

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Photo: Roger Taylor

Trust and Hope
July and August 2026

No 941

£1

Meet the Team



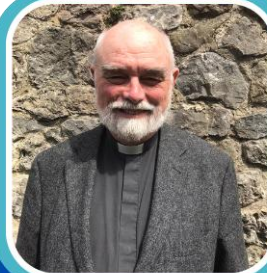
Revd Michael Darkins
Vicar



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
Lay Preacher



Aimee Babbs
Youth Worker



Imogen Taylor
Parish Administrator



Carolyn Chivers
Safeguarding Officer



Revd Pam Clark
Associate Priest

The Parish Review Team

hytheparishreview@gmail.com

The Revd Michael Darkins

01303 266217

Joanne Hill (editor)

01303 269886

Imogen Taylor (compiler and printer)

07410 935372

Steve Williams (advertising manager) 07912 311697

Jane Spencer

01303 260524

Submission deadline for the next issue: **15 August 2026**

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

4th Sunday 11am: Healing and Wholeness

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

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,

We've all heard Jesus' commandment, 'love your neighbour', but I wonder, do you trust your neighbour? I say this not to provoke a mass hysteria of curtain twitching as people watch their neighbour for any sign of malice or malcontent directed towards them; but rather because trust is an increasingly rare and valuable commodity with huge potential, but one that is perhaps underappreciated today.

Now, there are of course degrees of trust. I trust my neighbour to put the bins out at a reasonable time every week so that I can copy him and rest secure in the knowledge that the right bins will be collected. But I probably wouldn't trust my neighbour with my debit card's pin number. I often fail to appreciate just how much I'm trusted: people trust me to journey with them at some of life's most sacred moments, they trust me to lead a parish well, they trust me to pray for them and help them at their most vulnerable. When we trust someone, we are confident that they will support us and act in our interests. It's because I'm trusted (I hope) that I'm able to do what I do – people are confident that I'm going to be there for them when they need it. However, as the old Dutch proverb goes, 'Trust comes on foot, but leaves on horseback.'

Trust is built up slowly over time as we gradually learn to become increasingly vulnerable with those we're putting out trust in. But all it takes is for a single breach in that trust for the whole relationship, built up over time, to come crashing down. If I'm taking a wedding and get the couple's names wrong, at the end of it the couple won't remember the year I've spent journeying and getting to know them, but that I got their names wrong. The same goes for our trust in institutions. For everything the Church gets right, it also bears a litany of failures which have eroded peoples' trust in it. As the local embodiment of the Church, whenever the Church gets something wrong, we bear that load of failure too and so people's trust in us as the local church is likewise eroded. This was most recently brought home to me when seeing St Leonard's new carparking signs being discussed online. There was no nuance, only the assumption that the church was trying make itself more money by catching people in the carpark; nor have I ever received a message from anyone asking me

about the carparking signs. (I should say here that the signs are only relevant for problem parkers – visitors and those attending worship will always be able to park without fear of a fine.) And I know that there have been people who have left their local churches over something the National Church has done which they disagree with.

The reason I say all of this is principally to ask you two questions: Do you trust our parish churches? Would your neighbour trust you? Last month, one Sunday at St Leonard's was dedicated to Stewardship Sunday and we reflected on the ways that we could give generously of our time and talents as well as our resources. Upon reflection, one question I should have asked is, do you trust our local churches enough to give of your time, talents and resources? Why? Why not? What could we do to help earn some of that trust?

On Stewardship Sunday, I also made the case that churches principally grow not because of the quality of the service, the building, and especially not because of the minister. Churches grow because their communities invite people to come along, take part, and join in. Generally, those we invite to church are our family and friends, the people who trust us enough to know that there's a reason we're inviting them along – that we have Good News to share. And they're also the people whom we trust to respect the invitation and not laugh it off. So, who do you trust to invite to church, and how much do they trust you to say, 'Yes'?

Michael

Oh Yes! We're doing it again!!



The tower abseil is returning this year with some of the local Scout groups and members of our own church community will be abseiling down St Leonard's tower on Saturday 11th July raising money for the Scouts and the church. The day will run from 9:30am-5:30pm on Saturday 11th July (with the 18th July being a backup date in case of poor weather). There will also be cakes and refreshments available, and the crypt will be open too.

Calendar of Events			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Event</i>
Friday 3 rd July	9:30-11:30	St Leonard's	TLC (Toddler Group)
Sunday 5 th July	9:30am	St Leonard's	First Eucharist of Revd Dr Anderson Yan <i>followed by Parish BBQ</i>
Saturday 11 th July	9:30am-5pm	St Leonard's	St Leonard's Abseil <i>Raising money for St Leonard's and Kent Scouts</i>
Saturday 25 th July	6-8pm	Twiss Avenue	Youth Night
Wednesday 29 th July	10am-1:30pm	St Leonard's	Summer Holiday Club
Wednesday 12 th August	10am-1:30pm	St Leonard's	Summer Holiday Club

Please note that not all events have been listed here. Check the weekly notice sheet, Facebook, Instagram or our church website for further details.

From the Editor

August is traditionally the 'silly season' in journalism. So we make no apology for publishing an article which may indeed seem silly, even shocking. But get past Berkeley Hill's deliberately provocative title (page 17), and you will find a well argued piece which in effect uses a thought experiment to make some important points about the Church, and more specifically about our church buildings.

So what do our churches have to offer? Different aspects are highlighted throughout this issue of the Review. The church values lay ministry (page 21); it is a venue for music making (pages 8, 24); it provides fun and fellowship for children and young people (pages 10, 14); it is a place of prayer, meditation and living patiently in the presence of God (pages 13, 22). Oh, and at St Leonard's this summer you can abseil from the tower (page 5) or learn anatomy in the crypt (page 16), though these are perhaps more niche activities!

Whether you are a regular reader or a visitor who has picked up this magazine, we wish you a safe and happy summer.

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 Visitors and holidaymakers
- 4 Mission Aviation Fellowship
- 5 The congregation of St Leonard's
- 6 Those who mourn
- 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 Families on holiday
- 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 Archbishop Sarah
- 24 Revd Andy and his family
- 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 Aimee, our Youth Worker and her ministry
- 30 Those who volunteer in our churches and community
- 31 Those parts of the world suffering from famine and natural disasters

A prayer for Trust

Dear Lord,

Guide us to do our best in everything that we do. Let us follow Jesus and to love and trust one another.

Make us beacons of hope in our communities, for with you, we know that all things are possible.

Amen

SPCK: Prayers for kids

THE PARISH OF
ST LEONARD HYTHE

DO YOU LOVE

Singing?

Join the Youth Choir at St Leonard's Church!

- 🎵 Learn to read music
- 🎵 Regular performance opportunities
- 🎵 Free musical education
- 🎵 Get paid for singing in services
- 🎵 Sing sacred music from across the ages
- 🎵 Learn to sing in four part harmony
- 🎵 Build confidence and make friends

**Youth Choir Rehearsals
Wednesdays 6:30pm**

Contact Anita Jones
MusicalDirectors@lhythe.com

Sign up here!



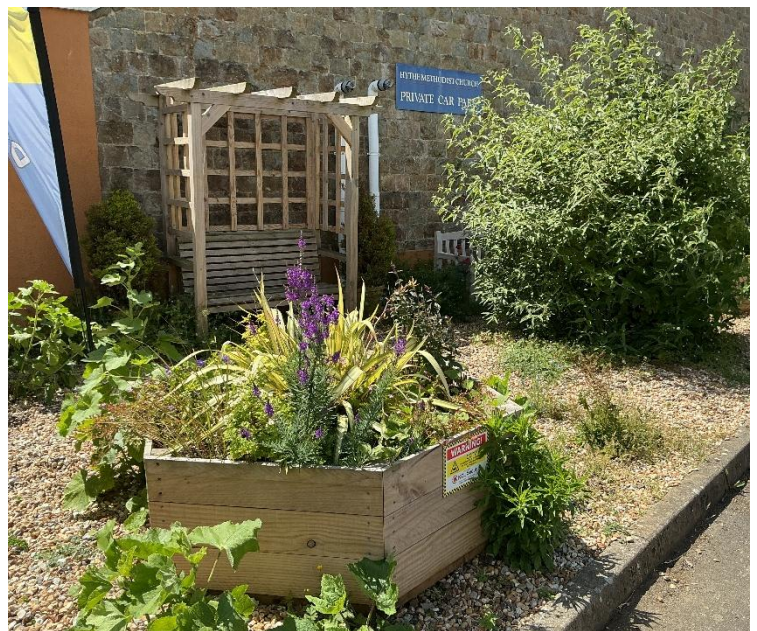
Thoughts from St Michael's

As the summer unfolds we are very fortunate to live in Hythe. We can enjoy the promenade by the sea, a walk beside the Military Canal, the openness of the green, the sports field beside South Road, the peace of the library, the renewed Hythe Town Museum, the Oaklands garden, the Sunday afternoon concerts at the bandstand, the freedom of Eaton Lands, and even the bustle along the High Street and the outreach from the parish 101 shop, plus the excellent displays of flowers on railings and in beds around the town.



Life for many of us in the community is reasonably calm – and yet the world news of conflict, war and, more recently, deliberate brutal mob violence and racism is played out on our television screens. Of course we have immediate concerns of our own, maybe about health, loneliness, or the need to care for someone with dementia. Many find life a real struggle, despite all that we try to do to support the needs of others in our community.

The community gardens along both the front and rear of St Michael's Church continue to flourish with new life and colour, thanks to a small group of dedicated people from the church and community who willingly give their time to restock with fresh plants and remove numerous weeds.



The fortnightly Friday morning community coffee mornings continue to be well attended; just recently a couple from the Hebrides, who were awaiting the repair of their cruise ship at Dover, dropped in and we completed our conversation with an encouraging prayer that the Church should be Christ's light in the community.

All the things mentioned here involve the outreach and mission of each one of us. Sometimes, as Jesus said, our seeds fall on stony ground. The Folkestone Rainbow Centre have recently had to withdraw from the Methodist Circuit's Hope House project planned for the site of the old Methodist Church building in Folkestone, but maybe other opportunities will open up to be a part of the £22 million development of Folkestone town centre. We all have a part to play in the daily lives of others far less fortunate than ourselves.

Dudley Shipton

Richard Amos

House & Rubbish Clearance

01303 221050

07785 594384

richardrubbish.2@tiscali.co.uk

News from our young people

Fun, fellowship and spiritual growth

Youth Night. What do homemade gifts (costing no more than £2.50 to make), doughnuts and grapes, drawing on someone's back, and standing up after you think 100 seconds have passed have in common? Well, they were the tasks our young people had to complete at our May Youth Night which was based on the TV show *Taskmaster*. Our young people had to impress our very own 'Greg' (aka Andy) with their gifts, which included: crocheted lavender, homemade sushi, a Victoria sponge, a painting of the lighthouse on the Folkestone Harbour Arm, two keyrings, a 21-metre-long loomband rope (the length of the church) and a knitted finger puppet of Michael.

Eating doughnuts or grapes without using your hands was more difficult than some people thought it would be; and who knew that drawing on someone's back to copy a picture would be so challenging?

Finally, standing up after 100 seconds sounds easy. but is not so easy when the adults are not above calling out random numbers to put you off.



The night was won by Ira, who won a box of chocolates and a very nice 'trophy' of Andy's head.

Holiday club. Our Easter and half term holiday clubs were filled with singing, laughter, lots of running around and lots of fun. We made sun catchers for Easter and windsocks for Pentecost; waved fans, made noise and proclaimed 'That's us!' during our Bible readings; completed obstacle courses and ran relay races to burn energy; but mostly we shared fun and fellowship across all ages. Our next holiday clubs are during the summer holidays so keep an eye out for more information soon.

What's next? Coming up we have the Venetian Fête on 19 August where our young people will have a float. Do book tickets and come along and support us! We have our trip to Ashburnham also in August, from Monday 24th to Thursday 27th. Four days of fun, spiritual growth and maybe one or two pranks. If your young person would like to come along, please speak to Aimee or Michael.

As always, if you have any questions about youth work, or ideas for things the children and young people can do, or you have something you wish to donate (craft supplies, toys or books for the children's area) then please come and talk to me or send me an email. I would love to chat with you!

Aimee Babbs, youthworker@slhythe.com

An up to date events list can be found online:

ROMNEY, HYTHE
SPECIAL EVENTS
 & DYMCHURCH RAILWAY



14th February

Valentines Diner *

17th - 19th February

Young Enthusiasts Day *

15th March

Mothering Sunday *

3rd - 6th April

Easter Weekend

16th - 17th May

Spring Steam & Diesel Gala

13th - 14th June

Dinosaur Weekend *

21st June

Father's Day & Beer Festival

27th June

Fish & Chip Supper *

10th July

Winston's Wine Train *

26th July

Fish & Chip Supper *

6th September

Bus Rally

19th - 20th September

Fairytale Afternoon Teas *

26th September

Sunset Diner *

17th - 18th October

Autumn Steam & Diesel Gala

31st October - 1st November

Spooktacular Weekend *

Selected Dates (Nov - Dec)

Santa Specials *



*pre-booking is essential

A Festival of Prayer: St Mary's Abbey, 30 May 2026

The recent Prayer Festival at St Benedict's Centre, within the historic and beautiful abbey of St Mary in West Malling, seemed just too good an opportunity to miss for three of us from St Leonard's. The abbey was founded in 1916 when a community of Benedictine nuns moved there from Belgium. The nuns follow a life of prayer, work and hospitality according to the Rule of St Benedict.

The day started with a wonderful introduction by Canon Dr Neville Emslie. His theme was 'Pray Well, Live Well: What Science is Discovering about Prayer and Human Flourishing'. His talk focused on encouraging us to explore the evidence regarding the positive impacts of prayer but, critically, 'not to reduce prayer to a wellness technique ... not a programme, not a set of skills to be acquired and added to a repertoire. It is an encounter. A deepening. A coming home.'

Hosted by the Anglican Benedictine nuns and supported by volunteers and exceedingly good cake-bakers, the festival offered a range of 11 workshops from which we each had to choose three for the day. A difficult set of choices as all 11 options looked enticing. As it happened, the three of us each chose the same first workshop, entitled 'When Words Fail'. Mother Anne OSB led this workshop describing how, as a Benedictine nun, prayer is so integral to all aspects of her life. We were very fortunate in being invited to attend the midday (Sext, or 'Little Hour') prayer service for which all the nuns gathered in community. It serves to interrupt a busy day and offers a quiet break to make holy one's work and self to God.

My next workshop was Christian Meditation led by Sharon Francis. Meditation takes place in the contemplative tradition found in the teachings of the earliest Christian monks, known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Such meditation involves reciting a short phrase – Ma-ra-na-tha – as four equally stressed syllables. It is an Aramaic word meaning, 'Come, Lord'. It is very challenging to find silence in our busy lives, and this practice is one way to find stillness. There is now a World Community for Christian Meditation, thanks in large part to the teaching of John Main OSB. In his words, the aim of Christian meditation is to 'allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are'.

My last workshop was Celtic Prayer introduced by Peter Ruxton. Here we explored the spirituality of the Celtic 'Peregrini' (i.e. pilgrim) tradition. There is an emphasis on how Celtic prayer sees divine grace intertwined with the rhythms of daily living, with prayer tending to be holistic rather than a separation of the sacred from the ordinary. We were introduced briefly to prayers and poems from figures such as St Patrick and the communities of early Ireland and Scotland. In Celtic prayer there is a strong sense of a living, practical spirituality founded in wonder, attentiveness and a deep awareness of God's nearness.

Before leaving the Prayer Festival we were invited back to the Abbey, and to join the nuns, for a Taizé Evening Prayer. What a delightful way to end a wonderful, enriching and peaceful day!

Guy Sharrock

Tea Laugh Chat

Parents, Carers, Babies

& Toddlers Group

St Leonard's Church

9.30 – 11.30am

1st Friday of every month

Just drop in - A chance to chat and make new friends!

**For further information contact Helen on 07927
277615**

or Avril on 07807 288143

Free of charge



Exceptional Care *by the sea*



Hythe Care Homes are independent providers of Residential and Nursing Care, offering a safe and friendly environment for all our residents.

HYTHE VIEW



91 North Road, Hythe CT21 5ET
enquiry.hytheview@hythecare.com
01303 760955

SALTWOOD CARE



Tanners Hill, Hythe CT21 5UQ
enquiry.saltwood@hythecare.com
01303 763538

BALGOWAN HOUSE



46 Bartholomew Lane, Hythe CT21 4BX
enquiry.balgowan@hythecare.com
01303 763800

*We make choosing and moving into
a care home more reassuring*

We would be delighted to show you around our homes and discuss your future care needs.

hythecare.com

Scan for more information





Anatomy at the Ossuary

Come and learn the wonders of anatomy at the
fascinating St Leonard's Ossuary with
Osteopath and Anatomist Timm Smith

Thursday 25th of June

Thursday 23rd of July

6:15pm - 7:00pm

£10 per person

Limited spaces are available, book now at:
www.anatomyattheossuary.co.uk

How about selling St Leonard's Church?

A few weeks ago, midway through a night of poor sleep following a PCC meeting, I had what I thought might be a brilliant idea. We should sell St Leonard's church and move the congregation to premises more appropriate to our numbers and pockets. Telling the diocesan authorities we no longer need its expensive building would certainly raise eyebrows, especially if a wave of congregations in similar circumstances did so in a concerted way. While the cold light of morning might reveal this proposition as not very practical, it does allow some important issues to be raised.

The PCC meeting had struggled with the familiar problem of income not matching the parish's commitments in terms of payments to the diocese and the cost of repairs required by the quinquennial inspection, with the inevitable erosion of our dwindling reserves. Businesses holding substantial property assets but facing a static customer base and a declining revenue stream often choose to restructure, releasing funds by relinquishing ownership or downsizing which can be used to develop their core activities. Even homeowners in need of cash to provide for retirement sometimes take part in equity release schemes that surrender part of their house's equity value in exchange for current spending power. Could we do something similar?

Selling the building of St Leonard's would have the advantage of passing the responsibility for maintaining and insuring this outstanding medieval building to someone else. The £78,000 spent on the important repairs following the latest quinquennial inspection would not be paid by us. There would still be a need to contribute to the diocesan budget (the 'parish share', about £94,000 in 2025, pays for a range of things including clergy costs) and the running expenses of whatever premises we might occupy, and these would still present a substantial challenge.

Who might be prepared to buy St Leonard's? A similar question faced the owners of our large historic country houses during the 20th century as the ability of their estates to bear the costs of running them from rents paid by

farms declined, coupled with the impact of death duties. Numerous grand houses were demolished or destroyed. While some have survived in private hands, many have passed into the care of English Heritage or the National Trust if ways of making them viable emerged. The bodies have a specific responsibility to conserve the historic and broader legacy that the assets they manage represent. Tourism in its many forms has played a large part in their story, with diverse focuses including their place in history, the pictures and furniture they contain, their gardens, or collections of exotic animals or old cars that visitors find attractive. Could a purchaser for St Leonard's be found who could exploit the visitor potential of this historic church and its almost unique ossuary to generate an income stream that gave an acceptable return on the investment? Would such an owner allow the congregation to hire the building for Sunday morning services, as long as this did not significantly dent overall visitor numbers? Could the venue be hired for weddings and concerts at realistic fees?

I have no doubt that, even if the PCC wanted to, they would not be allowed to sell St Leonard's. Its Grade 1 listed status and role in the history, culture and ecclesiastical fabric of society is too great. However, even thinking about the possibility raises the question of who has the responsibility for conserving its fabric. With fewer than 150 people on the St Leonard's electoral roll, the burden of financial responsibility falls on only a tiny fraction of the town's population, though efforts to raise support from a broader franchise by the Friends of St Leonard's Church greatly helps with maintenance of the fabric. However, funding the Christian activities that should be central to church life is solely the responsibility of the congregation.

I am convinced that the present arrangements cannot continue, for essentially practical reasons. England lacks the tradition of a local church tax that is used in some EU countries to provide funding for church assets, including organs. Nor does it have the habit of generous donating found in the USA. Some other solution has to be found that fits here. While St Leonard's would seem to be in a relatively advantageous

Upcoming events in

July & August

at Lympne Castle



Wednesday 15th July - Castle Book Club - 6:30pm-9:00pm

Bring your latest read, grab a drink and find yourself a cosy spot or watch the sunset from our lovely terrace with a glass of something cold.

Free entry. Socialising optional.



Friday 24th July - Live Music at The Castle 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Get ready for a brilliant evening of live music with Lewis Ross in the Great Hall at Lympne Castle! Expect great tunes, a buzzing atmosphere, and all the charm of the castle for a fun night out with friends and family.



Wednesday 5th August - Music Bingo - Games start at 6:30pm

Get your dabbers out and join us for the most fun on a Friday night!

£5 for 4 games, supporting Lympne Village Primary School

Games start at 6:30pm



Friday 21st August - Curry and Quiz - £18 per person

Enjoy a delicious curry in a grand historic setting while testing your knowledge with a thrilling quiz. A night of great food, fun, and friendly competition awaits—don't miss out!

Book your spot now!

Bar is open from 12:00 with quizzing starting at 19:00



Opening Hours

The Good Knight and Castle

Monday-Sunday - 12:00pm-10:30pm (last food orders 9:00pm)

The Naughty Dog

Monday-Sunday - 8:00am-6:00pm (last food orders 5:00pm)



For more details or to book, please contact us on 01303 533533
or email enquiries@lympnecastle.com

position compared with many other churches, ultimately it is surely inevitable that state funding of some form will be needed, with a focus on those buildings that have architectural, historic or artistic worth. Maybe this will take the form of an enhanced role for an existing body, the National Churches Trust, which supports churches of all denominations across the UK with the aim of seeing them remain open and thriving at the heart of their communities. Since 2007 this Trust has helped keep over 2000 churches, chapels, meeting houses and cathedrals open and in good repair, though this is only a small proportion of the total number of places of worship (more than 11,000 in England alone).

Overall this country is ridiculously over-provided with pew capacity for the Christian community and some rationalisation is inevitable. Our part of Kent is strewn with redundant Methodist and other non-conformist chapels, some having been converted into houses or put to commercial use. These relicts indicate places where their Christian adherents of today, often declining in numbers, are no longer able and willing to afford them. Church of England buildings are typically rather more protected from abandonment because of their higher historic, architectural and cultural status. While communities may have an emotional attachment to their local church building, even if they seem unwilling to use it for religious purposes, the idea of a local church is rooted in the mobility concepts of walking and the horse and trap. Modern life has changed that. Again, we are fortunate in that foot accessibility in Hythe is good, and even mobility scooters have a fair chance of getting to most locations. To keep St Leonard's as a functioning building in future decades means developing additional income streams and uses; while we may not be able to emulate Longleat and its collections of lions and monkeys, we do have a wonderful building that tells the history of Hythe in its stones and in the bony remains of long departed generations, and one that can be used flexibly by the community for a wide range of social purposes.

So in summary, it is not yet time to put St Leonard's up for sale. Other places of worship may face more pressing circumstances. However, we

should not avoid the hard questions of how the financing of building conservation and the funding of religious activities should be separated, and different solutions sought.

Berkeley Hill

18 The Highstreet

Antiques and Interiors

01303 221050/07785 594384

18 High Street, Hythe

Back in the day . . . Extracts from our archives

50 years ago: *St Leonard's Review, July 1976*

The Flower and Music Festival St. Leonard's was transformed from glory to glory during the Whit weekend by the beauty of God's flowers, the creative talents of local and county flower arrangers, the musical and choral ability of many performers and the artistry of painters, weavers and craftsmen of many sorts. We know that we have in Hythe the heritage of a most beautiful church but few of us could have anticipated the splendour that was created by the arrangements which were illustrative, imaginative and thought-provoking. . . . How many people felt caught up in something almost perfect, almost heavenly during that weekend as all those who visited our church joined in, in the silence of their hearts, this display of praise and thanksgiving.

. . . What has emerged most strikingly from the festival is the foresight and organisational ability of our lay people who were prepared to undertake this project, to shoulder responsibility and thereby bring off an outstanding success. Such endeavour is an indication of the growing realisation that lay people have a much greater contribution to make to the church than was thought 'right' in previous years. Group leaders, lay readers and street wardens are proof of this and we should look forward eagerly to a new pattern of lay ministry in many other areas.

H.M. [Revd Hugh Moseley, Assistant Priest]

25 years ago: *The Hythe Review*, July 2001

. . . Hurry is characteristic of our culture. Even the shelves of the supermarkets reflect our impatience. They offer us instant coffee, instant chocolate, instant rolled oats, instant rice, instant cake-mix and instant anything.

Man is in a hurry to go, but most of the time he doesn't know where he is going or why. Man is on the run but just stumbles along as he goes. Pascal said 'Most of the ills of the world come from men not being able to sit quietly in a room and think'. Moses was in a hurry to redeem Israel and in his hurry he forgot a few things and slew an Egyptian. Maybe that is why Jesus rebuked John and Peter, impatient with the inhospitable Samaritans and wanting 'fire

to come down from heaven and consume them'. Maybe that was the reason for Jesus telling his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and 'wait for the promise of the Father'.

. . . Let us be prepared to stop, look and listen to God. Let us slow up and live. Let us stay in our Jerusalem and wait for the fullness of the Spirit of God. Let us wait for the promise of the Father. Let us make haste slowly. Let us not forget the quiet moments and the secret places where we



might wait upon God. Patience may be misapplied. Not to be in a hurry does not mean to be passive or lazy or carefree. There comes a time when the fields are ripe unto harvest and there is an urgency to do something quickly. But patience simply means living in the presence of God and acting in his good time.

Be patient dear friends. The Church can manage and is managing without a vicar so far – why not a little longer?

Desmond Sampson, Honorary Curate



“You’ll find me in our incredible ossuary (crypt).

Introduce me and the others to visitors from far and wide.

Join our volunteer team and help us raise vital funds for our church.

You will be in great company; we’ll keep an eye on you”!

[Join the St. Leonard’s crypt team!](#)

- ❖ **Visitor numbers are growing, help us welcome guests and share a little of the story behind the bones.**
- ❖ **We will give you all the information and support you need to help visitors enjoy their experience - the bones do most of the work!**
- ❖ **Meet people from around the world, make them welcome, and share in their sense of wonder.**
- ❖ **A small amount of your time, just once a fortnight, during the visitor season will make a real difference and help us raise vital income.**

If you are interested in history or archaeology or would simply like to help us raise funds to support our church mission, contact us to learn more about the role of a St. Leonard’s crypt steward.

Telephone Steve Williams 07912 311697 or John Wren 07787 517189 or email: keeperofthebones@slhythe.com

THE PARISH ⊕
ST LE⊕NARD HYTHE



**CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
(July – August 2026)**

Monday 6 July, 7.00pm

Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra

Thursday 9 July, 7.00pm

(JAM on the Marsh Festival)

Thomas Kelly & John Frederick Hudson (four hands on one piano)

Hudson [tbc – world premiere] ♦ **Beethoven** *Sonata No 1 in F minor*

Debussy *Petite Suite for Piano 4 hands* ♦ **arr. Hudson** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Saturday 18 July, 4.00pm

The choir of the International Children's Choir Festival

Chilcott *Loving Shepherd* ♦ *Gloria (from A Little Jazz Mass)*

Schutz *Cantate Domino*

Saturday 25 July, 11.30am

Becky Haisell (mezzo-soprano) & Tim Parsons (piano)

Elgar *Sea Pictures: Sea Slumber Song* ♦ *In Haven* ♦ *Sabbath Morning at Sea* ♦

Where Corals Lie ♦ *The Swimmer*

Berlioz *Sur les Lagunes* ♦ **Schubert** *Am Flusse D160* ♦ *Am Flusse D766*

Cole Porter *The Tale of the Oyster* ♦ **Gershwin** *Lorelei*

Saturday 8 August, 11.30am

Eberhard Lauer (organ)

Music by **Mendelssohn**, **Schumann**, **Liszt**, **Bach**

Friday 2 August, 6.00pm

Ivan Hovorun (piano)

Scarlatti *2 Sonatas in D minor, K141, K32* ♦ **Rameau** *Les Cyclopes* ♦ **Couperin** *Les Roseaux*

Mozart *Sonata in B flat major, KV570* ♦ **Chopin** *Polonaise in F Sharp minor, Op 44*

Rachmaninoff *from Morceaux de fantaisie: Elegie and Prelude in C sharp minor, Op 3 No 2*

Rimsky-Korsakov *The Story of the Kalendar Prince from Scheherazade, Op 35*



ROBERT KENT Cert.fp

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

RKFUNERALS.COM



**Direct
Cremation**

£1195

**Fair Priced
Cremation**

£1950

**Traditional
Funeral**

£2595

01303 684062 24hrs

The need for sincerity, compassion and care are not compromised by our value for money approach.

Home Insurance problems in Shepway?

We now have our own special
insurance scheme

Full cover (including Flood) at
very low prices.

Suitable for all types of home
insurance.

Contact us on [01303 265141](tel:01303265141) for
a quotation.



BLUE SHIELD

INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

**PROSPECT ROAD, HYTHE,
CT21 5NS**

For all your insurance needs

LAWRENCE & Co

- of Hythe -

Whether you are selling your property
or buying or just want advice
consult the experts –

LAWRENCE & Co
Estate Agents, Valuers and
Surveyors
49 High Street, Hythe.

Telephone: 01303 266022

Fax: 01303260063

Website: www.lawrenceandco.co.uk

Email:

findahome@lawrenceandco.co.uk

Sterry's OF HYTHE

Serving the local community in Hythe

Hythe

01303 264 400

41 High Street,
Hythe, Kent
CT21 5AD

 **Funeral Partners**

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Home visits
- Private chapels of rest
- Floral tributes
- Eco/Green specialists
- Prepaid funeral plans

Call us for immediate
support or advice.

**We are here to help
24 hours a day.**



Members of the National
Association of Funeral Directors

Parish Directory

Vicar	Revd Michael Darkins	01303 266217	vicar@slhythe.com
Curate	Revd Dr Andy Yan	07835 382924	curate@slhythe.com
Churchwardens	John Wren	01303 487285	john261142@outlook.com
	Helen Waymouth	07927 277615	oliverwaymouth@gmail.com
Youth Worker	Aimee Babbs		youthworker@slhythe.com
ALMs	Geoff German	01303 237056	geofftandem@gmail.com
	Penny Mattocks	01303 268441	pm1066@btinternet.com
Safeguarding Lead	Carolyn Chivers	07971086093	safeguarding@slhythe.com
Treasurer	Brian Bishop	01303 269871	treasurer@slhythe.com
PCC Secretary	Imogen Taylor	07410935372	administrator@slhythe.com
Musical Director	Anita Jones		musicaldirector@slhythe.com
Bell-ringers	Nigel Spencer	01303 260524	np_mjs@btinternet.com
Friends of St Leonard's Church	Brinley Hughes	01303 264470	brin.hughes@btinternet.com

Methodist Minister Revd Adrian Roux 07721 006800 revadrianroux@outlook.com

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



D J KNIGHT

BUILDING SERVICES

KITCHENS ■ BATHROOMS ■ PLASTERING
BRICKWORK ■ CARPENTRY ■ TILING

07870 934 719

djknightbuildingservices@gmail.com

HYTHE BAY FINANCIAL LTD

Chartered Financial Planners

Investment Planning & Savings

Retirement Planning

Inheritance Tax & Estate Planning

Long Term Care Fees Planning

Financial Protection

Cashflow Modelling

88 High Street, Hythe.

01303 237272

Partnership.sjp.co.uk/hythebay

ELDRIDGES

(est.1741)

HYTHE'S LEADING STORE FOR
BLINDS + CURTAINS + NETS + TRACKS &
POLES

Ready-made and made to measure in our
own workshop.

Stockist of the largest range of household
sheets,
blankets, linen, duvets and towels.

FREE MEASURING & QUOTATIONS FULLY
QUALIFIED FITTER

87-89 High Street, Hythe.

01303 901700

eldridgescustomercare@hotmail.com