



Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025

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 04 May 2025 at 11.45am.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Appointment of Secretary.
3. Minutes of the 2024 Meeting and Matters Arising.
4. To receive the Churchwardens' Charities Account.
5. Election of two Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the 2024 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 2024.
 - d. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.
 - e. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
 - f. Additional Reports relating to the life of the church.
4. To elect:
 - a. Up to one Deanery Synod representative.
 - b. Up to four Parochial Church Council members.
5. To appoint:
 - a. Independent Examiner.
6. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest (to be referred to PCC).

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Minutes from the last meeting



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

*held in the Nave of St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church
on Sunday 28 April 2024
at 11.45am*

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

2. Jennifer Griffin appointed as Secretary.
4. The Churchwardens' Charities Accounts were received. Fr John explained these were intended for anyone who was in need.
5. Election of Churchwardens: Andrew Plested and Tom Bertram were appointed. Fr John thanked them for their work during the year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

1. Apologies for absence: Richard Bellamy
2. Fr John thanked everyone who had submitted reports.
4. ELECTIONS:
 - [a] Vicky Friedrich appointed as Deanery Synod representative.
 - [b] Marilyn Edey elected as a member of the Parochial Church Council. Churchwardens to be consulted if anyone wished to be a PCC member.
5. [a] Sidespersons elected en bloc.
[b] Independent Examiner: Nicola Cahill appointed. All agreed.
6. Next APCM: 4th May 2025.
PCC dates may be altered.
 - [a] Jenny Coleman has offered to be the new Treasurer.
 - [b] Pam Keeling has agreed to be Gift Aid secretary.
 - [c] Caroline Hayward Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Andrew Plested expressed thanks to Pam Keeling for all she had done as Treasurer. Fr John seconded this and expressed thanks to Dan Keeling also.

Andrew Plested thanked Fr John for the last four years.

Fr John concluded the meeting with prayer and hopes that we find the right priest for the parish.

C. J. Johnson
4th May 2025

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2024



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 St Mary and St Eanswythe Church, Church Street, Folkestone. CT20 1SE, 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 28th April 2024 until the date this report is approved are:

Ex-Officio	
The Revd John Walker <i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Chair (until April 2024)
The Revd Christopher Johnson <i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Chair (from October 2024)
Tom Bertram	Churchwarden
Andrew Pleded	Churchwarden
Synod Representatives	
Vicky Friedrich	Deanery Synod (Term ends 2026)

Elected Representatives		
Name	Term Began	Term Ends
Catriona Hunter	2022	2025
Vacancy	2022	2025
Janice Clarke	2023	2026
Jenny Coleman	2023	2026
Pamela Keeling	2023	Resigned April 2024. The term for this place will now run 2022-25
Patricia Skelsted	2023	2026
David Wright	2023	Resigned Sept 2024. The term for this place will now run 24-27
Vacancy	2024	2027
Marilyn Edey	2024	2027
Co-opted		
Carol McBeath	November 2024	2025

Advisors to the PCC The PCC is grateful to work alongside and receive the support and advice of employees, volunteers and professional agencies, including:

Employed Positions or roles for which a fee or honorarium is payable

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Griffin (during 2024)
Organist & Choir Director	Malcolm Munro (until October 2024)
Professional Advisor under the Care of the Churches Measure 2018 (Parish Architect)	James Ford of Clague Architects

Other Roles

Treasurer	Jenny Coleman
Care of St Augustine's Centre	Carol Godden
Head of St Eanswythe's School	Claire Jacobs
Head of St Mary's School	Amanda Wolfram
Parish Safeguarding PCC Lead	Tom Bertram
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Hayward
Parish Disclosure Officer	Andrew Pleded

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Electoral Roll Report



In March and April, 2025, a new Electoral Roll for the church was created. All parishes in the Church of England are required to do this every 6 years: the old list is discarded and everyone who wants to be on the new list is invited to fill out a new Electoral Roll form. The new Roll is therefore an accurate list of those people who consider themselves to be members of our church.

Numbers on the new Electoral Roll, with the previous figures, are as follows:

	New Electoral Roll	Previous Electoral Roll
Total number	49	65
Of which, Resident in Parish	20	29
And those Non-resident	29	36

Whenever a new Electoral Roll is created there is, inevitably, a reduction in the numbers which have gradually accumulated over the previous 6 years. Some of the reasons behind the change this year can be summarised as:

	New Electoral Roll
Those who have died, RIP	3
Those who no longer worship with us, because of age, or have moved on	14
Those not returned after COVID	2
Other (people not present during revision period, or forms not yet received)	4

Increase in number

Those who are new to the roll	5
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The present Roll is current up to Sunday 6th April 2025: those who are included on this list are entitled to vote at the APCM. The Electoral Roll is, however, an ongoing list and anyone wanting to be included on it can do so if they complete a Form and hand that to John Tomlinson (Please ask John or one of the Churchwardens if you would like a form).

John Tomlinson

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council



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.

Customarily, the Chair of the PCC is taken by the Priest-in-Charge or by an elected Vice-Chair in their absence.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC meets regularly in order to fulfil its obligations. Matters are attended to by correspondence where necessary between meetings.

In order to fulfil its function the Council has the following sub committees:

Standing Committee

Membership: Priest-in-Charge, Vice-Chair, Churchwardens, Treasurer, two members elected by the PCC (currently vacant). This committee conducts business on behalf of the full Council between meetings where necessary.

Working Parties and ad hoc groups are appointed for the following matters:

Personnel Committee

Social and fundraising events

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 II* listed building.

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (cont)



Achievements and performance

There are 49 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 20 of whom are resident within the parish. Five names were added during the year. The average weekly attendance in the parish was 43 adults and 4 under-16s. 14 people were baptised and 14 people were confirmed. Eight weddings and three funerals were held in church.

The full PCC met six times during the year. Members of the PCC are on the St Augustine's Joint Council, our Local Ecumenical Project 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 for training as a Lay Reader. She helps at services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. We are grateful to Jenny Coleman for her work as treasurer; to Tom Bertram and Andrew Pleded for their roles as Churchwardens. The PCC is also deeply grateful to the band of volunteers who give so generously of their time and resources in order to allow us to pursue the ministry and outreach that we do – sometimes unseen but always greatly valued.

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.

*The Revd Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge*

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Safeguarding Duties and Responsibilities



Our Priest-in-Charge, Parish Safeguarding Officer, PCC Lead, and Parish Disclosure Officer work to ensure 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. The action plan arising from the annual appraisal of these tasks is included below. The PCC has also begun to use the national Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard as a means of checking and recording its progress in expected tasks and implementation of good practice.

The duty of safeguarding is incumbent not just upon the PCC but upon the whole church community as we seek to protect all God's people and to promote a safer church.

There are also statutory duties that the PCC must keep in good order and up to date, particularly in matters of policy, implementation, training and good practice in relation to safeguarding.

Having completed an annual review in preparation for the 2025 APCM, we have identified several areas which require attention and work over the coming year:

Training

- All PCC members must have DBS checks (renewed every 3 years) and up-to-date training as required by the Church of England.
- Others who undertake specified roles will need to complete safeguarding training as specified by Church of England guidance.
- A log will be created and maintained of training and DBS checks.

Policies & Information

- The policy folder will be kept updated and kept in church.
- Relevant safeguarding contacts and other required information will be displayed as required by current CoE guidelines.

Other matters

- There is work to be done on risk-assessing our activities.
- Safer Recruitment Policy & Practice will be reviewed over the coming year.
- Our record-keeping practices are due for review (though any information held about Children's Church participants is already reviewed annually).

*Caroline Hayward, Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tom Bertram, PCC Safeguarding Lead
The Revd Christopher Johnson, Priest-in-Charge*

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Report from the Treasurer



2024 was a very interesting and varied year in the life of our church.

Sadly, in January the funeral of William Brown Junior took place. Fr. John Walker and members of the PCC supported the Brown family through this time and they became part of our church family. William's parents acquired permission from the Privy Council to bury William in the churchyard.

Fr. John Walker retired in April with our thanks for guiding us through the difficult years of the pandemic and encouraging us to bring some changes to the life and worship in the church.

Members of the PCC worked tirelessly to ensure that we would not have a long interregnum and we probably broke the record for appointing a new Priest in Charge in June.

Fr Chris Johnson was installed on October 11 at a service full of beautiful music and great joy and anticipation.

Finance

I took over as Treasurer at the APCM. On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank Pam Keeling for her tireless work as Treasurer since 2020 and her generous support to the church and the PCC. My grateful thanks are added for all Pam has done in various capacities as a fundraiser and champion of our church.

The Planned Giving income including Widow's Mite and various very generous contributions totalled £24,692. The Gift Aid received over the year was £6,270.00.

We were able to transfer funds from the Planned Giving account to enable us to pay a good proportion of our Parish Share. Together with a LinC payment from the Diocese this meant that we covered the cost of the Parish Share for 2024.

Grateful thanks to our many regular donors and to those who always give so generously.

We began the year with projects to complete – the Heating system and Eanswythe Found.

Heating system – again we received generous donations including those arising from William Brown's funeral, which enabled us to install the new heating system in March/April. There have been a few teething problems and still some action to be taken by edf and National Power but we hope all will be working fully by winter of 2025. Many thanks to Tom Bertram for his management of the project and never-ending patience!

After several years of research, and much discussion we reached the final stage of the Eanswythe Found project. We were very fortunate to receive the donations needed and we were able to brief Sophie Hacker, our designer, to go ahead and craft the beautiful Reliquary which would hold the relics of our patron saint. We had two 'celebrations' – a Blessing of the Reliquary on September 12 and the Translation of the Relics on November 17. The Translation was streamed around the world so that our overseas donors could feel included in the service and funds for this were taken from the Churchwardens Account.

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone Report from the Treasurer (cont)



Following the Blessing of the Reliquary we held our Festival raising £800 and we also held a Christmas Festival raising £600. Thanks to everyone who participated and gave their time and donations so generously.

Ian Gordon and Grenville Hancox continued to provide wonderful concerts through Bayle Music and although some were held at the Grand we had some in the church also. The Sacconi Festival was held in May and we welcomed and refreshed the audiences.

We have received grants to complete various 'building' works including the Calvary and hope that we will be able to complete ongoing projects over the coming year.

I would like to thank my fellow PCC members for their support and help on many projects and events over the year. We have achieved a great deal in a very complicated time for our church.

As I write this in March it seems that Fr Chris has been with us for much longer than six months as he has accomplished so much in that time. I think I can say on behalf of the whole congregation that we are thrilled to have him as our Priest and we look forward to working with him and accomplishing great things for St Eanswythe's in the coming years.

*Jenny Coleman
PCC Treasurer*

Accounts



For the year ending 31st December 2024

Notes to Accounts 2024

The End of year accounts have a slightly different look this year.

We are providing a Profit & Loss Account for the year with an attached table breaking down the expenditure compared to 2023.

There is also a Balance Sheet for the end of year.

These figures have been processed and approved by our accountants:

C-Bas Accountancy & Taxation Services
135 Church Road
Cheriton
CT20 3ER

We are grateful to them for their help in a year of change of Accountant (beyond our control) and a crossover of two voluntary Treasurers.

Jenny Coleman
Treasurer
April 23 2024

(If you have any queries please address them to _____
sainteanswythe@gmail.com and your request will be dealt with as soon as
possible

Profit and Loss

St Mary & St Eanswythe

Date Range: Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024

Report Type: Accrual (Paid & Unpaid)

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024
Income	
Bequests	£1,021.50
Box	£7,259.27
Coffee	£93.56
Concerts	£2,485.00
Direct Public Support – Gifts in Kind	£150.00
Donations	£19,217.40
EANSWYTHE FOUND	£2.00
Fabric fund	£27,566.00
Fees Weddings & Funerals	£2,136.00
Finding Eanswythe Legacy Books	£116.00
Flower Fund	£40.00
Funeral	£480.00
Heating Fund	£16,808.24
Heritage Centre	£2,501.58
Investments – Interest	£1,516.56
Miscellaneous Revenue	£152.00
Organ Fund	£618.22
PG A/C 08627304	£5,000.00
Photocopying	£454.30
Planned Giving	£15,365.00

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024
Priest reimbursement	£2,191.00
Rendezvous Magazine	£12.00
Rev John Walker	£215.00
Skinny Donations Box	£2,833.73
Sum Up Payments Give a Little	£760.64
Table sales	£27.00
Tours etc	£50.00
Uncategorized Income	£1,116.45
Votive candles	£382.96
Wedding	£1,907.00
Widow's Mite	£2,561.70
Total Income	£115,040.11
 Total Cost of Goods Sold	 £0.00
 Gross Profit	 £115,040.11
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%
 Operating Expenses	
AIBMS	£236.46
AV and presentation	£4,140.00
Accounting Fees	£334.57
Bank Charge	£78.51
Books	£21.51
Bread, Wine & Candles	£687.47

Operating Expenses

Card Purchase etc	£13.44
Chubb Fire	£533.22
Churches Together	£50.00
Cleaning Exp.	£84.08
DBF Fees	£9,045.00
EANSWYTHE FOUND	£13,217.14
Ecclesiastical Insurance	£9,761.78
Electric	£2,151.57
Expenses Vicar	£3,824.78
Fabric Fund	£15,072.80
Flower Fund	£223.96
Fr John Walker	£215.00
Funeral fees	£228.00
Good With Devices	£111.57
Heating Fund	£36,075.60
In Service	£90.70
Misc.	£723.17
Mission	£35.00
Music Fund	£1,766.30
Office Supplies	£10.30
Oil & Heat	£2,113.07
Organ Fund	£1,707.73
PG Expenses	£93.74
Parish Share	£19,816.00
Payroll – Salary & Wages	£7,727.16

Operating Expenses

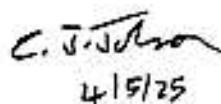
Photocopy	£618.75
Priests Fees	£2,460.00
Priests fees	£192.00
Printing and Reproduction	£1,445.26
RP	£247.86
Rendezvous Magazine	£29.70
Repairs & Maintenance	£440.00
Social	£139.25
Telephone – Land Line	£1,629.18
Uncategorized Expense	£1,559.83
Utilities	£894.81
Wages	£2,523.88
Water and Sewer	£219.50
Widow's Mite	£7.00
Total Operating Expenses	£142,596.65
Net Profit	-£27,556.54
As a percentage of Total Income	-23.95%

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



Simon Osborne MAAT

Date: 5/4/25


4/5/25

C-BAS
Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
135 Church Road
Cheriton
FOLKESTONE
Kent CT20 3ER

PARISH OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE
GENERAL ACCOUNT (UNRESTRICTED) 2024
Breakdown of Profit & Loss account as income and expenditure

2023	RECEIPTS	2024	2023	PAYMENTS	2024
	Jan 01 2024-31 Dec 2024			Jan 01 2024-31 Dec 2024	
				Operating Expenses	
	Bequests	1021.50	624.36	Electronic donations	348.03
6922.60	Collection box	7259.27		AV and presentation/Translation*	4140.00
112.85	Coffee	93.56	225.00	Accounting fees	334.57
2765.10	Concerts	2485.00		Bank charges	78.51
	Direct Public support – gifts in kind	152.00	892.62	Books, Bread, Wine & Candles	708.98
6906.81	Donations	19217.40	497.68	Chubb Fire	533.22
	Fabric Fund	27566.00		Mission	85.00
4080.00	Fees weddings, baptisms, funerals	2618.00		Cleaning exp	84.08
57321.32	Heating fund	16808.24	1639.00	DBF fees	9045.00
	Heritage Centre	2501.58	13194.46	Eanswythe Found project	13217.14
1113.57	Investments – Interest	1516.56	10859.49	Ecclesiastical insurance	9761.78
295.00	Miscellaneous revenue – tours, cards	456.00	1414.47	Electricity	2151.57
810.97	Organ Fund	618.22	1822.39	Expenses Priest in Charge	3824.78
	Planned Giving A/c transfer	5000.00		Fabric Fund	15072.80
	Photocopying	454.30	228.02	Flower Fund	223.96
35729.00	Planned Giving	15365.00		Fr John Walker – leaving	215.00
	Priest reimbursement interregnum	2191.00		Funeral fees	228.00
	Uncategorised income	1116.45		Heating Fund	36075.60

808.07	Electronic donations	3594.37	32.00	In service	90.70
404.08	Votive candles	382.96	2324.79	Miscellaneous	752.87
	Wedding	1907.00	6552.37	Music Fund, choir, salaries	1766.30
2831.00	Widow's Mite	2561.70	1055.20	Office Supplies	10.30
			45953.51	Oil & Heat	2113.07
				Organ Fund	1707.37
				Planned Giving envelopes	93.74
			28928.00	Parish Share	19816.00
			4618.14	Payroll	7727.16
				Photocopying, printing, reproduction, pewsheets	2311.87
			1513.00	Repairs & maintenance	440.00
			385.72	Social	139.25
			888.74	Telephone, landline, broadband	1629.18
				Uncategorized expenses	1559.83
			471.03	Utilities -water & Sewer	1114.32
				Wages ***	2528.88
				Widow's Mite	7.00
	Total Income	115,040.11		Total Operating expenses	142,596.65
	Gross Profit	115,040.11		Net Profit	-27,556.54
	As a percentage of Gross Income	100%		As a percentage of total income	-23.95%
				*AV presentation paid from Churchwardens A/C	
				Net Profit therefore -24,556.54	
				- 21.34% of total income	

Balance Sheet

St Mary & St Eanswythe

As of Dec 31, 2024

Report Type: Accrual (Paid & Unpaid)

ACCOUNTS	Dec 31, 2024
Assets	
Total Cash and Bank	£39,722.75
Total Other Current Assets	£492.39
Total Long-term Assets	£0.00
Total Assets	£40,215.14
Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities	£0.00
Total Long-term Liabilities	£0.00
Total Liabilities	£0.00
Equity	
Total Other Equity	£0.00
Total Retained Earnings	£40,215.14
Total Equity	£40,215.14

We are not able to approve the above balance sheet provided by Wave as the bank balance does not match the bank statement. After discussing this with you, this is due to a previous year error and I understand you have carried out many steps to try to rectify this but to no avail.

We can confirm the bank balance at the year ended 31st December 2024 as per the bank statement is £40,195.83



Simon Osborne MAAT

Date: 22/4/25

C-BAS
Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
135 Church Road
Cheriton
FOLKESTONE
Kent CT20 3ER

**PARISH OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR
FOLKESTONE BUSINESS RESERVE ACCOUNT 2024**

2023	RECEIPTS	2024	2023	PAYMENTS	2024
2592.88	Balance at bank 1 st January	4953.05			
	2024 Income from Investments				
865.60	CBF Deposit Fund				
8946.03	CBS Investment				
227.53	Fund CCLA	1972.84			
48.63	Investment Bank				
	Interest	84.93			
		7010.82			
				Transfer to General Account	600.00
12680.67		6410.82		Balance at Bank 31 st December 2024	6410.82

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

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR FOLKESTONE
Investments held ay 31st December 2024 and valuations as per statements

	Cost £	Valuation	A/C No
PCC General Fabric Fund	4884.60	15555.10	CB3021403-001
Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustees - 206014	969.34	3707.28	CB3003679-001
Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustees - 206020 Formerly Vicar & Churchwardens Trust Fund Fabric	10182.56	17573.26	CB3003678-001
Vera & Leslie Vale Fund	40.64	939.71	CB3021405-001
Pilcher Bible Fund (for St Eanswythe's School)	642.70	800.85	CB3021409-001
Music & Choir Fund	1781.55	1871.89	CB3021410-001
Pipe Organ Fund	6000.00	2000.00	CB3021404-001

Fabric report

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 weather vane 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. I gave Rye the go-ahead in July but they only contacted me in February about a start date. The scaffolding has been checked but needs extra boards for access. I am still waiting for a start date.

Nave Roof seals to stonework

For some unknown reason, when the church was re-roofed in 1988 the slate roof 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 £20,000 grant funding. Work will start once the remaining roof issues are resolved.

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 of the four apertures, probably only possible by abseilers. I am trying to get funding for this.

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 almost complete, there are three roof tiles to replace, which is not an issue. One of the ridge tiles is missing and the contractor has been trying to source another from various architectural salvage companies without success. I am waiting to hear from the War Memorials Trust whether to replace all three or if they have any other options.

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. FHDC now wants to move gravestones so that they can get rid of all the shrub roots before rebuilding the wall. Obviously the gravestones would have to be returned to their present positions. I have consulted the DAC about this and asked FHDC to contact the DAC but have not been able to ascertain the current situation at the time of writing this report.

Adam and Eve (before the apple!) Window

Broken during the 2017 break-in. 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, which they have now given and work is progressing on repairing the window. Maybe three months to wait.

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 brass 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 the quotes. I have been given the details of a funding source for this work and will submit an application.

New Reliquary

Work complete and the relics of St Eanswythe installed in the Reliquary and then into the niche. As part of the Diocesan requirements the outside wall has been re-pointed in lime mortar up to window level and the two gravestones moved away from the wall to reduce dampness in the niche.

Vesica Window

In October 2023 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 and re-installing. My thanks to Jan and Paul for their work in removing the pigeon droppings and wax from the carpet.

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 was 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. In view of the exorbitant cost of removal of four pieces of pipe lagging we have had the heating pipes under the organ sealed in wooden boxing.

The main problems are to do with the soon to be defunct heating system which is confined to the Boiler Room. For £9,187.50 we could seal the asbestos found there with paint, Removing the old heating system and its asbestos would be extremely expensive and achieve little. The boiler room has flooded a couple of times in the past due to blocked drains so is not a suitable storage space.

Roof issues late 2024

There has been an ongoing issue with water coming in above the brass plaques at the front of the Nave, the problem being due to a blocked and difficult to reach small gully next to the Tower. Which got a lot worse at the end of the year. We also had the occasional spots during very wet weather from above the arch into the Lady Chapel, which also worsened. Then we had a plaster fall from above where the Christmas tree normally stands needing the area to be cordoned off. I had also noticed the north and west walls of the Lady Chapel appearing damp. Finally we had water dripping onto the light switches in the Chancel (similar culprit to the Nave brasses but on the eastern side of the Tower. And inside the South Transept next to the organ. Ames managed to find time to sort out these leaks. 70 missing or broken slates were replaced, the remainder of the ceiling panel in the North Transept was removed and the area outside was re-laid. The gullies adjoining the Tower that caused the Nave and Chancel leaks were cleaned. Both Nave valleys gutters were cleaned as well as the gully above the Tower staircase responsible for the South Transept leak. The scaffolding firm that had scaffolded the weather vane had left scaffold boards and poles in the gullies either side of the North Transept and on the flat outside the doorway to the ringing room. 5 scaffold boards and two footballs were in the main gutter for the Lady Chapel causing the high level damp in the walls. Ames has cleaned all of these areas and stored the scaffold in components in a better way. I contacted Rye roofing who were unaware of this scaffolding and they have complained to their scaffolders.

Tower Mural

A small part of the mural halfway up the curved left side of the mural fell down late 2023. The damage was surveyed from ground level and there are five areas where the mural is bulging. The mural was scaffolded for a thorough examination, temporary reinforcement of fragile areas and preparation of a full estimate. The work proposed is itemised below although 5.1 and 5.4 have already been done and is expected to take 8 weeks. The total cost, including scaffolding, will be £25,000 plus VAT, which is refundable. I have been advised of two sources of funding and will make the applications in due course.



- | | |
|------|---|
| 5.1 | Preliminary assessment and documentation |
| 5.2 | Surface cleaning to remove superficial dust and dirt |
| 5.3 | Cleaning to remove ingrained surface grime |
| 5.4 | Stabilisation of flaking and powdery paint |
| 5.5 | Grout and pin as necessary areas of delaminating plaster (c. 10m ²) |
| 5.6 | Fill plaster losses and cracks |
| 5.7 | Retouch losses, water damage and new plaster repairs |
| 5.8 | Total Labour |
| 5.9 | Travel |
| 5.10 | Materials |
| 5.11 | Documentation & Photographic Record |

New Quinquennial Survey

This was done last autumn and brought up several issues that need addressing such as: painting the iron glazing bars in the stained glass windows; resolving the dampness on the wall between Baptistery and the west end of the Nave, the North West Porch and South Aisle.

Heating

My Thanks to Tom Bertram for managing this project. The Heating System is fully installed. EDF, our electricity suppliers, has uprated the fuses and meter tails in electricity supply in the organ blower room and the Nave heating has been connected and is in use. The rest of the heating has to be connected to our other electricity supply in the Choir Vestry. There is a problem with this supply, it has 200 amp fuses but the EDF tails are only rated for 60 amps. The UK Power Networks fuses are in an old cast iron housing which is no longer deemed safe for the higher amperage so it needs replacing with a modern plastic unit. To do this the supply to the church has to be cut involving digging a hole in the path from the church to the Bayle to access and cut the cable before the unit can be changed and 100 amp fuses installed. Once this is done, EDF has to come and uprate the meter tails to 100 amps. Then the electrician can connect the heating for the Chancel, Lady Chapel, North Transept and Choir. 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.

Andrew Plested

Additional note regarding heating

We have replaced the burner unit in the old boiler, which gives us a more reliable addition to the under pew heating. We have recently ordered 1200 litres of oil to see us well into this year's winter.

With regards to the continued situation with the electrics in the vestry, it's been confirmed that 100 watt fuses will be adequate for all our needs, bearing in mind the addition of the Chancel and Choir heating.

We are obtaining a faculty so the cabling under the flagstones in the Churchyard can be temporally cut to allow power networks to remove the metal lacy and replace as required. Discussions are ongoing to establish a timeframe.

Tom Bertram
Churchwarden

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Deanery Synod Report



The focus for the Deanery Synod this year has been mission and ministry and in particular women's roles in ministry. With this in mind we have enjoyed talks from Rev Jo Richards – Chaplain to the Homeless in Canterbury Diocese and Canon Rev Estella Last – Bishop's Advisor for Women's Ministry.

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. It has been proposed that the Deanery produces a directory of approved service providers, to facilitate the process of carrying out maintenance on our buildings and other necessary tasks in our parishes. The Area Deans remain 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
Deanery Synod Representative



Annual Report: Supplementary Reports

for the year ended 31st December 2024

Clergy Report

Writing an annual clergy report is always an interesting task, not least because so much of the following year has normally already elapsed by the time we meet. It's further complicated for me by the fact that I arrived only in October 2024, so missed much of the excitement of the year for this parish. Yet, what a year it obviously was here and it didn't slow up.

After a wonderful event in October for my licensing, there was very little time to get one's feet under the altar before the extraordinary and unique service of the Translation of the Relics of St Eanswythe took place in November. It was an amazing privilege to preside over that service and to be able to gather worshipers from across the world both in person and online. Marking the conclusion of that chapter in the story of Eanswythe Found, it was a profound and holy moment yet a joyful gathering too. Christmas brought its own joys as we marked the birth of Our Lord and enjoyed the opportunity that the Christmas season affords us to bring the community together and into the building. In the space of one weekend we went from Cosmic Rock to Community Choir to Advent Prose, plus school services and the usual round of parish events and worship too.

I'm hugely grateful to you for your wonderful welcome to the parish – the discovery of a pint of milk and delicious things in the pantry prior to the arrival of the removal van set the tone for the wider welcome that followed. Thank you also for your embracing of some innovations, some restorations of what happened before and for the willingness to look anew at things as I've brought fresh eyes (and questions). I also wish to take the opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Fr John Walker, and to thank him for his ministry here; laying and maintaining foundations & relationships for me to continue to build on in my ministry in this place.

Looking ahead, in pondering the future vision for this parish and for my ministry within it, three key themes emerged: 'Worship', 'Community', and 'Heritage'. Each of these already plays a part in our daily life and work at St Mary & St Eanswythe's and I very much hope that these themes will continue to allow us to develop our work and ministry together within our parish and community. As ever in parish life, there'll be careful thought to be given to our building; its basic and routine maintenance along with how it's used in worship and to serve our work and our mission and to enhance its function and beauty. There's also the heritage aspect of our amazing building and the historical interest that this draws in, along with celebrating the life and faith of our patron, St Eanswythe – especially given the profile she's attained in recent months and years. In amongst all of this, however, there's the constant practical reminder that resources are often stretched – both human and financial – and we need to steward those wisely and caringly.

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Clergy Report (cont)



There may well need to be some changes in the way we approach things, including with Generous Giving methods, over the coming months so that we don't overstretch our precious volunteers and utilise the resources available to us as best we possibly can. Do please embrace and engage with those changes as they arise and give things the benefit of the doubt where necessary. I can assure you that 'change for change's sake' is not something we're going to be in the business of doing here!

In conclusion, thank you for the contribution that you make to the life of our parish as we seek to serve God and be faithful to his call. Things do get noticed – whether offerings of time and talents be small or large – and they're very much appreciated, both by me and by those whom we serve and with whom share our Christian lives and faith.

I look forward to what the coming year holds for us!

Fr Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Children's Church report



Children's Church celebrated its third 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. Our highest number to date is 12 children accompanied by 5 adults with 3 Children's Church leaders! It was a bit of a squeeze, although, at the moment, the Upper Room is still big enough for us.

In our time together we enjoy stories, singing and activities usually based on the Gospel for the day.

The Children's Church team is Sue Bauhahn, Maureen Foreman, Pam Keeling and Clare Tomlinson. We remain very grateful to Maurice Bauhahn for ringing us up to let us know when the Creed is beginning, and to Carol McBeath, Caroline Hayward, Pam Keeling and Marilyn Edey for stepping in to help out when we're one short. We are very aware of our responsibilities and are up to date with safeguarding training.

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. Please take a look at these activity sheets and feel free to take one home to pass on to a grandchild or neighbour.

There are always spare programmes and flyers on the table near the door – if you know anyone who might like to join in, please give them one and invite them along.

Highlights from the past year

- Our picnic in the vicarage garden with fun and games and food for all who came.
- Our fourth making of Birthday Cakes for Jesus on Stir Up Sunday.
- The collection of the decorated cakes at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve – and taking part in the Christmas story with Fr Chris.
- 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.
- Seeing new families happy to join in and the way the existing members of Children's Church make them feel welcome.

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

Clare Tomlinson
Children's Church Co-ordinator

Members

We currently have a team of 18 welcomers; 11 of whom cover weekday opening and all of whom are involved on the Saturday rota. During the last year we have introduced two new people to the team. Welcomers are drawn from both regular worshippers at the church and from the wider community; particularly those who have an interest in history and heritage.

Current church opening times are Wednesday to Saturday, from 11am-1pm. Outside of these times, we can usually accommodate groups by arrangement with the church office. We would welcome new people to the team and would like to be able to open on Mondays and Tuesdays as we have in the past.

Welcomer safety

On the advice of the local police, we always have at least two welcomers, at least one of whom is male, on duty. In addition, we have screech alarms available as well as two units linked to the local Lifeline care service. Incidents are rare but these measures provide reassurance.

Visitors

The recording of numbers of visitors has just re-started, having lapsed in recent years. Numbers vary from week to week and are somewhat weather-dependent. Many people who visit are local and have a long history with church having been pupils at St. Eanswythe school, baptised or married at the church or having sung in choir as children. One visitor in her 90's had moved to Canada and wanted to re-visit the church where she had been a bridesmaid some 80 years ago. Others local visitors drop in most weeks; some to pray and others to chat.

Alongside local visitors, we welcome a number on day or weekend trips from wider Kent, London and the near continent. Visitors from the USA seem to have increased. The availability of the church guide in a number of languages is much appreciated.

Our impression is that the presence of the relics and the recent publicity around them has drawn a number of visitors and pilgrims to the church. Welcomers are knowledgeable and can enrich the experience for those who wish to know more about the building and its artefacts.

Groups

In the last year we have welcomed groups from the Orthodox community in the USA, pilgrims walking the new camino from Canterbury to Folkestone, a group of young refugees and asylum seekers working with KRAN and a group of adults with additional needs from the Touchbase project. While the church is not on the Via Francigena, we have welcomed pilgrims walking the route and we have a pilgrim stamp available.

Welcomers Report (cont)

Development

There is an opportunity to develop the church as a pilgrimage site. Contact has already been made with the leader of the Augustine Camino walks and with the local Ramblers group (who walk parts of the Canterbury caminos) to offer guided tours and refreshments by arrangement. The church has recently been included for the first time in the British Pilgrimage Trust guidebook and sits on the Southampton to Canterbury 'Old Way' route that has received good publicity since its rediscovery by the BPT founder, Will Parsons.

Judy Doherty
Welcomer co-ordinator

Choir Report

We have a small but loyal (and tuneful) choir singing four part harmony each Sunday – the average number of singers is around six. Most weeks, where resources permit, they sing a psalm, anthem, and communion hymn in addition to leading the service.

For special services the choir draws on a wider network of singers and we have had choirs of around 20 singers for the major services over the year. Some of these additional singers are previous members of the choir, while others are unable to make the commitment to sing with the choir every Sunday but are willing to do so on an occasional basis. These special services included a eucharist in celebration of Pentecost, which was also the weekend when the church was full of music for the Sacconi Festival, the Blessing of the new reliquary for St Eanswythe on 12 September, this was followed fairly swiftly by Fr Chris's installation on 11 October, and finally the Translation of the relics on 17 November.

December is always a busy time for the choir and it is usually quite easy to recruit extra singers for the Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons and Carols. The Creative Quarter Carol Service is also popular as a fun occasion when the choir can 'let their hair down' a bit, and the familiar carols and seasonal music are popular with the singers.

We were sorry, in early October, to lose Malcolm Munro, who had been our organist and musical director since early 2022. However, we have been fortunate to have the services of some excellent deputies to support the music of the church until a replacement is recruited. We are particularly grateful to those who have gone the extra mile with the choir in preparing for the big services.

Catriona Hunter
Choir & PCC member

Flowers report

Flowers in Churches are used to enhance the worship experience, by symbolising beauty, life and God's creation, as well as to beautify the space within the Church, and mark specific liturgical seasons or occasions.

During Lent we do not have flowers in the Church as it is not considered appropriate during this period of penance and reflection. Therefore it is a joy when we decorate the Church for Easter Day with spring flowers and fresh evergreen, also white lilies symbolising purity, rebirth, hope and new beginnings associated with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We also decorate the Church with White Lilies that are paid for by church members, in memory of a loved one.

We had three very special occasions during 2024 when we were able to fill the church with flowers:

September 12th

We held a service to Bless the new Reliquary for the bones of St Eanswythe. This was conducted by Archdeacon Darren. White Lilies were placed in front of the Altar symbolising the purity of St Eanswythe.

October 11th

For the Licensing of our new priest in charge Fr Christopher Johnson, and we filled the church with flowers to welcome Fr Chris and his family and friends who attended the service to support him alongside our own parishioners.

November 17th

Again, a very special occasion when the relics of St Eanswythe were translated in her new Reliquary to rest once again in the niche where she was discovered in 1885. This again was a joyous occasion to fill the church with flowers and place white lilies by the altar and by her shrine and the High Altar in the Sanctuary.

Throughout the year our very small team of flower ladies, myself, Jenny Coleman and now also Carol McBeath work very hard to use flowers to bring life to the church, be it the Easter Garden, the Autumn colours of Harvest and the Harvest table, Poppies to mark Remembrance Sunday, and finally the Holly and the Ivy to celebrate Christmas. By marking the seasons we hope to bring life to the Church, making it a more welcoming and uplifting space to worship or to visit.

Jan Clarke

The Friends have had another busy year. Whilst sadly saying farewell to Fr John Walker who was a keen member of the Friends, we were delighted to welcome Fr Chris Johnson to the committee.

The Friends managed to raise the funds for the new church heating and celebrated with an official 'Switch On' with special guest the Rt. Hon. Lord Michael Howard of Lympne.

We celebrated Armed Forces Day on the Leas and later in the year joined other community groups for an Edwardian Picnic - our cake sales were excellent with not a crumb left!

As in previous years we provided the mulled wine and mince pies for the Creative Quarter Carol Service.

Our Ukrainian friends still enjoy meeting up for coffee on Saturday mornings, they are always delighted to support the church in various ways. We are extremely grateful for the support of the Folkestone Rotary Club and Folkestone Inner Wheel.

Our next project is to raise the funds to enhance the area of the church near the Baptistry in order to be able to display information and goods for sale.

Pam Keeling
Secretary to the Friends of St Eanswythe's
Registered Charity No. 1161358

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Tower Report



Here at St.Mary & St. Eanswythe we have 8 lovely bell with the heaviest weight just over 25 cwt. We ring at 10am Sunday mornings for the 10:30 morning service. We also practice on Tuesday afternoons between 2:30-4:00pm. It is our plan to change the time at the end of April to 4:00-5:30pm. We currently have 7 members in the band but could do with some more people to learn to ring.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers says “If you roll forward the current demographic profile of ringing 20 years, keeping recruitment as it is, there won’t be that many active ringers-many ringer are now over 60, and too few are under 25”.

So if you want bells to continue ringing please come and join us. Bell ringers come from all walks of life and can range in age from about 10 or 11 up to; well there isn’t really an upper age limit. It all depends on general health and fitness.

If you would like to find out more about bell ringing, please contact me on 07955 599 498.

We will be ringing for the VE Day 80 celebration on 8th May at 6:30pm

David Robinson
Tower Captain

St Mary & St Eanswythe with St Saviour, Folkestone

Schools Engagement Report



We continue to maintain good relationships with both of our Church Schools within the parish. By long-standing arrangement, the Priest-in-Charge is a Director/Governor within the statutes of both schools and that duty continues to be fulfilled. Within the Articles of Association for both schools there is scope for a church representative to be a 'Member' who attends the Annual Meeting of the Board and provides a link with the Parish Church. At St Eanswythe's School this is fulfilled by Tom Bertram and at St Mary's School by Jan Clarke. Fr John Tomlinson was also invited by St Mary's School to be a Member.

St Eanswythe's School attends collective worship at church each Tuesday morning in term time and the Priest-in-Charge is a regular visitor at other times. At St Mary's School, the Priest-in-Charge is on the Collective Worship rota and continues to build and maintain relationships within the school and remain a visible presence, including helping with the RE curriculum when invited.

Fr Christopher Johnson
Priest-in-Charge

Open The Book at St Mary's Primary School

Four members from St Mary and St Eanswythe Church, along with four from other churches, form a little group who bring alive stories from the Bible to students at St Mary's Primary school in Folkestone. Every alternate week during term time a different Bible story is acted out with the help of about half a dozen very enthusiastic students.

For the OTB volunteers, it is a heartwarming experience and a real privilege to be able to bring alive Bible stories to a very young and appreciative audience.

Carol McBeath
Open the Book Team Member