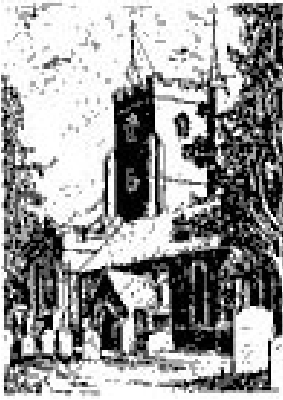


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 5 **May 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)

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Organist and Choir Director James Brown sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com

Children's Church Clare Tomlinson 07751 423796

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email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Front Cover: The Ascension 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 May 2026

Sun	3	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
			12:00	Annual Parish Church Meeting
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 Family Picnic
Mon	11		8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Thu	14	Ascension Day	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
			19:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Sun	17	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Mon	18		19:00	PCC meeting
Thu	21		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	24	Pentecost	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	28		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	30		11:00	Ukranian Hospitality
Sun	31	Trinity Sunday	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST



June

Mon	1	The Visitation	10:30	EUCHARIST
Thu	4		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	7	Trinity 1	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
			12:00	765th Big Birthday Bash
Mon	8		8:30	St Eanswythe's school PTFA coffee morning
Tue	9		19:00 - 21:00	Friends Quiz in the Woodward Hall
Thu	11		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	14	Trinity 2	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's Church
Thu	18		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	21	Trinity 3	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	28		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	27		11:00	Ukranian Hospitality



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



My late Grandmother was known to say around teatime on Christmas Day, “Well, that’s that for another year then!” We’d barely got as far as the Christmas Special of Call the Midwife (or equivalent of the time), but it felt like it was all but time to get the boxes back down from the loft and ‘return to normal’.

There’s a temptation to do the same at Easter. We reach the end of the service on Easter Morning and think, “Thank goodness that’s done” before hopefully tucking into a good lunch! And yet... despite the emotional rollercoaster the church has been on throughout the previous week (and a rest is not an unreasonable desire at that stage!) it’s time to ponder how life might look different in the light of the resurrection and the new life to which we’re called.

The Church, historically, has kept the ‘Great 50 Days’ between Easter Day and Pentecost (Whitsun) as a season marked out by particular joy and celebration in light of everything experienced on Easter Day. It almost forms a mirror to the solemnity of Lent’s 40 days, encouraging us to wonder how to put those new habits and character shifts into action for good and for new life in God.

By this stage of Eastertide, the Easter eggs are probably long gone and memories of early April fairly distant, but the events that we celebrated on Easter Day remain with us always and we try to draw those onwards with us. In our worship in church we’ve been hearing of the resurrection appearances of Jesus and the early writers of the church getting to grips with the significance and meaning of all that was witnessed and experienced. And then there’s the question of what that means for us.

We also have opportunity with the church’s worship to mark and celebrate a couple of other great festivals; Ascension Day and Pentecost. Readers of a certain vintage may recall a half or full day off school for Ascension Day, as we recall Jesus’ ascension into heaven, marking 40 days since the events of Easter Day. 10 days later, we hear of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (or Whitsunday – and an accompanying bank holiday and community celebrations to mark it, historically!) as another promise of Jesus to his disciples is accomplished and fulfilled.

So, that’s *not* it for another year then, is it? The celebrations are going on for a bit longer yet and things never really returned to ‘normal’ after the first Easter anyway, so, question is, what might it mean for us?

With very best wishes for a continued joyful *Eastertide*



The Reader's Ramblings

Sutton Hoo and Eanswythe Too?

Recently, I had the joy of visiting Sutton Hoo, that hauntingly beautiful site where the rolling mounds hold stories far older than Christianity in our land. Standing before the famous ship-burial mound - silent, majestic, and still - my curiosity was stirred. I began to wonder not

only about the king thought to be buried there, but about how this early East Anglian story might connect with the Christian heritage we cherish today. What I discovered was a surprising and rather delightful family link reaching all the way to our very own St Eanswythe. I thought I would share the journey with you.

When people think of Sutton Hoo, they often picture the majestic Anglo-Saxon ship burial discovered in 1939 - a dazzling array of gold, garnets, armour, and regalia buried beneath a grassy mound above the River Deben. Many historians identify the man buried there as King Rēdwald of East Anglia, the powerful early 7th-century ruler and Bretwalda who held sway over southern England. He was the son of Tytila and a leading figure of the Wuffingas dynasty, the early royal house of East Anglia.

Less well known, however, is that the East Anglian royal family later formed deep familial links with the royal house of Kent, and that these links connect Sutton Hoo not only with the kings of Kent but also, indirectly, with St Eanswythe, one of England's earliest native-born saints.

From Rēdwald to Anna: A Dynastic Thread

Rēdwald's brother was Eni, and it was Eni's son Anna who eventually took the East Anglian throne in the mid-7th century. That means King Anna was Rēdwald's nephew, continuing the Wuffingas bloodline as Christianity took increasing hold in East Anglia.

Anna became famous not only as a pious Christian king but as the father of an extraordinary group of daughters - later known as the "holy family of East Anglia" - including Seaxburh (Also known as Sexburgh), Eþelthryth (also known as Etheldreda or Audrie), Wihtburh, and Seaxburh's half-sister St Eorcengota, all remembered for their sanctity.

Seaxburh of East Anglia Marries into Kent

The link to St Eanswythe emerges through Anna's daughter Seaxburh, who married Eorcenberht of Kent, ruler of the prosperous Kentish kingdom and a key figure in the development of Christianity in southeastern England. Eorcenberht issued commands for the destruction of pagan idols and the observance of Lent,

establishing him as a significant Christian reformer. Multiple historical sources confirm that Seaxburh of Ely (or Seaxburh of East Anglia) was indeed Eorcenberht's wife and queen. Together, they had children who later became saints and rulers, strengthening the spiritual prestige of both ruling houses.

And Where Does St Eanswythe Fit In?

This is where the story becomes especially intriguing. According to the Kentish Royal Legend, St Eanswythe - patron saint of Folkestone - was the daughter of King Eadbald of Kent and Queen Emma, making her the sister of Eorcenberht.

If Eorcenberht was Eanswythe's brother, then Seaxburh - daughter of Anna of East Anglia and granddaughter of Rēdwald's brother Eni - became Eanswythe's sister-in-law.

In other words:

- Rēdwald, brother of
- Eni, father of
- King Anna, whose daughter
- Seaxburh married
- Eorcenberht, brother of
- St Eanswythe.

It is a remarkable family chain connecting the likely occupant of Sutton Hoo with one of England's earliest female saints.

A Meeting of Two Worlds

Thus, through marriage and dynastic alliance, the splendour of Sutton Hoo and the holiness of St Eanswythe belong to the same extended family story. Rēdwald - the king whose ship burial evokes both pagan tradition and emergent Christianity - stands only two generations removed from Eanswythe, a pioneering Christian woman whose prayerful life helped shape the spirituality of early Kent.

The Sutton Hoo treasures remind us of the wealth, power, and cultural confidence of early Anglo-Saxon England. The life of St Eanswythe reminds us of the spiritual transformation taking place at the same time. And between them stands Seaxburh - a bridge between East Anglian and Kentish worlds, between royal authority and Christian vocation.

As I pieced together this unexpected tapestry of kings, queens, saints, and ship burials, I found myself quietly delighted by how a simple day out at Sutton Hoo opened a doorway into a far richer story than I had imagined. What began as curiosity beside an ancient sandy mound became a journey through the intertwined lives of Rēdwald, Anna, Seaxburh, and Eanswythe - figures separated by kingdoms yet connected by family and faith. It reminds me how our history often hides

beautiful surprises, waiting to be uncovered, and how the threads of God's story in this land run deeper and more intricately than we might think. I hope this little exploration brings you the same joy of discovery that it brought me.

~ Vicky Friedrich ~



THURSDAY STUDY CLUB

Thursday 7th May
11.15am - 12.30pm.

Join us in church to discuss aspects of Christian faith and belief - we'll even get the good coffee and biscuits on!

Further information from Fr Chris
vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com / 07931 804952

St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church



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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH IN APRIL

It's all about asking questions!

It was all about asking questions on the second Sunday in April. We were mainly concerned with Thomas and all the questions he had about the risen Lord -

HOW?

WHY?

WHY CAN'T I SEE JESUS?

WHY CAN'T I PUT MY FINGERS IN THE NAIL HOLES IN HIS HANDS?

HOW CAN JESUS BE ALIVE?

As we know, Jesus came and stood among his disciples, saying,

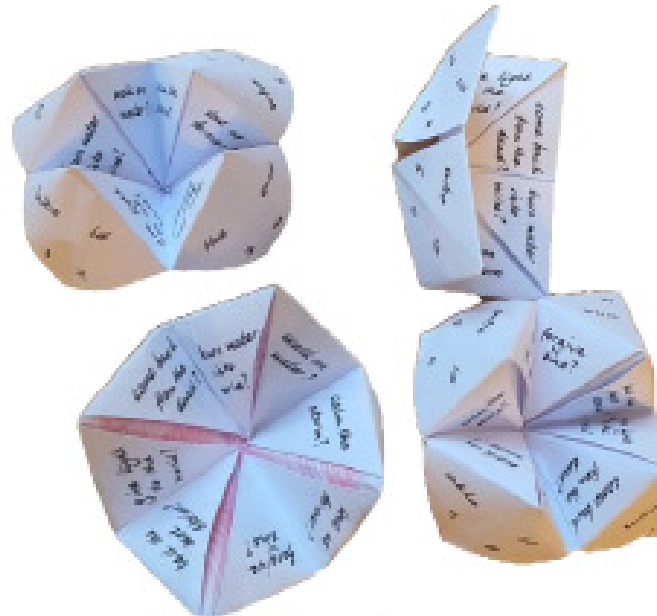


and graciously invited Thomas to come to him and, if he wanted to, put his fingers in the nail holes. Of course Thomas recognised Jesus and acknowledged him - **'My Lord and my God'**.

Jesus said that those who weren't able to actually see him, would be extra blessed because of their faith - and that's **US!**

Thomas has been criticised for his lack of faith but actually, he asked the questions which we all have.

To help us remember that Jesus is the answer to all our questions, we made choosers - here are some!



The 8 questions we had for our choosers were

Who is the one who is able to **change water into wine?**

Who is the one who is able to **come back from the dead?**

Who is the one who is able to **forgive sins?**

Who is the one who is able to **calm the storm?**

Who is the one who is able to **love us forever?**

Who is the one who is able to **give light to the world?**

Who is the one who is able to **tell the best stories?**

Who is the one who is able to **walk on water?**

And the answer to ALL our questions is **JESUS!**

Next time - 10th May *It's all about loving Jesus* - followed by our Children's Church family picnic!

Clare Tomlinson

GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL!

Good Friday saw the church open in the morning for something VERY special!

At 10 o'clock our guests began to arrive they began to settle in with a spot of colouring and thinking and chatting.



Then – after AEROBICS
and prayer it was time



for all and a song
for the making of

HOT CROSS BUNS!

First – the mixing



Then kneading and shaping and marking with a cross

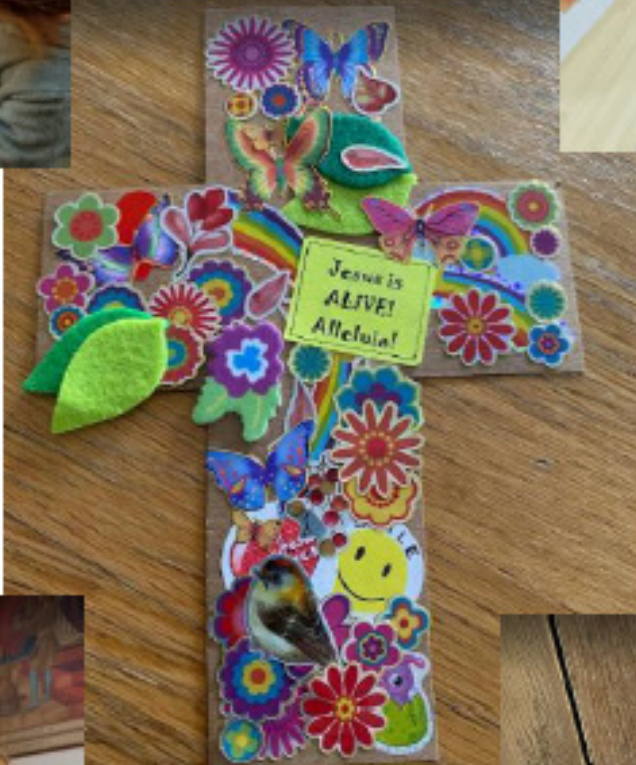


until 48 (yes FORTY-EIGHT) buns were ready for the air fryers in the vestry.



We left the buns there for a short time to prove and bake and fill the church with their delicious scent, while we enjoyed elevenses and more dancing and singing before.....

.....turning our thoughts back to the Cross.





Almost, but not quite, the last thing we did, was to gather round to hear the wonderful story of the first Good Friday and Easter and creating our amazing Easter Garden.

From this



..... to this



And FINALLY
THESE!



Thank you to everyone who came and helped and those who joined in, singing, dancing, baking and creating.

What a wonderful **GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL!**

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10th & 11th

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6th March

5th & 6th

JUNE

Consignment deadline
1st May

31st & 1st

JULY & AUGUST

Consignment deadline
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2nd & 3rd

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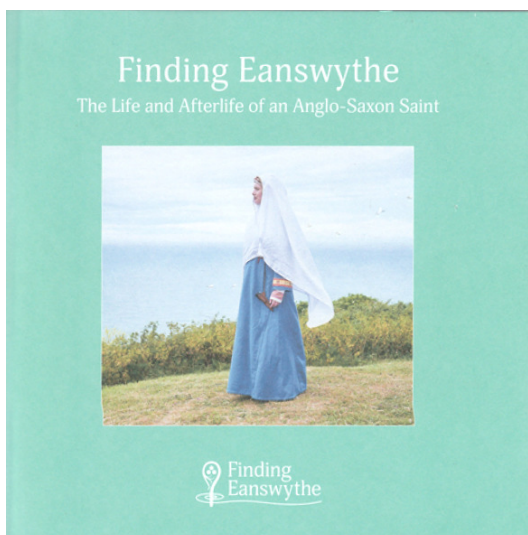
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We all love our church and its beauty and we want it to look as wonderful as possible as we are expecting lots of visitors.

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 3 May – 5th Sunday of Easter – John 14.1-14

‘Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?’

The deep heart of the Christian faith is not in a book; not in formulas of belief. It is in the person of the Son of God.

Sunday 10 May – 6th Sunday if Easter – John 14.15-21

‘Because I live you also will live’.

Humanity has always sought for the meaning of life – the message of Christianity is that the Resurrection of Christ made new life open to all who will receive it.

Sunday 17 May – 7th Sunday of Easter; Sunday after Ascension – John 17.1-11

*‘All mine are yours and all yours are mine;
and I have been glorified in them’.*

No one can be a Christian in isolation. We need the support of shared worship and knowledge of fellowship with those known and unknown who are seeking to do God’s will.

Sunday 24 May – Day of Pentecost – John 20.19-23

He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’.

Whatever power for good we may have comes from the grace of the Holy Spirit in us.

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday – Matthew 28.16-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.

Wherever the Gospel has been proclaimed believers have been taught to acknowledge the power of the Holy Trinity in whose name they were baptised.

Red Letter Feast Thursday 14 May

Ascension Day – Luke 24.44-53

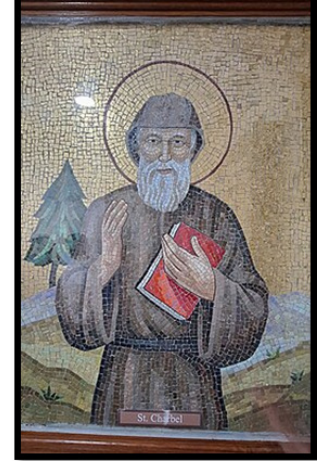
They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

The work of Christ on earth is ended. Now it is for us to continue that work to the end of time.

Commemoration - Charbel Makhlouf

8 May 1828 - 24 December 1898

Charbel Makhlouf was a Lebanese Maronite monk and priest. During his life, he obtained a wide reputation for holiness, and for his ability to unite Christians, Muslims and Druze. He was born on 8 May 1828, one of five children, in the Lebanese mountain village of Bekaa Kafra. He was raised in a pious home, and became drawn to the lives of the saints and the ascetic life practised by two of his uncles. As a young boy, he was responsible for the family's small herd of cows, which he would take to a nearby grotto, where he had enshrined an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary and would spend the day in prayer.



In 1851, he began training as a monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order at the Monastery of Our Lady in Mayfouq. As a young monk, Makhlouf began to prepare himself for ordination and was ordained six years later, on 23 July 1859, in Bkerke. Charbel was then sent back to the Monastery of Saint Maron, where he lived a life of severe asceticism.

In 1875, Charbel was granted by the abbot of the monastery the privilege of living as a hermit at the Hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul, a chapel under the care of the monastery. He spent the next 23 years living with other hermits until his death from a stroke December 24, 1898.

He was canonised on 9 October 1977. A shrine in his name was inaugurated in St Patrick's Cathedral, New York.

Peace throughout the nations

Lord, we pray today for all nations and especially for places where there is persecution, where there is violence, where there is indifference, anxiety and alienation that the whole world would come to know your healing love.

King of peace

Who longs for us to live in fellowship and unity,
send your spirit of peace throughout our world.

Take from our hearts all prejudice and envy,
take from our hands the weapons of violence
and take from our lips all words of cruelty,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
one family in the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev. M. J. Kramer
Chaplain, Keble College, Oxford

Dates For Your Diary

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

Sunday, 7 June	12 p.m.	Big Birthday Bash – 765 th Birthday Party
Tuesday, 9 June	7 p.m.	Wit and Wisdom Quiz (<i>Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe</i>)
Sunday, 14 June	10.30 a.m.	Children’s Church – <i>It’s all about team work</i>
Sunday, 28 June	10.30 a.m.	Town Sunday
Sunday, 12 July	10.30 a.m.	Children’s Church – <i>It’s all about growing with Jesus</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
Thursday 10 December		Creative Quarter Carol Service
Sunday, 20 December	4 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday, 24 December	4 p.m.	Crib Service
Thursday, 24 December	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Friday, 25 December		Sung Eucharist



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!



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



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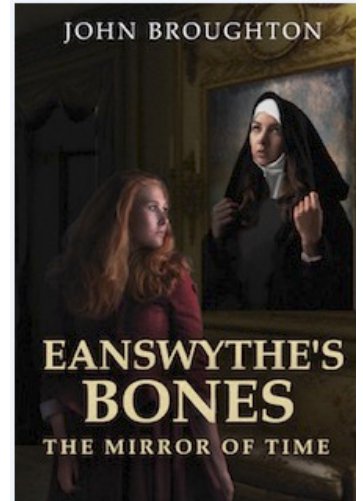


Bookworm: What Catriona Has Been Reading

Eanswythe's Bones: the Mirror of Time – John Broughton (2026)

I've just finished reading this recently published book about St Eanswythe, her bones, and featuring our church. Fr Chris lent it to me and asked me to review it for Rendezvous – so here you are.

The author makes clear that it is a work of fiction, which is just as well considering the how the storyline pans out. The main action takes place in 2019-2020. A chance discovery of an ancient document by Anna, an archaeology PhD student at university in Canterbury, leads to her personally discovering the relics of St Eanswythe in the church of St Mary and St Eanswythe in Folkestone. As the relics are being uncovered something very strange happens to Anna. Not only does she suddenly find herself talking fluent Latin and Old English, Eanswythe's soul moves into her body, changing Anna's life completely. And then the miracles start, causing Anna to become a media sensation and be constantly hounded by the press. Is Anna a saint or a witch? Is she suffering psychosis or a religious experience? The only escape she can find is in a convent far away.



While I found this book a real page turner I was extremely frustrated by the inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the plot. I accept it is a work of fiction, but many facts could have been checked from the church website. And I didn't like the rather malevolent character of Eanswythe, and found this was haunting me in the church. I have always perceived her to be a gentle character. At the end of the book there is a photograph of part of the beautiful stained glass image of St Eanswythe, which is in our church. However, the author incorrectly credits this to St Eanswith's church, Brenzett (although this church also features briefly in the story). I could also have done without the unconvincing love interest. Anna becomes involved in a relationship with her tutor, but he proves a bit flaky and can't cope when her life becomes difficult; just when she could really do with his support.

Overall this was a very good read, which I couldn't put down, but I don't like reading about the supernatural and I disliked the oppressive nature of Eanswythe's soul lodged in Anna's body. I was also annoyed by the factual inaccuracies (although these wouldn't be obvious to anyone unfamiliar with the history of St Eanswythe). However, it is a work of fiction! And I'm glad I read it for the local interest.

I'm assuming that everyone reading this is familiar with the history of St Eanswythe and the relics, but if you would like to read more you can find information on our church website at <https://stmaryandsteanswythe.org/eanswythe-found>

Catriona Hunter

Telephone
255066

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Folkestone

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69 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2AF

email: enquiries@rainbow-centre.org

Telephone: 01303 850733

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

Samaritans

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

email: Samaritans: jo@samaritans.org

The Salvation Army

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

Website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk

email: folkestone@salvationarmy.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care

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

National helpline: 0808 808 1677

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

Age UK

For advice on money, care or health 0800 055 6112

65 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone CT19 4NS.

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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.

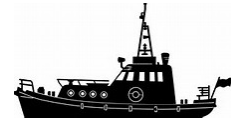
Telephone 0808 278 7961 - for free Kent advice line service

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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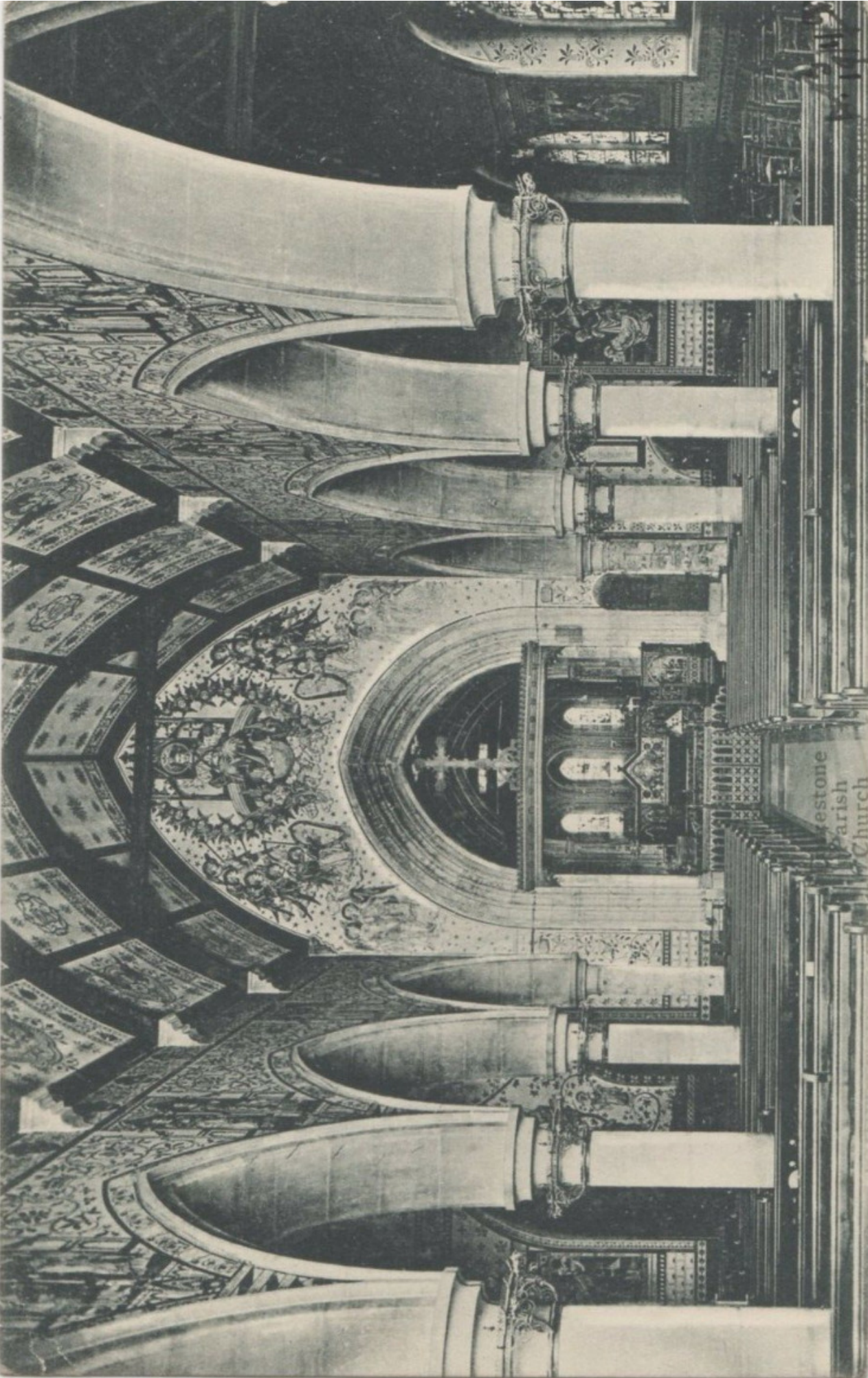
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A view of the Nave in 1904. Note that there are no figures on the Rood Screen, the western brass gates to the choir stalls are still in place and the Pulpit is in its original place with no emergency exit for the preacher! In the Chancel the top brown step is not there so the central top lines up with the frieze either side. But, of course, everywhere is decorated by A O Hemmings

Join



our

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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

Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe

QUIZ NIGHT 26

Join The Friends in what promises to be a night of
fiendish questions to exercise your
little grey cells and raise
much-needed funds for our historic church

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7pm for 7.30 start

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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:
060606098)



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

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

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

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



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**

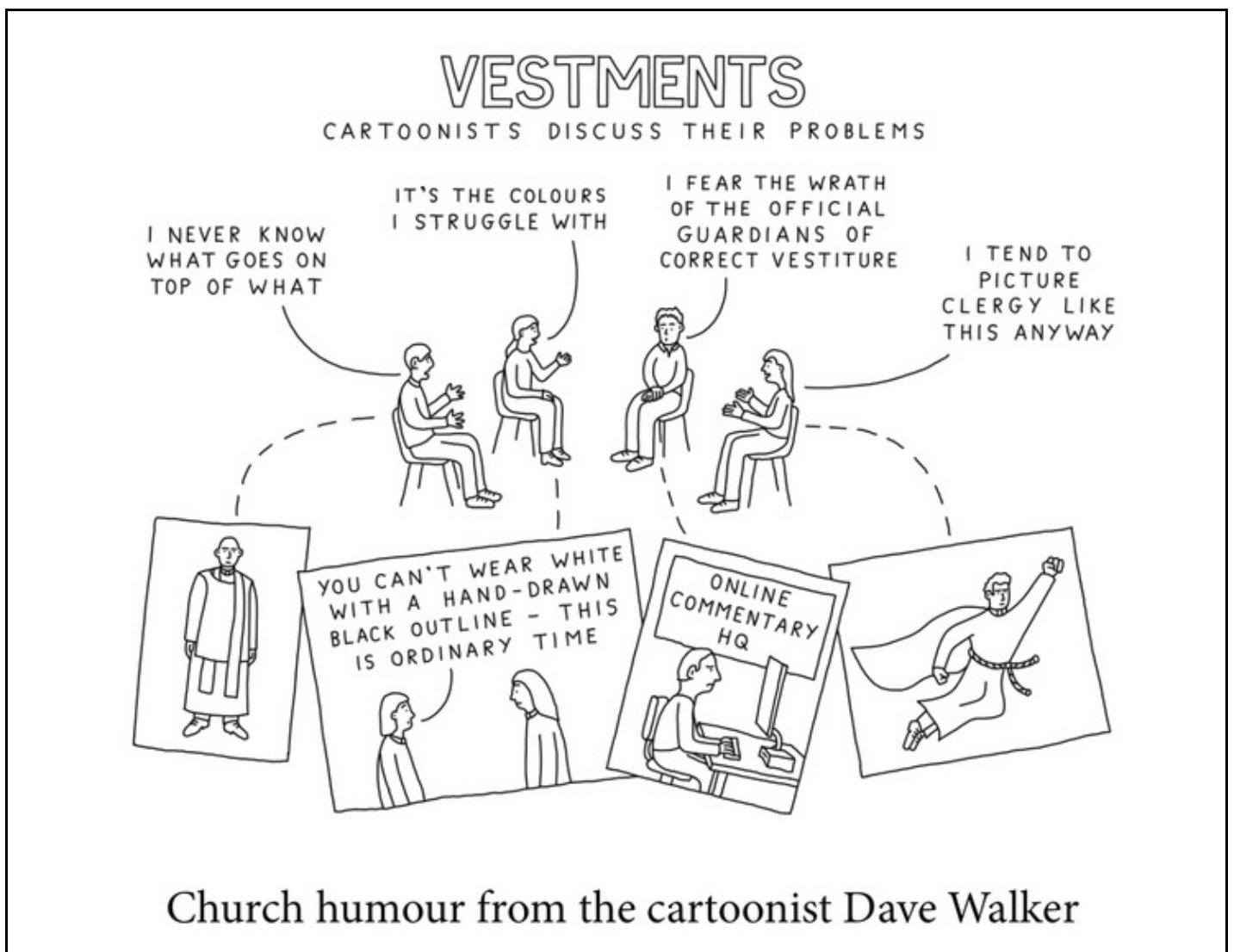
View the recorded service using the link
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBS9ny>

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





Music Notes

This year, the annual Sacconi Chamber Music Festival takes place from 14 to 17 May in three venues: The Green Room at the Grand, Holy Trinity Church and here at St Mary & St Eanswythe. Full details are on the Sacconi website where you can also book tickets. The final concert will be here in church at 3 p.m. on Sunday 17 May and will include a world premiere – with local interest!

Thursday 14 May, 6pm. The Grand, The Leas
Sacconi Quartet & Friends: A Celebration of New Music

Friday 15 May, 7pm. St Eanswythe's Church
Sacconi Quartet & Daniil Margulis (double bass):
Haydn, Freya Waley-Cohen, Dvořák

Saturday 16 May, 10.30am. The Grand, The Leas
Sounds Folkestone Youth Strings directed by Flo Peycelon

Saturday 16 May, 7pm. Holy Trinity Church
Sacconi Quartet, RCM Chamber Orchestra & Simon
Crawford-Phillips (piano):
Warlock, Britten, Walton, Dvořák

Sunday 17 May, 11am. The Grand, The Leas
Ben Hancox (violin), Hannah Dawson (violin)
& Simon Crawford-Phillips (piano):
Boulangier, Ravel, Franck

Sunday 17 May, 12.30pm. The Grand, The Leas
Friends & Patrons Reception (invitation only)

Sunday 17 May, 3pm. St Eanswythe's Church
Sacconi Quartet, Simon Crawford-Phillips (piano) &
Maya Broman Crawford-Phillips (violin):
Woolrich (World Premiere), Fauré, Chausson

www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk

www.ticketsource.co.uk/sacconi-festival

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Help Required

We have a team of 10 ladies who make and serve coffee and tea every Sunday. The average age of that team is 77.

Now there is no Age Restriction on who stands behind the 'bar' – even people under 70, 60, even 30, are allowed! We need some more helpers! It's not that scary and if you would like to help you can be alongside someone who does it often and can guide you. We need 6 more people to help and then we would all be able to serve once every 2 months.

Over Easter we had a great time working in the church together as our church family. And that culminated in an Easter Saturday service in which Fr. Chris gave us a wonderful and happy celebration, made even better because we had all worked together in the church that morning cleaning, polishing, arranging flowers and caring for our beautiful church.

We also need help Welcoming our congregation on Sunday mornings as part of our church family, if you can be here by ten o'clock to hand out hymn books and orders of service and greeting everyone that is such a friendly way of being part of it.

Here's a thought - if all the Warrior ladies who make your time in church so pleasurable went on a 'works' outing and the bus fell over a cliff – what would happen? There would be no-one to do anything!

So please think about not only what you can do for Jesus but think about our church family too and how you can contribute.

Jenny Coleman

How well do you know our church?

Last month we were challenged to find a brass plaque marking the installation of two spotlights for the Rood Screen over the Chancel Arch. The plaque is fixed to the foot of the tower pillar to the left of the pulpit. The lights, high above the east



Nave arch, were donated by the gentlemen of the choir in 1979 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the admission of the choir to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and yes we will be marking the centenary of the choir's affiliation to the RSCM in 2029. The lights have since been incorporated into the lighting the whole area of the Chancel Arch, Rood Screen and the mural.

Look out for the next 'How well do you know your church' challenge in the June edition.

Raising Funds For The Rainbow Centre



The annual event entitled The Knit-in commenced in 2000 and since then has raised nearly £79,000 to support the work of The Rainbow Centre.

Knitters are sponsored and are in teams of six representing many churches and organisations throughout Folkestone and Hythe.

The idea is to knit squares for 1 hour 30 minutes. These squares are eventually sewn together into blankets for another local charity.

Everyone concentrates fortified by tea and biscuits, as prizes are given for the longest individual length knitted and the longest team length. Some ladies seem to be able to knit extraordinary long lengths but our team comprising of Jenny, Carol, Val, Janet, Pauline and Marilyn were not short of enthusiasm even though we didn't win any prizes!

We are all very grateful to our sponsors who helped us raise £363 for our team. The overall amount raised was in excess of £4,000. Thank you for supporting such a worthy cause.

Marilyn Edey



News From St Eanswythe's School

We hope you all had a Happy, Holy Easter.

This seems like a long time ago now as we are into our second week back. It is another very busy term, with trips out, including year 2 to Dover Castle and some of year 6 to the science museum in London.

We had our confirmation on 29th April, with Bishop Rose. There were 10 children being baptised and confirmed this time, and we were all looking forward to seeing the Bishop, who is a good friend to our school, again.

Year 6 have their Sats tests and then the following week they are off on their residential.

We send our best wishes and prayers to you all, from all at St Eanswythe's school

Kim

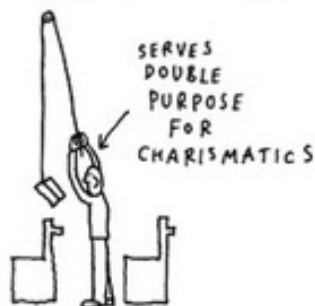
INNOVATIONS

THAT COULD CHANGE THE CHURCH AS WE KNOW IT

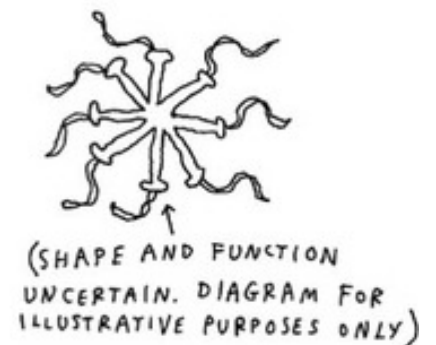
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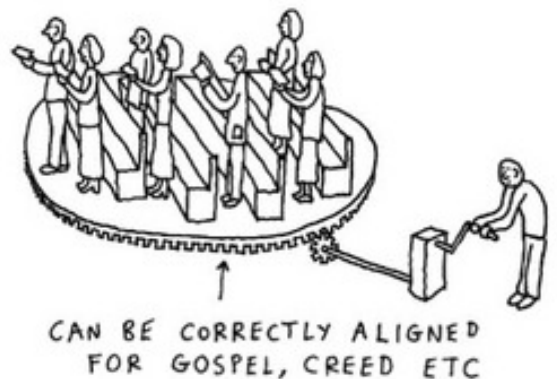
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Mailing List

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stmaryandsteanswythe.org

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