

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

A meeting of the parishioners
for the purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens
and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held in the Nave of St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church
on Sunday 28 April 2024
at 11.45am

A G E N D A

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

[Anyone on the civil electoral roll or on the electoral roll of the parish may attend the meeting and vote]

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Appointment of Secretary.
3. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting and Matters Arising.
4. To receive the Churchwardens' Charities Account.
5. Election of two Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

[Anyone on the electoral roll of the parish may attend the meeting and vote.]

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting and Matters Arising.
3. To receive:
 - a. Report on changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM.
 - b. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary & St Eanswythe Folkestone and the activities of the parish generally.
 - c. Examined financial statement of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023.
 - d. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.
 - e. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
 - f. Chair's Report
4. ELECTIONS
 - a. Up to one Deanery Synod representative.
 - b. Up to three Parochial Church Council members
5. To appoint:
 - a. Sidespersons.
 - b. Independent Examiner.
6. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest (to be referred to PCC).

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTH WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

Minutes of meeting of the parishioners for the purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens
and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in the Nave of St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church
on Sunday 23 April at 11.45

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

(Anyone on the civil electoral roll or on the electoral roll of the parish may attend the meeting and vote).

- 1) Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2) Jenny Coleman appointed as Secretary to take Minutes of Meeting
- 3) The Minutes of 2022 Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) The Churchwardens' Charities accounts were received and accepted. These are available for inspection.
- 5) Tom Bertram and Andrew Plested were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Andrew Plested:	Proposed: Angela Flisher	Seconded: Patricia Skelsted
Tom Bertram:	Proposed: Jenny Coleman	Seconded: Jan Clarke

SignedDated.....

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the parish may attend the meeting and vote)

1. There were no apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.
3. The following reports were received:
 - a) Report on changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM
 - b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary & St Eanswythe Folkestone and the activities of the parish generally.
 - c) Examined financial statement of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022. PK stated that a new Gift Aid secretary is required now that the work has been simplified. It is not an onerous task and she would be grateful for someone to take it on. Fr JW thanked PK for all her hard work throughout the year and JC for supporting her and for her work fund raising. PK will complete the Year End accounts for 2023/4 and then we will need a new Treasurer – hopefully someone can take over before PK retires.
 - d) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church. Fabric etc - Fr JW thanked AP and PS for their work on inspections of the building. AP is now Clerk of Works to the fabric of the Church and he will continue to do that even if he is not Church Warden. PC is his Assistant Clerk.
 - e) Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod. Fr JW thanked CT and VF for attending meetings and reporting back to the PCC.
 - f) Chair's Report. Fr JW thanked all the PCC for their hard work throughout the year – particularly CT for transforming Children's church into such a popular activity. And for all the work done constantly on Welcoming, flowers, caring for the church and entertaining the Ukrainian families. For the Festival and all the musical concerts. And a special thank you to MB for all his practical support.
 - g) Other comments:

Ian Gordon reported that that John Woolrich is working on a plan with the London Sinfonietta for them to be based at St Eanswythe's and thanked all those who had helped at concerts over the

course of the year. Unfortunately, because of the erratic condition of the heating we have lost some revenue from Bayle Music – they will be playing summer concerts only until we have improved the heating situation.

Fr JW thanked Malcolm Munro for his hard work and all the extra time he gives the church and for the new additions to the choir. Malcolm has constantly updated the PCC on the various inspections and reports supplied on the condition of the Organ and he is hoping to have an estimate shortly. It will be a huge challenge for the church to raise the money which will be required. It is intended to set up a Grant fund for crowd-funding etc.

4. ELECTIONS

- a) Victoria Friedrich was re-elected as Deanery Synod representative for a period of three years. There was no nomination for our other vacancy.
- b) David Wright, Pamela Keeling, Jan Clarke, Jenny Coleman and Patricia Skelsted were re-elected to the PCC for a period of three years.

5. Appointments:

- a) All sidespersons were reappointed en bloc together with Jan Clarke.
 - b) Independent Examiner – Nicola Cahill was re-appointed for 2023.
6. Matters of parochial or general church interest: Pam Keeling asked if someone would like to become the Gift Aid Secretary following the Diocese making changes in the operation of Gift Aid.

Fr JW closed the meeting with a prayer at 12.25

SignedDated.....

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Incumbent

The Revd Dr John Walker

Bank

National Westminster Bank PLC
Europa House
Sandgate Road
Folkestone
Kent

Independent Examiner

Nicola Cahill M.A.A.T.
Nicki's Accountancy Services
122 Foord Road
Folkestone
Kent
CT19 5AB

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Administrative Information

The Parish of Folkestone, St Mary and St Eanswythe with St Saviour is in the Elham Deanery, in the Diocese of Canterbury with the Church of England. There are two places of worship, the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe in the town centre of Folkestone and the Chapel of St Augustine, 39/41 Dover Road, Folkestone which is a Local Ecumenical Project shared with the Greek Orthodox Church of St Mark and St Fotini. The former Parish Church of St Saviour, Canterbury Road, is now occupied by Harbour Church.

The correspondence address is sainteanswythe@gmail.com.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission Reg.No.1192616 .

PCC members who have served from 23rd April 2023 until the date this report is approved are:

Churchwardens:	Tom Bertram Andrew Plested	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Victoria Friedrich	[Elected until 2026]
Elected Members:	Jan Clarke Jenny Coleman Pam Keeling Patricia Skelsted David Wright Marilyn Edey Catriona Hunter Jenny Coleman	[Elected until 2026] [Elected until 2026] [Resigned 21.04. 2024] [Elected until 2026] [Elected until 2026] [Elected until 2024] [Elected until 2025] [Elected until 2026]
Advisors to the PCC:	Parish Administrator Worship St Augustine's Centre Architect Schools	Jennifer Griffin Malcolm Munro Carol Godden James Ford Amanda Wolfram Claire Jacobs

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Parish Disclosure Officer have ensured that our parish procedures, organisation and pastoral practices comply with our duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

Aim and purposes

St Mary and St Eanswythe with St Saviour PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the priest-in-charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The Church exists to make Jesus Christ known in Folkestone through worship, fellowship and mission. It looks to encourage its members and the people of the community of which it is a part, to realise their full potential as children of God. It also has the responsibility of maintaining the fabric of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone a Grade 11* listed building.

Achievements and performance

There are 64 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 27 of whom are resident within the parish. Five names were added during the year. There was one death. The average weekly attendance in the parish was 56 adults and 5 under-16s. The increase in adult attendance has largely been due to new members who have started attending Church. Ten children were baptised. Ten children and three adults were Confirmed, and one adult was received from the Roman Catholic Church. Eight weddings were held. There were two funerals, one of which took place in the church and one at Hawkinge Crematorium, and one interment of Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance..

The full PCC met six times during the year. Members of the PCC are on the St Augustine's Joint Council our LEP with the Greek Orthodox Church which manages the St Augustine's Centre.

We are grateful to The Revd John Tomlinson for his continuing contribution to the worship of the parish. Vicky Friedrich was re-authorised as a Lay Minister and sponsored by the PCC to begin training as a Lay Reader. She helps at services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. We are grateful to Pam Keeling and Jenny Coleman for their work as out joint-treasurers; to Tom Bertram and Andrew Plested for their roles as Churchwardens, and to Pam Mullett and Jenny Coleman for supporting them as Deputy Wardens

The PCC is active in pursuing the following priorities:

Ethos: We aim to embed an ethos that is kind, appreciative and co-operative in which difference is valued, initiative is rewarded and mistakes are treated humanely.

- **Welcome:** We want people to feel welcome whenever they come to church
- **Worship:** We aim to both maintain and develop our choral, Anglo-Catholic approach to worship.
- **Spirituality:** We wish to offer support for people on their spiritual journey.
- **Pilgrimage:** We want to develop our church as a centre for pilgrimage.
- **The Arts:** We would like our church to continue to host the Arts
- **Children:** We aim to bring God's love to children both in our church schools, and in our parish worship
- **Social Care:** We want to support people going through challenging times.

Finance Review

All follow on the Financial Statements pages, approved by the PCC on 27 March 2023. I am extremely grateful to our outgoing Treasurer, Pam Keeling for her immense hard work not only in handling our finances so soundly, but for the time and skill she has given to completely re-organising our financial systems so that we can function in a digital world. Thank you so much Pam!!



Revd Dr John Walker (Chair)

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payment basis in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. Planned giving is either by covenant or gift aid donations:
By covenant or gift aid donation: number of contributors = 42
Otherwise: number of contributors = 10
3. The General Account includes all voluntary, ordinary, and extra ordinary receipts including those of the Calvary: Eanswythe Books; Fabric Fund; Garden of Remembrance; Heating fund; which are all restricted.
4. The Magazine Fund Account refers to the Rendezvous Magazine. The Flower Fund Account is for the church flowers. The Baptismal Bible Fund is for the presentation of Baptismal Bibles. These are also restricted funds
5. Investments are held by the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance or the Church of England Central Board of Finance. All holding prices are shown at cost.
6. The church insurers are the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ.

TREASURERS REPORT

Attached are the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Notes to those accounts:

PAYMENTS

Planned Giving Income total of £35,729 including the Widow's Mite and the tax refund on Gift Aid was £7,006, this was previously handled by the Diocese but is now handled by us. Some people choose to pay directly into the General Account. Withdrawals from the Planned Giving Account into the General Account are transferred in whole numbers.

The accountant employed is Nicki's Accountancy Services at 122 Foord Road, Folkestone.

Below are general comments on the General Fund plus the various ringfenced funds.

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

GENERAL FUND.

2023 has proved quite challenging as we embarked on raising funds for both the Reliquary (named as Eanswythe Found in the accounts) and the Heating Fund. The heating system was in a parlous state with one boiler irreparable and the other boiler working erratically. The PCC agreed that the shares we held specifically as a Boiler Fund could be sold and the proceeds went towards the cost of the new electric system. Both the Reliquary and the Heating Fund have made the bank balances look extremely healthy as only part payment on these items were paid out during 2023.

We did receive a grant from the Diocese which enabled us to cover our Parish Share for another year.

We are very grateful to all our congregation and friends who have continued making their donations and supporting our various ventures such as the sale of cards and notelets and the wonderful St Eanswythe Festival Day which raised £527 and our Christmas Festival which raised £1000. Many thanks to Jenny Coleman and everyone involved in making it such a success. There will be more events in 2024 which hopefully will prove to be even more popular.

As ever we are indebted to Ian Gordon for his continued work with Bayle Music and its partnership with Canterbury Music Club. The concerts were fewer due to the lack of heat in the church, but they resumed in the better weather along with other concerts etc. and the much-needed rental income has proved invaluable.

Ride and Stride took place and our thanks to Marilyn Edey, the Plested family and all those involved.

Indeed, our grateful thanks to all who have helped us to raise both funds and morale to keep our beautiful church afloat.

On a more personal note, Jenny and I would like to thank Fr John for his encouragement and leadership.

Also, my personal thanks to my joint Treasurer Jenny for all that she has done and for her incredible tenacity and good judgement in addressing some challenging times in the administration of the accounts.

Jennifer Coleman and Pamela Keeling

20th March 2024

PARISH OF ST. MARY AND ST. EANSWYTHE WITH ST. SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE
GENERAL ACCOUNT (UNRESTRICTED)

2022	RECEIPTS	2023	2022	PAYMENTS	2023
25,128.27	Balance at Bank 1st January 2023	30,638.35		The Ministry	
			1,822.59	Clergy Expenses	1,822.39
	Voluntary Receipts			The Church and Expenses	
17,715.00	Planned Giving Contributions	35,729.00		Wages And Verger Expenses	4,618.14
47.00	Collections	1,880.54	4,680.00	Music Fund, Choir, Salaries	6,552.37
7,638.72	Church Boxes and Histories	5,042.06	8,550.16	Bread, Wine Candles	691.05
			633.71	Water and Sewer rates	471.03
	Other Ordinary Receipts		195.25	Oil and Heating	45,953.51
1,092.04	Investment Income	1,113.57	6,218.37	Electricity	1,414.47
670.00	Heating Fund	57,321.32	1,587.28	Postage, Stationary and Sundry Expenses	1,055.20
10,919.80	Grants	12,050.00	78.24	Copier Service Charge	90.26
7,381.70	Three Days in January	10,926.32	1,166.04	Accountancy Fees	225.00
6,250.00	Historic England Grant		225.00	DBF Fees	1,639.00
1,360.00	Calvary	500.00	1,418.00	Insurance	10,859.49
10,000.00	Archbishop Council Grant		5,107.68	In Service	32.00
4,106.57	Listed Places of Worship		229.03	Church Schools	
			19.95		
	Extra Ordinary Receipts				
2,954.00	Insurance Payment			Payments Outside the Parish	
3,139.00	Wedding and Baptism Collections	4,080.00		Parish Share	28,928.00
1,470.00	Funeral Fees		31,755.00	Chubb Fire	497.68
20.00	Refunds	318.60	445.24	Books	201.57
5.00	Colouring Books		1,157.97	Sacconi and Social Expenses	385.72
489.34	Coffee Sales	112.85	621.47	Cleaning and Hygiene	
324.21	Votive Candles	404.08	225.00	Leaflets	257.04
2,000.00	Flower fund		212.91	Flower Fund	228.02
6,133.92	Concerts & Art Exhibition hire	2,765.10	433.60	Architect & Planning Fees	
4,033.79	Various Donations	6,906.81	263.20	Telephone	888.74
2,110.00	Harvest Festival/Fete/Christmas Festival		749.38	Christmas	315.00
501.20	Grant from Rendezvous Magazine		337.20	Miscellaneous expenses	2,324.79
645.46	Finding Eanswythe Books	260.00	559.00	Rye Roofing	450.00
1,000.00	Bequest		20,700.00	Building & Maintenance	1,080.00
183.00	Table Sales		1,127.90		
179.80	Baptismal Bible Fund				

150.00	First Day Covers		66.61	AIBMS	327.71
1,329.53	Give A Little	808.07	251.70	Children's Society	95.00
80.00	St Eanswythe Day Float	527.00	29.00	Float for Eanswythe Day	40.00
288.80	Christmas Tree/Card Donations	125.00	160.00	Reimbursment R Chapman	
251.70	Children's Society	96.00	50.00	Charitable Donation	
1,500.00	Garden of Remembrance		179.80	Baptismal Bible Fund	122.50
1,497.00	Tours	170.00	205.68	Good With Devices	296.65
2,347.00	Widows Mite	2,831.00		Eanswythe Found	13,194.46
400.00	Sanctuary lights				
2,053.96	Organ Fund	810.97			
19,069.67	Sale of Shares	3,922.82			
167.50	Kent Ride and Stride	132.50	26,532.67	Three days in January	10,518.70
	Eanswythe Found	15,316.43			
2,000.00	Transfer from Business Reserve a/c from sale of shares	7,777.33			
			30,638.35	Balance at Bank 31st December 2023	66,990.23
148,632.98		202,565.72	148,632.98		202,565.72

I hereby approve these Accounts based on the information and explanations provided



Nicola Cahill M.A.A.T

26/03/2024

**PARISH OF ST. MARY AND ST. EANSWYTHE WITH ST. SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE
BUSINESS RESERVE ACCOUNT**

2022	RECEIPTS	2023	2022	PAYMENTS	2023
2,886.10	Balance at bank 1st January 2022	2,592.88			
	Income from investments				
146.91	CBF Deposit Fund	865.6			
1555.14	CBF Investment Fund	8946.03			
	CCLA Investment	227.53	2,000.00	Transfer to General a/c	7,777.33
4.73	Bank Interest	48.63			
			2592.88	Balance at Bank 31st December 2023	4903.34
4,592.88		12,680.67	4,592.88		12,680.67

I hereby approve these Accounts based on the information and explanations provided



Nicola Cahill M.A.A.T

26/03/2024

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE, FOLKESTONE

Investments held on 31st December 2023 and valuations as per statements.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>A/C No</u>
Vicar & Churchwardens Trust Funds Fabric	£18,117.45	£17,573.26 £25,432.06	106001875D 106001094S
PCC Trust Funds Fabric	£4,884.60	£3,705.23 £8,690.26	106001970D 106001087S
Ecclesiastical Charity (Interest allocated to Churchwardens Discretionary Fund)	£10,182.56	£31,956.52	106001718S
Davies Trust	£969.34	£32,647.83	106001089S
General Fabric Fund	£10,021.31	£15,732.70	606139001S
Vera and Leslie Vale Fund	£40.64	£809.63	606139002S
Pilcher Bible Fund (for St Eanswythe's School)	£642.70	£785.62	606139004D
Music and Choir Fund	£1,781.55	£1,836.22	606139005D
Pipe Organ Fund	£6,000.00	£2,000.00	606139002D

In 2022 the following holdings were sold: Dick's Bequest; Hammond Bequest; Crookes Bequest and Churchwardens Historic Charities.
In 2023 Aston Boiler were sold with funds going towards the cost of the new heating system.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

I'm approaching a crossroads at which I'll turn in a different direction to you, and our journeys will diverge but go on. But I'm sometimes confused about exactly how we got here together! I thought there'd be loads of hospitality within our faith community and between it and the wider community in which we're set. Lots of eating, drinking, telling stories, listening, learning, connecting. And the journey hasn't been like that at all.

Covid put paid to most of that. Vast swathes of time when we couldn't be together at all but, even when we could, we couldn't share food or very much proximity. We've had to find different ways of connecting, between ourselves, and with others. In my early years I developed film making and social media skills I never thought I'd have, and the numbers of isolated people both within and beyond our faith community who appreciated the online worship we produced together have surprised me!

I didn't think I'd have to replace one Parish Administrator, let alone recruit four! Or find a new Choir Director. I wasn't expecting to become the Chair of Governors at St Eanswythe School, or be involved in recruiting new headteachers for both our church schools.

I had no idea we'd have to fund-raise for a new heating system, our organ to be restored and a security system for our church, although I was aware we'd have to raise money to repair the Calvary and have a new Reliquary for St Eanswythe designed.

And who could possibly have predicted the extraordinary range of events our church has hosted in the last four years? The classical concerts, yes, but the multi-media concerts and performance arts of dance, poetry, body sculpture and sound baths have involved the most surprising conversations and negotiations about the balance between provocativeness and appropriateness. Worth doing: our church has been packed with folk who are not regular churchgoers on several occasions. For seasonal and civic services too, although these were more expected. Neither could we have anticipated that we would develop a circle of Ukrainian friends who would come to feel that they are very much a part of our extended church family.

Then there have been ground-breaking events of historical significance. The scientific confirmation, beyond reasonable doubt, that we really are custodians of the relics of Holy Eanswythe. Permission from King Charles and his Privy Council for the first burial in our churchyard for some 125 years.

All through this there has been woven the rhythms of our patterns of worship prayer and study; some week by week; some unfolding with the seasons of the church year. Grounding our common life together as the people of God in this place with the life-giving God who is at the heart of us all, and without whom there would be nothing extraordinary; nothing vibrant; nothing truly **alive**. Within this rich weaving, we have learned more about being the people of God together; caring for one another and our visitors through our welcome and hospitality; through attentiveness to the challenges we each face through personal support or our Pastoral Care Team; through events to celebrate our common life, whether that might be cakes after services, lunches in the Woodward Hall, or festivals for Eanswythe or Christmas.

PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE

And all this **doing** has been held by learning more about the best way of **being**. We've been learning that the way we do anything is the way we do everything. So that it's really important that we cut out gossip, criticism and backbiting; it's vital that ours is a place where it's okay to have a go and where it's safe to make mistakes and learn from them positively. Where we appreciate the qualities we each have, and accept one another's limitations with patience and understanding. We don't always manage it, but we're definitely well on the way.

Thank you for journeying with me during the last few years. I'm grateful to far too many people to be able to name everyone. But I have valued so very much not only those whose help has been public and obvious; leading worship, preaching, playing, singing, organising, running things, fundraising. I have also valued those whose support and encouragement is quiet and behind the scenes. The practical caring, quiet conversations, faithful prayers, benign presence – you know who you are! Thank you all for all you have done and all you have been.

I've loved being the priest at St Mary & St Eanswythe. It's a wonderful community full of wonderful people and with a wonderful history and facing a wonderful future. Like everyone else here, I have my strengths and my limitations. I hope you have enjoyed and been helped by what I've been able to bring by my own combination of experience, knowledge and skills. And I hope you have not been too distressed by what that combination has **not** offered. For now, at the crossroads ahead where we will part, you have the opportunity to pray for and seek a priest with a new and different combination of experience, knowledge and skills. One that will fit her, or him, to journey well with you on the next stage of the pilgrimage.

Our PCC, with the help and support of Archdeacon Darren, has this well in hand, but please be praying for them all for the wisdom they will need to make the right appointment and, of course, for the right person to apply!

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and,
until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Fr John Walker

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REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

1 Quinquennial Phase 2

Weather Vane - Having erected the scaffolding on the top of the Tower to access the weather vane, it was found to be in much worse condition. We now have quotes for the repair. The weathervane needs taking down and reinstalling by someone else as the companies do not like working at height! Rye Roofing has quoted for this process. We have had a £5,000 grant towards this work and I have applied for grant funding for the balance for this work.

Nave Roof seals to stonework - For some unknown reason, when the church was re-roofed in 1988 the slate to Tower and Western Gable stonework for the central span of the Nave was made in mortar rather than the usual lead flashing used elsewhere. The mortar is well stuck to the slates but has pulled away from the stonework. This work requires scaffolding to the west end and against the Tower. I have applied for grant funding.

Belfry Louvres mesh - This is to keep the pigeons from roosting/nesting on the louvres and causing blocking of gutters etc.. I have a quotation for abseilers to fit the screens and a supplier for the screens but need external measuring, probably only possible by abseilers.

- 2 **Calvary** - The Diocese has approved the plan for the restoration and we have Planning approval. The War Memorials Trust will cover 75% of the renovation cost and have given me a link to reclaim the VAT - it is a different scheme to that for works on the church. We have also received ward grants from FHDC (£500) and Folkestone Town Council (£200) and my thanks to David Wright for further fund-raising. Work is in progress
- 3 **Churchyard Walls** - there are two areas of fractured walling, both revealed when the Council cut back the ivy. One is on the curve of the wall opposite the Calvary, the wall has been split by an ivy root and the top capping stones are loose. The other is the wall to the left of the steps which has moved due to ivy infestation. Both of these have been reported to the Council (FHDC). No progress as yet on the wall by the steps but the affected part of the wall opposite the Calvary has been dismantled to allow access for removal of the roots/. Despite reminders this has not progressed from them asking for quotations from contractors.
- 4 **Alarms and CCTV** - Whilst the system is installed we have had a few issues but these should be resolved. We have added an extra camera so that Jennifer can see who is at the Vestry door.
- 5 **Adam and Eve (before the apple!) Window** - Canterbury Cathedral Stained Glass Workshop have measured the stone setting for the window and made a template. The new window will have a Makrolon protective glazing but, unlike the present Makrolon it will be fitted into the window aperture and fixed with metal clips rather than surface applied with screws, making it far more difficult to remove. I received a quotation for the work (£9,437 plus VAT) and passed it on to Ecclesiastical Insurance for their approval. However, they now require further quotes.
- 6 **Chancel Sanctuary Lamps** - One of the three brass chains on the central lamp has snapped and the mechanism jammed so that the lamp cannot be raised or lowered from chest height. Each lamp is connected to its counterweight with three chains. Although the central lamp is raised and lowered far more often than the rest, given the age of the chains and the access issue it is probably best to consider replacing the chains on all seven lamps. The central lamp has been moved into the small Vestry for safe keeping. I have obtained two quotations, one by scaffold tower for £2,500 and one via ladder and rope work for £2,800 although the latter has a chain price of just under £1,000, three times that of the other quote. The architect is to specify the chain type so that we can get le quotes.
- 7 **New Reliquary** - Having selected a design, which the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) supports I submitted a Faculty application. Things move glacially but the DAC has now passed this up to the Commissary General for final approval. However, the DAC made two stipulation,

both designed to reduce the dampness in the north wall of the Chancel and thus reduce the humidity in the Niche, Firstly, the two headstones that currently lean against the wall must be moved 700 mm away and the wall, which has been re-pointed many years ago with cement needs this removed and re-pointed in lime mortar. However, despite being informed by the DAC that these two measures are necessary, I still need to submit Faculty applications for both. Until all three Faculty applications are approved, we cannot commission the fabrication of the new Reliquary.

8 Vesica Window - In October a hole appeared in the top left quadrant of the surround. The insurers were slow to approve the work and pigeons found their way in for a comfortable roost, leaving their calling cards everywhere - my thanks to those who covered the altar area and cleaned up during the invasion. The Sanctuary was scaffolded and the panel removed to Easthope studios for repair. We hope to have the panel refitted and scaffolding down before the end of April.

9 Asbestos - We have had an asbestos survey of the church. This has identified asbestos in the Boiler Room and a minimal amount associated with the Organ. For the Organ:

- There is only one low risk issue - either remove by a specialist asbestos firm or leave undisturbed
- There are two very low risk issues - either remove or leave undisturbed
- The other 9 possible issues are marked as no asbestos found and no further action required

999

10 Heating - My Thanks to Tom Bertram for managing this project. The Heating System is fully installed. I have now asked EDF, our electricity suppliers, to come and check their equipment on our two 3-phase supplies and connect in the heating circuits. Once this is done, UK Power Networks has to come and uprate our supplies to 100 amps. Then we can use it. The system is zoned so we only need to switch on the area we want to use. The Nave, Chancel and Choir Stalls have under-pew heating. The North Transept and Lady Chapel have overhead heat and light chandeliers. We will no longer need to pre-heat from 6 p.m. the night before as half an hour should suffice, a considerable cost reduction compared with the oil heating.

11 Tower Mural - A small part of the mural halfway up the curved left side of the mural fell down late last year. The damage was surveyed from ground level and there are five areas where the mural is bulging. The mural will have to be scaffolded for examination, temporary reinforcement of fragile areas and preparation of a full estimate,. Provisional estimate:

A. Condition Assessment, Documentation and Report - £ 450.00

B. Emergency stabilisation, facing with tissue £ 1,200.00

C. Grouting & Plaster Repair (Provisional Sum) £ 4,500.00

D. Stabilisation of flaking paint (Provisional Sum) £ 1,800.00

E. Surface cleaning (Provisional Sum) £ 7,500.00

F. Retouching water damage, paint losses and new plaster repairs (Provisional Sum) £ 1,800.00



Andrew Plested

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MUSIC, CHOIR AND ORGAN

Choir report

The choir of St Mary & St Eanswythe have continued to serve the church with dedication this year. We are still a small choir, and that can pose challenges when singers are away, but we are blessed with singers who can raise their game when needed. We have welcomed several new regular singers this year, and several more have made enquiries.

We have been working to establish relationships with singers from the church community and beyond. So far this has mostly been around special services like Christmas and Advent Carols, but having our numbers boosted by extra singers from the town can elevate what we can do in terms of repertoire.

My plan is to attempt to make this a more regular occurrence so that singers who do not want to commit to being in the choir every week can still sing with us on occasional Sunday mornings. This will enable more rewarding repertoire to be sung, which will hopefully be a positive for choir and congregation alike.

Organ report

As you may be able to hear, the organ is becoming less reliable by the week. On a recent Sunday the swell manual was completely unusable by the end of the service, and every time the instrument is switched on it provides a fresh menu of faults and peculiarities.

The PCC has considered proposals from four firms of organ builders, as well as advice from the diocesan organ advisor and an external consultant. They have decided that the proposals from

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Nicholson & Co of Malvern represent the best scheme to rescue and preserve the organ. As a result of this, we have also appointed Nicholson to take over the maintenance of the organ from the summer of 2024.

The work on the organ will be extremely expensive at a time when the church has a number of other costly projects on the go. If you are interested in supporting the organ project in any way, please let me know.

Malcolm Munro

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CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church celebrated its second birthday in December and we continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month.

Children from a number of families attend regularly, some with their parents, and we are always ready to welcome more. In our time together we enjoy stories, singing and activities based on the Gospel for the day. At the moment, the Upper Room is still big enough for us.

The Children's Church team is Sue Bauhahn, Maureen Foreman, Pam Keeling and Clare Tomlinson. We are very grateful to Maurice Bauhahn for ringing us up to let us know when the Creed is beginning (it's tricky sometimes to gauge how long the Liturgy of the Word will be), and to Carol McBeath and Caroline Hayward for stepping in to help out when we're one short.

The family area in church is used every week and its position means that families can engage with the service easily. On Sundays when Children's Church doesn't meet, we provide activity sheets connected to the Sunday readings. You are welcome to have a look at these and perhaps take one home to pass on to a grandchild or neighbour.

Highlights from the past year –

- our picnic in the vicarage garden with fun and games and food for all who came
- leading the intercessions in church
- our third making of Birthday Cakes for Jesus on Stir Up Sunday
- the collection of the decorated cakes at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve – lots of families and children came to enjoy this service and collect their cakes.
- the growing confidence of the children to speak and sing in church – they really enjoy joining in with presenting the gifts and taking the collection

Very many thanks to everyone for your continued prayers for all of us.

Clare Tomlinson

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EANSWYTHE FOUND

2023 was a very exciting year for us – having completed Finding Eanswythe we could then move on to the next stage of the Eanswythe project - Eanswythe Found.

The EF Team comprised of an archaeologist, members of the Diocese, the PCC etc, met on a regular basis to discuss requirements for the new Reliquary to house our Saint's bones in her original resting place.

Dr Andrew Richardson prepared a brief for possible designers and this was released by the Diocese Communications Team.

We received 41 applications for the design pack and 13 were returned to us with suggested designs. These were varied, quirky and interesting and beautiful.

At a very enjoyable meeting we decided almost unanimously that we would like Sophie Hacker to work on the design for us. We had various meetings with her and the Conservator and in September finalised our choice.

We unveiled Sophie's design on St Eanswythe's Day – September 12 and launched our appeal for donations that evening. We ultimately received just over £13,000 which was wonderful – our target was £9,000. People from Orthodox churches in the USA contributed greatly and so did members of our congregation and the general public. The extra money will be used to enhance the church for pilgrims' visits in the future.

Before we can give final approval for the Reliquary to be completed we have been requested to move two gravestones which are leaning on the wall adjacent to the niche and which could cause damp to penetrate the wall.

It is our hope that we will be able to instal this beautiful work of art on September 12, St Eanswythe's Day.

Jenny Coleman

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FLOWERS

Mothering Sunday is our first event of the year, and is always very welcome coming in the middle of Lent, when we have no flowers, so it is a joy to watch the children from our Children's Sunday group take a small bunch of Daffodils to each lady in the Church, and the smiles given to each other.

Easter follows on which is a busy time, preparing the Easter Garden, and bringing flowers and greenery back into the Church, and breathing a new life into it. The spring flowers symbolising renewal and growth lift our spirits and brings hope of better times to come.

In May 2023 the country was awash with Red, White and Blue, and in our own way, mirroring those colours we celebrated in flowers the Coronation of King Charles the III & Queen Camilla.

Summer flowers are always a joy, varying from pastel shades to bright vibrant colours.

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We are very fortunate to have some lovely silk flowers that we carefully blend with fresh flowers, and added with the greenery from my garden we keep the flower budget as low as we can.

Harvest time comes next in our year, and the Harvest table is packed with tins and packets that is gratefully received by the food bank.

The autumn colours of the vines and flowers bring a warmth and vibrance that is appreciated by all as the days start to shorten.

For Remembrance Sunday we decorated the Pulpit again with a mesh of Poppies and Rosemary, and placed wooden crosses and poppies on the steps leading up to the High Altar.

We ended 2023 with once again a Christmas Tree from Clough's Farm at Barham. Thanks to my husband Paul for once again putting on the lights and helping us with the decorations.

"Where flowers bloom so does hope"

Jan Clarke

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE

Over the past years we have provided funds for the fabric of the church to a considerable sum, including a £9,000 payment in 2023 towards the Heating Fund.

This year the Friends have been working alongside the Folkestone Inner Wheel and Folkestone Rotary Club to host coffee mornings for the Ukrainians in the Folkestone area. This has proved to be very popular as they are able to meet up and offer help to one another, an unexpected side effect has been various impromptu short concerts which have delighted visitors to the church.

We held a very successful Quiz at the Woodward Hall, and I can tell you that there is another planned for Friday October 13th. It will be the last one with Ian Gordon as Quizmaster and for anyone who has not been to a Quiz Ian has organised, I would suggest that you do not miss this opportunity.

The Friends were present at Armed Forces Day, telling people about the church and selling a few of our books. We also had a stall at the St Eanswythe Festival which proved to be very popular. All the funds from these events went directly into the church heating fund account.

The Creative Quarter Carol Service was packed with young and old, and the Friends did a sterling job in serving everyone with mulled wine and mince pies.

The Friends Facebook site is still being used extensively due almost to entirely Fr John as he reaches more and more people with his excellent services, daily prayers, and reflections.

The Friends website also continues to prove very successful, and the second website created for the project 'The Women's Role in World War 1' is still in regular use presumably by some Primary schools.

Pam Keeling

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ELHAM DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The focus for the Deanery Synod this year has been mission and ministry and creating new disciples. With this in mind we have enjoyed talks from Jen Tobin, the Diocesan Lead Officer for Children and Young People's Ministry, Richard Heyward, Youth Minister for St John's Church, Folkestone, and Jon Marlow, Diocesan Director of Ordinands. We have also had talks from Deanery members about the challenges facing rural ministry and the interest surrounding our own patron, St Eanswythe. The speaker at our upcoming meeting will be Nigel Collins, Diocesan Warden of Readers. The meeting will be held on Thursday 16th May at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

Business meetings have followed the themes of the talks and the Area Deans have encouraged parishes to speak to one another about what they are already doing and to use each other's interests and expertise. The Area Deans were very encouraged by the increase in discernment and acknowledged the number of people from within the Deanery who are currently in the process of training for ordained and lay ministry.

Our parish is entitled to have two representatives on the Deanery Synod. Currently we only have one. If this is something you may be interested in, please speak to Vicky Friedrich about what is involved.

Vicky Friedrich

First meeting of St Mary & St Eanswythe's newly elected Parochial Church Council 28 April 2024

A G E N D A

(Minutes of the last meeting will be received at the May PCC meeting)

A. Appointment of Deputy Wardens

B. Election of PCC Officers

1. Interim Chairs
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll
5. Safeguarding:
 - a. Parish Safeguarding Coordinator
 - b. Parish Disclosures Officer
 - c. Safeguarding Policy Statement

C. Future Meeting dates

1. PCC Meetings will take place in the Upper Room on Mondays at 7pm:
2024: 27 Jan, 25 Mar, 27 May, 22 Jul, 23 Sep, 25 Nov
2025: 27 Jan, 24 Mar
2. The Standing Committee comprises the Chair, Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretary. Meetings will take place in the Upper Room on Tuesdays 10.00-11.00:
2024: 13 Feb, 11 Jun, 13 Aug, 8 Oct, 10 Dec
2025: 11 Feb

The Standing Committee may meet at other times as need demands.
3. The **2025** APCM will take place after the Eucharist on Sunday 4 May

Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

Parish of **ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE**

This parochial church council has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England. In particular we are committed to:

- the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults
- carefully selecting and training paid and voluntary staff who might come into contact with children or vulnerable adults, using the Disclosure and Barring Service amongst other tools, to check their suitability
- responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed
- cooperating fully with the police, local authority and any other appropriate statutory body in any investigation
- ministering appropriately to anyone, child or adult, who has experienced abuse
- extending pastoral care to those known to have offended against children or vulnerable adults whilst ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected from them

We have appointed

Tel:

as the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Signed Date

(Parish Priest)

Signed Date

Signed Date

(Church Wardens)

Any child wishing to talk about a problem can contact Childline on 0800 1111

Any parent or carer wishing to talk about parenting problems can contact Family Lives on 0808 800 2222

The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is available to speak with adults or children.