

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona
St Clement's Altona Meadows
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:
growing in faith † serving others † nurturing a common life*

17th September 2023 St Eanswythe's Patronal Celebration

10:30am Combined Parish Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

*Wominjeka :: Haere mai
Welcome*



A warm welcome to our worship today, especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting from elsewhere.

Please do stay to share a Chicken & Champagne brunch.

This booklet contains the full order of service: please join in the parts printed in bold type.

Our parish lies on the country of the Kulin nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

Gathering in God's name

We meet in God's name, as God's people – children of God in all our rich diversity, with all that we carry from the complexity of our lives.

We turn to God in praise and prayer; this includes recalling all that has separated us from God, and claiming the love and forgiveness that is always held out to us.

The Collect then 'collects' these prayers and turns our attention towards the Bible readings which will follow.

INTROIT HYMN

1. God of passion, you called Eanswythe
To life-long delight in you.
Call us, too, and plant within us
Joy and love in all we do.

2. God of grace, you called our sister
To a life of constant prayer.
Call us, too, and in your Spirit,
May we praise you everywhere.

3. Living God, you called our sister
To the study of your word:
Call us, too, that in the scriptures
We may meet our risen Lord.

4. God of justice, you called Eanswythe
To befriend the weak and poor.
In the least of these your children,
Call us, now, to serve you more.

5. God of hope, you called Saint
Eanswythe
To unfailing trust in you.
Call us, too, and give us courage
For the challenge of the new.

Words: Elizabeth Smith (1956-)

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God’s forgiveness

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

Father,
let the gift of your life
continue to grow in us,
drawing us from death to faith, hope, and love.
Keep us alive in Christ Jesus.
Keep us watchful in prayer
and true to his teaching
till your glory is revealed in us. **Amen.**

Opening the Scriptures

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus (14.19-31)

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: (114)

When Israel came out of Egypt: and the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,

Judah became his sanctuary: and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled: O Jordan, that you were driven back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams: and you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the rock into a pool of water: and the flint-stone into a welling spring.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14.1-14)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GRADUAL HYMN **Shackled by a heavy burden
‘Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same.**

Chorus
*He touched me, oh, He touched me
And oh, the joy that floods my soul
Something happened, and now I know
He touched me, and made me whole.*

**Since I’ve met this blessed Saviour
Since He’s cleansed and made me whole
Oh, I will never cease to
praise Him (to praise Him)
I’ll shout it while eternity rolls.**

Chorus

THE GOSPEL:

Alleluia. **Alleluia**

E kore tatou e ora i te taro kau, engari i nga kupu katoa e puta mai i te mangai o te Atua.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (6.24-33)

‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first

for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of Sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The prayers may include this or another response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer

**God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place,
you search us out and name us your beloved children.
Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person.
Send your Spirit to renew our life,
and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Everyone is invited to turn to those around, and offer a greeting of peace from where you stand. Offerings of money or groceries can be placed in the basket/box provided.

Celebrating at the Lord's table

Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

...to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

...we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God, and concludes:

...all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Our Father in heaven

Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Sacred be your name.

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

May your chiefly rule come.

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai

May it happen as seems good to you

ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

on earth as it is in heaven.

Hōmai ki a mātou āiane

Give us now

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

our bread for this day.

Murua ō mātou hara,

Cancel our sins

Me mātou hoki e muru nei

as we also cancel now

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

those of the people who sin against us.

Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

Do not let us be led into enticement;

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

But make us have life out of evil:

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,

Yours also the chiefly rule, the strength, and the glory.

Āke āke āke. Āmine.

Ever and ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**We who are many are one body
For we all share in the one bread**

**Jesus Lamb of God , have mercy on us.
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread and says

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.
Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ.
Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

We are one body, alleluia,
for though many, we share one bread.
Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Come, let us celebrate the feast. Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.
Alleluia!

**Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace**

Everyone is invited to share communion or receive a blessing. Children who have been baptised are welcome to share communion. If you would prefer not to share communion but to receive a personal blessing, please indicate when the minister comes to you.

While communion is being shared, we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.** *(Hymn 723)
Words: Anon (from Argentina).*

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.** *(Hymn 706)
Words: Taizé Community
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Going into the world

The Eucharist offers us a way to be renewed, transformed, and blessed: now we take that blessing to share with others, in our words and actions, our hearts and lives.

'The Eucharist never ends – it must be lived.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Giver of life and love,
we thank you that in this heavenly banquet
you invigorate and renew us.
Living in the unity of the Spirit,
may we boldly use your gifts
to continue your work in the world.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully
and with courage
in the power of your spirit.**

Notices

Planned Giving 2024/25: Pat Baines has decided that this year is her last as co-ordinator of the Planned Giving Programme. We are asking for any interested parishioners to speak to Pat on 9315 7838 or one of the Wardens who would like to take the opportunity to help undertake this important and vital role. You can also email the parish office on parish@anglicanaltlav.org.au.

2024 Calendars and Lectionaries: If you would like to order a 2024 Calendar of Lectionary, please put your details on the order forms on the notice board by 15 October 2023. Calendars are \$15 each and Lectionaries are \$17 each.

Reflective Bible Study for 2023: First Tuesday of the month for the remainder of the year at St Eanswythe's meeting room at 7.30 pm. Next one is Tuesday 3 October.

B.C.A Boxes: Beryl Brown will be collecting and clearing B.C.A boxes during September.

Year 12 Students: As our year 12 students face their final term and exams please pray for God's peace and success on them all, especially Neona & Grace. Thanks!

Annual Parish Meeting:

The 22/10/2023 is the date set for the Annual Parish Meeting (previously: A.G.M.) Halleluia! This will follow a combined service at St Clement's. The time to start is 9.30am. More info to follow! Start getting those reports ready!

Sunday 26/11/2023 we are celebrating St Clement's Patronal celebration: This will be a combined service at St Clement's commencing at 9.30am. More info to follow.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 351 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
(found in the red hymn book Together in Song)

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel wherever you may be; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



For our Prayers This Week

The world and nation:

For the thousands of people who have died, are injured or unaccounted for, after a devastating earthquake struck Morocco.

The Church:

World Council of Churches:
Argentina, Paraguay & Uruguay.

For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bp Carol Wagner, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: St Columb's Anglican Church Hawthorn (Mark McDonald, Paul Hughes).

Agencies supported by our parish:
Latitude Youth Services, Altona – supporting at-risk young people.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people. Holding our incumbency committee in

our prayers as they pray and meditate about our future parish needs.

As our year 12 students face their final term and exams please pray for God's peace and success on them all, especially Neona & Grace. Thanks!

Those with particular needs at this time:
Denise, Stuart, Anthony, Carol, Toby, Lewis, Christopher, Maria, Kay, Jeanette, Shane, Michael.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Joshua McAnda (17), Boris Camilleri (17), Dulcie Shaw (18), Keith Little (18), James Barger (21), Yvonne Atkins (21), Archie Burt (22), Nesta Barassi (23), Ivy Shillington (23).



To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact the clergy or parish office.

A Message from Rev'd Dave Thompson - Faith Works

Following the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount in chap 5, Matthew continued teachings of what life in the Kingdom of God could look like. In Mathew 6:24-32, Jesus explains what it means not to be motivated by wealth. He goes to some length later to explain what it might mean to serve God. In 6:33, the discussion shifts. For those who seek after God's rule in the world (6:33), concern for wealth and possessions (6:19-24) conflicts with God's provisions for the necessities of life (6:25-34). These 'lessons' come to a close at the end of chap 7 with statements about true discipleship. Today we celebrate St Eanswythe (640 – 660) who took these lessons to a whole new level. Eanswythe rejected marriage and subsequent role (princess) and joined a new Benedictine community of nuns in Folkestone where she was the abbess and founder of Folkestone Abbey; (making her the first English abbess?!) There are no remaining works but a number of legends that give testimony to her commitment and zeal: building and maintain a convent; a number of miracles and a significant property of agriculture around the Abbey which supported many people who due to current situations of war, poverty, disease and plague could not support themselves. Other greats of our faith followed in Eanswythe's incredible example:-

Julian of Norwich (c. 1343 – 1416/22) was an English anchoress of the Middle Ages. Her writings, now known as Revelations of Divine Love, are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman.

Teresa of Ávila, (1515 - 1582), another Saint: was a Carmelite nun and prominent Spanish mystic and religious reformer. Active during the Counter-Reformation, Teresa became the central figure of a movement of spiritual and monastic renewal, reforming the Carmelite Orders of both women and men. The movement was joined by a Carmelite friar and mystic: John of the Cross, with whom she established the Discalced Carmelites.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – 17th of Sep. 1179), known as Saint Hildegard and the Sibyl of the Rhine, was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages. Hildegard is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony, as well as the most recorded in modern history. (Thanks ABC classic FM!) She has been considered by scholars to be the founder of scientific natural history in Germany.

The disasters of our own day, like the plagues of the 7th century, poverty, war and disease during all of the times of these great women of faith should remind us of the essential truths of the gospel: We are mortal and are wholly dependent on God as Eanswythe and the others exemplified. Their witness and activity shows that God never abandons his people. These incredible people of faith, women that often get written 'out' of the history books still 'speak' to us today of their faith, their commitment, their strength and their giftedness...building communities though faced with hardship and difficulties. *Praise be to God! Regards: Dave T*

This Week in our Parish

Sunday 17 September: St Eanswythe's Patronal Celebration

10:30am Combined Parish Eucharist,
St Eanswythe's - followed by
Chicken and Champagne brunch

Friday 22 September

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
9:30am Clementines Playgroup,
St Clement's*

Sunday 24 September: Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Evening Prayer, St Clement's

Tuesday - Friday

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

Tuesday 19 September

10am Tiddlers Playgroup, St Eanswythe's*

Wednesday 20 September

9:00am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's

Thursday 21 September

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

** During school term
2 October - 20 December*

Eucharist Readings for this Week

Take some time to prepare for worship together by exploring the readings for this week.

Readings for Wednesday 20 September

1 Timothy 3.14-16; Psalm 111.1-6; Luke 7.31-35

Readings for Thursday 21 September, Matthew - Apostle, Evangelist & Martyr

Proverbs 3.1-6; 19.1-6; Ephesians 4.1-14, Matthew 9.9-13

Readings for Sunday 24 September: Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 16.2-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer is shared at St Eanswythe's on Friday morning.
Everyone is welcome.



Keeping in Touch

- ⇒ Please take this pew sheet with you, for your reference and prayers during the week.
- ⇒ If you are or have been away for a Sunday, you can see recent pew sheets on our website at www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets
- ⇒ Visit www.facebook.com/anglicanaltlav for photos, links, news and livestreamed services.
- ⇒ If you don't already receive our weekly email including news, changes of service times, and other updates, you can sign up at anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets

Who was St Eanswythe?

“Eanswythe, an Anglo-Saxon princess, was the daughter of Eadbald, King of Kent, and grand-daughter of Ethelbert and Bertha, King and Queen of Kent, when St. Augustine landed at Thanet in the year 597. Her father wished her to marry a Northumbrian prince, who was a pagan, Eanswythe being a Christian, resolutely refused and resolved to devote her life to Christ and His Church and good works. The King consented and built her a home near St. Peter’s Church at Folkestone, England.



There she gathered around her other women who formed a community which become noted for its charity and intellectual pursuits. The sick and poor were helped, the lands around the abbey were cultivated and it became an important agricultural centre. For many years Eanswythe, as Abbess, exercised a wonderful influence throughout her father’s kingdom, and after a good life of good works and simple Christian faith she died in the year 640 and was buried in St. Peter’s Church.

Canonized by the Catholic Church, there are many stories of St Eanswythe’s miracles before and after her death. Among other things, she is said to have given sight to a blind man, cast out a demon from one who had been possessed and miraculously diverted a spring and caused it to flow uphill into Folkestone.

In March 2020, the “Finding Eanswythe Project”, which included members from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Christchurch University, announced that human remains within a lead container at a church in Folkestone were almost certainly those of Saint Eanswythe. If so they are the only verified remains of the Kentish royal dynasty and are thought

to be the earliest verified remains of an English Saint.

St Eanswythe’s in Altona is, as far as is known, the only church outside of Kent which is dedicated to this remarkable woman and Christian leader from so many centuries ago.

Sources:

<https://www.info@friendsofmaryandsteanswythe.org.uk>

<https://www.findingeanswythe.uk/eanswythe/legends>

Revered W H Edwards

<https://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk/st-eanswythe>