

The Parish of St Leonard, Hythe



AGENDA and REPORTS

For the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 21st May 2026

At 6pm

St Leonard's Church, Hythe

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Copies of the full Audited Accounts are available separately

Vestry Meeting
21st May 2026 at 6pm

to be followed immediately by the APCM

A G E N D A

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
21st May 2026

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 2025
3. Matters arising
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
5. Election of Members to the PCC
6. Churchwarden's Report
7. Vicar's Report
8. Annual Reports – order as listed on the Contents page
9. Vision
11. Presentation of Accounts and Appointment of Auditors
12. Any other previously noted business and results of election of PCC members

Vicar's Report

We aim to be an ever-more welcoming, inclusive, and caring Christian community that reaches out to all, thankful to God who draws us together and gives us life in all its fullness.

Diocesan Three Bold Outcomes for 2030:

- Doubling the number of children and young disciples
- 200 New Christian communities
- Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation

Friends, I write this just after we've celebrated Holy Week and Easter Day, the pinnacle of the Church's year. It has been another incredible Holy Week in Hythe, which I think reflects something of the past year we've experienced. There have been joyous welcomes alongside hardships, but above all I am certainly left this year with a sense of excitement, hope, and flourishing.

Among those welcomes, it has been a particular joy to welcome The Revd Dr Anderson Yan to Hythe as Assistant Curate, and his wife, Becky. Andy was ordained Deacon at the end of June and has thrown himself into parish life, getting involved in leading and assisting in worship, pastoral visiting, catechesis groups, and has already established a thriving bible study. It's a privilege for Andy to be here as our parish and all that Andy experiences here and the lessons learnt will be foundational for the rest of his ministerial life, so please continue to keep him and Becky in prayer. We've also welcomed Anne Loat and Lizzie Clarke to Hythe this year, both at different stages of training for ministry. We've been able to provide them with new experiences with plenty of things to reflect on, and I know that both have valued their time with us.

As we continue to give thanks for all of the good God has done for the parish this year, I would just like to draw your attention to some particular blessings to celebrate. Most recently, our Youth Choir were privileged to be able to take part in the Diocesan Young Vocations Day and Welcome Service for Archbishop Sarah. At the Young Vocations Day our choir helped to lead the Eucharist through song, met other young people from around the Diocese, and met Archbishop Sarah. Then at the Welcome Service they represented the parish spectacularly by singing an anthem in the cathedral before the Archbishop, Bishop, and assembled Diocese. Our young people also took part in the parish's annual Winter Sleepout in January, sharing it with Saltwood Cubs for the first time this year. Together, we raised an amazing £2,163 for the Folkestone Rainbow Centre.

Regarding worship, we have continued to share a rich worshipping life together. Of particular note have been two of the last year's more community focused services: All Souls' and Trees of Love. Both were focused on holding before God those whom we love but see no longer. While All Souls' was of a smaller scale than Trees of Love, they were each deeply moving services which filled St Leonard's with new faces. Likewise, on the civic front, St Leonard's was also privileged to host the Founders' Day service for all age groups involved in Scouts.

But while there have been many positive things this year, as I mentioned earlier, there have been some hardships too. Unfortunately, the number attending services at Holy Cross has remained low. I appreciate that we have not held many services there this year for people

to attend, but where we have tried to draw people in this has not had any effect. Owing to this the PCC have formed a working group to discern the future for Holy Cross. Also our financial situation has been more keenly felt this year. Our parish share sits at approximately £94,000 a year and this, coupled with required fabric works totalling over £70,000, has caused cash-flow issues. We are forecasting an annual deficit of £44,000, but despite this I remain optimistic. Our churches continue to grow as new people feel welcomed into our church family, so much so that we have needed to print more service sheets to make sure everyone gets one! With a growth in our church family will bring a growth in those who feel able and comfortable to opt into the Parish Giving Scheme, the best means by which we receive regular income. Likewise, events like the Tower Abseil in the Summer were a creative way to raise money for the parish as well as make connections with those the parish does not normally connect with. I am hoping that the year ahead will bring more creative fundraising opportunities. But I should also note my ongoing thanks and appreciation for the Friends of St Leonard's who continue to generously give to all of the fabric works that need undertaking and host concerts throughout the year which also regularly fill St Leonard's.

Finally, this year the PCC was asked to take part in the Three Things project for our mission action plan. To help achieve the Diocesan Three Bold Outcomes, the Diocese asked every parish to outline what three things they are already doing so that tailored support can be offered to parishes. It is effectively a way of simplifying mission action planning – identifying how God is calling us to live and grow. Our Three Things are:

Outreach

- Improve our use of social media and advertising to make people aware of what goes on in our churches, and to invite them to services and events.
- Focus on using 101 Open Door as a mission hub. This means hosting more bible studies/faith classes there (and advertising these beyond the existing church community), as well as small services and community facing events.
- Engage families more through worship and family-focussed events.

Discern the future of Holy Cross

- Establish a working group to collectively discern options for the future of Holy Cross and come to a decision to be recommended to the PCC.

Continue to develop our youth ministry

- Develop a dedicated 'youth space' for our teenagers. This would not involve any changes to the fabric but be a corner where our young people can regularly meet and feel is their own. The parvis has been identified as a potential space.
- Empower our young people by getting them more involved in worship and helping them to take pride in our worship and confident to invite others to.
- Explore more regular events for children, young people and families. Ask them what they would like.

All of these were discerned together by the PCC at a meeting dedicated to the task. Nothing set above is one person's idea, but intentions discerned together in prayer.

Please continue to pray for our parish, its growth, and God's mission in Hythe as we continue to develop our Three Things. If you have any ideas that would help us with these, I would be delighted to hear them.

As ever, I am deeply grateful for the ministry of our Churchwardens, staff, PCC members, fellow clergy, and of course all those who give their time and prayers to support the parish. Without these members of our family, you, none of this would be possible. You are the grace God gives Hythe to grow and flourish.
Every Blessing,

Michael

Curate's Report

Since my ordination on 28th June 2025, I started serving as an assistant curate at Hythe Parish in Kent.

As a Curate at Hythe Parish, I work closely with my training incumbent in the rhythm of daily prayer and parish ministry. From Monday to Thursday we gather together for the Holy Offices, meeting for Morning Prayer at 8:30am. This shared pattern of prayer provides a regular opportunity for reflection, theological conversation, and ongoing ministerial formation.

I am regularly involved in the planning, preparation, and leading of worship, and I preach regularly and take an active role in the liturgical life of the parish. Whenever possible, I am present—usually alongside the incumbent—at services across the parish. My regular responsibilities include assisting in and leading worship according to the parish worship rotas, and for most services I am vested appropriately according to the liturgical context.

The parish maintains a varied pattern of Sunday worship across its churches and communities. These include the 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion and the 9:30am Parish Eucharist (including All Age services) at St Leonard's. Additional services include Delving Deeper (first Sunday of the month), Choral Evensong (second and fourth Sundays), and the Healing and Wholeness service (fourth Sunday), all at St Leonard's. Worship across the wider parish also includes the 11am Holy Communion at St Michael's (second Sunday of the month), Pizza & Praise at Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School (third Sunday of the month), and an 11:30am Holy Communion service at Holy Cross on fifth Sundays. Within this pattern, my role is to support and share in the leadership of worship across the parish, contributing to the pastoral and liturgical life of the community while continuing to grow in ministerial experience and responsibility.

Alongside the Sunday pattern of worship, I also share in a range of midweek ministries within the parish and the wider community. I assist and occasionally preach at the Wednesday 11am Holy Communion at St Michael's, which serves a Methodist–Anglican congregation. I regularly lead collective worship at Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School, where I also serve as one of the school governors during the week. My ministry extends beyond the Sunday services to a variety of midweek activities both within the parish and the wider community.

Pastoral care remains is also part of my ministry, including regular visits to parishioners in their homes and in local care homes. I also participate in civic ceremonies in the town and contribute to the parish's teaching and discipleship efforts by leading house groups and offering occasional theology courses, such as the forthcoming Open Door Course for those interested in explore faith and spirituality. Together, these responsibilities allow me to cultivate a balanced ministry that encompasses worship leadership, pastoral support, teaching, and active engagement with the broader community.

Other responsibilities include taking baptisms (4 in total) and funerals (1 in total) and also taking part in the PCC, standing committee and working groups meetings.

PCC Secretary's Report

There have been seven PCC meetings since the APCM last year. These took place in June, July, September and November, 2025 and January, March and April 2026.

There was an Extraordinary meeting in October in Holy Cross church to discern our 'Three Things' together - three things we wanted to focus on this year. This has been adopted as our Mission Action Plan.

There are no changes to the PCC this year but we have welcomed Revd Dr Anderson Yan and benefitted from his input.

Five Standing committee meetings were also held. These were in July, September and November 2025 and January and March in 2026.

The Standing Committee still consists of the Rev Michael as chair, John and Helen as Churchwardens, Brian as Treasurer, David Owen and the PCC Secretary.

The various working groups are still meeting regularly and issuing reports for the PCC meetings.

This year has been dominated by the structural work to the church as required by the Quinquennial Inspection and we have welcomed Anita Jones as our new Musical Director. The PCC has also dealt with confidential matters in a professional and sensitive way.

This is my first year as PCC secretary and I thank Revd Michael and the PCC for their support; it has also been a comfort to have Christine Blackman available for her advice when I needed it.

Imogen Taylor

Churchwardens' Report

When Bob Dylan wrote his 1963 song **"The Times They Are a-Changin'"** "there was a bit of an outcry from some of the, then, older population whilst the younger generation self-included, applauded. It stands as one of the most remarkable protest songs of the 20th century, capturing the essence of social and political upheaval during a time of transformative change in the United States and beyond.

Times are still changing, and whilst we, the C of E haven't got it all quite right, we are working hard to meet the demands of this current age. Maybe our welcoming to our new Archbishop of Canterbury, the first female in this role is testament to this. Within our own parish we have a remarkable team, who under the leadership of Michael our Vicar are not afraid to try new ways of worship, new ways of reaching out to our community and new ways of engaging and encouraging our young people on their spiritual journey. Not all the things we try work first time, or work out as planned, but this surely is part of the excitement in growing together.

Our Parochial Church Council (PCC) brings together many ideas and ways forward looking at our personal spiritual growth, the health of our church and our mission to carry forward the gospel message. Whilst they are your elected members and participate in the various working subgroups, they are eager to encourage others to work with them. Within the APCM documents see many reports each demonstrating how our parish thrives on teamwork and we are so grateful to all those who already give their time and expertise to enable us to carry out the tasks set before us. If you feel called to be part of the many diverse groups we have, do ask us about them.

Continuing the theme 'Times are a Changin' we have had the delight in this past year of welcoming our new curate Revd Anderson Yan (Andy) and wife Becky to the parish Andy has already made a lasting impact, ever helpful, always smiling full of biblical knowledge. We look forward to his priesting in June.

Times are a Changin' It was another step forward as our younger members took on the Sunday worship challenge, we welcome more of these in the coming months.

We have had many social occasions throughout the year, and we owe a debt of thanks to all those who put in the special effort to make sure we were adequately fed and watered (wined). Thank you to all who once again organised our Christmas fair, a great success!

Times are a Changin' This time not so positive, as our congregation find it harder to be as active as they were, we need others, to support them. As our finances continue to come under pressure, we need new ways of raising money, organising fund raising event gaining grants etc, we are indebted to the Friends of St Leonards who have given large contributions to help fund church refurbishment, without their support much of the necessary building work would not take place. They also need support if you are not already a 'Friend of St Leonards' ask for details or encourage a friend to be a friend!

When it comes to thanks, there are so many that help us wardens to carry out our duties, Thank You! PCC, music makers, flower arrangers, cleaners, ringers, crypt stewards, review editorial team, worship leaders, intercessors and readers, servers, friends of St. Leonards, stewards at our churches, 101 high Street staff, and to all of those attending our churches,

for your warmth and friendship. Imogen and Roger Taylor, our unsung heroes, keeping our communication and administration under control, Nettie Wren our Hon Verger, Brian Bishop our treasurer, Anita and the Choir, Aimee our youth lead, Brin Hughes Gardens & Crypt team.

Our PTO's Revd. Dr Michael Chandler, Revd Pam Clark, Revd Canon David Russell
To Vicar, Revd Michael, we owe so much, now in a fourth year, he embraces 'Changin Times' with care, love, guidance and support. He makes the life of a churchwarden a joy and he is a real pleasure to work with. However, he could not be all these without the support of his wife Cat, so a big thank you Cat & Evie for allowing us to keep taking him away from the house over and above the call of duty. We are truly blessed with having the family Darkins including 'Basil' amongst us

With Love
John & Helen

Property & Fabric Report

This past year has been one of high expenditure in maintaining all of the properties under our care. It is therefore important that at the start of this report I thank, on behalf of the PCC the fabric team for all they do, and The Friends of St Leonards for the large contribution they have made towards the cost of work at St Leonard's, following the last quinquennial inspection and the servery up grade.

There is always lots of ongoing maintenance work to do over and above scheduled projects, and again our thanks go to the cleaning teams and especially the churchyard team at St Leonards, we tend to overlook what would be the financial cost, if we had to bring in contractors to do this work,

St Leonards is now in a good condition however we still have not managed to fund replacement of the Tower and West footpath lighting. The tower lighting, funded by the Rotary Club of Hythe had been shining out across the town for 36 years and sadly now remains blacked out awaiting funding. This was a beacon to the town and beyond so if you have some fund-raising suggestions, please contact the Vicar & Wardens.

Last years was a very lengthy report and some of the matters reported remain as work in progress. None of our buildings are falling down and most remain in good condition. But with little funding we need to be mindful of the unexpected.

I am more than happy to answer any queries you may have in advance of the APCM or at that meeting if sent in advance.

John Wren
Churchwarden

Youth Ministry Report

In the last year we have once again had some fantastic experiences, and we are slowly growing and flourishing.

Youth Nights

Over the last year we've had biblical court cases, built sandcastles, carved pumpkins and much more. We've played games that have left the adults baffled including murder in the dark with some very creative hiding places. All the youth nights have been full of laughter, food and friendship.

Tea and Theology

Tea and Theology continues to be a place to discuss many varied and sometimes deep topics. Our young people planned and led a service which was well attended and very well received and are at the time of writing this report planning another youth led service.

Pizza and Praise

Pizza and Praise is a year old! We have a core group of families that attend this relaxed service, and it is a joy to welcome everyone each month to share food and fellowship.

We are looking at expanding what Pizza and Praise offers including Holy Communion and Baptism.

Pizza and Praise is open to EVERYONE, and we would love for you to join this community and share its joy, fun and fellowship.

Sunday Worship

Each week we continue to offer Sunday School during the 9:30am service. While we may not always have children attending, I take comfort in knowing that we can welcome them with activates and a warm smile. Children of all ages are welcome.

Holiday Clubs

We have run 3 holiday clubs since August 2025. We have looked at St Paul and built a tent like he did, we looked at prayer and made a prayer tree from recycled cardboard, we looked at the good Samaritan and buried the Alleluias. Over all 3 days we have had over 100 children and adults attend. All the days have been full of fun, chaos and spiritual growth. Our next holiday club will be during the easter holidays.

Big Events

Pilgrimage To Canterbury

In August we had our pilgrimage from Chilham on a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral. We got to know each other better, shared times of prayer learnt about pilgrimages and Thomas Becket and enjoyed Evensong at the Cathedral.

Ashburnham Place Christian Centre Retreat

We recreated the Battle of Hastings at Battle Abbey, we studied the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, walked the labyrinth, kneaded prayers into dough for the bread for our Eucharist service and played some very competitive games. It was a joy to see our young people grow in their faith and try some new things. It was a blessing to be a part of it.

The Big Winter Sleepout for the Rainbow Centre

On a chilly January evening, young people and adults camped in the church to raise money for the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone. We enjoyed warm soup for dinner then had Compline in the Crypt by Candlelight. We made S'mores (biscuits and marshmallows) round the firepit and listened to synchronised snoring while we tried to sleep, then woke to the smell of sausage sandwiches. We have raised £2,163. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us!

School Work

At Hythe Bay School, Michael, Andy and I each help to lead collective worship. On a Wednesday I lead Worship Club where we plan and then lead child led worship and recently they came up with the idea of writing a school prayer and, with only a small amount of help from me, was entirely written by them.

Years 1&2 from Hythe Bay School came to the church for Awe and Wonder in December to search the church and churchyard for an Angel and to learn the Christmas Story. It was a morning of laughter and a bit of crying but a fun morning none the less.

Rev Andy and I had a lovely visit to Palmarsh School to talk about Christmas and the nativity with Year 4. We were asked lots of questions including exactly how long did it take Mary and Joseph to get to Bethlehem? And what was the donkey called?

Plans for the next year

Over the next year, I plan to continue to try and grow the number of children and young people at St Leonard's church through our holiday clubs, through expanding Pizza and Praise, more youth led services and other youth events like trips away, pilgrimages and days out.

If you have any ideas for things we could do, then please let me know.

A note from the Youth Worker

Since I arrived at St Leonards 18 months ago, I continue to feel very welcome and a part of the St Leonard's family. Thank you for all your continued support, love and prayers for the youth work and all our children and young people. I hope that we can continue to grow our numbers and our faith.

Aimee Babbs

Children's and Youth Worker

Financial Review 2025

Our total current account income was £110,590 compared to £112,944 in 2024. Income continues to fall both for planned giving and money in the collection at services. It follows that the amount of gift aid we can recover is also dropping. Fee income is also reduced due to the few weddings and church funerals that are now held.

At this point last year my forecast was for a current account deficit of £41,229. Our expenditure was £153,228 so the deficit was actually £42,638. My forecast for 2025 shows a deficit of £44,168.

The PCC wishes to pay the Parish Share in full, and the amount requested by the diocese was £92,857. We are currently unable to pay this from our income, and the deficit therefore has to be paid from our reserves, namely rent from Vergers and unrestricted legacies. Parish Share for 2025 is £94,018.

A total of £33,227 was spent on the maintenance of the fabric of St Leonards, mainly the requirements of the last quinquennial inspection. This expenditure is made possible by the legacy of Commander Beckwith in 2021. I must at this point acknowledge a grant of £18,000 from the Friends of St Leonards to pay for the glazing repairs. The Friends also paid for the servery improvements in full, £6,798 nett of VAT.

The running costs associated with 101 High Street are mainly met by 101 Open Door Community Interest Company so these do not appear in the PCC accounts, although the PCC contributed £3,574 of capital expenditure during the year and was pleasing to note that £3,600 of surplus funds from the project were made available to the PCC.

Income from the crypt is vital to our finances and in 2025 this was £20,860, about £500 down on 2024.

In May we received a legacy of £7,117 from the late Mr Tony Clarke.

The cost of employing Aimee our Youth Pastoral Assistant continues to be largely met by a grant from the diocese and the National Church.

The total of unrestricted reserves at the end of the year was £208,901 of which £26,975 was retained as cash, £50,659 placed in a high interest notice account and £131,267 is invested.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Finance Working Group for their support and a particular thank you to Mrs Andrea Brown for advice and independent examination of the accounts.

Brian Bishop
Treasurer

Hythe Parish Churches - General Account

Income and Expenditure for the Year

Receipts	Actual 2024	Forecast 2025	Actual 2025	Forecast 2026
Church Boxes, Pricket Stand & Online	7,233	7,250	7,818	8,000
Collections: Holy Cross	150	100	0	0
Collections: St. Leonard's	6,047	6,500	5,265	5,500
Collections: St. Michaels	1,588	1,500	1,168	1,200
Collections: Occasional Offices	608	750	529	750
Gift Aid Tax Refund	9,387	9,500	9,064	8,750
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)	2,258	2,250	2,113	2,250
Planned giving	44,710	46,000	41,729	42,000
Crypt - see note 2, p17	21,371	21,000	20,860	21,000
Donations	2,534	3,000	1,445	2,000
Fees - see note 4, p17	11,751	11,000	9,211	10,000
Magazines/Books-see note 5, p18	1,760	2,000	2,191	2,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,424	1,000	1,728	1,000
Fund Raising Events	2,123	3,000	3,869	4,500
101 High Street	0	0	3,600	1,800
TOTAL INCOME FOR GENERAL A/C =	112,944	114,850	110,590	110,750
Expenditure				
Administration - see note 5, p18	1,618	1,750	1,520	1,750
Communion Wine, Wafers, Candles etc.	1,378	1,300	1,027	1,200
Crypt - see note 2, p17	30	100	1,007	200
Diocesan Quota	88,439	92,854	92,857	94,018
Fees Expenses - see note 4, p17	7,678	7,000	4,916	6,000
Miscellaneous	4,819	3,000	4,072	3,000
Organ/Piano Maintenance	343	800	1,409	1,500
Repairs & Maintenance	1,682	2,000	2,702	2,000
Staff costs - Music	7,043	11,400	11,039	11,500
Evangelism/Retreats/Spiritual Growth - see note 3 p1	216	300	60	200
St Michaels Church Centre Running Costs	4,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
Utilities/Insurance - see note 1, p17	26,505	27,000	24,118	25,000
Online Streaming Costs	477	475	437	450
Clergy Expenses	1,647	2,500	2,489	2,500
Bank & Card Reader Charges	604	600	575	600
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR GENERAL A/C =	146,979	156,079	153,228	154,918
Excess of Income/-expenditure	-34,035	-41,229	-42,638	-44,168

Choirs & Music of St Leonard's Report

The Mixed Choir currently has 18 singers, which includes adults and four young people who are Choral Scholars supported by the Onward Charity. The mixed choir sing at three morning Eucharist services each month and the two Evensong service. They also sing for additional seasonal services in the church calendar.

The St Leonard's Church Youth Choir has 10 regular singers. This has developed into a mixed voice choir and they have been learning to sing music for up to four parts. We have some new members who are currently trying the choir out. The youth choir sing for the Family Eucharist and the two Evensong Services each month. They also sing for additional services at Christmas.

We have an organ scholar, who joined us in February, also supported by the Onward Charity. He plays for the Family Eucharist and the two Evensong Services each month.

Highlights for the year include Carols for All and all the Christmas services including singing outside the Town Hall on Christmas Eve. The Youth Choir had the great honour of singing at the Diocesan Welcome Service for the New Archbishop of Canterbury and leading the singing at the Young Vocations Day.

I would like to thank all the Choir members for their commitment and enthusiasm!

I have worked with the children at Hythe Bay School over the last year, helping to develop their singing. I attend their Monday morning assembly each week and teach them new worship songs and hymns.

We have a small but dedicated worship band who play for the Pizza and Praise services at Hythe Bay School. I would like to thank them for their musical skills and enthusiasm in our mission to create a new style of worship for families in Hythe.

New singers are welcome to both our choirs; contact Anita for details.

Anita Jones
Musical Director

Ringers' Report

Ringing

We have managed to ring 6 /8/10 bells for most 09-30 services and occasionally, for Evensong.

We rang all 10 for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

Quarter peals were rung in May for the Mayor's service and in June for Whit Sunday. A quarter peal attempt of plain bob major was rung on the 40th anniversary of the first full 3-hour peal of major by a local band. We have one new ringer who will soon be ringing unaided, and all the other learners are now improvers. Pam Manger, an experienced ringer, has moved into town and joined the band. I thank Arthur and Linda King for their continued support at practices.

There were 3 weddings, one paid for, one where the couple arranged their own band and one at no charge, Ro and Nic, both members of the ringing team.

There have been a number of tower open days but no new recruits from these.

An abseiling day in conjunction with the scouts was very successful and raised a good sum of money. Another is planned for July.

We submitted a Health and Safety 3 year review of the Tower, with no issues identified. We were pleasantly surprised to find an article in the Parish Review by a non - ringer about some of the history of bells, and a famous ringer here - John Friend.

We are quite flexible about our ringing times but would just ask for reasonable notice if there is a clash, such that we can make alternative arrangements.

Tower Keeping

The bell installation is in good order and no major repairs were required last year.

Some previous work mentioned still remains outstanding but the floor under the bells has been made good. Clappers in 6 and 7 were tightened.

The stair lighting is now in good order.

Brian Butcher

Tower Captain

Safeguarding Report

All the parish safeguarding information remains on the St Leonard's Safeguarding One Drive so that it is held in a secure space, but it is easily accessible for those who are responsible for safeguarding within the parish. This includes all training records and DBS records for those in positions of responsibility in the Parish.

Over the last year we have been 'promoted' to the next level on the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. This is a Church of England checklist that allows us to self-assess our safeguarding compliance. This is an ongoing task. Our main developmental point appears to be ensuring the dashboard is updated regularly and systematically to reflect all training, risk assessments and DBS approval.

This year we have updated all risk assessments reflect our safeguarding responsibilities. So, we continue to review the safeguarding training of church members who are responsible for children or vulnerable adults in the parish. We have also run two safeguarding training opportunities this year and six members have accessed these events.

Following a data breach with the previous DBS supplier used by the Church of England a new provider DDC has been appointed. Their system is now completely online and feels much easier to navigate.

Thankfully the number of referrals to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer has been very low both for children and vulnerable adults within the parish this year. The advice we received was sound and assured us we were doing all we could to support these individuals. The issues around vulnerable adults and their capacity to make their own life choices remains a challenge for many of us within the parish but we can only follow the advice we are given. They were also able to give us some advice on how parish visitors should keep themselves safe while going about their duties.

I have attended the quarterly Diocesan Safeguarding Network meetings – these are a valuable opportunity for Parish Safeguarding Officers to discuss issues and anxieties with the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Sunday was celebrated at St Leonard's on Sunday 15th February, it was an opportunity to focus on the importance of safeguarding and how as a church community we all have a responsibility to keep everyone safe. An open invitation was extended to the congregation to complete their basic safeguarding training.

Safeguarding remains huge priority within St Leonard's and hopefully the message that everyone has a responsibility for protecting the more vulnerable amongst us is at the forefront of work within the parish.

Carolyn Chivers
Safeguarding Officer

Hythe Parish Review Report

A regular pattern of six issues per year has been established, beginning with January/February. The submissions deadline is normally the 15th of the preceding month, and we warmly welcome articles, however brief or unpolished, on any subject relevant to our church or community life. The magazine currently has 113 email subscribers, and 130 copies of each issue are printed although the precise number sold is not known.

At the time of writing our advertising was generating £1,090 annually. However, getting new advertising and maintaining this level of revenue is challenging. Stephen Williams has designed a flyer, kindly printed by Imogen Taylor, with plans to hand-deliver it to local businesses in an endeavour to maintain or exceed our present income. We are extremely grateful to Stephen, Imogen, our fellow team member Jane Spencer and all our contributors and advertisers for their input and support.

Joanne Hill (editor)

St Leonard's Parish and Hythe Methodist Church Joint Council Meeting Report

Background

A legal Sharing Agreement between the Trustees for Methodist Purposes and the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance Church of England came into effect on 1 August 2011 to cover matters such as ownership, rights of use, maintenance and other responsibilities associated with the St Michael's Methodist-Anglican Church Centre (StMMACC) premises. The Methodist Church retains full ownership of its premises but the common costs of management (e.g. heating, lighting, cleaning, redecoration, maintenance, minor repairs and insurance, together with the costs of any agreed improvements) are shared in the ratio one-third by the PCC and two-thirds by the Methodist Church Council, as this represented approximately the ratio of the sizes of the two congregations at the outset.

The Anglican-Methodist Joint Council (JC), constituted in accordance with the formal Sharing Agreement, was set up with equal Anglican and Methodist representation to manage the day-to-day activities of the two congregations. The Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer of the PCC are ex officio members of the JC; the PCC appoints two other persons to be additional members, Brinley Hughes, Secretary of the JC until recently, and Myra Gill as representative of the regular Anglican worshippers at StMMACC. Brin has since stood down as Secretary having fulfilled this role almost continuously since the inaugural joint service on 2 October 2011. Susanne Russell has now taken over as his successor in this capacity.

The JC has in the past pursued exploratory discussions concerning a possible more far-reaching agreement in the form of a Local Ecumenical Partnership between our two churches, but this has not been followed up since the Methodist Council voted against moving further in this direction.

Joint Council meetings

The JC has met three times since the last APCM – on 2nd July 2025, 8th October 2025, 21st January 2026, and the next is scheduled for the 15th April 2026 – under the alternating chairmanship of the Hythe Methodist Minister (Rev Adrian Roux) and Rev Michael Darkins.

Finance and building improvement projects

The Methodist Church and St Leonard's PCC pay in regular contributions to a joint bank account (in accordance with ratios agreed in the Sharing Agreement) to cover common costs of maintenance of the building (which remains the property of the Methodist Church). The JC agreed last year that the annual budget should be increased and all expenditures have been made within this new budget.

The JC has received regular progress updates (from Alex Fitzgerald, Methodist Property Steward) on building maintenance activities, which during the past year have included a major upgrade to the heating and lighting within the chapel. Also major work has been carried out on the external walls. Both these projects have been funded from the Methodist Church funds. Routine inspections of the fire and safety systems, gas boilers and

electrical PAT testing etc. along with miscellaneous routine minor repairs have been undertaken and paid for from the Joint Account and kept within the budget.

Worship, ministry and shared facilities

The JC works harmoniously in the coordination and planning of combined worship and related events throughout the past year, including principal Church festivals. A good working relationship exists, and fellowship and friendship continue to be greatly valued and appreciated. Coordination with other local churches within the framework of Churches Together in Hythe and Saltwood continues.

Susanne Russell
Joint Council Secretary

Elham Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod membership consists of the deanery clergy who are ex-officio plus lay members from each parish. Our current lay members are John Wren, David Owen and myself.

A typical meeting consists of a talk by a visiting speaker followed by any deanery business and notices and details of any events parishes wish to promote.

Since our last APCM the Deanery Synod has met four times.

In May at Saltwood the speaker was Rev Rachel Webbley, Team Rector of the Whitstable Team Ministry and a member of General Synod. After giving a short personal biography, she went on to explain how the church “government” works from members of congregations to PCC’s, deanery and diocesan synods through to the General Synod and explained the make up of each including how members of each were elected.

Hythe hosted the meeting in July at Hythe Bay School and welcomed Mrs Anita Jones, chair of Folkestone & Hythe District Council. She gave some background on her personal journey to faith and how this helped her within her council work and spoke about the challenges of faith within the council chamber.

The meeting in November at Lyminge had no speaker as such and we were invited to reflect on what the Lord was saying to and about our deanery. Common threads were deeper fellowship and the sharing of resources, not only spiritual but practical such as tradespeople recommendations.

In February at St Martin’s, Cheriton the speaker was Mr Simon Dunsmore, Partnership Manager, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) who spoke about its origins and its work today. There was also a video link up with Josh White from somewhere in Holland who gave an insight and update regarding his pilot training.

It should be noted that most meetings are “open” so that anyone interested can attend but only synod members may vote.

Brian Bishop

Churchyard Volunteers' Report

For many years past the St Leonard's churchyard has been closed to further burials with responsibility for maintenance transferred to the local authority (currently Folkestone & Hythe District Council), which focuses mainly on mowing the grass in both the main and the extension sections. This year F&HDC also carried out 'topple testing' of headstones, and any deemed unsafe have been laid down on the grave concerned. Relations with F&HDC are cooperative and cordial.

Our small but dedicated team of volunteers (normally around six stalwarts) from amongst the local community meets regularly for a work-in session on Wednesday mornings to ensure the churchyard is kept trim, tidy and an attractive green space within the Hythe conservation area. The volunteers' efforts include trimming hedges, pruning shrubs, cutting back and disposal of foliage and other vegetation, raking leaves and mown grass, weeding around graves, re-erecting fallen grave kerbstones, planting bulbs (another glorious display of daffodils this spring!), keeping the perimeters tidy and general gardening. Our activity has also extended to the shrubberies outside the wall of The Vicarage and beneath the holm oak trees in Oak Walk.

For several years the grass in selected areas of the main churchyard, especially on the central bank, has been left unmown through the spring and summer months to encourage the spread of wild flowers, which in turn help our bumblebees and other insect pollinators. This practice will continue.

A small Churchyard Improvements Fund is available to meet the cost of occasional tree works in the churchyard, purchase of new gardening tools and equipment, and purchase of plants. We are increasingly concerned about the dilapidating structure of the old mortuary building in the south-east corner of the extension churchyard where garden tools, wheelbarrows, flower stands, ladders and wooden crosses are stored. Several roof tiles have slipped, guttering has collapsed and some of the roof timbers are rotting. This matter has been brought to the attention of the PCC, since the future of the building itself, which (bizarrely) is actually within the curtilage of the neighbouring property, needs to be regularised with some urgency.

The churchyard work is satisfying and an enjoyable social activity. However, our current workforce is ageing and we would welcome younger able-bodied help. If anyone would like to join this small team of churchyard volunteers – if only on an occasional basis – contact Brin Hughes.

Brin Hughes

Crypt Report

The Crypt Committee has met twice since the last APCM – on 20 October 2025 to review the past year's visitor season and 2 March 2026 to plan for the 2026 season. Its current membership comprises Rev Michael Darkins, Brin Hughes, Yvonne Morris, Helen Waymouth and Steve Williams. The Committee's main business is to establish visitor and stewarding arrangements, implement improvements to the display of information and related literature, and to promote and facilitate research and other academic activities.

Past visitor season

Nineteen volunteers performed crypt steward duties regularly last year with a similar number on the standby list. Rostering of crypt stewards generally worked well, although some inevitable short notice changes occasionally had to be accommodated, which is why a list of standby volunteers has been so important.

The crypt/ossuary was opened to visitors at Easter weekend 2025 and then from 1 May onwards until the end of September. It was also occasionally opened to visitors at other times in response to specific requests, including from tour groups, and during special events such as Halloween and the Christmas Fair in the church. The total income from admissions and souvenir sales during 2025 came to the splendid total of £20,860, comprising £10,072 cash, £10,511 card payments and £277 from group and miscellaneous visits. This was very similar to the previous year's comparable total of £21,371 and a significant and highly welcome contribution towards meeting the church's running and maintenance costs. Admission charges remained at £5 for adults, £1 for each child (aged 16 or under) and a maximum of £10 per family group. Grateful thanks once again to all who gave time and energy to being crypt stewards. Feedback from visitors has been generally very positive, many having expressed their warm appreciation for the experience of seeing and learning about our collection of skulls and bones from informative guides.

Crypt opening hours and stewarding arrangements

The crypt opened to visitors for the first time in 2026 at Easter weekend (on Saturday 4 April and Monday 6 April) and is now open regularly from 1 May through until the end of September. Opening times are again 11.00am–1.00pm and 2.00–4.00pm each day, except Sundays when the crypt is open only during the afternoon. As in previous years, we depend on the availability of volunteer stewards to be able to maintain these opening times. We also anticipate other occasions during the late autumn and winter seasons when the crypt/ossuary will be opened for special events, and possibly also during the school half-term holidays in October, subject to sufficient volunteer stewards being available then. Admission charges continue to be at £5 for adults, £1 for each child or £10 for family groups (two adults plus one or more children aged 16 or under). Visitors – especially those taking photographs – are encouraged to donate more generously.

Pre-season refresher training sessions for volunteer stewards took place this year on Saturday 28 and Monday 30 March. These were well attended (by a total of 16 volunteers) and regarded as important reminders on procedural, money handling, security, safety and

safeguarding aspects. All volunteers are also required to complete Basic Safeguarding Awareness training.

An innovation during these training sessions this year was the arrangement of talks to crypt stewards by a professional osteopath, Timm Smith, on anatomical aspects of the skulls and bones in our collection. These talks were well received, very informative and enjoyable. File binders containing copies of his presentation material have been left in the crypt for reference. We aim to arrange similar talks for a wider public in the church and crypt on future occasions.

The loyalty and dedication of crypt stewards are greatly appreciated. Most have confirmed their willingness to continue in this role in 2026; a few newcomers have also been recruited to join the rota, which involves spending a morning or afternoon two-hour session once a fortnight (or more frequently!) helping in this way. However, numbers of volunteers are slightly down this year and we do need extras to be able to keep the crypt/ossuary open regularly at published times throughout the visitor season ahead. It would be regrettable if shortage of volunteers meant closure on occasions with consequent disappointment for visitors and loss of income for the church. Anyone wishing to learn more about what is involved should contact Brin Hughes or any other member of the Crypt Committee.

Crypt fabric

External work has been carried out to repoint the mortar between the wall and paving stones and realign the slope of the paving beneath the external buttresses to allow for rainwater to drain towards the roadway. These measures should help to mitigate the previous problem of damp in the undercroft chamber.

Research activities

Departmental funding cutbacks at universities have meant that no organised student groups from either the University of Kent or Canterbury Christ Church University have taken place during the past year. We hope such visits will resume since we are always pleased to welcome such visitors whose feedback from subject specialists adds to the enhancement of our knowledge and understanding of the origins and living circumstances of the humans whose bones are preserved in the sanctuary of the St Leonard's Church ossuary.

Finally, my warmest thanks go to members of the Crypt Committee for their dedicated support in helping to ensure efficient, informative and friendly arrangements for visitors to our skulls and bones collection in the ossuary.

Brin Hughes

Crypt Committee Secretary

Wholeness & Healing Report

The prayer life of our church is so vital, in all the varied ways it takes place. The prayerful space of our H&W opportunities are key. They start during the hubbub of coffee time and conclude with a great sense of peace. Folk are welcome to drop in. Just sit, pray, listen. Feel the presence of the Lord.

Also to be in private accompanied prayer with clergy or laity trained and accredited by the diocese. They are generally every fourth Sunday around 11am.

Clergy anoint with oil of healing, on request. And yes, miracles can happen.

Penny Mattocks

Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School Report

We feel very fortunate at Hythe Bay to share such a strong partnership with the Church of St Leonard's. The relationship between school and church continues to grow, and we are so thankful for the time, commitment and care shown by the whole church community.

One of the real strengths of our link is the regular presence of clergy and church leaders in school life. We are very blessed to be supported by Rev Michael, our Vicar, and Curate Andy, who faithfully lead worship in school. The children are always excited when they visit and are eager to play an active part — whether that is lighting the candles or contributing a prayer. It is lovely to see their confidence grow as they take part.

St Leonard's Musical Director, Anita, visits weekly to support hymn practice. This has really built the children's confidence and enthusiasm for singing, and it enriches both our school worship and our services held at church.

Our Youth Worker, Aimee, leads weekly worship and runs Worship Club. She has been instrumental in helping the children plan and lead worship themselves, including special services such as Christingle and Easter. The children take great pride in these opportunities and feel a real sense of ownership.

We are also grateful for the support of parishioners who serve on our Governing Body, offering guidance, challenge and encouragement to school leadership. In addition, members of the congregation volunteer their time in school, supporting reading, events and wider school life. This practical involvement makes a real difference and further strengthens the link between school and church.

The church leads a monthly Sunday worship at school called Pizza and Praise. This relaxed and welcoming gathering gives families the opportunity to worship together — and share pizza! We have a small but committed group who attend regularly, and we would love to see this grow, particularly by welcoming members of the wider church community who may not already be directly connected with the school.

The church also supports the school through regular Church Days, when children visit St Leonard's for focused learning and reflection. These include Christmas "Awe and Wonder" days, Easter activity days and opportunities to learn more about the church building, its symbols and Christian traditions. The children truly value this time. Being in the church building brings their learning to life in a way the classroom simply cannot.

St Leonard's continues to host our end of term services, with growing numbers of parents and families joining us each time. It is always special to see the church filled with children and families celebrating together.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we would particularly value support in helping Pizza and Praise continue to grow. We would also warmly welcome anyone who may be able to support the care and development of our Prayer Garden, helping us maintain this special reflective space for our school community.

Rebecca Prout

101 Open Door Report

When the PCC purchased 101, The High Street, the vision was to have a closer church presence among the people of Hythe taking our door on the hill into the High Street, hence the name 'Open Door Project'. The PCC of the day did not want any burden on the church finances, should the project fail and therefore suggested it be run independently as a community Hub and The Open-Door Ltd CIC was set up with a £2,500 loan from the PCC. Financially there has been no reliance on the PCC for the day-to-day operation and indeed the loan has been repaid and a further £5,000 added to the church funds.

The dedication of our front of house staff (retail) has been phenomenal, not only in selling the crafts provided, their comradery and support for one another, but in how they engage with all those who come in from the High Street. These volunteers from our parish community, from the Methodist Church and general supporters need a big round of applause.

Alongside this they need more support, more volunteers would enable us to be fully staffed and remain open longer.

Laura Taylor & Stephen Mills both the mainstays in enabling the project to be the success it has become have decided to stand down from official posts, whilst still giving practical support. The project owes them so much and we hold them in our prayers with gratitude.

The hub, the focal point of our Christian outreach, whilst still having regular users, still has ample time and space for us to expand. If you had witnessed as I did, Bishop Rose Dancing and singing in 101 when it was still a shell, you would feel energised to share this elation and would then want to share this with others. I hope and pray that 2026 will be the year when we put 101 the 'Christian community hub' into another period of engagement giving opportunities to share our faith.

If you have some positive ideas, suggestion and want to be involved do get in touch.

John Wren

On behalf of Open Door CIC

Electoral Roll Report

As of 1st April 2026, the total on the Electoral Roll stands at 145, showing a small increase.

We would encourage those not on the Electoral Roll to join it, enabling them to not only vote at our APCM but to demonstrate a commitment to the life of the parish.

Imogen Taylor

The Parish of St. Leonard, Hythe

Draft Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held at St. Leonard's Church at 6pm on Saturday 17th May 2025

PRESENT: Revd Michael Darkins

John Wren and Helen Waymouth (Churchwardens)

Brian Bishop (Treasurer)

Christine Blackman, PCC Secretary

Roger Taylor	Imogen Taylor	Thelma Harding
Brian Butcher	Robert Booth	Ann Booth
Nettie Wren	Mary Tyler	Audrey Mattock
Gill Cox	Mike Cox	Jan Limb
Annie Anderson	Chris Cooper	Alison Brett
Christopher Brett	Anita Jones	John Howard
Maureen Howard	Tina Neaves	Janet Hughes
Stephen Williams	Brinley Hughes	Alison Chambers
Hilarie Hill	Berkeley Hill	Guy Sharrock
Christine Smith	Jane Spencer	Geoff German
Ian McKeown	Anne McKeown	

Total Present: 37

APOLOGIES

John Langman	Linda Langman	Catherine Allen
Jenny Brandon	Annabel Syring	Revd Pam Clark
Dudley Shipton	Judith Paul	Penny Mattocks
Scott Mattocks		

Total Apologies: 10

Michael opened the meeting with Prayer at 6pm

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Helen Waymouth was nominated by Gillian Cox and seconded by Janette Wren. John Wren was nominated by Gillian Cox and seconded by Jenny Brandon. They both agreed to stand and there being no other nominees, were elected for the forthcoming term.

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 6pm in St Leonard's Church.

The Parish of St. Leonard, Hythe
Draft Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Leonard's Church
On Saturday 17th May 2025 at 6pm

Present

As listed in Vestry Minutes

Apologies for Absence

As listed in Vestry Minutes

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th April 2024

Mary Tyler proposed that the above minutes be recorded as a true and accurate copy. This was seconded by John Howard and voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of Electoral Roll

Every six years a new Church Electoral Roll has to be prepared for each Parish and this applied this year. All members of the congregations of St Leonard's, St Michael's and Holy Cross were invited to reapply to be on the Electoral Roll. Imogen reported that as at 30th April this year the number stood at 137, which was an increase of 10 from last year. Michael thanked Imogen for her work in producing the electoral roll.

5. of Members to the PCC

Mary Tyler and Christine Blackman were standing down from the PCC this year. There were three nominations for the PCC for the coming year, namely:-

Steve Williams Berkeley Hill Guy Sharrock

All three nominees were approved and elected unanimously on the PCC.

It was agreed to keep the number of PCC members to nine since Working groups, with a wider number of representatives, cover all aspects church business.

Michael explained that it may be beneficial to limit the number of elected PCC members (apart from ex Officio and co-opted members) to 9. Chris Cooper put forward his views on this saying he thought a larger PCC was better. John proposed the motion to limit the PCC to 9 elected members. Helen seconded this and there were 24 votes for, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention so the motion was carried. Michael affirmed that it was good to have different views on the PCC and within the APCM.

6. Brief Churchwardens' Report

Helen gave a brief report saying that there had been two big changes this year, with Michael becoming a father and officially our Vicar. She said it was good to work with Michael and she thanked him for being so welcoming in all aspects of the Parish, with a lot of support from the congregation.

7. Vicar's Report

Michael had included his report in the Agenda and Reports but he said it had been a wonderful year with lots of changes and goodbyes, with Berkeley and Hilarie's retirement after 52 years. A Parish Eucharist had been held for them on 2nd March.

We had welcomed some new faces – Aimee Babbs as youth worker, she had graduated in her youth ministry course today, and Anita Jones our Musical Director.

He said at the end of June we would be welcoming our new Curate Andy Yan and his wife Becky to Hythe. He was being ordained as Deacon at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 28th June and his first service would be on 29th June.

He said our Vision Day would be on 7th June and would focus on prayer.

He said it had been a great year for him, especially with Evie's birth and christening and he gave his personal thanks to everyone for all their support.

8. Reports as listed on Contents page

The reports below had been submitted to the APCM

Vicar's report	-	Rev'd Michael Darkins
PCC Secretary	-	Christine Blackman
Churchwardens	-	John Wren/Helen Waymouth
Property and Fabric	-	John Wren
Ringers	-	Brian Butcher
Safeguarding	-	Carolyn Chivers
Hythe Parish Review	-	Joanne Hill
St.Leonard's & Methodist Joint Council		Brin Hughes
Elham Deanery Synod	-	Brian Bishop
Churchyard Volunteers	-	Brinley Hughes
Financial Review	-	Brian Bishop
Parish General Account	-	Brian Bishop
Wholeness & Healing	-	Penny Mattocks
Choirs & Music of St. Leonard's	-	Anita Jones
Crypt	-	Brinley Hughes
Hythe Bay School	-	Rebecca Prout
Youth Ministry	-	Aimee Babbs
101 High Street	-	John Wren
Electoral Roll	-	Imogen Taylor

There were no comments or queries about any of the reports listed above.

Mr Chris Cooper read out a very lengthy statement of which he provided a copy, regarding the parish's continued membership of Inclusive Church and other matters. He proposed that the parish leave Inclusive Church, but there was no seconder to the motion.

Mr Cooper also mentioned complaints he had about the new hymn books, the Choir and Musical Director and not being a Welcoming church. Michael said the PCC would consider all his points at a future meeting and stressed that we had always aimed to be an ever-inclusive church. Robert Booth said that he was not comfortable with persons being mentioned when they were not here to defend themselves.

Michael thanked Mr. Cooper for sharing his views on these points.

Anita spoke of her welcome as Musical director and considered she was being very professional and was not excluding anyone, but to talk to her if anyone had any problems. Michael reaffirmed Anita's comments.

9. Vision

Michael said that we were aiming to be an ever more inclusive and welcoming church. Mary Tyler proposed that we carried on with our vision plans and this was seconded by Steve Williams with all in favour apart from one against.

10. Mission Aviation Fellowship

It was reported that it had been a good year with MAF. The aircraft came to the school on 13th July and again on 14th with a simulator which was enjoyed by many and it was hoped to have MAF at the Christmas Fair. In April a representative of MAF from Papua New Guinea came and gave a talk. Guy Sharrock proposed that we engaged more with MAF and this was seconded by Robert Booth with all in favour.

11. Presentation of Accounts and Appointment of Auditors

Brian went through his report and general account explaining the figures of income and expenditure. He said our expenditure was more than our income at present and most of our income was from historic legacies.

Nettie Wren proposed that we accepted the accounts and this was seconded by Gill Cox with all in favour. Brian said that Ken Clark had been our Independent Examiner for the past four years but was now retiring. Mrs Andrea Brown, who is a qualified accountant, had agreed to take over and he proposed that we accepted her as our accountant and this was seconded by John Wren with all in favour.

Michael gave thanks to Ken Clark for his work over the past four years and to Brian for all his work in preparing the accounts.

12. AOB

Geoff German said that the Ride and Stride would be taking place on 13th September this year and half of the money raised would go towards maintaining the churches and half to the churches concerned.

Geoff said he was responsible for the Catholic Church, United Reform and Salvation Army as well as St. Leonard's St. Michael's and Holy Cross. He said volunteers were needed as marshals and to contact him if anyone could help with this.

John Wren thanked Michael for chairing a successful meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

