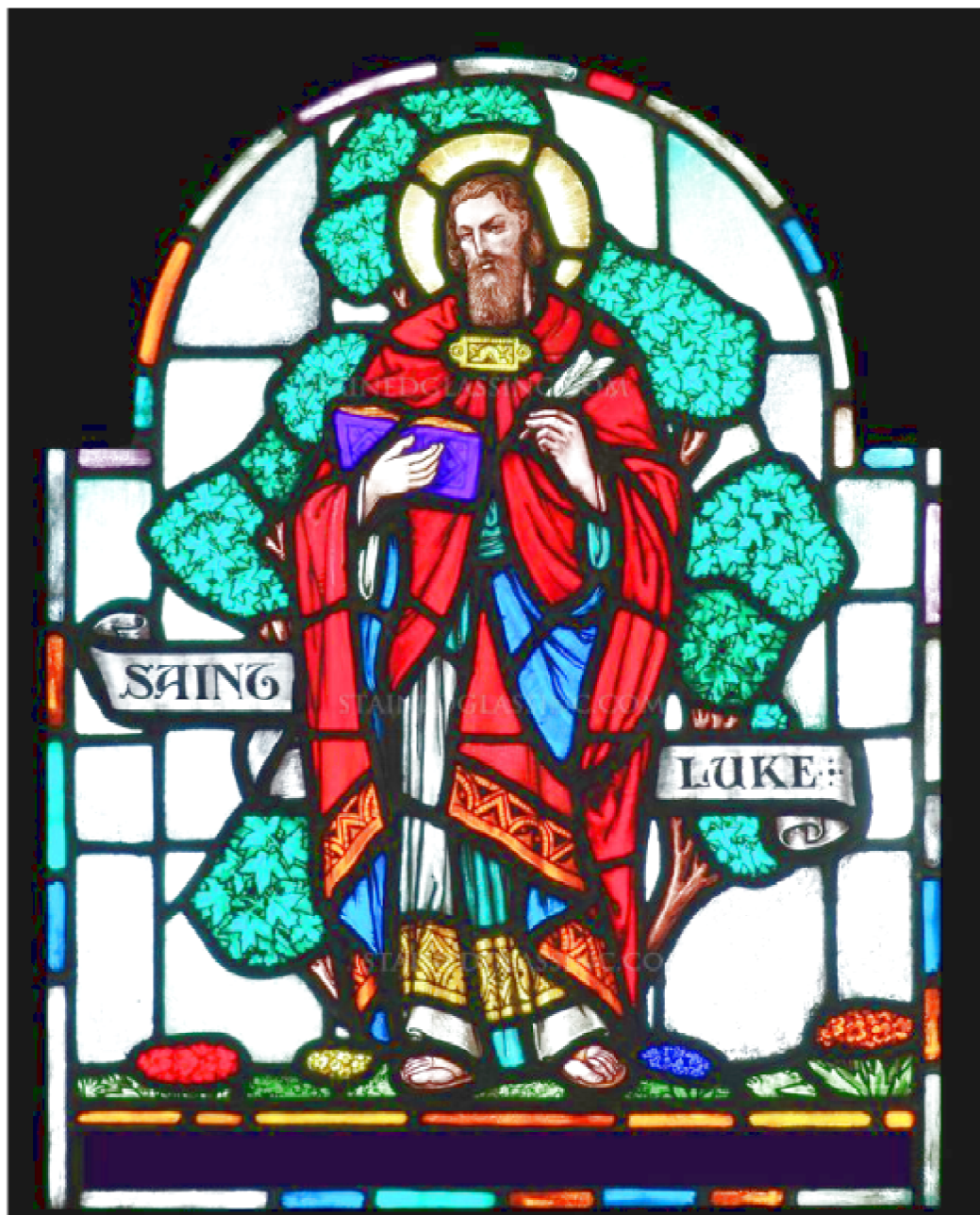
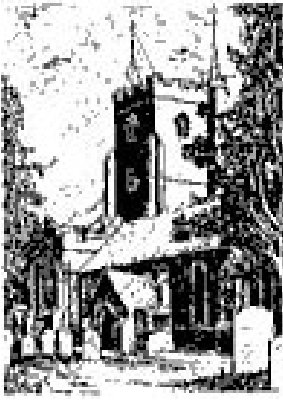


RENDEZVOUS



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

Volume 53 No, 10 **October 2026** **£1.20**



Who's Who in the Parish

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07931 804952

vicar.mefolkestone@gmail.com

St Mary & St Eanswythe's

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email: sainteanswythe@gmail.com

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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

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Front Cover: St Luke October 19th

Guidelines for contributors are on page 2

CALENDAR

Services and Events in October 2026

Thu	1	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
		11:15	Thursday Study Club
Sun	4	Trinity 18	
		10:30	HARVEST EUCHARIST
Tue	6	13:45	St Eanswythe's School Harvest Festival
Thu	8	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	11	Trinity 19	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST With Children's Church
		15:00	Beetle Drive
Thu	15	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	18	Trinity 20	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	22	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	25	Bible Sunday	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	29	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	31	10:30	Eucharist for All Souls



November

Sun	1	All Saints Day	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	5	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
		11:15	Thursday Study Club
Sun	8	Remembrance Sunday	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST With Children's Church
Thu	12	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	15	2nd Sunday Before Advent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	19	8:45	School Eucharist
		10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sat	21	10:00	Birthday cakes for Jesus!
Sun	22	Christ the King	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
Thu	26	10:30	Holy Communion BCP
Sun	29	First Sunday of Advent	
		10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST
		16:00	Advent Carols
Mon	30	Andrew the Apostle	
		10:30	Eucharist



Guidance for contributors

The deadline for Rendezvous contributions is the 15th of each month, but December 10th for the January edition.

We are always keen to receive content for Rendezvous. A page of text is about 500 words (a page in 16 point type will also give you an idea of what fits) and we aim to keep articles to one or two pages. Please discuss longer items with Andrew Plested or Catriona Hunter before submission.

We reserve the right to edit all contributions.

If you would like to advertise your business in Rendezvous, please get in touch with Paul Furminger. Advertising rates can be found on page 24.

What do you think about Rendezvous?

Please let us have your feedback. Was there something in this issue that you particularly enjoyed reading? Or something you didn't like so much?

Andrew Plested and Catriona Hunter would welcome your comments.

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



Priest's Letter

From Father Chris



Across September and into early October, the Church of England, together with other Christian churches has been thinking about and celebrating God's work as creator and the creation that he's given to us. This will culminate for us on Sunday 4th October with our Harvest Festival as we give thanks for the gifts that we receive and offer ourselves and our resources in God's service.

In this parish we're fortunate to see God's creation lived out in different ways, not least through the extraordinary seasons (sometimes three in a day, it feels!) as the sea changes and the scene shifts throughout the day and the year. It also reminds us of the power of the natural world; our place within it and our responsibility towards it as well.

One of the prayers we sometimes use in church reminds us that God created human beings in his image and even describes us as the 'crown of all creation'. It's quite a calling to live up to, but it gives us another inkling of our significance and our purpose in God's creation to tend and care for creation but also to live and work to God's praise and glory.

Many people find it straightforward to see God's hand in the beauty of creation but there's an argument that we should see God in the people whom we meet and engage with too; that bit can be more challenging and sometimes for good reason, given the things we experience in life. Yet, seeking to see the image of God in the people we meet can transform our approach towards them and also be transformative of society in general. It's too easy to dismiss people because they're 'not like us' (whoever 'us' may be) or because their outlook on life may be different from ours. The risk of this is that groups of people become of lesser value than others in some people's estimations, something that's deeply concerning and can be seen too easily in our world today.

As we contemplate our views and opinions in life, how might we try to check our thoughts against the benchmark of the life, teaching and example of Jesus? Where something seems to conflict, how might we allow pause for thought and reflection on things? The phrase, 'What would Jesus do?' is a trite one but it's hardly a bad starting point either. As we contemplate Jesus' life (God in human flesh), how might we find our actions and world views shaped and transformed as a result?

With very best wishes,

The Reader's Ramblings

Light Unexpected



The church was empty when I noticed it. The last person had left. As I turned to from locking the door, sunlight broke through the quatrefoil window - the dove of the Holy Spirit suddenly radiant, wings alive with gold. It felt as though the Spirit had waited for quiet before revealing itself.

We often expect to meet God in the obvious moments: the prayers we've prepared, the readings we've studied, the parts of the week we label "holy." Yet Scripture shows again and again that God delights in the unexpected. Elijah found the Lord not in wind or fire, but in sheer silence. Mary mistook the risen Jesus for a gardener. The disciples recognised him only when he broke bread. God's presence is often quieter than we imagine.

That morning's light wasn't new. The dove has always been there,

but I hadn't seen it like that before. Perhaps faith is partly the practice of noticing what has been shining all along.

In parish life, we can become so focused on tasks and timetables that we forget to pause. The Holy Spirit doesn't only descend in tongues of fire; sometimes it glows softly through coloured glass.

Seeing God in unexpected ways isn't about hunting for miracles. It's trusting that grace is already in the ordinary. The same light that illuminated that dove also falls on the everyday moments beyond the church doors.

So perhaps the invitation is simply to look again. The Spirit is already there, shimmering through the everyday, waiting to be seen.

Vicky Friedrich, Reader

A New Delivery in Church

with huge thanks to the Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe!

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, in the last couple of weeks, we've taken delivery of a new display unit, made specially for us by Alistair Coney of AC Signs.

You may recall that previously we only had a gopak table and an old desk with lots of unsightly boxes hanging around cluttering that corner. Now everything is tidied away well and we can display all the wonderful merchandise and information we have for our beautiful church!

You can find out how you can support the work of the Friends elsewhere in *Rendezvous*.



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 - 'It's all about forgiveness'

We gathered in the upper room for Children's Church with great energy ... hopping on one foot 7 times then 77 times!

As everyone settled we listened to a question that Peter asked Jesus.

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times".

These words helped us to think about how we all sin and how God always forgives us. Jesus wants us to forgive others as we are forgiven by our heavenly Father.

The children were familiar with the Lord's Prayer and the words Jesus taught, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". We thought of St Eanswythe praying this same prayer, possibly in Latin, so many years ago.

Then it was time for action and creativity: crafts reminding us to forgive from the heart and balloons to celebrate St Eanswythe.





*'Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
Eanswythe was a princess who lived in Folkestone
And she listened to Jesus*

*Chorus Jesus our King is calling
Jesus our King is calling
Jesus our King is calling
Let's all listen to Jesus*

*Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
Eanswythe chose Jesus over fame and fortune
And she listened to Jesus*

*Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Eanswythe is our patron so let's all party
Let's all listen to Jesus'*

Afterwards the church congregation joined us in singing our special St Eanswythe song accompanied by a few popping balloons!

Sue Bauhahn

Introducing Our New Placement Student

You'll find an introduction from Lizzie Clarke below, but it's a great privilege for the parish to be invited to share in the training and formation of an ordinand (a 'trainee vicar'). It's wonderful to be able to welcome Lizzie to the team and we can look forward to sharing in her journey towards ordination!

Fr Chris

Hello everyone,

My name is Lizzie, and I am delighted to be joining the community at St Eanswythe's, Folkestone. I am originally from the Trinity Benefice here in Folkestone, and I will be with you for the next three years as part of my placement while I study Theology at St Mellitus College in London.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know the congregation and becoming part of the life and worship of the parish. I feel very grateful for the opportunity to be part of St Eanswythe's during this important time of study and formation and to learn alongside you all over the coming years.



All Souls Service – A Time to Remember Departed Loved Ones

Saturday 31st October 10.30 a.m.

We'll have a Eucharist on **Saturday 31st October** at 10.30 a.m. to remember before God those who have died. The service will last about 45 minutes and there'll be the opportunity to light a candle to remember departed loved ones and we'll read names aloud too.

There'll be a list on the day that you can add names to, but we'll also put a list in church in the weeks leading up to 31st October and you can send names via the Parish Office if needed.

For more information, please feel free to contact Fr Chris.

A Week of Celebration

From Sunday 6 September to Sunday 13th we had a very interesting week of celebrations to mark our saints days - St Mary & St Eanswythe.

The Friends of St Mary & St Eanswythe held their AGM on Tuesday 8th and after the official business was completed we were given a fascinating lecture by Dr Heidi Stoner about Royal Patronage and the Archaeology of Kent in the time of St Eanswythe.

On Friday a very dedicated team of helpers started work on setting up the Festival for the following day. Thanks to Pam Keeling for her huge donations of children's books and beautiful cuddly toys for brightening up the church and

providing an alternative dog show.

On Saturday 12 we had a very happy and relaxed day with visitors having coffee and cake, listening to the Fourtenettes and our own Alli and Jez.



The Dog Show was great fun and we had a good representation of the local dog population to demonstrate their good looks and abilities to eat sausages extremely fast.

The Raffle provided some interesting prizes and the fruit cake

competition - Catriona asked us to calculate the preparation and cooking time for her beautiful cake - was won by Pam Keeling and the answer was 5 hours 39 minutes.

As always we had the Ride & Stride entrants clocking in as part of their ride.

And for the first time ever, Dave and our brilliant bellringers entertained people in their lofty home demonstrating their skills.





Usually heard and not seen so a special treat for those brave enough to scale the dizzy heights.

Our day of enjoyment continued into the evening when our Director of Music James Brown brought his Invicta Jazz Orchestra to entertain with an eclectic mix of swing, jazz and popular music.

On Sunday St Eanswythe's relics

were available to be seen on the altar and Fr Chris celebrated her with a very moving and thought provoking sermon bringing her presence closer than ever to our everyday lives. The week was completed with Choral Evensong in the afternoon which was extremely well attended and celebrated.



A huge thank you to all who contributed in so many ways - with gifts, books, bric-a-brac, cakes, raffle prizes and most important of all - time and support. It was a great team effort and we made the huge sum of £1,400 over the week. Well done everyone.

Jenny C





Bookworm – What Catriona has Been Reading

The Spanish Promise – Karen Swan (2019)

This book had me gripped from the start. It's set in Madrid and Ronda in both 2018 and the 1930s in the years leading up to and during the Spanish Civil War - a war that divided families at the time and in many cases continues to do so today.

The book gets straight into the action in the first couple of pages, with a clandestine wedding in 1937, during the Civil War, in which someone is killed. None of the characters is named, so the reader (well I did anyway) spends the rest of the book piecing together what happened and who died, as the story unfolds.

In the present day part of the story we have Charlotte who is a wealth counsellor for a private bank; she specialises in the emotional side of wealth. An added complication is that she is due to get married in London in a few days' time but is working for a client in Madrid (son of one of the wealthiest families in Spain), so she is being pulled in several directions.

I don't want to say a lot more as to do so will lead you to accuse me of spoilers. Suffice to say that it is an engrossing story, there are some strong female characters, and there is romance.

I read this because it was set in Spain and about the Civil War. It's the first book I've read by Karen Swan and I was expecting a fairly light romance. Yes, it's easy reading, but I learned a lot about life for those who are seriously rich, sudden wealth syndrome, the Spanish Civil War, and much more besides. An excellent book that I commend to you.

The Crash – Kate Furnivall (2024)

It's a couple of days before Christmas 1933 and the Paris-Strasbourg Express suffers a serious crash. Gilles Malroux is on the run and takes the opportunity to swap wallets (and thus identities) with a dying man he has comforted following the accident. Soon after, Gilles' sister Camille is called to the hospital to visit her severely injured brother. But the man wrapped in bandages is a stranger. Meanwhile Gilles finds himself in great danger in a cottage in the country, with a very badly injured leg, and being addressed as 'Christophe'.

What is going on? Camille is being threatened by some very nasty people seeking her brother, and who is the man in hospital? Camille forms a close bond with the stranger whom she names 'Beau' as they try to recover his memories of life before the crash and thus his identity.

Much as it may surprise you there are no real spoilers in the above description. It's a very readable and exciting book, which has sat on my Kindle waiting to be read for far too long. As with all of Kate Furnivall's books, there are some very well researched themes, in this case ancient Egyptian artefacts, and I learned a lot while enjoying a thoroughly good book.

Catriona Hunter



THURSDAY STUDY CLUB

Thursday 5th
November
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

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Hymns and Their Writers

Following our 'Hymn World Cup' I am offering a series of articles featuring four hymn writers, whose words I could not do without.

The first is George Herbert.



George Herbert (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633)

George Herbert was an English poet, orator, and Church of England priest. His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognised as "one of the foremost British devotional lyricists." He was born in Wales into an artistic and wealthy family and largely raised in England. He received a good education that led to his admission to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1609. He enrolled intending to become a priest, but became the University's Public Orator and attracted the attention of King James I. He sat in the Parliament of England in 1624 and briefly in 1625.

After the death of King James, Herbert renewed his interest in ordination. He gave up his secular ambitions in his mid-thirties and took holy orders in the Church of England, spending the rest of his life as the rector of a rural parish just outside Salisbury. He was noted for unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. Henry Vaughan called him "a most glorious saint and seer". However, he was never a healthy man and died of consumption at the age of just 39. He is remembered as a pivotal figure: enormously popular, deeply and broadly influential, and arguably the most skilful and important British devotional lyricist of his or any other time.



St Andrew's Bemerton where Herbert ministered and where he now rests.

King of glory, King of peace
I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.

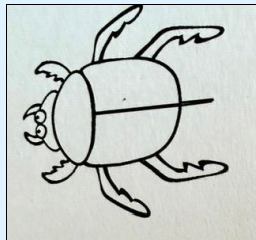
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,
I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav'n,
I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enroll Thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol Thee.

These inspiring words were written in 1633 but not published until after Herbert's death. We sing them to the tune Gwalmachai, composed in 1868 by Joseph David Jones.

**The Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe
would like to invite you to a**

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE



Sunday October 11th at 3.00 p.m.

In St Mary and St Eanswythe Church.
Everyone is invited to play this old family favourite.

Tea, soft drinks and home made cakes included in the price.

Cost £5 per adult, children under 12 are free.

Prizes for the winners.

For more details contact Pam Keeling email: tpdkeel@aol.com

Sunday Eucharist and Red Letter Day Gospels

Sunday 4 October 18th after Trinity – Matthew 21. 33 - end

‘The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruit of the kingdom’.

Sunday 11 October 19th after Trinity – Matthew 22. 1 - 14

‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’

Sunday 18 October 20th after Trinity – Matthew 22. 15 2 2

‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?’

Sunday 25 October Last Sunday after Trinity - Matthew 22. 34 - end

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Red Letter Days

Sunday 18 October Luke the Evangelist - Luke 10. 1 - 9

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Wednesday 28 October Simon and Jude, Apostles – John 15. 17 - 27

‘Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecute me they will persecute you; if they keep my word, they will keep yours also.’

Welcome Home

The restored carriages of the Leas Lift have been craned back onto their tracks, the lift should re-open in spring 2027.

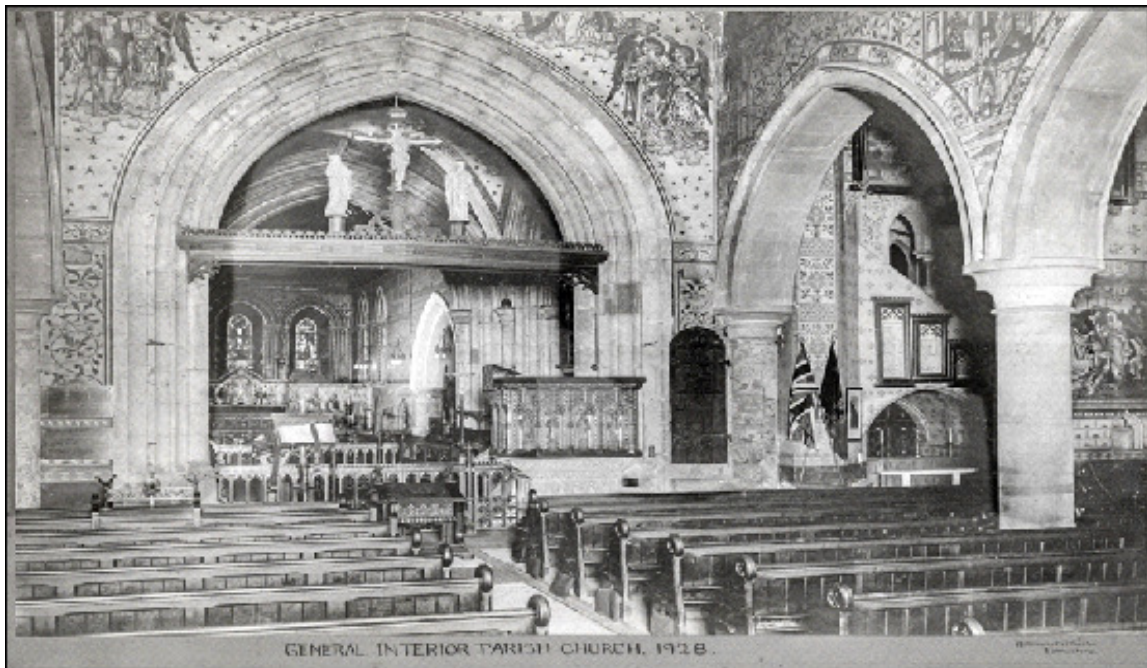


Harvest Festival – Sunday 4 October 2026



Until the 20th century, most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called the harvest supper, to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. The modern British tradition of celebrating the Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Rev. Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

What our Church Looked Like in 1928



How many changes can you see?

St Mary & St Eanswythe's church



SUPPER WITH THE SAINTS

17th October 6.30pm

A four course Turkish supper by candlelight
in the Lady Chapel of the church.

ST GEORGE
Bring your own
drinks
£25

SOLD OUT

Dates For Your Diary

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

Sunday, 11 October	3 p.m.	Family Beetle Drive <i>(Friends of St Mary and St Eanswythe)</i>
Saturday, 17 October	6.30 p.m.	Supper with the Saints – St George
Sunday, 8 November	10.30 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday + Children's Church – <i>It's all about being ready</i>
Saturday, 21 November	10 a.m.	Children's Church – <i>it's all about making birthday cakes for Jesus</i>
Monday, 23 November	7 p.m.	PCC Meeting
Sunday, 29 November	4 p.m.	Advent Carol Service
Thursday 10 December	6 p.m. tbc	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 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
2027		
Thursday, 13 May – Sunday, 16 May Sacconi Festival		

Pause for thought

“I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” *Attrib. Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).*

Perhaps as potent today as it was in his lifetime, now we face so-called Christian Nationalism and all that currently goes with that particular school of thought!

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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

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.

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

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Website www.citizensadvice.org.uk

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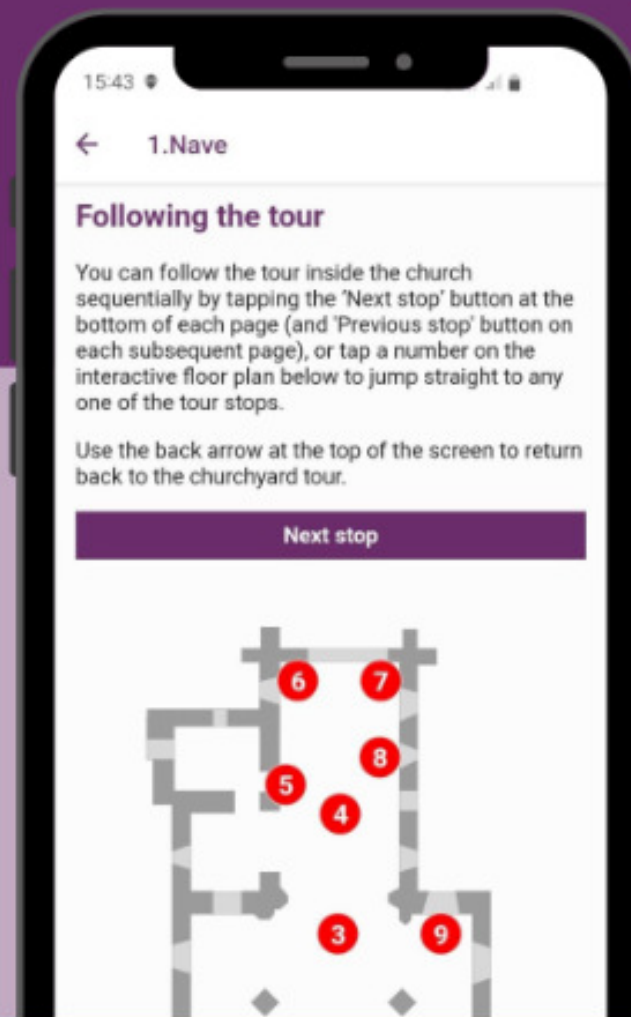
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Music Notes

Bayle Music continues its 2026-27 series at The Grand at **3 p.m. Saturday 24 October** (Doors open at 2.30 p.m.)when we welcome The Kentish Piano Trio, who will present a wonderful programme reflecting our creative county: **David Knotts** - Long Way Home; **Chausson** - Trio in G minor; **Susan Spain Dunk** - Nocturne and **Ravel** - Trio in A minor.



Susan Spain Dunk (1880-1962)

Susan Spain Dunk is of particular interest. She was born in Folkestone in 1880 the daughter of a Folkestone alderman, the owner of Dunk's the builders' merchants in Tontine Street. She was a prize-winning student at the Royal Academy of Music, where she later taught harmony and composition. Henry Wood conducted several of her compositions at the Proms between the wars, where she also conducted. We are delighted that her grandson will be at this concert to share some of his family memories.

Admission is now £20 per adult with children and students still admitted free. You can book and pay in advance on the Sounds Folkestone website where you can also find details of future Bayle Music concerts and information on a wealth of other live music events here in Folkestone.

<https://www.soundsfolkestone.co.uk>

You can also pay on the day with cash or card (Wi-Fi permitting!).

If you are not already on the Bayle Music Supporters email list, you can sign up by sending your email address to: angela.conyers@gmail.com
You will then receive regular details of all Bayle Music concerts and many other musical events in the area.

From the Parish Registers

Baptism
September

We welcome into the Lord's family
Ruben Mooring

October

Oliver Clayton-Lawler
Taron Parker



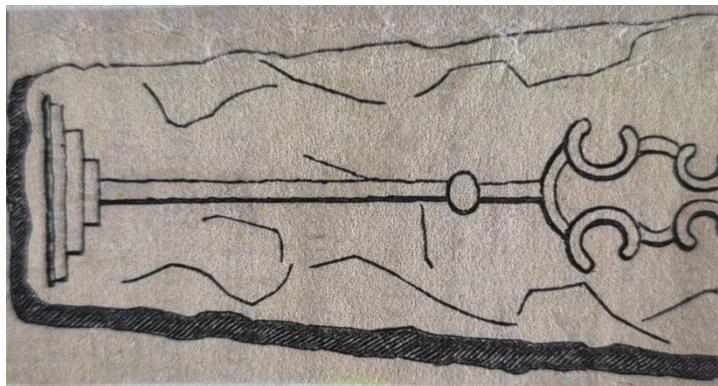
The Mystery of ‘Eanswythe’s’ Coffin Lid.

For many years, I have wondered about a seemingly lost relic, connected by some with St. Eanswythe, a medieval coffin lid still visible in the nineteenth century in the church of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe, in Folkestone.

In Stock’s *Illustrated Handbook to Folkestone and Its Neighbourhood*, published in 1848 (page 21), we read;

“A curious relique of antiquity may be seen in the ringing gallery of the Belfry Tower – a stone lid of a coffin, about 5ft.10in. long and 3in. thick, which forms the floor of an arched recess – being embedding in the solid masonry. It bears on its surface a device resembling a double crozier, which would apparently identify it as belonging to one of the Abbots of the ancient Priory; or it might probably be the one which covered the ashes of St. Eanswith, and was placed there when her remains were discovered about the middle of the 17th century.”

A drawing of the coffin lid and its double crozier design was included with the above text and appeared as follows;



The ‘discovery’ of Eanswythe’s remains refers to a statement by E. Hasted on page 180 of his, *A History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, Volume VIII, published in 1799, which reads as follows;

“On opening the coffin, the body was found lying in its perfect form, and by it on each side an hourglass and several medals, the letters on which were obliterated, and several locks of her hair which were taken away and kept by different persons for the sanctity of it.”

This coffin was said by Hasted to have been made of stone and discovered in “the north wall of the south aisle”, in the middle of the seventeenth century.

On page 31 of Stock's guide and repeated in the 1861 edition, the statement is made that it is not known what became of the coffin, or if any of the '*reliques*' are still in existence. However, in Matthew Woodward's guidebook to the church, published in 1892, he refers briefly to the aforementioned coffin lid and reproduces the drawing, which was shown earlier. Woodward surmises this once covered the remains of one of the Priors. Presumably, that could equally mean a Prioress, but he makes no mention of the earlier believed "Eanswythian" connection, perhaps because he did not want to undermine his own claimed discovery of her relics in 1885.

Over the years, some scepticism has been expressed about any "Eanswythian" connection to the found coffin lid since the design, as shown in the drawing, is twelfth century, much later than Eanswythe, who died in the seventh century. Nonetheless, since Eanswythe's relics were translated from the earlier priory to the current church in 1138, it is possible that a new tomb was constructed for her remains upon her transfer. Such a scenario is possible since, for example, St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury where an information board at the site of the St. Mary's chapel, originally established by Eanswythe's father, King Eadbald, tells us that many saintly remains were moved by the Normans from their Saxon burial places to newer sites and buildings, containing new, more impressive shrines and reliquaries.

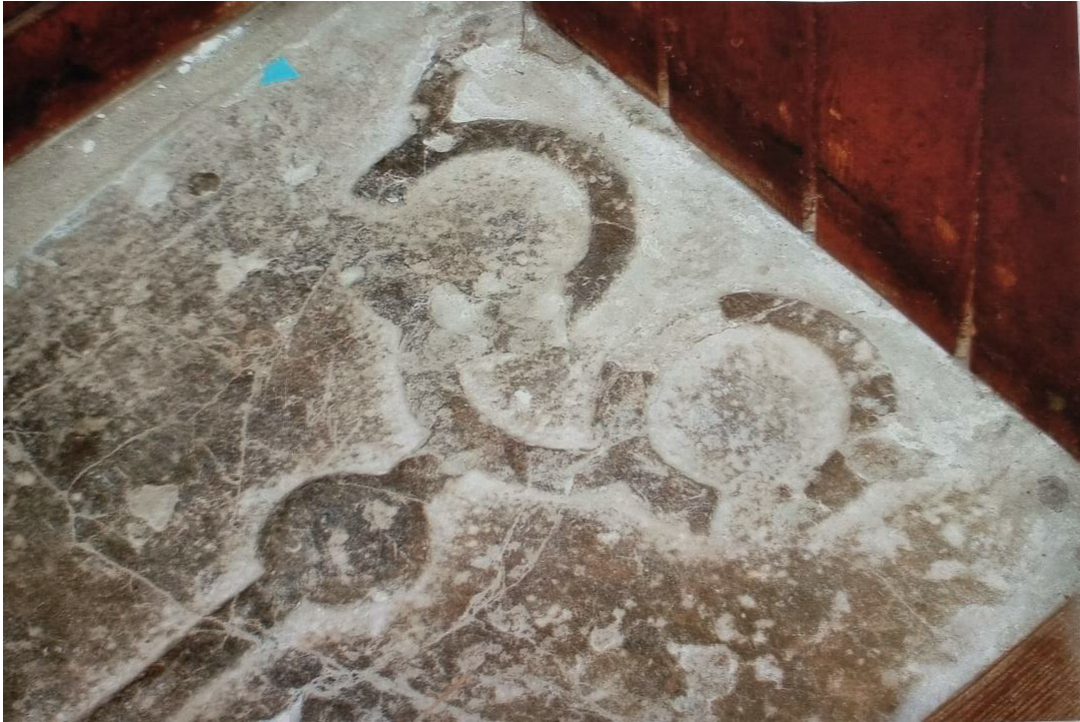
Maybe our mystery coffin lid needs re-examining but where could it be found, if it indeed was still in existence. I asked various people in the church and members of the Finding Eanswythe research group, no one seemed to know.

Perhaps a good starting point would be to follow up the description in Stock's guide of where this "*ancient relique of antiquity*" was located. I had an opportunity to do this at the end of a bell ringing session with the help of someone else who took an interest in this story. Identifying the likely location, we lifted some carpets that lay beneath various items of cleaning paraphernalia and found this beneath them!

Clearly, this is the same object as the one shown in the nineteenth century guidebook, though the top right end of the design is partially hidden beneath the wooden partition.



Here is a close up of the top of the design.



Looking through numerous medieval coffin lid images, Terry Begent found one very similar, situated in Shaftesbury Abbey Museum. This museum is incorporated into the remaining buildings of Shaftesbury Abbey, which was once one of the wealthiest Benedictine nunneries in the country, until Henry VIII's dissolution. The coffin lid derives from the old Abbey, and is believed to date to the twelfth century and to have once covered the body of an 'important personage', potentially an Abbess? This was never a 'double house', so this seems very likely. The relevance to the coffin lid in Folkestone seems clear.

According to the nineteenth century guidebooks, the Folkestone lid was associated with Hasted's seventeenth century discovery of what was believed to be the body of Eanswythe. During the Seventeenth Century, the possession of a saint's relic would still have been considered taboo, and so, this explains the location of the coffin lid in the belfry tower, unequivocally, in order to hide it.

Of course, we do not know that it was Eanswythe that once lay beneath the lid, but clearly this was believed at some point. It could have, indeed, been an early Abbess, perhaps from the time of the founding of the Priory. No hint of any useful information regarding this can be found in the church warden's accounts of the time, which may suggest this was not recorded officially, for obvious reasons.

Therefore, a question naturally arises regarding this mysterious '*relique of antiquity*', what lies beneath?

News from St Eanswythe's School

Dear Readers,

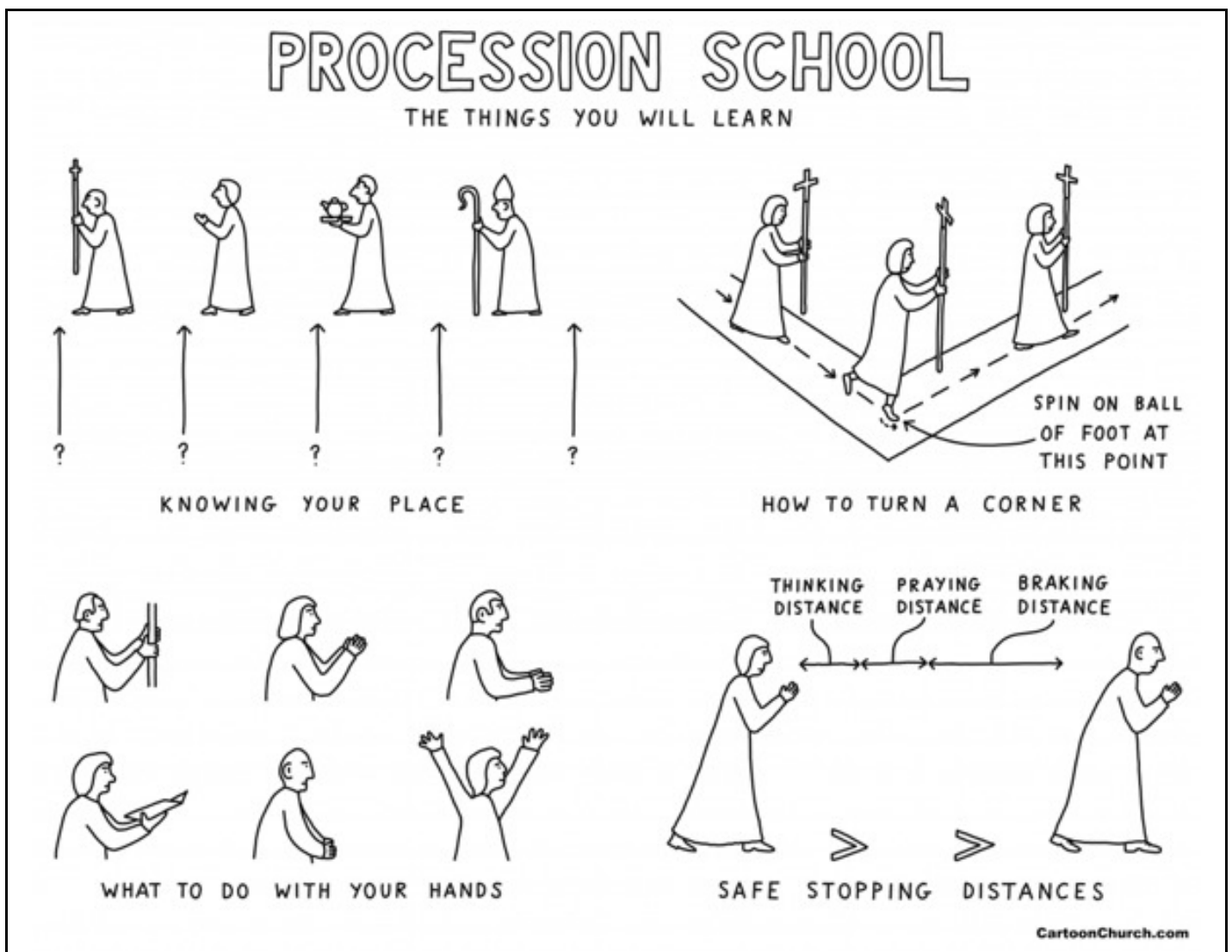
I hope you all had a happy and restful summer.

Here at school, everyone has returned and we are all looking forward to a New School year of learning. Our new Ducklings have arrived and settled in as if they have always been one of us. We will have their welcome service on 1st October, where they will be presented with their Bible.

So far, in the first couple of weeks, we have had class trips to the Museum, Lego Land, a visit from an author who was inspiring the children of the importance of reading and writing, and a whole school outing to the Harbour Arm where we took part in the FESI schools worship. There were over 1000 children participating. Our children did the school proud with their perfect behaviour and joining in. The whole worship was a joy, with lots of singing and meaningful prayers.

Wishing you all a good October. With Love and Prayers from all at St Eanswythe's.

Kim



How can I help?



Here are some volunteer tasks that already happen but we'd love to have more people involved as the more people who sign up, the more the tasks can be shared!

Regular tasks

Tea and Coffee making

Sunday Welcomer ('Sidesperson')

Cleaning

Helping set up for services (and bits 'behind the scenes' during the week)

Flowers

Serving at the altar

Putting the hymn numbers up

Bringing up the offertory and taking the collection during services

Putting the bins & recycling out

Being a welcomer for midweek opening

Altar linen washing & ironing

Singing in the choir

Articles for the Parish Magazine

Bellringing

Toilet clearing and re-stocking

Tea towel and hand towel washing

Join



our

Choir!

New voices welcome

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

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

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

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

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

sainteanswythemusic@gmail.com

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

Full name: _____

Partner's name _____

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

Address _____

_____ Post code: _____

Email: _____

Phone no. _____

SUPPORTING ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE'S CHURCH FINANCIALLY

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

BECOME A REGULAR DONOR

If you're tech-minded, there's this QR code or the website:
www.parishgiving.org.uk (click 'Find your parish' and enter parish code:
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You can also get a paper form from the Parish Office
or call PGS directly on 0333 002 1271 and quote the
parish code above.

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

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

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



Ride and Stride took place this year on Saturday 12th September, an opportunity to support the upkeep of our church and also other churches in need throughout Kent through the Friends of Kent Churches charity. Half of what we raise is for our use, half goes towards their support of other Kent churches

Once again the Plested Family represented St. Mary and St. Eanswythe's on various forms of transport! Frank, 6, on his shiny pedal bike whilst Andrew and Patricia used mobility scooters with Otis, 3, standing up on his mum's scooter. We visited the Salvation Army, St Peter's, St John's, Holy Trinity and Christchurch Tower before ending up at the Fair. Unfortunately the batteries on one scooter failed at the bottom of Black Bull Road so I needed to catch the bus home!

Your sponsorship raised £207.20p this year and Several people attending the Fair gave contributions even though they didn't really know what it was about until Marilyn explained!

Andrew

FOLDING TABLES

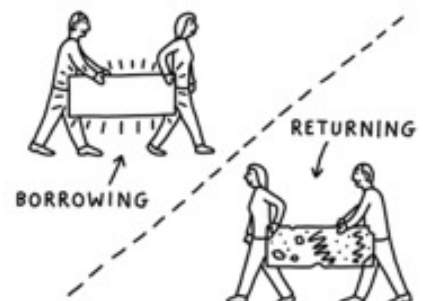
COMMON SCENES



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CHECKLIST FOR THOSE
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BORROWERS, WHO HAVE NOT
BEEN PARTICULARLY DILIGENT



SEMINAR FOR THOSE NEW
TO THE UNFOLDING PROCESS



THOSE WHO DO NOT NEED THE
SPECIAL TABLE TOOL LOOKING
DOWN ON THOSE WHO DO



THE MAN WHO CAN
UNFOLD TWO TABLES
SIMULTANEOUSLY



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October programme

Thursday mornings from 10.00 - **Film starts at 11.00**

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1st October *(repeated 8th October)*

THE ODYSSEY (2026) 

Dir. Christopher Nolan. UK- USA - 172 mins

Mythical epic. After the Trojan war, Odysseus and his crew must survive the dangerous voyage back home, facing fantastical creatures along the way.

8th October *(repeated 15th October)*

MOSS & FREUD (2025) 

Dir. James Lucas - UK - New Zealand - 100 mins

Drama. Supermodel Kate Moss embarks on a journey of self-discovery when artist Lucia Freud (Derek Jacobi) offers to paint her portrait.

15th October *(repeated 22nd October)*

500 MILES (2025) 

Dir. Morgan Matthews - UK, IE, Cyprus - 102 mins

Drama. Two young brothers run away from home in England to reach their estranged grandfather (Bill Nighy) on Ireland's west coast.

22nd October *(repeated 29th October)*

VIRGINIA WOOLF'S NIGHT & DAY (2026) 

Dir. Tina Gharavi - UK, Germany, USA - 110 mins

Romantic comedy. London 1910: a passionate female astrologer fights against the Edwardian patriarchy to avoid marriage and pursue her studies.

29th October *(repeated 5th November)*

THE FALL OF DOUGLAS WEATHERFORD (2026) 

Dir. Sean Robert Dunn - UK - 95 mins

Black comedy. A local historian (Peter Mullan) begins to lose his mind when a popular fantasy TV show starts using his town as a film location.

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