. Wells’ short story ‘*The Accelerator*’. H.G. Wells had lived in Folkestone, at the west end of the Leas. It obviously made sense for me to also book into the Clifton, so I did, paying for two nights in advance.

The first evening

My room was on the second floor, and quite near the convenient lift. The window had a view of green fields or lawns, but it was dark by now. Having unpacked my well-travelled, Czech-made, student, compact, ancient, iron-framed and canvas rucksack, I wandered out onto the Leas to get my bearings and just ‘be’ back in Folkestone. It was a ‘me’ moment; and I was just pleased that the day had gone quite well so far. I walked onto the flat roof / viewing place of the Leas Cliff Hall. There, wonderfully, I could see about 4 or 5 sets of lights across the Channel at Boulogne, 23 miles away! It’s always been a favourite view of mine, being interested in neighbouring mainland Europe from a very young age.

Folkestone Saturday 6th December

After breakfast I went out and first saw the statue of William Harvey. I was amused to see that in his left hand he held a human heart (the patient had no need of it anymore). Visiting the outside of the Leas Cliff Hall building initiated a happy reminiscence. At age 18, I'd written and delivered a speech there to the school and parents (on Speech Day), roughly 1,000 people! (This was because I was briefly School Captain = Head Boy).

I enjoyed my walk along the Leas, still a long swathe of cliff-top green lawns and flowers, and originally the site of Victorian perambulations in the 19th Century. I occasionally nodded and said hello to several passing strangers, as is normally my wont, anyway. The Remembrance Plaza was dominated by a huge arch. I observed that the funicular lifts were undergoing major refurbishments and were closed. The Road of Remembrance down to the sea level was also closed, for no obvious reason. Later I would discover that a serious landslip onto the road would require months of costing assignment and very tricky restoration.

To get to my first objective, the parish church, I deviated into Sandgate Road. Nowadays it is pedestrianised, as is the case with many town centres. Then I saw a most astonishing thing. A very heavy, spherical, one foot diameter, solid stone, medieval cannon ball was mounted on a very low plinth, seemingly incongruous, almost inconspicuous, and ignored by all passers-by. I read the inscription. Apparently, it had been fired at the French during the siege of Boulogne in 1544! And had been returned to England by the French 400 years later!! As a gesture of goodwill between our two nations!!! This was remarkable. Certainly, the first example I'd seen of a destructive war artefact being returned to the sender, and after a gap of hundreds of years too! But it was very gratifying that it had served as a link between us and the French, with whom we share a lot of history and have been happily reconciled for a century at least.

So, I stuck to my original plan of visiting my very first church, the Folkestone Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe. Unlike churches in and near London, it was open in the morning until around 1 p.m.

I'd last entered this church as an 11-year-old child one Palm Sunday just before a birthday. Then I'd been in the church/school Sunday School, attending enough times to earn my first ever Bible, the New English Bible, which was a new up-to-date modern translation of the New Testament, and was quite the trendy Bible to have then! My role in this Palm Sunday service had been to carry a large cloth banner hanging on a pole in a procession through the church. The child in front of me was carrying a set of lit candles. Somehow, I managed to not ignite the flapping banner! Though my cousin John, ever possessed of a mischievous sense of humour, was also in the congregation and had tried to distract me! John was a nice man but was regarded as a black sheep by my mother, and 'butter wouldn't melt', by his mother, my Auntie Kay, originally Mavis.

I pushed open the door at about 12:15pm. As I got my bearings in the respectful and reverent quietude, a lady came up to me, and we started talking. I explained some of my childhood history there, and she started by showing me the display all about Rev David Railton MC, who'd been a priest/curate at this church, and had served in WW1 as a padre on the Western front in France. This was a remarkable man. Not only did he minister to the troops in the worse conditions imaginable, but later he would become significant in Britain's history. Although hardly anyone I know has ever heard of him. When near his billet at Erquinghem – Lys, France, he saw a grave marked with a rough wooden cross. On the cross was written, in black pencilled letters, '*An Unknown British Soldier*', and in brackets beneath '*of the Black Watch*'.

The lady showing me round continued to enlighten me. I discovered her name's Pamela, and next we saw the famous old and now retired Clock, called the Attwood clock, all wonderful cogs, gears, iron and rope. I just enjoyed the situation

It was a highlight of the weekend to be reminded of the patron saint of Folkestone, who gave her name to the parish church and the subsequent nearby primary school Ian and I had attended. Both today, and in subsequent days and weeks, I would think a lot about this woman, and how, even though she only lived to be about 20-22 years old over 1,350 years ago, she would remain significant in the minds of many Folkestone, Kent and even English people.

Saturday afternoon

At around 12:50pm I went to the British Lion pub to meet Ian for lunch, as we'd arranged. This inn is in the Bayle and is Folkestone's oldest pub, dating back to 1460. The Bayle had originally contained a small Mott and Bailey castle, hence the name. He fancied a pint or two, but I stuck to tea, and we ordered and ate a very pleasant lunch provided by chef Nick and landlady Dee. After about an hour and a half we parted ways again, and I headed for the Folkestone Museum.

This Museum didn't exist when I was last here and was now housed in the old Town Hall in Guildhall Street. The building had been the scene of my first ever chess tournament, and an international one at that, during Easter 1966. (I'd won the junior B section with 5/5! And remember being impressed with the exotic nationalities of some of the competitors, from France and the Netherlands!). The ground floor of the museum contained a variety of artefacts, and several impressive paintings. The most fascinating to me was the huge oil: '*Landing of the Belgium Refugees*' by the great Belgian portrait painter, Fredo Franzoni. He'd taken 4 years to paint it. On one day in WW1, 16,000 Belgians arrived in Folkestone, on a variety of small boats, escaping the war in Europe. We'd welcomed them, with the Mayor and officials appearing in the painting. This puts into perspective the current small boats crossing the Channel.

/to be concluded

The Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe

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

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

Single Membership £10 per annum. Joint or Family membership £15 per annum
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Cash or cheques made payable to The Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe can be sent to Pam Keeling, 13 Wellfield Road, Folkestone, CT20 2PJ.

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