

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Growing our Community

July and August 2025

No 935

£1

Meet the Team



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Vicar



Revd Dr Anderson Yan
Curate



Revd Adrian Roux
Methodist Minister



Revd Dr Michael Chandler
Associate Priest



Revd Canon David Russell
Associate Priest



Helen Waymouth
Churchwarden



John Wren
Churchwarden



Dudley Shipton
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Submission deadline for the next issue: **15 August 2025**

Church services

Sundays

ST LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH, Oak Walk, CT21 5DN

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (said)

9.30am Parish Communion

1st Sunday 5pm Delving Deeper: Bible study and music

2nd and 4th Sunday 6.30pm: Choral Evensong

3rd Sunday 11am: Healing and Wholeness

3rd Sunday 5pm: Pizza & Praise at Hythe Bay School

ST MICHAEL'S METHODIST-ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTRE

Rampart Road, CT21 5BG

11.00am Morning Worship – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

11.00am Holy Communion – 2nd & 4th Sunday

Wednesdays

11.00am Midweek Communion at St Michael's

HOLY CROSS, Jubilee Avenue, Palmarsh, CT21 6NQ

Fifth Sunday of the month: 11.30am: Family Eucharist

Please check the weekly notices for changes or additions to this list.

St Leonard's and St Michael's Sunday services are now live streamed for those unable to attend the service in person. These services are easily accessed from our website www.slhk.org – just click on the online resources on the first page of the website. Evening prayer is said every weekday in St Leonard's at 5pm. Morning prayer is said on weekdays at 8.30am on Zoom (meeting no. 3821135036).

If you have access to email, you can subscribe to our emailing list by sending an email administrator@slhythe.com.

The Parish is served by three churches: St Leonard's, Holy Cross and the St Michael's Methodist–Anglican Church Centre.

Our vision is:

'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.'

The whole worshipping congregation in each church of our parish has responsibility for living our vision

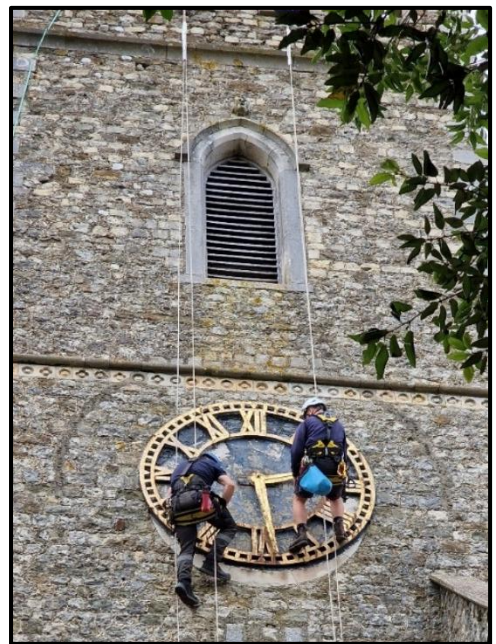
Vicar's letter from Revd Michael Darkins

Dear Friends,

Following on from our Prayer & Vision Day at the start of June, the two words which kept coming back to us were: 'persistence' and 'growth'. These were the words which arose from the separate groups that took part, and they appeared again and again in our conversations. The reason we prayed, talked and discerned together on our Prayer & Vision Day was so that we could try to work out what God might be saying to our parish. So together we discerned that God might be telling us to keep persisting in prayer and God's mission to Hythe, then, through that persistence God will bring the growth.

So as we look ahead to the summer months, I ask you to join me in being persistent in prayer for God is already growing our church family. It's a delight this month to welcome Andy and Becky to Hythe as Andy begins his three-year curacy here. Andy brings with him a gentle, caring, and deeply prayerful nature. He possesses a passion for sharing Jesus' Good News and a longing to serve the whole community of Hythe. The beginning of curacy is of course a slightly daunting prospect – getting used to a new home, a new church/churches, new people, and doing this all with a brand-new piece of plastic around your neck! So please do extend to Andy and Becky your warmest welcome when you see them, for God has called them here to minister among us and journey with us.

June also saw us celebrating Stewardship Sunday as we prayed for growth in the giving in our time, talents, and resources. One of the ways we're hoping to grow our resources in July is by ~~jumping off~~ abseiling down the church tower! Members of the St Leonard's youth group and our friends from Folkestone & Hythe District Scouts will be raising money for St Leonard's and the Scouts by abseiling down the tower on Saturday 12 July. Please do come along and show your support any time between 9:30am and 5:30pm and grab a slice of cake and tea while you watch.



Finally, at the end of August we'll be whisking some of our young people away for another few days of prayer, reflection, and fun at Ashburnham Place. Please hold the children and adults going in prayer as we seek to grow in faith and develop friendships among each other, and with Jesus. So as we journey into summer, I would like to invite you to join me in being persistent – persistent in all that we do: in prayer, in welcoming people through our doors, in caring for every member of our community, in ensuring everyone feels included, and in engaging in God's mission to Hythe. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, 'Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.' (Hebrews 10:23) Let us be persistent, for God will bring the growth.

Every Blessing,

Michael

From the Editor

Welcome to the summer issue of the Hythe Parish Review. The theme of 'Growing our Community' seems an important one, not only in relation to our beautiful surroundings (reflected in our cover photo), but in considering the future of our churches and parish. The Vicar's letter on page 4 reports on the vision of 'persistence' and 'growth' discerned at the recent Prayer & Vision Day; already demonstrated as we welcome our new Curate Andy and his wife Becky. See his introduction (and a pair of contented cats) on page 8.

Please keep your contributions coming; the next deadline is 15 August but there is no need to wait until the last minute!

Joanne Hill, on behalf of the Hythe Parish Review team

Prayer prompts day by day

- 1 Our ministerial team
- 2 Our Churchwardens and PCC
- 3 Our new curate, Andy and his wife, Becky
- 4 Mission Aviation Fellowship
- 5 The congregation of St Leonard's
- 6 Those recently bereaved
- 7 All who use our churches
- 8 The situation in Ukraine
- 9 The 101 "Open Door" project
- 10 Our Mayor and councillors
- 11 The congregation of St Michael's
- 12 Those in need in our community
- 13 Bishop Rose
- 14 The people of the Middle East
- 15 Hythe Bay School
- 16 Archdeacon Darren
- 17 Revd Adrian and his family
- 18 Revd Michael and his family
- 19 Our musicians, singers and
bellringers
- 20 The congregation of Holy Cross
- 21 Our treasurers and Church finances
- 22 Local hospitals and care homes
- 23 The leadership of the Anglican Communion
- 24 Visitors and holidaymakers
- 25 Those with a ministry of healing and care
- 26 Churches Together in Hythe and Saltwood
- 27 King Charles and our government
- 28 Refugees and asylum seekers
- 29 Young people leaving school or college
- 30 Our local environment
- 31 Those parts of the world suffering from famine and natural disasters

A prayer for our environment

Lord of the environment,
may our surroundings be our spur
to honour all that you have created;
to understand the fragile balance of
nature;
to be modest in our use of resources;
and to look for fresh ways to conserve
energy.

In our prayers as in our loves,
may your Son be our guide
as we seek to follow his ways,
bringing wholeness and healing
instead of partiality and pain;
and letting go of what is not necessary
in our lives and in our hearts.

Amen

(Rupert Bristow, 99 Prayers, Kevin
Mayhew, 2015)



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Introduction from Curate Andy and Becky

Hi Everyone,

My name is Anderson, but you can call me Andy. I'm married to Becky and we have two cats, Bella and Smokey. Yes, Anderson is my first name, I know how confusing this might sound, but my parents had no idea when they decided to give me this name, which is often used in Brazil as a first name. Speaking of Brazil, I was born and raised there. My parents moved from Taiwan to Brazil with my sister and my brother when they were still very young and I was the first of the family born there.



I grow up in São Paulo, studied hotel management and worked in the hospitality sector before serving as an assistant pastor in the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Brazil. Over the course of my ministerial studies at the seminary my mentor encouraged me to do further studies in the UK since he also studied here. I came to Britain in 2007 and studied at Heythrop College and King's College London and served as an associate pastor at the Baptist church in London. I met Becky in London in 2010, we married in 2013, and I ended up staying in Britain.

We joined the Church of England in 2012 after moving to Folkestone to stay close to her parents and siblings. I went to Ripon College and University of Oxford for my ministerial training in the Church of England. My favourite books of the Bible are Jeremiah, Luke and Acts, as I spent many years studying the issue of suffering in this prophetic book and I'm currently writing my dissertation on the relationship



between the Holy Spirit and social justice in Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

I love reading, listening to music, going for walks with Becky and spending time with our cats.

My favourite readings are on the fields of theology and biblical studies, although I also enjoying reading about philosophy and mythology. In terms of music, I love listening to rock, heavy metal, progressive rock, blues, jazz, bossa-nova and classical music. I also like watching movies (action, drama, comedy and epic), and football. By the way I support Palmeiras, which was allegedly the first world champion. I also enjoy playing football, but I'm currently extremely unfit.

Becky and I feel very welcomed by St Leonard's parish, and I'm particularly very excited about sharing God's love in Hythe.

All the best,

Andy

Thoughts from St Michael's

At this season of the Church's year we identify each Sunday by its number 'after Trinity'. These are also referred to as Ordinary or Proper Sundays, except for 29 September, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels and Harvest Festival.

Our Sunday services usually relate to the lectionary readings for the day. The preacher delivers an appropriate sermon or reflection, the Collect is read, prayers are prepared and hymns relevant to the theme of the service are sung. This is all designed to give praise to God and to help us understand the example that Jesus gives us through forgiveness and new life, through the power of the Holy Spirit as we worship in fellowship together. We extend our thoughts to all the congregations worshipping in Hythe and elsewhere, respond to the needs of the community and prepare for the week to come. It is a tall order for those who lead worship and takes a great deal of thought and preparation to make it relevant for all the congregation.

I was struck by the words of a vicar in the Chester diocese who confessed in *The Times* that he had needed to ask his congregation to tell him what he had preached on the previous week. He went on to assure them, 'Your team of preachers is working . . . to ensure you have the finest-quality memorable sermons every week.' The role of the leaders of the churches and all who worship is to encourage everyone to be friendly, welcoming, caring, prayerful, growing, lively, happy, purposeful, fun; to show kindness and warmth; and to be out in the community sharing the love of Christ with all. Preparation for worship Sunday by Sunday is a key element in the life of the Church.

Dudley Shipton

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer tops Shakespeare, Dickens, Churchill and National Anthem in UK public recognition poll.

In May 2025, the Church of England carried out public polling on the Lord's Prayer and found that it is still more instantly recognised by the British public than some of the most famous lines from Shakespeare, Dickens, Star Wars or Churchill. Some of the findings include:

- Almost 90% of those surveyed, said they had previously heard of the Lord's Prayer - highest amongst those who identified as Christians (95%) closely followed by those who identified as having no faith (88%).
- Similar numbers had ever said or prayed the Lord's Prayer in their lifetime (89%) with 6 in 10 people (59%) still using the Lord's Prayer in their daily lives.

Speaking of the Lord's Prayer's cultural resonance, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said:

"Though ancient, its words continue to resonate with people of all faiths and none".

"In a world of shifting cultures and changing circumstances, the Lord's Prayer remains a steady guide perhaps never more so than now."

“Lines like 'Give us this day our daily bread' speak powerfully to today’s challenges, reminding us to seek sufficiency, not excess, and to consider what ‘enough’ truly means.”

Penny Mattocks

Happy Birthday, Bruce!

Bruce Tait enjoying a trip to Dungeness on his 97th birthday, which was further celebrated at St Michael's on 15 June with cake and fellowship.

(Photo courtesy of Pauline Fitzgerald.)



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Not looking backwards

Memories of St Leonard's choir holidays

Many of the ex-choristers who turned up to celebrate my retirement as Director of Music at the start of March 2025 have fond memories of the so-called 'holidays' we spent at cathedrals and other choral foundations deputising for their regular choirs during their summer breaks. These started with two visits to St Michael's College, Tenbury Wells in 1978 and 1979. In 1980 we did our first week of deputising at Exeter Cathedral, and this was followed over the following twenty years by periods spent at St George's Chapel, Windsor and the cathedrals of Norwich, Llandaff, St Albans, Worcester, Bristol (twice), Christchurch (Dublin), Lincoln, Peterborough, Wells and Bath Abbey (twice). We also represented the UK at the 1984 Loreto (Italy) festival of polyphonic music, singing recitals at the town's theatre and at the televised Basilica's Mass.

We knew we were expected to deliver music on these 'holidays' which was part of the British cathedral tradition, and to do so in a way that could bear comparison to the musical standards of the regular professional choir. No small challenge, but our choir consistently rose to the occasion. Several times members of the regular cathedral choir paid us the compliment of coming to hear us, especially when we were singing repertory that was unfamiliar, such as the Mass setting by the Italian contemporary composer Mortari that we had learned for the Loreto festival.

Lessons learned were a mixture of musical and social.

- Singing at two rehearsals plus an Evensong service each day, with a high-profile fully choral Holy Communion (plus perhaps a Choral Mattins) on Sunday greatly raised standards – tuning, tone, togetherness, presentation – that lasted for the rest of the year back in Hythe. This was an investment in human capital by everyone.
- Living as an extended team built relationships and loyalty – an investment in social capital which, again, proved to be quite enduring and was reflected in reliability and regularity at St Leonard's. There was never a problem in getting singers to sign up for the next cathedral holiday adventure.
- Essential to success was the mountain of work that went in preparation and behind the scenes to enable the smooth running of

the event. Musically, the choir had to be an efficient and accomplished musical entity well before we embarked on the cathedral visit. Logistically, taking a party of about 40 away for a week is demanding for the organisers, especially when children are involved! This administrative factor eventually became too burdensome and, with an atmosphere of rising litigation, Hilarie and I felt the risks had become too great by the turn of the century.

The holidays had indeed involved quite a litany of risks and hazards, which I may recall in a future article if space permits! it will therefore come as no surprise that the music was the least of my worries. Standards were high, as can be heard from CDs made from live recordings. Extracts of the services at St Albans (1984) and Worcester Cathedral (1985) are on a single CD for sale in St Leonard's, and an ex-chorister (Robert Milner) has transcribed all the many tapes (some 500 tracks) from the 1970s to recent years to a website, details of which are available from me. These include our various annual carol services in St Leonard's and Carols for All concerts.

I am sure it will be possible for the many benefits flowing from annual choir 'holidays', and even from the single days at the cathedral of Rochester or Canterbury that succeeded them in later years, to be enjoyed in the future.



Peterborough Cathedral 1991

Berkeley Hill (b.hill@imperial.ac.uk)

We extend our congratulations to Berkeley, who on 4 October will be presented with the Nicholson Award of the Royal School of Church Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. The award recognises Berkeley's service for over 50 years, 'transforming the choir and music offered in the parish' and 'giving generations of people in Hythe an education in music and a sense of community, as well as inspiring them to make music for the church'. As Berkeley writes, this award reflects the enormous amount of support he received from the singers, congregation and clergy during his time as Director of Music.

Youth News

Cold and wet!

Not exactly how the teens, Michael and I thought we would be ending Tea and Theology one Tuesday evening, but that is exactly what happened last month when, in aid of the mental health charity MIND, we all took part in the Ice Bucket Challenge. It was great fun and an interesting way to raise funds for a vital charity.



Does Doubting Thomas deserve that title?

Well, that was the question we asked at one of our youth nights. We held a mock trial, with a prosecution, defence, judge and jury. The teens took their roles very seriously and gave strong arguments for and against. But ultimately we had a hung jury and no decision could be made.

Ice cream and sandcastles on the beach!

Our teens spent a chilly evening on the beach for May's youth night making sandcastles, playing wink murder and eating ice cream. Our meal that night was made by the teens and included pizza, egg noodle salad and cake!

Summer Holiday Club

We are hoping to run two holiday club days in the summer holidays on 23 July and 13 August from 10am till 1pm. The days are open to all ages and will have a space for parents to sit and enjoy some rest and refreshments. You can come to one or both days if you wish. We will be playing games, doing a big craft, enjoying story and more. This holiday club is free and will include a simple lunch.

Aimee Babbs



Castle now open 7 days a week 12:00pm-9:00pm
Please check out website for Private Event closures

Upcoming events at

Lympne Castle

Music Bingo

Friday 4th July and
Friday 8th August
From 6:00pm

4 games - £5 per head donation
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compete for fabulous prizes.

Curry and Quiz Night

Friday 18th July and
Friday 22nd August

Enjoy a delicious curry in a grand
historic setting while testing your
knowledge in a thrilling quiz.
6:30pm & 15 pp
(inc. curry and quiz entry)

Castle Book Club

Wednesday 9th July and
Wednesday 13th August
6:30pm-8:30pm

Bring your latest read and sit and
enjoy a drink in front of our roaring
fire in the Great Hall or watch the
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Free entry-socialising optional!

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3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st August
Between 12pm and 4pm
Booking essential

Medieval Times Event - Bank Holiday Monday 25th August 2025

12:00pm until 6:00pm

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Book Review: A People's Church

A History of the Church of England by Jeremy Morris

The Revd William Savage, writing for the 'Catholic Herald' said of this book: 'To write a history of the Church of England in one volume is a substantial challenge; to have done so successfully and with admirable clarity is no mean feat'. The author himself said in his preface to his book: 'The history of the Church of England is in a sense the history of the people of England, women and men, who for generations attended its services and made use of its pastoral provision.'

The Church of England is inextricably linked to the politics and historical events as it evolved over the centuries, so its history is not straightforward. The author had, therefore, to weave the narrative of the church's development with the many complicated events that shaped England. He has cleverly brought together the many different strands of the country's changes and upheavals that have affected the church's existence but, at the same time, has presented a balanced view of the monarchy and the political and church heavyweights of the time and explained many sides to each event. Inevitably, therefore, the book may seem dense and a difficult read but I found there was so much historical information explained within the text that I looked at the church's development in a new light. I also learnt that I had only a scanty knowledge of so many historical events. I feel better informed having read this book but a second reading will be necessary to start to understand the ins and outs of the arguments and intrigues which were so much part of the country's and the church's history.

The independence of the Church of England came when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic church. This was complicated to explain since Henry was a deeply religious and devout Catholic following its procedures meticulously. His burning passion to produce an heir to his throne, however, along with his argument with what was perceived as the over rich and powerful monasteries were his driving forces. Along with the

Lutheran movement on the continent the break from Rome seemed inevitable once Henry was insistent on his need for divorce. And so, along with most of Europe, the division between Protestant and Catholic was established, creating much upheaval both politically and within the church.

The Civil War in England saw the power that the puritans had over the church and thereafter it seems that at every turn the church faced controversy and division. The translation of the Bible into English and the development of the Book of Common Prayer, the rise of the Evangelical movement and the drive to spread the church's values throughout the world (to name but a few upheavals) were not universally received as good policy. But maybe that is the strength of the Church of England - its ability to ride through many changes and arguments and in the end envelop many different sides to its story.

In the postscript to the book the author describes the history of the Church of England as 'messy'. This seems an apt description since it has never really established itself as a clearly defined organisation. He goes on to say: 'At its best, the Church is like a well rooted tree in a storm, bending to survive, but with roots that go down deep into Christian revelation, history and tradition. At its worst it is a tangle or knot of incommensurate claims and counterclaims like an overrun garden gone to ruin.' He adds: 'It subsists as the strange paradox of an established church in a secular state.'

The author ends the book on a somewhat sombre note of dramatic decline of numbers who attend church and the fast-diminishing knowledge of church and Bible among the general public in an ever-increasingly secular society. He feels that the role of the Church at the centre of civil and state life, with the monarch still as the head of the Church, is decreasing but he is more optimistic about the role of the local parish. It is here, he argues, that the Church can grow as parochial congregations can truly become part of the community and live out their Christian values through what they can offer to those around them. He says ...'there remains a clear vocation for the Church of England.

It cannot any more pretend to be the people's Church – but it can continue to be a Church for the people.' Long may it last.

Jane Spencer

Volunteers wanted

If you would like to contribute just a very few hours each month to volunteering activities at St Leonard's Church, please consider joining our crypt stewarding team (2 x 2-hour sessions each month through until the end of September) or churchyard gardeners (each Wednesday morning for 3 hours). No prior experience necessary – you will learn on the job and make new friends. Your support will be highly welcome since our loyal regulars are beginning to feel the need to retire from active duties and hand over to newcomers!

Please contact Brin Hughes on 01303 264470 or brin.hughes@btinternet.com for further information. Thank you in anticipation of your interest.

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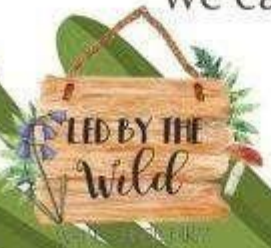


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Second Saturday evening of
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Join us for Conservation Conversations
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company, and inspiring discussions on
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Whether you're an expert, work in the
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this is a space for everyone to share
ideas, ask questions, and explore how
we can all play a part in protecting our
natural world.



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Led by the Wild car park at 6pm

Led by the Wild is a not-for-profit community organisation based at
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What3words:///enchanted.rucksack.rinsed

Website: ledbythewild.co.uk

You can also find them on Facebook

Travelling St. Cuthbert's Way - more than just a walk

“Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.”

— Jeremiah 6:16

A couple of weeks ago, together with my wife and two friends, I completed a six-day walk along the St Cuthbert's Way — a 65-mile route that begins in the Scottish Borders and ends on Holy Island, or Lindisfarne, off the Northumberland coast. More than just a walking holiday, it felt like a pilgrimage: a slow, steady journey through landscapes rich in history, faith, and natural beauty.

We began in Melrose, in the Scottish Borders, where St Cuthbert began his monastic life at the old Melrose Abbey around 651 AD. From there, we made our way through Harestanes, Morebattle, and Kirk Yetholm, walking through beautiful and peaceful farmland, quiet villages, and open hills. Each day had its own rhythm — time for walking, talking, silence, and reflection.

Crossing into Northumberland, we passed through Wooler and Fenwick, gradually drawing closer to the coast. Our first sighting of the North Sea felt very uplifting! The highlight came on the final day, when we crossed the tidal causeway to Holy Island. We had planned our timing carefully, waiting for the tide to retreat before setting out barefoot along the Pilgrim's Route across wet sand and mud, following the line of wooden poles.

(‘Refuge’ boxes are in place for those who miscalculate the timing of the incoming tide!)



The causeway, Lindisfarne

Reaching the island on foot felt as if it were both a physical and spiritual crossing. Lindisfarne Castle was saved from ruin in 1901 by the *Country*

Life founder, Edward Hudson. Upon purchasing the ruin, he immediately engaged the architect, Edwin Lutyens, to restore the castle, and to extend it as a residence. It is perched on Beblowe Crag, high above the shoreline and now cared for by the National Trust. The island itself was wonderfully peaceful with flocks of 30 goldfinches chattering in the tall grasses, and swallows dipping and swooping in the evening light.

Walking St Cuthbert's Way reminded me of the joy of journeying slowly, of being immersed in the natural world, and of following in the footsteps of someone whose life was rooted in service and faith. After passing away on Inner Farne in 687 AD, Cuthbert's body was taken back to Lindisfarne for burial. Due to the risk of Viking raids, his remains were eventually rested at Durham Cathedral, where his shrine can still be visited today.

Guy Sharrock



Lindisfarne Priory and church

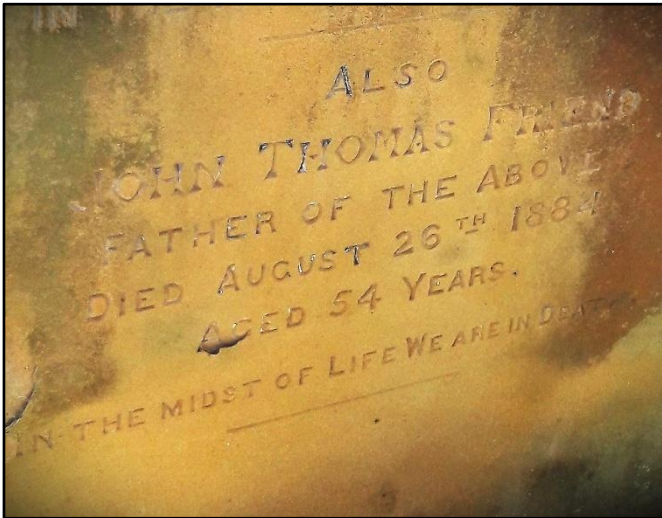
CONNECTIVE
SPECIAL EVENTS 2025

January	
1st	Mince Pie Specials & Launch of Railway 200 
February	
15th	Valentino's Diner 
18th-20th	Young Enthusiasts Day
March	
	30th Mother's Day 
April	
18th	Good Friday 
20th-21st	Easter Sunday & Monday
May	
10th-11th	Steam & Diesel Gala 
June	
7th	Fish & Chip Supper 
15th	Father's Day & Mini Beer Festival
21st	Captain Barnacles (Octonauts)* 
July	
5th	100th Birthday Celebration for Green Goddess & Northern Chief 
	11th Winston's Wine Train
	19th Fish & Chip Supper 
	26th New Romney Country Fayre
August	
	 
September	
7th	Bus Rally Day
21st	The Gruffalo*
27th	Dungeness Sunset Diner
October	
18th-19th	Autumn Gala 
November	
29th	Santa Specials 
30th	Santa Specials
December	
6th-7th	Santa Specials
13th-14th	Santa Specials
20th-24th	Santa Specials
January 2026	
1st-4th	Mince Pie Specials 

*character appearances at intervals on selected dates

History Corner

John Friend and St Leonard's Bells



John Friend, who is buried in St Leonard's churchyard, was a busy man. Originally from Mersham, he moved to Hythe in about 1828, married a local woman, and opened a shoemaking business in the High Street.

In 1830, he was also appointed the Parish Constable for Hythe, an unpaid position which he combined

with shoemaking. Eventually, the position became a permanent, full-time job, which John held until he took his pension in 1874, aged 70.

His real passion in life, however, was bell ringing. As well as regular ringing, he enjoyed the challenge of ringing peals, which involved thousands of changes. He took part in at least fifteen peals at St Leonard's and elsewhere, twelve of them as conductor – the one who calls the changes to the other ringers. He was the conductor for the record-breaking peal at Hythe with 13,440 changes on 4 May 1846.

In 1860, John decided that one of the tenor bells at St Leonard's should be replaced and two extra treble bells added to the existing six. He raised through public subscription only enough to pay for the two new bells, which he ordered. They were delivered and hung the next year, and a special peal was to be rung on 8 July.

It was a disaster. The peal was scheduled to last from noon until six in the evening, but it soon became only too apparent that the new bells were discordant, and the terrible noise reportedly drove half the inhabitants of the town mad. The vicar, who lived near the church, found the noise so unendurable that he could not finish his midday meal and ordered that the bells should be silenced.

John tried to make the best of the situation. The bells were chipped to try to get them to harmonise with the others, which was not wholly

successful. The people who had subscribed were furious with John. He refused to pay the supplier, who sued him and won. The end result was that John was declared bankrupt in 1863.

Nothing stopped his bell ringing, however, and he continued to ring until he could no longer get up the church tower stairs. In 1878, he and Susannah celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. The mayor of Hythe granted them the use of the town hall, and after some speeches, the whole party went up to the church where ‘... *a select band performed some excellent scientific touches of a bob major, treble bob major, grandsire triples and grandsire caters.*’

John died in 1881.

Bells on Sunday



We thank the local history group for their contribution in this issue and for telling us all about John Friend.

On the subject of bell ringing at St Leonard's, in 2018, BBC Radio 4 broadcast our very own bells on the 'Bells on Sunday' slot.

I'm sure that many of our congregation will have heard the programme at the time, I wasn't living in Hythe then and hadn't heard this clip until now.

The programme information explains: "The original peal of 8 bells was augmented to ten when the Tenor was recast by The Whitechapel foundry in 1992 and two smaller bells were added. We hear them ringing 3 bobbed leads of Bristol Surprise Major."

So, to listen again or for the first time, the 2-minute clip can be found and enjoyed at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b5s25l>

Steve Williams

JAM on the Marsh

From 3-13 July, JAM on the Marsh will set the medieval churches of Hythe and Romney Marsh ablaze with outstanding music, open-air theatre and exhibitions.

Artists include The King's Singers, Britten Sinfonia, Changeling Theatre, BBC Singers with Radio 3 broadcast, London Tango Quintet and Igor Yuzefovich (leader BBCSO) leading JAM Sinfonia. To hear works to be performed, more information and tickets, click on www.jamconcert.org.



St Leonard's Church will host:

- On Friday 4th the **BBC Singers with Radio 3 broadcast giving the UK premiere** of royal composer Paul Mealor's *The Light of Paradise*. Paul weaves melodic motifs through the choir, interspersed with a flamboyant saxophone quartet, resulting in a deeply moving piece.



BBC Singers



Daniel Cook

- On Tuesday 8th renowned **organist Daniel Cook**, Master of the Choristers at Durham Cathedral, gives a rich and evocative recital celebrating the golden age of French music, performing Gigout, Franck, Vierne and Widor.
- On Friday 11th **Mealor's dramatic 40-minute oratorio *The Farthest Shore***; based on the Celtic legend, *The Bone Setter*, a stranger is washed up on the shore. Speaking in a foreign tongue, accused of spreading disease and disharmony, the village set to drive him out only to discover a miracle. Performed by **Claire Seaton (soprano), Matthew Rose (bass), The Chapel Choir from Selwyn College**, through this poignant work sung by local singers, including **St Leonard's choristers**.



CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Monday 7 July, 7.00pm
Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra

JAM ON THE MARSH

Friday 4 July, 7.00pm (with BBC Radio 3 broadcast)

BBC Singers with Sofi Jeanin *Conductor*

Mealor *The Light of Paradise* – (UK premiere)

Tuesday 8 July, 7.00pm

Daniel Cook, *Master of the Choristers and Organist at Durham Cathedral*

Celebrating the golden of French music, performing **Gigout**, **Franck**, **Vierne** and **Widor**

Friday 11 July, 7.00pm

The Chapel Choir from Selwyn College, Cambridge

with **Onyx Brass** and a local multi-generational choir (*including St Leonard's choristers*)

conducted by **Sarah MacDonald**

Mealor *The Farthest Shore* ♦ plus other works

Saturday 26 July, 7.30pm

Salomé Quartet

Purcell *Chacony in G minor* ♦ **Puccini** *Crisantemi*

Nielsen *At the bier of a young artist* ♦ **Woolrich** *Ending Up*

Shostakovich *Adagio and Allegretto*

Stravinsky *Three Pieces* ♦ **Webern** *Langsamer Satz*

Friday 1 August, 6.00pm

Charles Francis *Organ*

Works by **Mendelssohn**, **Whitlock**, **Schumann**, **Willan**

Friday 15 August, 6.00pm

Ivan Hovorun *Piano*

Liszt *Dante Sonata* ♦ **Ravel** *Gaspard de la Nuit*

Fauré *Pavane & Sicilienne* ♦ **Scriabin** *Piano Sonata No 9*

Saint-Saëns *Danse macabre* (*transcription by Horowitz*)

Hythe Civic Society Anniversary Celebration

in partnership with
Friends of St Leonard's Church, Hythe

Guided tours of St Leonard's Church with a cream tea and fizz...
a special exhibition on the history, architecture and fittings of the church
including memorials, monuments, medieval graffiti, stained glass, organ,
clergy vestments and much more.

Visits also to the bell-ringing chamber and parvise.

Friday 25th July

Tours are ticketed to start at
2.00, 2.45, 3.30, 4.15 and 5.00pm

Tickets (including cream tea and fizz)
£6 per person, available in advance
from 101 High Street, Hythe (Open Door Project)



Why not visit the famous ossuary and see the bones?
The Crypt is open until 6pm: Entrance £5.
Only very limited parking available at the church
full details on our website: www.hythecivicsociety.org



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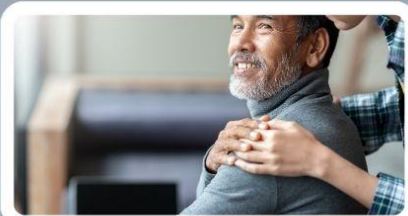
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Parish Directory

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Bell-ringers	Nigel Spencer	01303 260524	np_mjs@btinternet.com
Friends of St Leonard's Church	Brinley Hughes	01303 264470	brin.hughes@btinternet.com

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Local Preacher Dudley Shipton 01303 487388 dbshipton@tiscali.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead Christine Porter 07549 998977 ceporter1@talktalk.net

PCC members: A list of all PCC members is posted in each of the churches. A list may also be obtained from the PCC Secretary on request.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Brian Bishop, David Owen, John Wren

PCC Registered Charity No 1144695

Post for the Parish Office should be addressed to:

The Parish Office, c/o The Vicarage, Oak Walk, Hythe, Kent CT21 5DN

To contact us by email: administrator@slhythe.com

Website: www.slhk.org



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