

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Photo: Roger Taylor

Living and Growing
March and April 2026

No 939

£1

Meet the Team



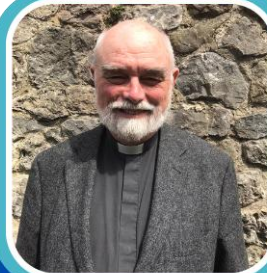
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Submission deadline for the next issue: **15 April 2026**

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

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,

It strikes me that one of the themes of the Lenten and Easter seasons which we're inhabiting this March and April is feasting, or the lack thereof. Lent is traditionally seen as time of fasting, of refraining from the sumptuous treats of life. This not only applies to food, but also to aesthetics as we refrain from decorating our churches with flowers, we abstain from saying the word, 'Alleluia', and adopt the darker colours purple and blue. The reason we fast isn't so much for the sake of being penitential, but I think our fast is more concerned with Lent's original meaning, a time of joyful expectation. We fast for 40 days in preparation for the great celebration that is Easter and the 50 days of feasting it brings.

Meals are central to these seasons. In March and April this year we will remember Jesus' fasting in the wilderness and being tempted by the Devil with a meal; Jesus' meal with his disciples in the Upper Room where he shared bread and wine with them and washed their feet. And in Eastertide, we recall the risen Jesus sharing in a meal as proof of his physical resurrection; as a Church, we celebrate Corpus Christi (the institution of the Eucharist); and how at Pentecost the disciples fasted and prayed as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

It's for these reasons that food and fasting has always been an essential part of the Christian faith. The Early Church gathered in homes to share a regular meal together and celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, and we still gather together for a meal every Sunday as we share in the Lord's Supper – the Eucharist. There are still many who regularly fast, either in Lent, on Fridays, and before receiving the Eucharist.

This cycle of fasting and feasting serves to draw us closer to God. The reason many people fast is twofold: fasting from that which we desire helps us to be more reliant on God as we pray to resist that temptation. In prayer, as we resist that temptation to feast, we can appreciate how we are nourished all the more by God and filled with God, rather than that which we are resisting. The reason we feast is to experience God's over-

generosity, to glimpse through all the senses that unending Heavenly banquet which Jesus invites us to – God’s unending and overflowing grace made tangible.

At this point I must apologise if I'm making you hungry! Maybe this is all coming from a place of hunger within myself? But I think that food and the ways we approach it are important to consider as our supermarket shelves are brimming with chocolate. This March and April, I invite you to consider what you eat, and who you're eating with. Are you fasting or feasting? Why? And are you alone, or surrounded by people?

The Holy Spirit is always present when people gather to fast and pray together, and when people feast and celebrate together. Perhaps you can invite someone to pray with you, or join in a meal and share what your faith means to you over that meal? The import behind this question is another, how are you being nourished by God? If you don't feel like you are, why not try some fasting and feasting? And remember, don't do it alone.

Every Blessing,
Revd Michael

From the Editor

The striking cover image (see page 15 for its source) embodies our theme of 'Living and Growing' – new life budding in an apparently dead tree. The revival of nature in springtime has, of course, long been associated with the season of Lent and Easter, as in the beautiful hymn 'Now the green blade riseth':

Love lives again, that with the dead had been;
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

It is equally appropriate that this issue focuses on the youth work at St Leonard's, with its encouraging signs of growth and development. See page 9 for the latest news from our Youth Worker, including a service entirely organised and led by the young people themselves. And on page 14 we have new photos of the choir members and organ scholar who do so much to enhance our worship. Perhaps you know a young person who might like to consider joining them?

We wish all our readers and advertisers a happy and blessed Easter.

Joanne Hill, on behalf of the Hythe Parish Review team

Calendar of Events

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---|
| Friday 6 th March | 9:30-11:30 | St Leonard's | TLC (Toddler Group) |
| Sunday 29 th March | 10:30am | St Michael's | Joint Palm Sunday Service |
| Monday 30 th March | 11am | St Leonard's | Holy Week Communion |
| Tuesday 31 st March | 11am | Holy Cross | Holy Week Communion |
| Wednesday 1 st April | 11am | St Michael's | Holy Week Communion |
| Thursday 2 nd April | 6pm | St Leonard's | Maundy Thursday Meal and Eucharist with Vigil |
| Friday 3 rd April | 8am | St Leonard's | Matins & The Litany |
| Friday 3 rd April | 9:30-11:30 | St Leonard's | TLC (Toddler Group) |
| Friday 3 rd April | 9:45am | Waitrose | Walk of Witness to Hythe Town Square |
| Saturday 4 th April | 10-3 | St Leonard's | Holiday Club |
| Saturday 4 th April | 8pm | St Leonard's | Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter |
| Sunday 5 th April | 6:15am | Princes Parade Carpark | Dawn Service |
| Sunday 5 th April | 9:30am | St Leonard's | Easter Day Service |
| Sunday 5 th April | 11am | St Michael's | Easter Day Service |
| Sunday 5 th April | 11am | Holy Cross | Easter Day Service |
| Sunday 5 th April | 11:30am | St Leonard's | Easter Youth Service |
| Wednesday 15 th April | 10-1:30 | St Leonard's | Holiday Club |
| Saturday 25 th April | 6-8pm | St Leonard's | Youth Night |

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

Prayer prompts day by day

- 1 Our ministerial team
- 2 Our Churchwardens and PCC
- 3 Local businesses
- 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 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 Our new Archbishop, Sarah Mullally
- 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 from 'The Way of the Cross'

God, who in the crucifixion of your Christ reached out your hands to embrace all men and women; let us not refuse the love which created and sustains us, but make us practise it in care of our neighbour's need, according to Christ's command.

We ask this in his name.

Amen

*Celebrating the Christian Year, Vol. II,
Canterbury Press Norwich, 2005*

Thoughts from St Michael's

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, 'Our trouble is that we have looked for God only in crises – and not in the ordinary run of life. We have acknowledged His presence only in the rare and unusual. We have gotten Him too much involved with the strange sad facts of suffering, illness and death. But God is at the centre of life – or He is nowhere.'



We look forward to the lengthening days of light and springtime when all about us is beautiful and rewarding. A season of hope and promise. In Lent we recall the lonely vigil of Jesus in the wilderness, his spiritual and mental struggle and the tremendous implications of his vocation revealed to us in vivid pictorial language.

Yet it is so strange that the Church, the people of God, have sometimes made this a season of gloom. Jesus did not just fast, he thought, grappling with alternatives, he was tested. For us Lent is a time of reflection. Lent gives us a chance to have a conversation with God as we follow the Son of Man who walked this Earth 2,000 years ago and still does in the hearts and minds of people who feel his presence in the ordinary daily activities of living.

We hear of people speaking about the growth of church attendance and the need to persuade congregations to recruit new members. Obviously all are welcome, but like Jesus and so many of his present disciples we also need to engage with the people we see in our community every day. Those with no home whom we pass in the High Street, the person trying to sell the *Big Issue*, those who have health issues, people unable to work or who have no work, those who attend the food bank centres, the elderly finding life a real burden, those living through tough times, the lonely and those who mourn. Our hands, ears and eyes must be the God of love in the community in which we live every day. Let us be encouraged during

Lent to realise that everything we have is lent to us, and that we need to see Lent as a time of positive joy: a time when we seek to help others and remember that even a quiet word can make all the difference to someone who feels lonely.

Dudley Shipton



Friends of St Leonard's Church – Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the *Friends of St Leonard's Church* will take place on Monday 23 March 2026 at 6.00pm in the north transept of the church. *Friends* For more information about this meeting, or if you would like to consider joining the committee, please contact Brin Hughes: ☎ 01303 264470 or email to brin.hughes@btinternet.com.

News from our Young People

The church now has an Instagram account so the young people at Tea and Theology have given Michael, Aimee and Andy a tutorial on how to use it and told us what we should post. Please speak to any of us if you have any ideas for things we can post on our account. Why not follow us on Instagram (stleonardshythe) by scanning this QR code.



The Big Winter Sleepout for the Rainbow Centre

On a chilly January evening, around 40 Cubs, teenagers and adults camped in the church to raise money for the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone. The evening started with games including a scavenger hunt to learn more about the church and find things we may not always notice (did you know about the unicorn above one of the doors?). Next, we enjoyed homemade soup for dinner (just what we needed to keep us

warm). After that we had Compline in the crypt by candlelight. It was lovely to hold that service in the crypt and quietly reflect on the day we had all had and think about the work of the Rainbow Centre, all the people they help and all those who didn't have food or shelter that night.

After Compline we lit the firepit, made s'mores and played games round the fire. The night ended with trying to keep warm and get to sleep with the background noise of synchronised snoring. The morning arrived far too quickly for some of our young people but with the promise of sausage sandwiches they soon woke up and breakfast was shared before going home (and, if they were anything like the youth worker, having a quick nap).

The amount raised for the sleepover was a total of £2,163. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us!

Youth-Led Service

On the first Sunday of February after our 9:30am Eucharist, our young people led a service that they had planned themselves. They chose every element and led the service with a bit of support from Michael and Andy. Approximately 37 people stayed for it and had great fun with the 'Name the Song' quiz. Ira, one of those who led the service, commented afterwards:

'A few weeks ago, we were offered the challenge of running a service, which we thought would be great fun to try. Every Tuesday, we spent some time thinking about engaging activities and topics that would work well within a youth-led service. I think that having a small interactive game for everyone livened the mood



and successfully linked to our topic. Having more people join in, from games to a prayer time, allows it to feel more inclusive, especially for newer people. I quite liked the opportunity of standing up and contributing

towards a church service more directly, via leading rather than just singing! One thing I would change is that the mini anthem went quite well but having a hymn would also contribute greatly. I would love to do it again, thank you to the church for giving us opportunities like these!

Holiday Club

As I write this, we are preparing for our half term holiday club to be held on Shrove Tuesday. We will be focusing on the Good Samaritan and preparing for Lent and Easter. We are going to have an Easter panto based on the Good Samaritan; and we will be burying the Alleluias, racing around the church tossing pancakes, and enjoying pancakes for lunch. I can't wait to tell you all about it.

As always, if you have any questions about youth work, or ideas for things the children and young people can do, or if you have something that 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

Tea Laugh Chat

Parents, Carers, Babies

& Toddlers Group

St Leonard's Church
9.30 – 11.30am

1st Friday of every month

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For further information contact Helen on 07927 277615

or Avril on 07807 288143

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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 *



Steam & Diesel Gala



Winston's Wine Train



Bus Rally



Santa Specials

*pre-booking is essential

A Window for Contemplation

How often do you contemplate a stained-glass window? Maybe your mind and eye drifts during a service or you visit a church and your gaze falls upon the striking image portrayed in stained glass. For example, I have always been very moved by our east window at St Leonard's which accosts one almost immediately on entering the church.



Chapel window in Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela

Last September, Roger and I enjoyed a holiday making minor excursions along parts of the Camino ending with a few days exploring Santiago de Compostela.



Visiting the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela one's vision and senses are almost overwhelmed by the architecture, the elaborate choir, the immensity of the thurible and the smell of incense. But in a small chapel dedicated to French pilgrims, there is this window (see above and front cover).

At first sight it is a little unsettling because of its simplicity and modern appearance (2004) in such an old place, a small window high up in the chapel illuminating an otherwise dark space. Then I was struck and humbled by the imagery.

I won't attempt to relate what I see in it but somehow it draws me in.

Imogen Taylor

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

Sign up here!

Contact Anita Jones
MusicalDirector@slhythe.com



St Leonard's Church Youth Choir

Many thanks to Anita Jones, our Musical Director, for these photos and for all her work with both adults and young people. Pictured are Oakley, the new organ scholar, and the St Leonard's Church Youth Choir, which was formed in March 2025 from the previous girls' and boys' choirs.



Congratulations to Oakley, and also to Ira, Ollie and Madeleine, who have each been awarded a choral scholarship, made possible in both cases by the Onward charity.

The choristers all have the chance to develop their musical skills through the RSCM Voice for Life training,

We would love to see the Youth Choir grow over the next year. Choral singing is fantastic on many levels, developing musicianship, confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging. Please contact Anita if you have a young person who might be interested in joining us.



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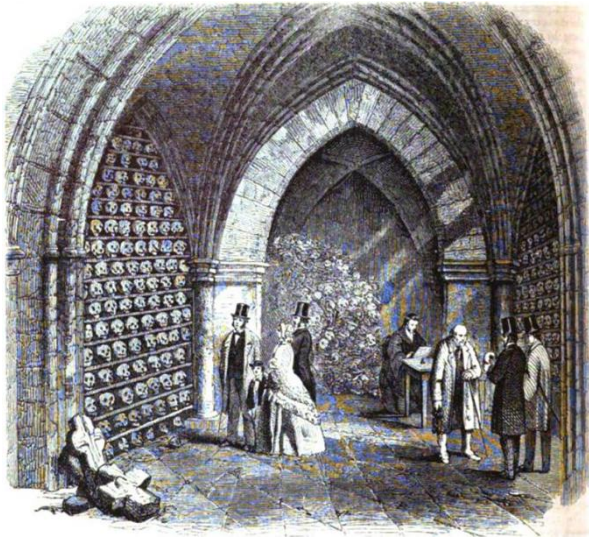
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Crypt/ossuary opening and stewarding



The crypt/ossuary will be open to visitors again at Easter weekend (on both Easter Saturday 4 April and Easter Monday 6 April) and then regularly from 1 May through until the end of September. Opening times will be 11.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00 – 4.00pm each day, except Sundays when the crypt will be open only during the afternoon. We also plan to open the crypt on other occasions such as during schools' half-term holidays in October, Halloween and the

Christmas Fair. As in previous years, we depend on the availability of volunteer stewards to be able to maintain these opening times. The crypt admission charges this year will remain (as for last year) at £5 for adults and £1 for children.

Income from visitors, including for purchase of souvenirs, is an important supplementary source of revenue for the church. Crypt income from individual and group visits during 2025 was approximately £21,000, very similar to the previous year's total figure. This was another splendid achievement, very much appreciated by our PCC treasurer as a significant and highly welcome contribution towards meeting the church's running and maintenance costs.

If you or anyone you know would like to become a crypt steward and spend a morning or afternoon once a fortnight (or more frequently!) helping in this way, or wish to learn more about what is involved, please contact Brin Hughes on 01303 264470 or email: brin.hughes@btinternet.com. He would also wish to know your availability (or otherwise), specifying preferred days of the week and sessions (mornings or afternoons) for volunteering so that a duty rota can be prepared. Comprehensive briefings on arrangements will be given in advance to all volunteers. Crypt stewards will need to receive (or have received) basic safeguarding training.

In addition, this year we are arranging for a qualified osteopath to give talks to crypt stewards on anatomical aspects of the skulls and bones in our collection. Attendance will be entirely voluntary, but we do hope you will appreciate this extra information provided by an expert in such matters.

Thank you so much. We do need your support!

Brin



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Book review: *Wardrobes and Rings: Through Lenten Lands with the Inklings* by Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite and Simon Horobin (Canterbury Press, 2026)

Many Christians are familiar with the writer C. S. Lewis, whether from his *Narnia Chronicles* with their magical portal through a wardrobe to a snow-locked land, or from the moving film about his later-life marriage, *Shadowlands*. Many will also know and love the works of his colleague and friend J. R. R. Tolkien, particularly *The Hobbit* and the books or films of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Lewis and Tolkien were both members of the Inklings, an informal group of intellectual Christians in Oxford, whose regular meetings to socialise and discuss one another's work are still legendary. *Wardrobes and Rings* is a new book by a trio of authors who are themselves distinguished (one is the current holder of Lewis's post at Oxford), and who draw widely on the Inklings and their works to present them in an accessible and enjoyable format.

Their emphasis is not exclusively on Lewis and Tolkien, but includes other writers, whether members of the Inklings, such as Charles Williams, or those whose influence was significant. Among the latter is George MacDonald, whose fantasy novel *Phantastes* made such an impression on the young Lewis that he wrote of reading it: 'It is as if I were carried sleeping across the frontier, or as if I had died in the old country and could never remember how I came alive in the new.' The quality that Lewis perceived in *Phantastes* was 'Holiness'; and it is the Christian value of such literature that makes it a fruitful subject for a Lent book like the present one.

The book follows a typical pattern, with a brief discussion of a passage, a Christian message arising from it, and suggestions for action or consideration ('When are you a White Rabbit and when an Elf?'). I was particularly struck by the inclusion of lesser-known writers and works: among the latter, Lewis's unjustly neglected science fiction trilogy beginning with *Out of the Silent Planet*, and Tolkien's poem *Mythopoeia* and essay 'On Fairy-Stories'. I have not actually read either of the latter, but the present authors explain their choices clearly enough that no prior knowledge of their texts is necessary. Neither, despite the format of

Wardrobes and Rings as a Lent book, would it be necessary to use it in daily chunks; I can imagine a reader either making their own selection or reading the book straight through with great enjoyment.

Wardrobes and Rings is currently available at the Open Door Project, 101 High Street, price £12.99. Also in stock is an older Lent book by Hilary Brand, *Not a Tame Lion* (Darton, Longman and Todd, 2008, £5.99). This focuses specifically on Lewis using three popular films: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian* and *Shadowlands*.

Joanne Hill

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Contact our Advertising Manager, Steve, on 07912 311697 for more information.



Upcoming events in

March and April



at Lympne Castle



Thursday 12th March - Castle Book Club - 6:30pm-8:30pm

Bring your latest read, grab a drink and find yourself a cosy spot in front of one of our roaring open fires. Free entry. Socialising optional.



Friday 13th March - Murder Mystery Evening - 6:30pm

Murder at the Manor House

3 course meal, interactive entertainment and drink on arrival

Dress Code - Black Tie £70 per head



Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Roast Lunch

Treat the most important woman in your life to one of our famous Roast Lunches and all the trimmings - Book now to avoid disappointment!



Friday 3rd to Monday 6th April - Easter Family Fun Weekend and Craft Fair

Join us for a fun packed weekend at the Castle.

From magic and puppet shows to discos and games.

Easter Bunny Trail, Arts & Crafts and Easter Bonnet Parade.

Live music on Sunday from 6:30pm until 9:30pm

Tickets £15 per child via Eventbrite.



Our 4 day Easter Craft Fair will be running alongside the Family Fun Weekend at our stables from 11am until 4pm

Food and beverages will be available to purchase throughout the day.

See our What's On page for full details.



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





**CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
(March – May 2026)**

Sunday 1 March, 3.00pm

Orsay Ensemble & Nathan Winters (clarinet)

Schubert *Piano Trio in Bb major Op 99, D898* ♦ **Brahms** *Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op 114*

Saturday 14 March, 7.00pm

Just Men Singing

"For the serious fun of it!"

Sunday 22 March, 3.00pm

Francis Grier (piano)

Mozart *Sonata in F, K332* ♦ **Mozart** *Sonata in C minor, K457* ♦ **Schubert** *Sonata in A minor, D845*

Monday 23 March, 6.00pm

Friends of St Leonard's Church AGM

Thursday 26 March, 7.00pm

Simon Langton School Year 13 music students

(Music tbc)

Friday 3 April (Good Friday), 6.00pm

Shepway Singers

Howells *Requiem* ♦ Palm Sunday and Passiontide music by **Stainer**, **Wood**

Saturday 18 April, 6.00pm

Penelope Turner (mezzo-soprano) & **Helen Crayford** (piano)

"A special relationship – vintage cabaret music from America's golden years"

Friday 1 May, 6.00pm

Gerard Brooks (organ)

Music by **Bach**, **Widor**, **Debussy**, **Bliss**, **Grieg**, **Foote**, **Callaerts**, **Cholley**

Saturday 23 May, 7.00pm

Domino Cantes (Polish Choir in Brussels) & **Shepway Singers**

Mostly polyphonic including music by **Josquin des Prez**, **Kusz**, **di Lasso**, **Byrd**

Saturday 30 May, 12 noon

Oliver Nelson (violin) & **Vasilis Rakitzis** (piano)

Schubert *'Grand Duo' Sonata, D574* ♦ **Brahms** *Sonata in A, Op 100*

The Rood and the Relic

In 1252, Pope Innocent IV ordered that the parishioners of Hythe should restore to the Rector of Saltwood, Master Robert Anketil, 'certain oblations made or legacies given by pilgrims in honour of a rood, with relics enclosed, in the chapel of St Leonard, which the parishioners claim under the will of the donor of the said rood'.

St Leonard's was then not a separate parish, but a Chapel of Ease of St Peter's in Saltwood. The fact that there were holy relics there is unsurprising, since the [Second Council of Nicaea](#) in 787 decreed that every [altar](#) should contain one. The rood, it seems, had been bequeathed to the church. Normally, the word is used to describe the large crucifix which hung near the altar in medieval churches, but it seemed odd that a relic would be kept inside it.

In fact, the word 'rood' can apply to any size or type of crucifix, including reliquaries made in that shape, which were hollow and could be placed on or near the altar. The most famous example was the Holy Rood of Scotland, one of Scotland's crown jewels, which was stolen by the English in 1346 and lost during the Reformation. It was about 36 inches long, made of solid gold, with the figure of Christ carved from ivory and opened like a chest to reveal a fragment of the True Cross. The Hythe version would have been more modest.

These rood reliquaries were only ever used to hold relics of the True Cross, so it must be assumed that this was the relic in the rood at St Leonard's. There was a hierarchy of relics: almost at the top were the body parts of saints, but at the pinnacle were relics of the crucifixion. Relics made money for the church which owned them, and the holier they were, the more the church benefitted from donations made in order to approach, view, or even to touch the sacred article – the 'oblations' given by pilgrims. This relic would have earned for St Leonard's a good sum and it is not surprising that the Rector of Saltwood wanted the income, whatever the will of the donor had stipulated, and that it was worth taking his case all the way to the top man, the Pope.

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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

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