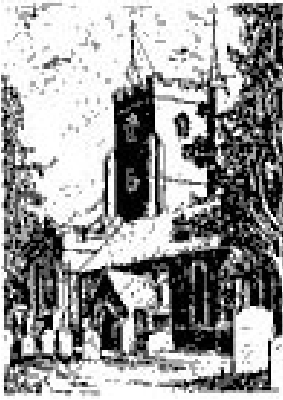


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 7 **July 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
email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer } Jenny Coleman,

Gift Aid }

Planned Giving Pam Keeling

PCC Members Jan Clarke Jenny Coleman
Marilyn Edey Vicky Friedrich (Synod Rep)
Elaine Furminger Catriona Hunter
Aïcha Mehrez (Synod Rep) Carol McBeath

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 Bridget McKinnon bridget1909@gmail.com 07773 652417

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St Augustine's Centre

Bookings: Santa Vessey 01303 252947
email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

Front Cover: Eastern side of the Nave glass in the Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

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 July 2026

Thu	2	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	5	Trinity 5	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Wed	8	8:45	School Eucharist
		18:00	Friends meeting
Thu	9	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
		11:15 - 12:30	Thursday Study Club <i>see page 5</i>
Sun	12	Trinity 6	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's Church
Mon	13	19:00	PCC Meeting
Thu	16	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	18	15:00 - 17:00	Pimm's & Hymns: World Cup Special!
Sun	19	Trinity 7	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		16:00	Choral Evensong
Wed	22	Mary Magdalene	
		10:30	Eucharist
Thu	23	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	25	11:00	Ukranian Hospitality
Sun	26	Trinity 8	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	30	10:30	Holy Communion BCP



August

Sun	2	Trinity 9	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	6	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	9	Trinity 10	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST with Children's Church
Thu	13	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	16	Trinity 11	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	20	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	23	Trinity 12	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	27	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	29	11:00	Ukranian Hospitality
Sun	30	Trinity 12	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST



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



In recent weeks I've undertaken a charity walk. It was far enough to need some thinking about and some preparation & training, but not one where the recovery time has outweighed the event itself (though my trusty walking boots – given a baptism of fire up a Bavarian mountain some years ago – have probably walked their last mile). Regardless, it's all been in a good cause (and thanks to those who supported it)!

What's been interesting as a first-time participant is the flurry of information and 'advice' that's been forthcoming from the organisers about: essential kit and things to bring; plans for preparation and training; how best to fundraise and, in the days immediately beforehand, warnings about potential hot weather and *nettles*. To be honest, the advice has been welcome, especially regarding an unfamiliar route and process, though there's been quite a lot of it (but lo, there were indeed nettles and sunshine!). There's a duty of care for the organisers and a need to look after oneself in amongst it all too, so it's been interesting to get this perspective on what would normally be a leisure activity.

It got me pondering one of those episodes in the Gospels where Jesus sends out his disciples in his name but tells them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics." (*Luke 9.3*). It's quite the antithesis of the advice we were sent for the charity walk where we took most things apart from the kitchen sink. Jesus' disciples, however, were being sent out for a very different task, travelling about, teaching and preaching the good news of God and being supported in doing so by those who grasped and accepted what that meant. Jesus also sends his disciples out with warnings and advice that life won't always be easy and their ministry will be challenging, even though it's ultimately very rewarding. The advice is pertinent to the needs of the disciples and prepares them for what they need to do, for the journey that they're about to take and to exercise the authority given to them in his name.

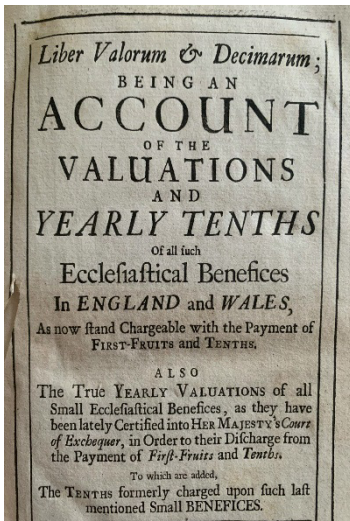
When we prepare to undertake journeys in and through life (literal and metaphorical) or where we have opportunity to advise and prepare others for them, I wonder what we might need to hear or what we might need to say? If we've usually been in the position of giving advice or instructions, how might it feel to be the one on the receiving end, however uncomfortable that may be? How might we have the grace to heed the wisdom and experience of others and, indeed, the teachings and encouragement of Jesus too?

May the sun shine upon you and your route be free of nettles...

With very best wishes,

The Reader's Ramblings

The Rectory That Was - and the Vicar We Have



When Fr Chris and I were chatting on the day we accepted the bishop's nomination for him to become Vicar of our parish, our conversation wandered - quite naturally - into the long story of those who have cared for Folkestone before us. Somewhere between relief, gratitude, and the practicalities of what happens next, he asked a deceptively simple question: "Was there ever a Rector of Folkestone?"

As a medieval historian, I promised to investigate.

It turns out the answer opens a rather fascinating window into our past.

Folkestone did once have a Rector - but only in the very early centuries of the Church here. Everything changed in 1095, when the Priory of St Mary & St Eanswythe was re-founded as a Benedictine house. As part of its endowment, the entire parish church - its income, its tithes, and its spiritual responsibilities - was granted to the monks. In the language of the medieval Church, the Priory became the impropriator. Legally, the monastic community was the "Rector of Folkestone".

That meant something important for the people of the town: from the 12th century onwards, Folkestone was served not by a rector, but by a vicar - a priest appointed by the monks to minister on their behalf. The vicar received only a portion of the income; the Priory retained the rest to support its life of prayer, hospitality, and service.

It was a system that worked well enough most of the time, though not without the occasional drama. One 15th century dispute between the townspeople and the Priory became so heated that the poor Prior was reportedly dragged from the altar and hauled through the streets. Even then, Folkestonians were not shy about expressing their views.

When Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, the Priory's lands - including the rectory of Folkestone - passed into lay hands. From that point on, the parish continued to have vicars, because the rectory remained a lay possession rather than a clerical one. The "rectory house" and the "vicarage house" were separate things, and over the centuries the clergy residence moved, changed, and was rebuilt, just as the town itself grew and shifted.

So, when Fr Chris asked his question, he was stepping into a story nearly a thousand years old. And now, with his appointment as Incumbent - no longer Priest-in-Charge but truly our Vicar - he stands in the long line of those who have carried the cure of souls in this place: the medieval vicars serving under the shadow of the Priory, the post-Reformation clergy navigating a changing world, and the modern parish priests who have helped shape the life of St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour.

It is a reminder that our parish is not just a building or a timetable of services. It is a living community rooted in deep history, shaped by the prayers and faithfulness of generations. And now, as we welcome Fr Chris as our Vicar, we add another chapter to that story - one that we will write together.

Vicky Friedrich ~ Reader



THURSDAY STUDY CLUB

Thursday 9th July
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 AUGUST 9TH

It's all about believing



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH



It's all about forgiveness

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11TH

It's all about God's amazing invitation



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8TH



It's all about being ready

NOVEMBER 21ST SATURDAY 10AM

It's all about making Birthday Cakes for Jesus!



Children's Church in JUNE

Children's Church in JUNE saw us finding out about Jesus' twelve disciples and how Jesus sent them out to spread the word about God's love:

IT WAS ALL ABOUT TEAM WORK!

Working as a team, we crossed a dangerous, crocodile-infested river on stepping stones – and no one fell in!



Listening to the story of the call of the disciples prompted some tricky questions – especially about why Jesus chose Judas Iscariot and why Judas chose to betray Jesus. I wonder, if you were asked this, what you would say. 🤔



Creating necklaces and crowns gave us more opportunities for teamwork.

- 👑 Each crown was made with **fourteen** links.
- 👑 **Twelve** had the names of the disciples.
- 👑 **ONE** had JESUS.
- 👑 **BUT** one was blank so that each of us could add our name to be part of Jesus' team of disciples.



Fortified by this prayer

- 🙏 Dear God,*
- 🙏 Thank you for your love for all peoples.*
- 🙏 Thank you for Jesus who called the 12 disciples to be with him.*
- 🙏 Thank you for the way he showed them how to live for you and how share your love with other people.*
- 🙏 Thank you for letting us be part of your plan.*

- 🙏 Please show us ways to love one another and how to share the good news of Jesus with others. Amen*

and singing, "Come and follow" we made our way back to church to join the rest of Christ's disciples at St Mary and St Eanswythe's church

Next time – It's all about GROWING WITH JESUS!

Clare Tomlinson

Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona



The four Evangelist Towers that Surround the Jesus Tower are topped by winged symbols of the evangelists:-

- ◆ Mark - a winged Lion
- ◆ Luke - a winged Ox or Bull
- ◆ Matthew - a winged Man or Angel
- ◆ John - a winged Eagle

If you look at the Reredos behind our High Altar, surrounding the Angels mosaic are four roundels showing these figures.



The top picture shows the designs for the towers in the order listed. The second picture show the tops of the four towers of the Passion Facade on the west Transept. Behind to the left is the star at the top of the Mary Tower. Next is Mark then Matthew with the incomplete

Jesus Tower behind. Note that all the towers are open work that can be illuminated at night and have internal spiral staircases - for the fit!



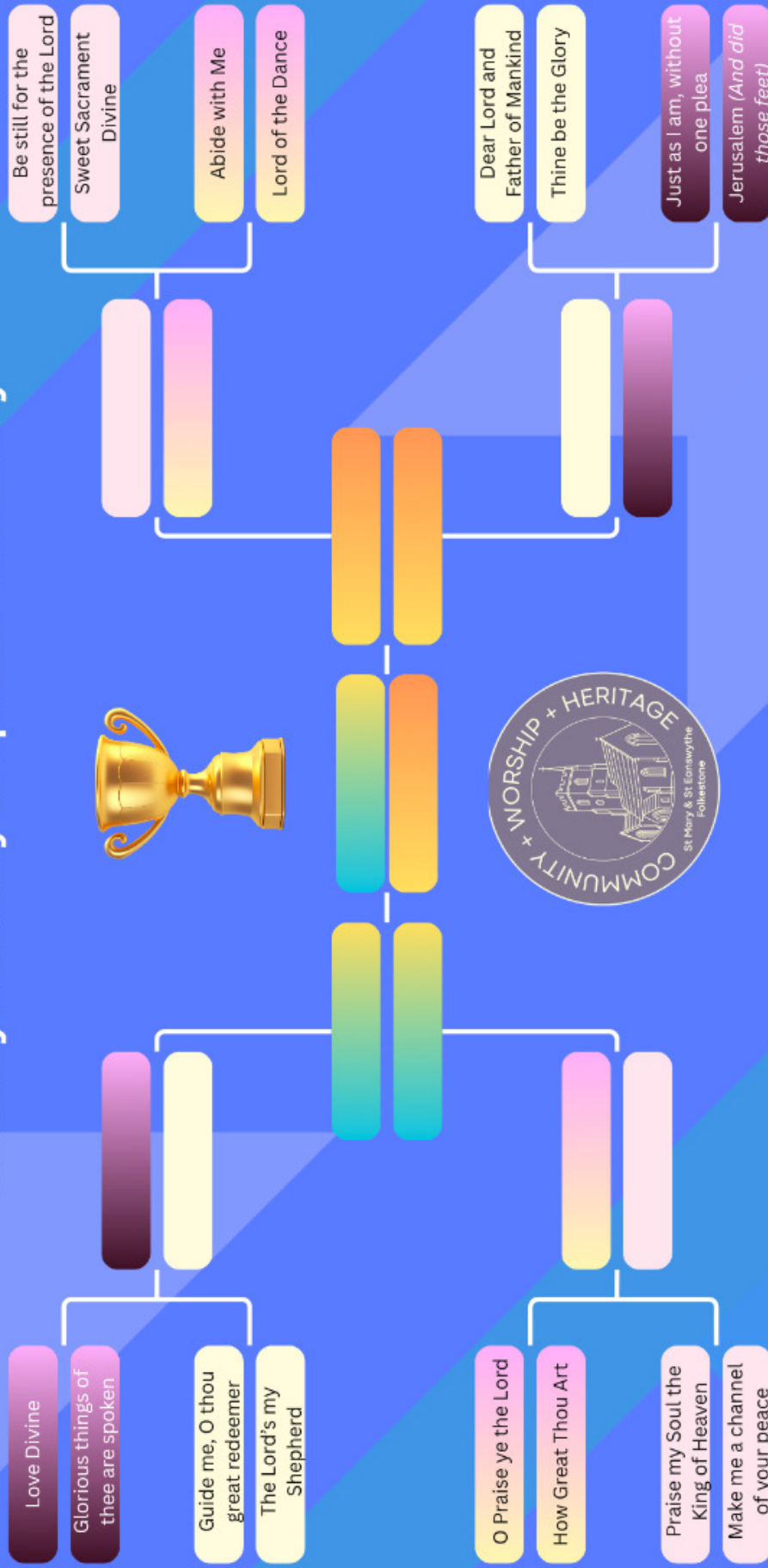
The Jesus Tower is topped with a hollow four-armed Cross with viewing windows, which will provide sights over Barcelona. Note the crane tied to the tower with a massive bracket. The cross was in six sections - base, top and four arms. When the arms were craned up, there were workers inside ready to bolt the arm to the centre boss.

You can see three workers standing on an arm 566 feet up!



THE HYMN WORLD CUP 2026

Join us in Church for Pimm's & Hymns on Saturday 18th July at 3pm for 'Finals Day'



Who'll make it to the final? We'll sing through the top 8 on Finals Day

Some updates to our lighting in church

We've had some issues with life-expired light fittings and also others of an age where they consumed a significant amount of electricity. Thanks to a couple of generous grants from the *Church of England Net Zero* fund and the *Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe* we've been able to do something about it.



It's not the end of the story as we'll need to explore our lighting options in church further as the months progress and as we seek to celebrate our building and our heritage more fully (and we're due a major electrical inspection soon too) but, for now, it's a big improvement!





Bookworm: What Catriona has been reading!

The Enchanted April – Elizabeth Von Arnim (1922)

This was a truly delightful book, which I loved from the very first page. I loved the gentle humour, it really is a very funny book, and the style of writing – such wonderful descriptions; the beauty of San Salvatore and the way in which the characters all blossom there (as do the flowers); and the formality of manners a century ago, where no one is on first name terms until they know each other very well indeed.

Lotty Wilkins and Rose Arbuthnot, both of whom are in loveless marriages, respond to an advert in *The Times*: “To those who appreciate wistaria and sunshine. Small mediaeval Italian castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be let furnished for the month of April. Necessary servants remain.” Indeed, who could resist that? Realising they can’t afford the £60 rent by themselves (equivalent to £3000+ today) they advertise for two more women, which is how Lady Caroline Dester and Mrs Fisher (we never learn her Christian name) come to join them. Neither Lotty nor Rose speak Italian. Fortunately, both Mrs Fisher and Caroline are fluent, though Mrs Fisher’s is rather dated, the Italian of Dante.

Each of the women has a very different character. Mrs Wilkins is described as “the kind of person who is not noticed at parties. Her clothes, infested by thrift, made her practically invisible; her face was non arresting; her conversation was reluctant; she was shy.” Once she reaches Italy, we quickly learn that she suffers from freckles too! She is married to a solicitor named Mellersh of whom she is quite scared.

Mrs Arbuthnot is an organiser. She leads a busy life working with the poor, and her dismal life revolves around God, her husband, home, and duty. She is married to Frederick who (shamefully in her opinion) writes successful but steamy memoirs of kings’ mistresses.

Lady Caroline Dester, known to her friends as Scrap, is the youngest in the party at 28. She is unmarried, beautiful (and thus a magnet to men) and simply wants to get away from hotels and her friends (who she doesn’t like!).

Mrs Fisher is a widow and the oldest of the party. She is quiet, well off, educated and stern. She walks with a stick, which she uses as an excuse to avoid doing anything. Her wish is to sit quietly in the sun remembering the people she used to know (Matthew Arnold, Carlyle etc); she is a constant name dropper and a snob. She likes to be in charge and sees it as her right to have the best room in the villa. Both Rose and Lotty feel enormous guilt about going away without their husbands, while at the same time feeling a great sense of relief.

And then San Salvatore works its magic on them all. The ladies relax and find peace. They have time to think in the still air and the golden light. To Lotty it is ‘Heaven’ and she wants to share this with Mellersh. Mrs Fisher forgets to use her stick and manages perfectly well without it. Rose even forgets to say her prayers. Caroline relaxes.

It really is a wonderful book - and they all live happily ever after!

Catriona Hunter

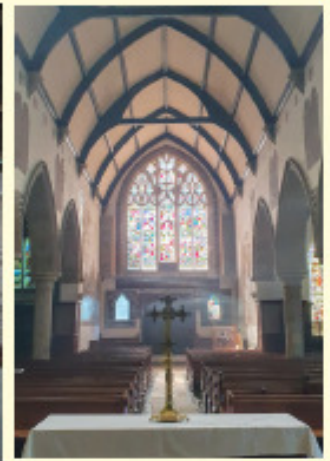


Featuring:

Ireland

Bainton

Radcliffe



Followed by:

drinks and nibbles



Sunday 19th July - 4pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church, Folkestone

Singers welcome!

Please contact sainteanswythe@gmail.com for more info

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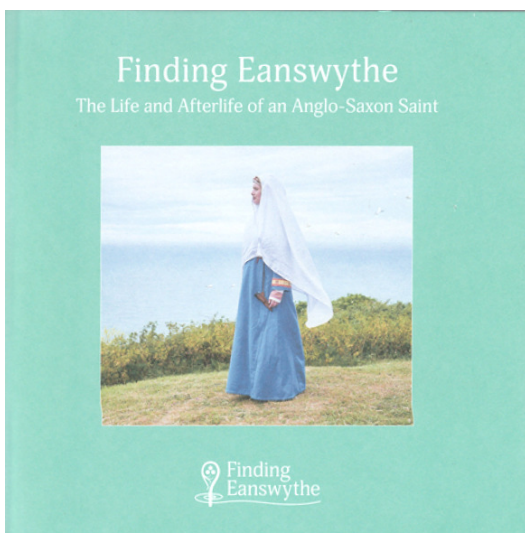
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We all love our church and its beauty and we want it to look as wonderful as possible as we are expecting lots of visitors.

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 5 July – 5th after Trinity – Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest’.

Only as we turn to God and are open to his liberating power
can we find true freedom.

Sunday 12 July – 6th after Trinity – Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

*Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,
some a hundredfold, some 60, some 30.*

The evidence of faith is shown not in words but in lives.

Sunday 19 July – 7th after Trinity – Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

‘Let both of them grow together until the harvest’

We live in the assurance of the ultimate triumph of
God’s loving purpose.

Sunday 26 July – 8th after Trinity – Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

*Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of
the household who brings out of his treasure
what is new and what is old.*

Human judgement is fallible and can lead into error
when we feel most confident of our own strength.

Red Letter Days

Friday 3 July – Thomas the Apostle – John 20.24-29

‘My Lord and my God’

Wednesday 22 July – Mary Magdalene – see Commemoration

Saturday 25 July – James the Apostle – Matthew 20.20-28

Just Another Man Endowed with the Spirit

Commemoration

Mary Magdalene – 22 July

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus' followers. Probably from Magdala by the Sea of Galilee, she is described as having been healed by Jesus before accompanying him during his ministry. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was privileged with the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples. This commission earned her the title '*Apostle to the Apostles*' in the early Church.



Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene
to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings OT-Song of Songs 3.1-4; NT-2 Corinthians 5.14-17; Gospel-John 20.1-2, 11-18

**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>

America : The Deep South

By Jean Hatton

On Wednesday 20 May, at a former slave plantation in South Carolina, USA, I heard the Lord's Prayer in Gullah, a blend of colonial English and various West African languages once spoken by African slaves in the Carolinas.

It was part of a recent journey through the American Deep South – Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Our trip began in Atlanta, the city once burned to the ground by the victorious Union army during the American Civil War, and also the birthplace of Martin Luther King. From there we headed to Charleston, a city of shady verandas and sunny balconies, and then Savannah, where gracious Victorian homes surround squares planted with massive live oaks (so called, as leaves grow and fall throughout the year).

In Montgomery we saw the famous Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Martin Luther King preached, and in Selma we walked the Edmund Pettus Bridge where the march for equal voting rights began in 1965.

A massive rainstorm in New Orleans couldn't dampen its jazzy hedonism, while in Natchez, (our city guide a sprightly 93 year old), we were welcomed to home-made lemonade at a house deep in the nearby woods that had been home to eight generations of the same family.

Memphis is not only home to the famous Sun Recording Studios where Elvis Presley made his first record, but also to his home, 'Gracelands'. A surprisingly small house it's easy to imagine Elvis relaxing there with his family.

A few highlights can't really convey the diversity of the South; the beauty, graciousness and welcome that contrasts so starkly with an often dark history. But after two weeks of cities, plantations and many treasures of national memory, stretching across huge distances, I returned home with the definite sense that I had walked where history was made and been welcomed with a disarming friendliness by everyone I met.

The Lord's Prayer in Gullah can be heard here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1030469839056994>



Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta



Graceland, Memphis Tennessee Mississippi River Boat 'New Orleans'



Civil Rights Museum, Selma

Dates For Your Diary

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

Tuesday, 8 September		Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe AGM
Saturday, 12 September	10.30 a.m.	St Eanswythe Fair
Saturday, 12 September	11 a.m. & 1 p.m.	Explore The Bayle: Folkestone's Oldest Quarter Through History
Sunday, 13 September	10.30 am	Festival Eucharist for St Eanswythe
Sunday, 13 September	4 p.m.	Choral Evensong for St Eanswythe
Monday, 14 September	1 p.m.	Step Back in Time: The History of Folkestone's Town Cross
Tuesday, 15 September	1 p.m.	Step Back in Time: The History of Folkestone's Town Cross
Wednesday, 16 September	1 p.m.	Step Back in Time: The History of Folkestone's Town Cross
Thursday, 17 September	1 p.m.	Step Back in Time: The History of Folkestone's Town Cross
Friday, 18 September	12 noon	Step Inside the Story of the Attwood Clock
Saturday, 19 September	12 noon & 2 p.m.	The History and Architecture of Folkestone's Parish Church
Monday, 21 September	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 11 October		Family Beetle Drive <i>(Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe)</i>
Saturday, 7 November		Come and Sing Requiem <i>with liturgical performance</i>
Sunday, 8 November		Remembrance Sunday
Monday, 23 November	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 29 November	4 p.m.	Advent Carol Service
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	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist

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13th & 14th

FEBRUARY

Consignment deadline
now closed

10th & 11th

APRIL

Consignment deadline
6th March

5th & 6th

JUNE

Consignment deadline
1st May

31st & 1st

JULY & AUGUST

Consignment deadline
26th June

2nd & 3rd

OCTOBER

Consignment deadline
28th August

27th & 28th

NOVEMBER

Consignment deadline
23rd October

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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

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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

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65 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone CT19 4NS.

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

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

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

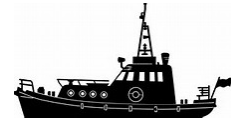
Telephone 0808 278 7961 - for free Kent advice line service

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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News From St Eanswythe's School

Dear All

We have come back from our half term break ready for a full, fun and exciting term ahead. There are lots of trips planned including the London Aquarium, Harry Potter World and those nearer to home. Year 6 are all aware of their new schools, and Key Stage 1 have completed their phonics screening.

The Worship Leaders had a super day trip to Canterbury Cathedral, and enjoyed dressing in medieval costumes, guided history tour and the chance to take part in some interesting arts and crafts in their schools room. Photos below.

Have a wonderful July and will update you all on the end of term activities.

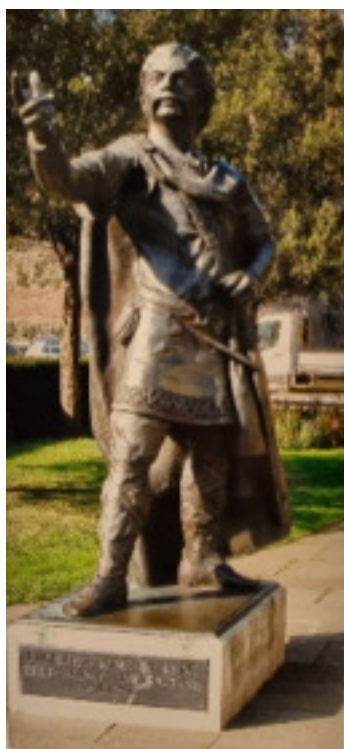
Love and prayers from St Eanswythe's School.

Kim



A visit to St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury

After reading Vicky Friedrich's interesting article on her visit to Sutton Hoo in the May 2026 issue of *Rendezvous Magazine*, I was prompted to recall my own linked visit to St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. Well, the first visit prompted several more, such is the ecclesiastical and historical importance of the place.



Statue of King Ethelbert at Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury

St Augustine's Abbey was founded, initially, as the church of St Peter and St Paul by the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 598 A.D. The initial building expanded into a greater complex in subsequent years; as is illustrated by a beautiful film, set to uplifting choral music, which repeats constantly in the Abbey's visitor centre.

This, and other exhibits and information in the English Heritage visitor centre and around the grounds of the ruins, tell us that Eanswythe's grandfather, on her father's side, Ethelbert, established a church here in the year 613 AD. Statues of Ethelbert and his queen, Bertha, are to be seen on the nearby Lady Wootton's Green, and a sculpture of Queen Bertha is to be found in St. Martin's church; the earliest Christian church in the country and, incidentally, where my parents were married.

Walking around the grounds, I was interested to read on an English Heritage information board, that the second church within, what is now St. Augustine's Abbey, was built "AD 620" This was the church of St. Mary, founded by Eanswythe's father, Eadbald, during his reign (616-640 A.D.).

Thus, demonstrating that he was, indeed, a converted, or reconverted, Christian by that time and was having churches built and dedicated.



Sculptural depiction of Queen Bertha at St. Martin's Church, Canterbury



A reconstruction of the Anglo-Saxon monastery before it was destroyed by the Normans. Extensions were made to Augustine's first church and a new church dedicated to St Mary was built around AD 620.

Information on an English Heritage noticeboard/information panel at St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury

This, to me, demonstrated that there was nothing inherently improbable in Eadbald doing the same in Folkestone, during the 630s, as the Eanswythe legend tells us. Further on around the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, were indicators of where Eanswythe's parents were buried. The tomb sites of Eadbald and Emma were moved in 1087 to the south transept of the Abbey, and the bones were either reburied elsewhere, or scattered by Henry VIII's men in the 1530s during the Dissolution of the Monasteries.



Eadbald's original grave site marked by a modern structure and inscription



Plaque at the site of St. Mary's Church, in the grounds of St. Augustine's Abbey, where many of Eadbald's descendants were buried, with their wives and children

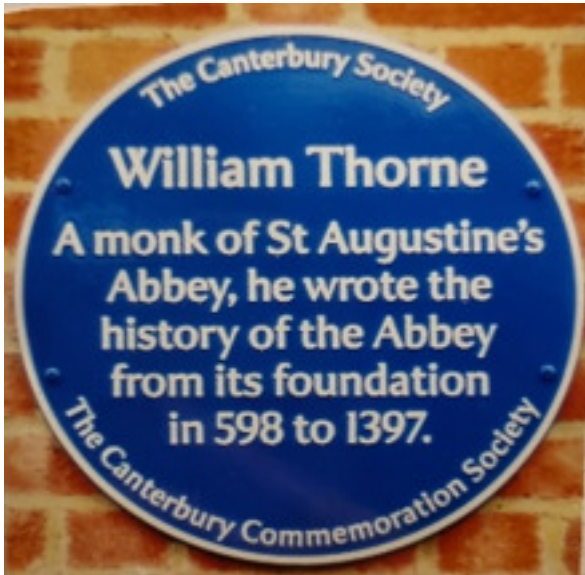
Amongst the helpful staff at St. Augustine's was Brian, who told me of a book he owns, *William Thorne's Chronicles of St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury*. Thorne compiled these chronicles from earlier records he had access to. From what Brian told me, I knew I should track down a copy of this book.

A few days later, I was sitting in the Canterbury Cathedral Archives, having arranged to view this book which was brought to my desk upon a cushion, to which it was to remain as I turned the pages. Looking at the time I was concerned with, that of Eadbald, Emma, and their children, including Eanswythe, I found some very interesting entries. Among them, on page 19, were detailed *The Gift of Nodbourne*, which is Northbourne, near Deal.

I quote:

"... 618 is attested by Laurence archbishop, Emma (Eadbald's queen), Mellitus, Egbert, Erconbert, Swebhard and Guthard."

So, the founding of St. Mary's church and the charter relating to the gift of Northbourne, along with the presence of Emma and one of her sons, Erconbert, in 618, illustrate that Eadbald was already married to Emma, and producing children with her (of which Eanswythe is one), and establishing churches by that time.



St. Augustine's Church, Northbourne, near Deal. A twelfth century church, built on the site of an earlier one on land granted to the church by Eadbald in 618

Is it, therefore, inconceivable that Eadbald founded the church in Folkestone, and possible nunnery, by the 630s?

From an Eanswythian perspective, my visit to St. Augustine's Abbey proved very fruitful indeed, and suggests it may be premature to change information for the general public indicating that the church and nunnery on the Bayle were not founded until the 650s or 660s. *(which is the current thinking following on from the Finding Eanswythe project)*

Further research, of course, will hopefully clarify these issues.

Paul Harris, May 2026



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
Reduced income £5 per annum.

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.

Electronically: Barclays Bank sort code 20-02-62: Account number 93016250

Please use your surname as the reference.

Email: info@friendsofstmaryandsteanswythe.org.uk

For existing Friends annual subscriptions are due now and if you were uncertain how to pay please see the above details.

New Membership Form

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(Only fill this out if this is a joint membership)

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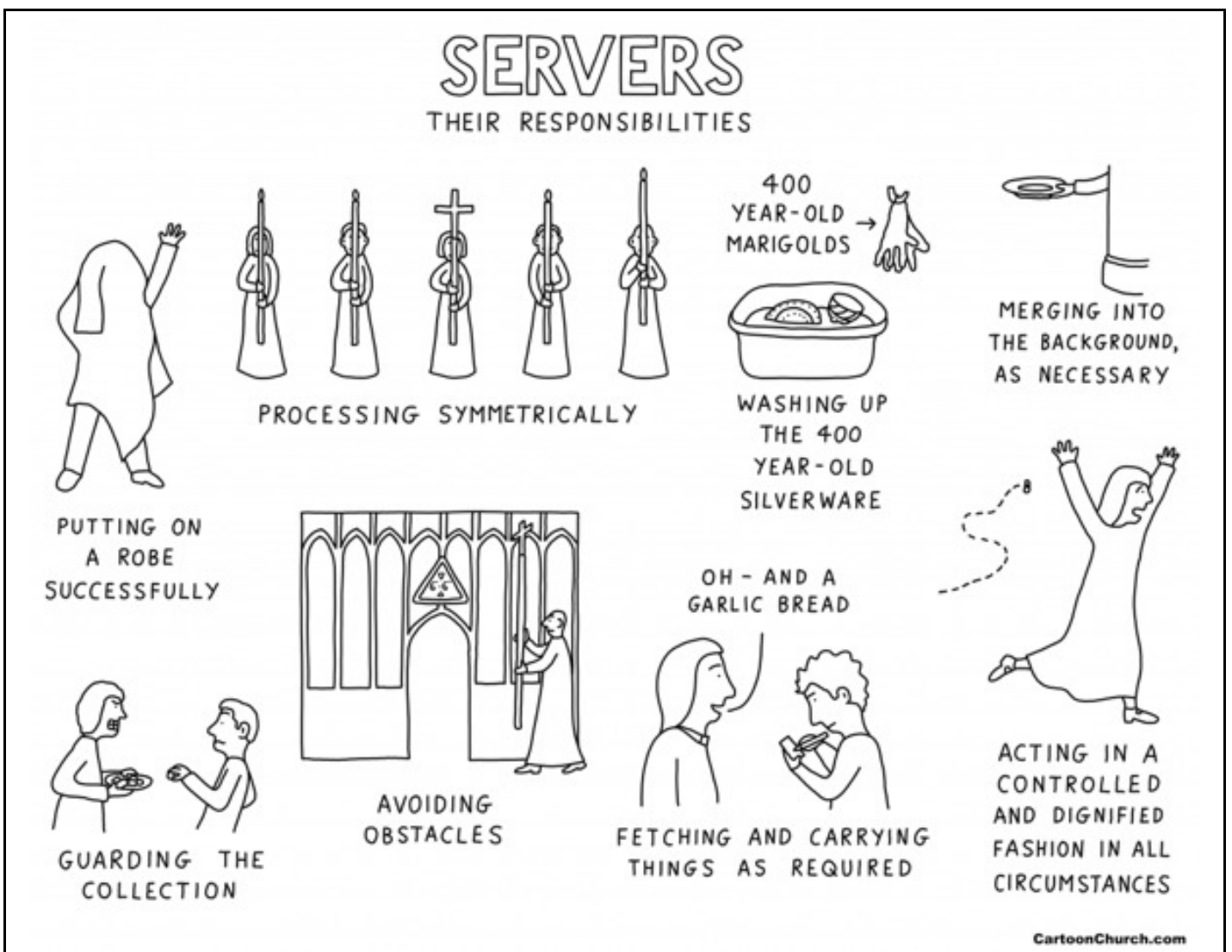
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What would you like your legacy to be? Leaving money to the church in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that our church will be here for future generations. There are also some benefits for your inheritance tax bill, too. So, if you're thinking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





Music Notes

The July Bayle Music concert, here in our church will be given by **Walter Reiter**, an accomplished baroque violinist. He will be presenting two marvellous and uplifting works for solo violin by that master of the Baroque, Johann Sebastian Bach – the Partita No. 2 and

Sonata No 2.

The concert takes place at **3 pm on Saturday 25 July**. Admission is £15 with children under 18 and full-time students free of charge. You can book in advance on the following website:

www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk and follow the link to Bayle Music.

You can also pay by card or cash on the day. Doors open at 2.30.



Walter Reiter

How well do you know your church?



Our church was blessed by the ministry of two vicars spanning the years 1914 to 1942, William Tindall 1914-1927 and Hyla Holden 1927-1942. This month we are asked to find the memorial to **Hyla Holden**.

This is a picture of it, but where can it be found? You will have to look hard and low!

Join



our

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

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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

Rainbow Centre Annual Meeting

**Monday 6 July 2026 at 7pm
at Cheriton Baptist Church**

Cheriton High Street



We'd love for you to join the Rainbow Centre team and our Trustees as we celebrate a year of hard work, growth, and community. We can't wait to share with you, everything that has been achieved in the past year.

Guest Speaker

Jon Kuhrt



Empowering churches to end homelessness

He has 30 years experience of working in homelessness and is a former government adviser on how faith groups address rough sleeping. He has also worked for the West London Mission, Shaftesbury and Centrepont. He hosts the blog Grace+Truth.



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.

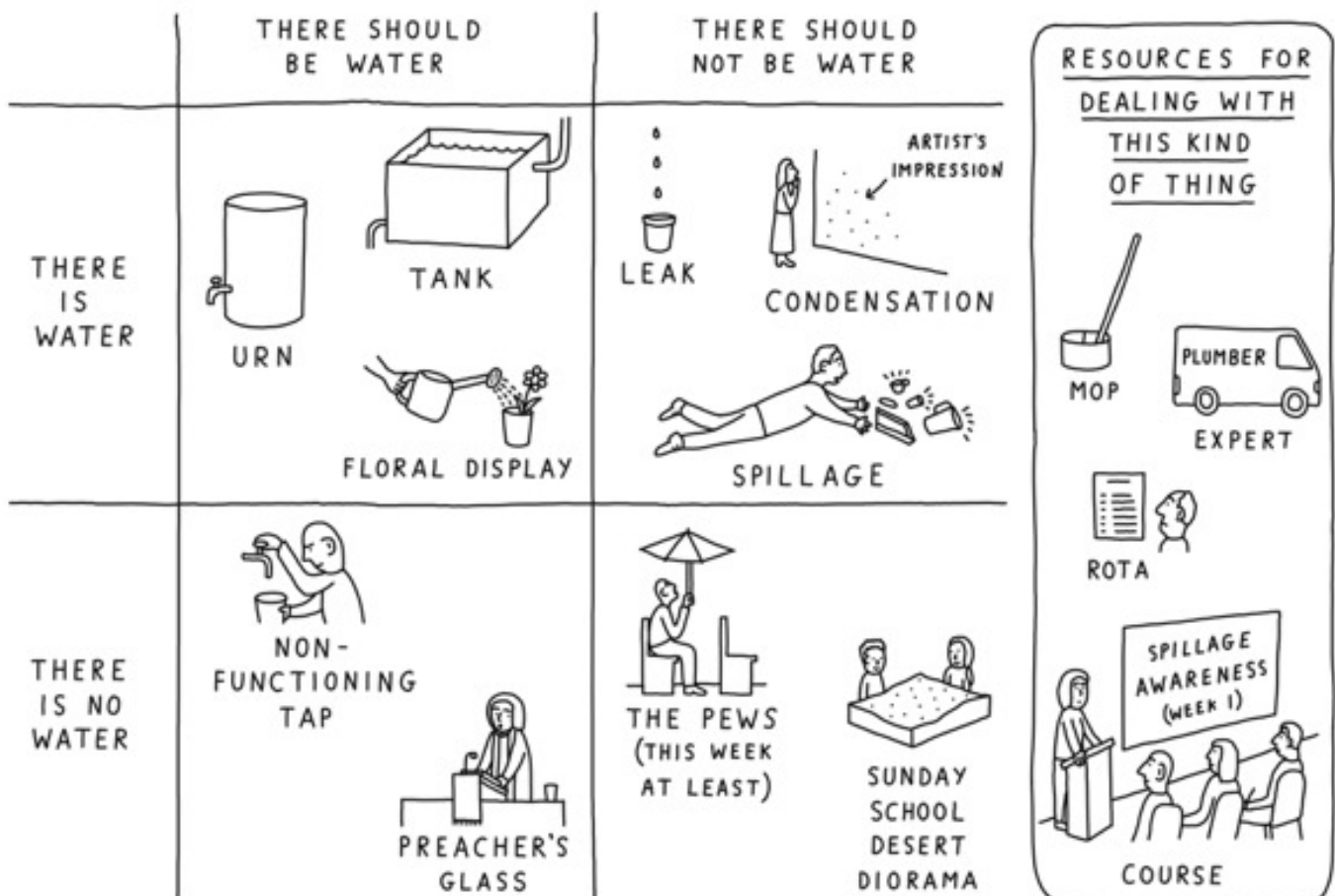


A prayer to help us share the light Christ brought to the world at a time of such great need.

Lord God, hope of the nations,
 whose Son came as the light of the world
 to show us the image of love
 and to teach us the ways of peace,
 nurture in our hearts the hope he brings,
 that in a world of suffering, uncertainty and cruelty
 we may be people of healing, wisdom and hope,
 that in ways large and small
 we may show to others the reflection of that reconciliation
 we ourselves have received
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

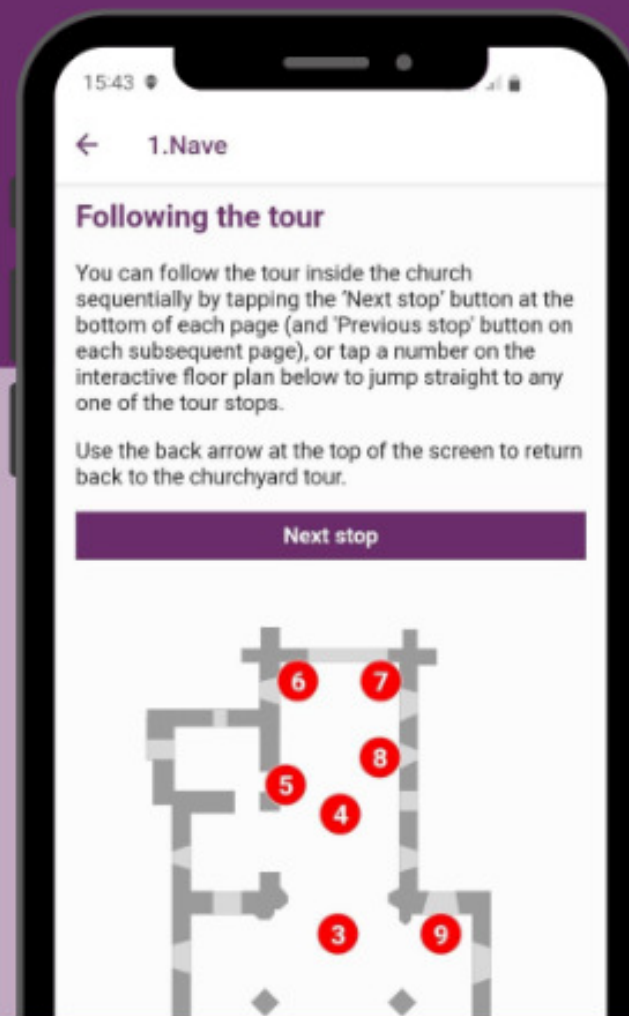
*Rev. Max Kramer
 Chaplain, Keble College, Oxford*

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