

# Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



*Youth Sailing Weekend*

## Out and About May and June 2025

No 934

£1

# Meet the Team



Revd Michael Darkins  
Vicar



Revd Adrian Roux  
Methodist Minister



Revd Dr Michael Chandler  
Associate Priest



Revd Pam Clark  
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

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Submission deadline for the next issue: **15 June 2025**

# Church services

## **Sundays**

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

**8.00am** Holy Communion BCP (said)

**9.30am** Parish Communion

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 5pm** Delving Deeper: Bible study and music

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 6.30pm:** Choral Evensong

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 5pm:** Pizza & Praise at Hythe Bay School

**ST MICHAEL'S METHODIST-ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTRE**

**Rampart Road, CT21 5BG**

**11.00am** Morning Worship – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**11.00am** Holy Communion – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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

## **Priest's letter from Revd Michael Darkins**

Dear Friends,

By now, Easter will be a distant memory. The chocolate eggs are all gone, the children are back at school, and the celebration is well and truly over. Well, it certainly feels that way anyway. Church is a bit different from the rest of society. You see, in church, we carry on the Easter Feast, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, for 40 days – matching Lent's 40 days of fasting with 40 days of feasting. But we tend to be very bad at celebrating something for longer than a day. We prefer the waiting rather than the celebrating. This strikes me as quite sad really, as well as a good topic for a December letter!

Anyway, if we're determined not to celebrate for 40 days, then allow me to reframe the Easter celebrations to something much more comfortable – waiting. As in Lent we were waiting for Easter, now in the Easter season we're waiting for Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter; and Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. Ascension Day marks the celebration of Jesus' ascension to the Father in Heaven, while Pentecost marks Jesus' sending the Spirit upon his disciples and the birth of the Church.

As in Lent we may have fasted or taken things up, so, if I may be so bold, I'd like to set you some homework until Pentecost. Please pray. Prayer for each of us will look very different I'm sure, so please pray however you feel called to. Pray for our parish, for those in our community we're concerned about, pray for our finances, pray for our young people. Pray for our town, our Diocese, our world. Please pray for whatever and whoever God has set on your heart.

I ask this because in these two months, we'll be having our APCM, our Parish Vision Day, and we'll be celebrating Pentecost together. These are times for reflection for our churches and discernment as we listen for where God is leading us. So in order to better listen, we need to be better and more confident in talking to God in the first place. So together, let's pray all the more, and pray for each other too.

Every Blessing,

*Michael*

## From the Editor

We were delighted to receive so many and such varied contributions for this bimonthly issue, and hope you enjoy them.

For our next issue, July & August, we are planning a theme of Nature and Ecology. If that important subject inspires you, we would love to have your thoughts on it, although material on any other topic of local or general interest is always welcome too. Please send it to [hytheparishreview@gmail.com](mailto:hytheparishreview@gmail.com) as an email attachment; if that is a problem, typed or handwritten material is also acceptable. Happy reading!

*Joanne Hill, on behalf of the Hythe Parish Review team*

<b>Calendar of Events</b>			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>3pm</i>	<i>101 Open Door</i>	<i>Volunteers' Afternoon &amp; Garden Party</i>
<i>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>St Leonard's Church</i>	<i>APCM</i>
<i>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>St Leonard's Church</i>	<i>Hymns &amp; Pimm's</i>
<i>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>	<i>10am</i>	<i>Starting from St Leonard's</i>	<i>Rogation Walk Walking across the parish in prayer</i>
<i>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>10am</i>	<i>St Leonard's Church</i>	<i>Parish Prayer &amp; Vision Day</i>
<i>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Canterbury Cathedral</i>	<i>Ordination of Anderson Yan as Deacon</i>

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

# Prayer prompts day by day

- 1 Our ministerial team
- 2 Our Churchwardens and PCC
- 3 Our new Musical Director
- 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 Israel and Gaza
- 15 Hythe Bay School
- 16 Archdeacon Darren
- 17 Revd Adrian Roux 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 The Roman Catholic Church locally and worldwide
- 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 facing important exams
- 30 Our local shops and businesses
- 31 Those parts of the world suffering from famine and natural disasters

## A prayer for the Easter season

God most high,  
you have displayed your glory  
in the risen and ascended  
Christ.

In him you have opened the  
way to eternal life.

Grant us the light of the Holy  
Spirit,  
make us grow in love of you  
and enable us to use the gifts  
of the Spirit in steadfast faith  
and trustworthy service.

We make this prayer through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



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## **Turning a Corner**

### ***A message of thanks from the outgoing Director of Music***

St Leonard's, Hythe is a church with many WOW factors. My first visit was in the summer of 1972, soon after becoming aware that the post of organist and choir master was vacant following the sudden death of the much-loved musician and headteacher Fred Skinner. I was immediately struck by two WOW factors: the view of the chancel, which looked like a small cathedral with its stone vaulted roof, triforium and clerestory, and the enormous organ case on the west wall of the nave. I was well hooked and soon became convinced that St Leonard's was the place for me.

After a competitive process and subsequent appointment I promised the then vicar (the Revd Malcolm McHaffie) that I would stay at least two years. As things turned out I stayed considerably longer. After 52 years I am passing responsibility as Director of Music to a worthy successor, Anita Jones, who, in addition to being a professional musician, local politician and chair of the District Council, is the mother of two of the choristers at St Leonard's.

Of course, looking back, the real WOW factor came from the many wonderful people who helped in my attempt to deliver the vision. To start with there was only a single choir of boys and men. During my tenure there has been a long succession of choirboys, about 300 in total, and despite considerable initial qualms I have somehow kept the interest of many of them. Some have turned into adult choristers, organists or choir directors at parish or cathedral levels.

But we have always had to be flexible in the face of competition from sporting activities and social events held on Sunday mornings. Around 1990 we formed an additional adult mixed choir to cover morning Eucharists when insufficient boys were available because of sports activities; and since 2006 there has been a succession of around 100 girls who have belonged to the Hythe Girls Choir, formed to give equal opportunities to them. Taking these three choirs together there has been a substantial body of singers here. And much to celebrate. My hope is that, at least occasionally, the vision I had for the music at St Leonard's has been realised.

My last Sunday as Director of Music was 2 March 2025. It was a great pleasure to see so many people at one or both of the services. The choir for the morning Eucharist had about 40 singers, and at Evensong there were nearly 60, everyone crowding into the chancel. The sound was tremendous (I really did need to turn down my hearing aids), but it was much more together and in tune than I had dared hope (the results of good training years ago?). The nave was full for both services, with representatives from all eras, including many who had come back to Hythe for the occasion, some from great distances. It was good to have the Shepway Singers too, as they share many members with the church choirs.

Lots of kind words were spoken about me (only some of which were true), but my wife Hilarie received proper recognition for the important role she has played in the life of the choir(s). The church and especially the present choir membership have been extremely generous in the presents they have given me. All told it was a fantastic and memorable day.

Shortage of space here means that my own thanks must necessarily be brief: first, to Hilarie, a most loyal guide and supporter without whom life and music in Hythe would have been impossible. Second, I must thank members of my family who have had so much to tolerate, in particular because of my neglect of so many duties as a father. The choirs and music at church always seemed to take priority, and for that I must ask their forgiveness.

Next I must thank the succession of clergy, churchwardens and PCCs that have allowed me to run the music at St Leonard's in a way that was, hopefully, in line with my vision for the church. On my retirement the PCC has given me the honorary title of Organist Emeritus, which means a continuing connection to St Leonard's and access to the organ when not in use by my successor. Congregations have also been overwhelmingly supportive, and we have been wonderfully served by a team of organ scholars and assistant organists, many of whom have gone on to great things in the music world.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks are due to the choir members – the boys, the girls and the adults. Their musical talents have been impressive, but even more gratifying are their personal qualities, as demonstrated in their regularity and willingness to give the choirs a high priority in a world

where there are now so many competing interests. I have been truly blessed in having known them and hope that they gained something of value in return – musical, social and religious, or a combination of all three. I count them all as friends. For that I am deeply grateful.

Hilarie and I are not dropping off the edge of the world and will hope to keep in touch.

With thanks for the past and best wishes for the future.

*Berkeley Hill*

*Director of Music 1972–2025 and Organist Emeritus from 2025*



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Tanners Hill, Hythe CT21 5UQ  
[manager.saltwood@hythecare.com](mailto:manager.saltwood@hythecare.com)  
01303 762575

## BALGOWAN HOUSE



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## Reflections from St Michael's Methodist–Anglican Church Centre

Fifty years ago I was appointed the first head teacher of an Anglican–Methodist aided church junior school on a large new council estate at Hawkesley, in the parish of Kings Norton, on the outskirts of Birmingham. There was a nursery and infant school, along with a pastoral centre on an eight-acre site in the centre of the estate. The vicar and his wife and family had a house in the grounds, and the Methodist minister lived nearby. It was great to work with them for many years.

A few weeks ago I watched online the funeral and thanksgiving service for the Revd Brian Pearce, who became Canon Brian. His was a down-to-earth Christian ministry and he was a great influence upon my life. He was what was called in those days a worker priest. We were totally different but we learnt from one another how to serve all those families with whom we came into contact in their new homes, inviting them to worship and their children to join the Boys' Brigade, Guides and Brownies and much else.

The bishop who led the service reminded the congregation of Brian's words to everyone he met: 'Has anyone told you what a good job you are doing?' and 'Thank God for giving us each other.'

As we celebrate Easter we need to give thanks to God and congratulate one another on what we are achieving at St Michael's, established nearly 14 years ago. It is essential that we continue to work together, especially pastorally and through our worship. We can give thanks for the variety of styles of worship; the growth in numbers of those who attend the midweek Holy Communion service; the Tuesday Fellowship and fortnightly community coffee mornings; the community outreach shop at 101 High Street; and the good news that St Michael's has been awarded Silver Eco Church status, thanks to Chris Porter and her team, who also look after the community garden.

I would also like to give thanks for the success of the decompression operation on my spine just six weeks ago which enables me to walk comfortably without any pain. All thanks to the skill of the surgeon, the

NHS, and your prayers. The Easter message is indeed one of thanks for new life.

*Dudley Shipton*

## Our Good Wishes and Thanks

Thomas Winrow-Campbell, our organ scholar, has now completed his time with us.

It has been a privilege to see him develop in skill and confidence in accompanying services. We wish him well for the future as he prepares for his A Levels.



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## **Exciting times for our young people**

Our children and young people have been busy over the last few months.

In March our young people took part in a sailing weekend from just outside Portsmouth to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. Eleven intrepid youth and four (not all so) intrepid adults headed off into the high seas of the Solent. Three boats set sail and soon one was left behind as the other two took off and went to war with food fights and dance battles; eventually we stopped fighting long enough to go in search of the third boat which had taken a much more relaxed approach to sailing. The group enjoyed (that is a strong word, they would have preferred a lie-in!) a sunrise Eucharist in Yarmouth marina on the Sunday morning. It was lovely to share that time together on a crisp morning.

At our March youth night, we attempted to make our own Easter eggs that contained a prayer that we had written. Great fun was had trying to get the melted chocolate to harden in the moulds – with mixed results! Most of us gave up, and those who could eat chocolate just ate the chocolate instead.

In April we held a Stations of the Cross and Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday. It went well, and all eggs were successfully found. On Easter Day another egg hunt was held: the young people went off and found all the eggs in record time with only a small amount of help from me.

Each Sunday we continue to offer youth church, and it has been lovely to have some children attend and learn about the Bible and prayer through crafts and discussion. If anyone would like to know more about what I do, please come and find me or send me an email – I'd love to tell you more!

*Aimee Babbs, Youth Worker*

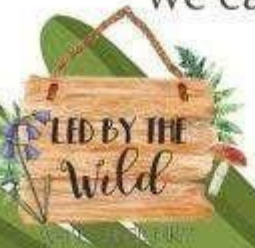


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Website: [ledbythewild.co.uk](http://ledbythewild.co.uk)

You can also find them on Facebook

## The Fairy Trucker

Louis stalks slowly across the pathway in the bright spring sunshine, hackles up and bloodlust in his eyes. He moves with the calm, slow, ease of his ancestors, drawing through millennia the DNA of his wolf forebears. In this moment those wolf characteristics are jammed into a ten-inch-tall terrier frame. With a bow tie on his collar.

The sun hovers directly above the St Leonard's clock tower as the bell strikes one, and directly in front of us as I sit on the bench high up in the churchyard gathering my thoughts. Above my roaring tinnitus I can make out a blackbird and wood pigeon. More distinctly I can hear the gulls as they hang in the air like model planes on a child's ceiling. Sounds of traffic seem not to reach here and the calmness envelopes me. No roaring lorry engine, no radio telling me the world's woes and no satnav directing me to the next drop. Bliss.

Three men of varying ages approach up the path and turn to their right, following the path behind the church. Louis, still intent on his pursuit doesn't notice them and fixes more intently on the four stepped plinths supporting the cross of Edward Andrews. Louis crouches lower and lets out a low rumbling growl. Ah heck. Louis and I are a team and if my little chap is on a mission, so am I. After all, he's been with me all through this week's trials.

I, too, crouch low - well as low as dodgy joints allow - and join Louis. We close in on the plinth and then I see his prey. Hold on Louis. That's a spider. A blooming big one too. The spider is eyeing us with disdain. Louis moves forward to investigate. The spider raises his legs. They look massive. I wouldn't be surprised to see an 'I love Lucy' tattoo and 'Love' and 'Hate' on his knuckles. This looks like a spider not to be messed with. "Are you sure Louis?" Louis looks at me and I can see hesitation creeping in. Obviously this isn't the spider's first rodeo and he picks his moment to press home his advantage perfectly with a quick dart forward. Louis and I turn tail for the safety of the bench. Secure in his win, the spider settles back to enjoy the afternoon planning world domination.

Across the churchyard a butterfly tumbles and a bee bumbles. This is the most perfect of days. My mind wanders back to last Sunday. To last Sunday's service and a day where life didn't seem so perfect. I look to the daffodils, the majority fading now but still a few of the white pheasant-eyed ones retaining their majesty, long with one or two bright yellow double-flowered ones. With shame I remember that I hadn't taken in all the service. I was too caught up in my own emotions and if I'm truthful a large dash of anger. Let me explain.

I have an illness. Relapsing Polychondritis (RP). It's an autoimmune illness that attacks my cartilage. I fell seriously and dangerously ill with it over ten years ago. It cost me my career, my hearing and dented my self-worth. With the help of a top-notch medical team, love and prayer I became well again. Relapsing Polychondritis was no longer a constant cloud on my day, but a problem somewhere over the horizon. I'd flare, get back under control and carry on. Until Christmas, when I fell ill again and I've been fighting it since. It has affected my hands badly and is one of the reasons I've made cakes so much recently, to help maintain joint movement. I confess, the cakes I've made for St Leonard's have been partly selfish! RP is a very rare disease and is poorly understood. There's probably a genetic element combined with environmental. Beyond that, we merely treat the symptoms. Always though is the question 'Why me?'

Louis nestles next to me, his back to the spider. In front of us is the magnificence of the church. Patchwork in build, but with a solidity that makes it appear organic rather than made. A square monument directly in front seems to echo the clock tower. My gaze moves across the rooftops of Hythe and out to sea. The sea is shimmering in the light before eventually combining with the haze making for an indistinct delineation between sky and water. I know if I step forward I will be able to see across to Dungeness and the nuclear power plant. My eyes come back to the churchyard and the lozenge shaped grave caps dotted around. I'm reminded of Pip in *Great Expectations* mentioning the stone lozenges in the graveyard where he meets Abel Magwitch, and their connections to his family.

My dad died when I was 11, way back in 1982. Does an 11-year-old really know his father? I'm not sure I did, but I do know he was a man who forgave easily and had kindness running through him. Along with severe arthritis, and as the family story goes, a medical mishap that left him

nearly blind. Dad refused to sue because it was an honest mistake. I've wondered recently if the arthritis, which had similar symptoms, was actually RP. A fish and chip supper with my elder sister possibly revealed another chapter of the story: Dad, as a national service squaddie, may well have been a nuclear test veteran. Oh Louis. You get DNA from a wolf. It can't but help ask if my DNA was corrupted. I shall never know and I will never pursue it. Dad wouldn't have.



Ants scurry across the lichen-stained stones under my feet and Louis slips off the bench to roll on the grass, luxuriating in the sun on his belly. I think of the chat with Reverend Michael after the service I hadn't concentrated on. I think of an earlier chat with Helen where we had talked about whether or not to put me on the list for prayers. I felt there were a lot more deserving people. I know I had been in prayers this week. Ah blimey. Hay fever always gives me wet eyes. Sometimes we need to accept prayers. Prayers are expressions of that most powerful of human emotions. Love.

Daisies are scattered in the grass like stars in the heavens. I see Mrs B wandering up the path, a bag or two in hand. Louis looks up to see if she has brought a treat for him and then realises he's out of luck so promptly ignores her. Louis isn't a dog that feels he should be forgotten. I realise

that I haven't been forgotten in prayer and that makes me feel so much better. My tinnitus has quietened and the birds sound clearer.

Mrs B comments that I've caught the sun "You've a bit of glow to you!" I laugh. "A nuclear glow?" Mrs B scowls at my poor-taste joke. I ruffle Louis's ears. A shiny beetle dashes across the path and another Beatle comes to mind. All you need is love.

We edge round the spider who glares at us. I bet he's making plans to start a trade war.

"Come on Louis. Let's go and find some tea and cake."

*Robert Booth*



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# SPECIAL EVENTS 2025

## January

1st Mince Pie Specials & Launch of Railway 200 


## February

15th Valentine'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

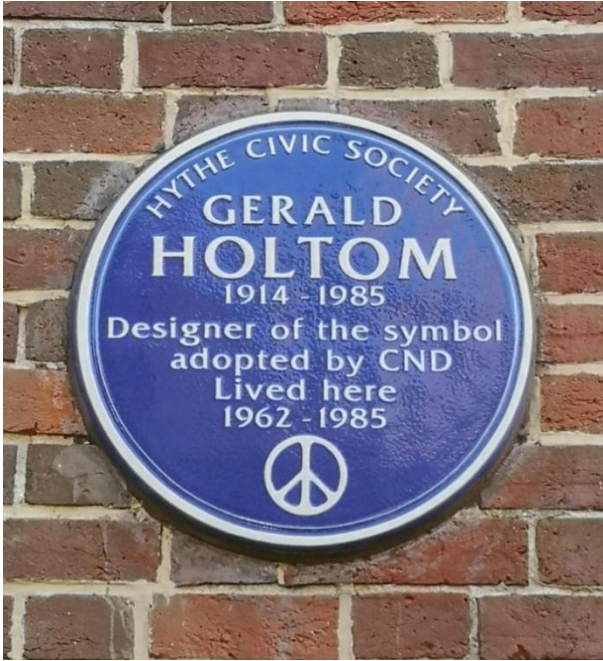
1st-4th Mince Pie Specials  

\*character appearances at intervals on selected dates

# History Corner

## A sign for all time

A blue plaque, commissioned by Hythe Civic Society, has appeared very close to St Leonard's Church at number 5 Hillside Street. The plaque



commemorates Gerald Holtom, the designer of the instantly recognisable symbol of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), who lived there from 1962 to 1985.

In a letter to Hugh Brock, editor of *Peace News*, Gerald explained his idea: 'I was in deep despair. I drew myself with hands out-stretched downward like Goya's peasant before the firing squad. I formalised it into a line drawing with a circle around it'.

In the mid-1950s, anti-nuclear sentiment grew. In November 1957, the writer J. B. Priestley sparked the foundation of CND by calling for unilateral disarmament in the *New Statesman*, prompting a significant reader response that led to the suggestion of a mass protest movement against nuclear weapons.

On 17 February 1958, 5000 people attended the first CND meeting. The initial march to the nuclear bomb factory at Aldermaston in Berkshire soon followed, bringing anti-nuclear campaigning and the new CND symbol to public attention.

Five hundred cardboard signs were made, half being black on white and half white on green. The colours shifted over the weekend, symbolizing 'from Winter to Spring, from Death to Life.' Black and white were shown on Good Friday and Saturday, while green and white appeared on Easter Sunday and Monday.

Today, CND continues its non-violent advocacy to eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, aiming to establish genuine security for future generations. CND opposes all aspects of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, including their

development, manufacture, testing, deployment, and use or threat of use by any country.



*The logo for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is known throughout the world as the Peace Symbol. Designed by Gerald Holtom.*

*Steve Williams*

## **A notable local family**

Near the west door of St Leonard's church, Hythe, stands an impressive table tomb, heavily inscribed on all five surfaces. It marks the last resting place of 11 members of the Andrews/Mackenzie/Douglas family and commemorates five others. The top is now so badly weathered that it is impossible to read, and we only know what was inscribed there thanks to Mr L. L. Duncan, who recorded it in 1891.

It owes its existence to the marriage of Rachel Andrews, a local woman, and Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie. Rachel was an heiress, having come into all her family's money when she was 18. Their fortune was based on tanning. Col. Mackenzie was from an impoverished but aristocratic Scottish family that owned a crumbling castle. They married in 1804, when she was 22 and he was 48.

The family lived in a grand house in Hythe High Street, converted from two other properties, both owned by Rachel. It was on the corner of what is now Douglas Avenue. The house had 14 bedrooms, stabling, and a coach-house. There was an extensive walled garden at the back, but there was one major disadvantage: it was next to a tan yard which Rachel had also inherited. Tanneries stink. It is a peculiarly horrible smell, but perhaps if Rachel had grown up with it, she would have been unconcerned.

When the family was at home, the neighbours knew all about it, as a piper played in the garden while the Mackenzies were at the dinner table. This was a habit of the Scottish aristocracy and one later adopted by Queen Victoria at Balmoral, but it is one thing to hear the pipes in the romantic setting of a remote Highland castle, quite another in a small seaside town in Kent. The local newspaper reported the sound as ‘the weird notes of the Scottish national instrument’.

## **Concerts at St Leonard’s Church**

The year 2024 was yet another busy one of concerts organised by the Friends of St Leonard’s Church, we hosted and supported 25 concerts, recitals and other music events. Amongst these were 11 choral concerts featuring the Shepway Singers (twice), Caritas Chamber Choir, Folkestone Choral Society, the Holst Singers, Canterbury Cathedral Choir, Shepway Voices Community Choir, Lees Court Music, Just Men Singing, the Marsh Choir and Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir. During the annual JAM on the Marsh Multi-arts Festival, held in July, we provided the venue for four different music events and some top-class performances by renowned musicians. We also enjoyed several chamber music and solo instrument recitals – violin, piano, guitar and organ. These were either followed by light lunches in the north transept or preceded by coffee and refreshments – popular and convivial ways to enhance a morning’s musical entertainment.

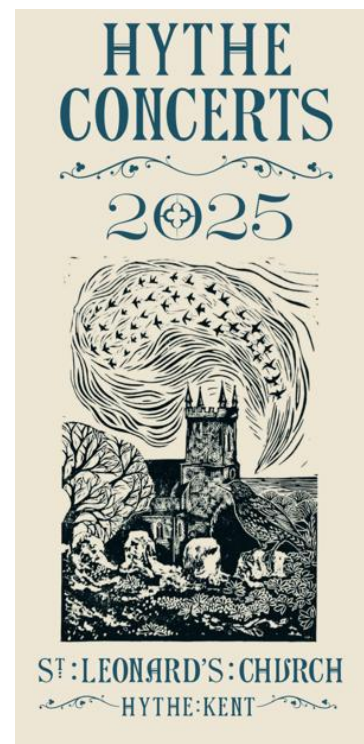
Other concerts and recitals during 2024 included the contrasting music styles of the Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Band of The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment. The year climaxed with the ever-popular ‘Carols for All’ just before Christmas. All in all it was another musically rich and varied year at St Leonard’s Church. The Friends also provided support in March for a live broadcast of BBC Radio 4’s *Any Questions?* programme.

We are, of course, fortunate to be able to offer a wonderful setting together with our splendid Harrison & Harrison organ and our Steinway grand piano. Both these instruments are highly regarded and have been used frequently by visiting performers throughout the course of the year.

The church also possesses a very capable Bechstein grand piano and a chamber organ that are sometimes used to accompany performers.

**Our 2025 programme** again comprises 25 concerts and recitals of various musical genres, including some during this year's JAM on the Marsh Festival from 3 to 13 July. A brochure is now available and being widely distributed (see accompanying illustration).

Already we have held seven concerts this year: a lunchtime piano recital by Ronojit Bhuyan on 14 February; a welcome return of the Orsay Ensemble with Nathan Winters (clarinet) on 1 March; the 'Bohemian Café' duo on 15 March; a stunning piano recital by Francis Grier on 23 March; a most impressive concert by Simon Langton A-level music students on 1 April; a very entertaining lunchtime cabaret-style concert of vintage cabaret songs on 12 April, and a concert of Holy Week music beautifully performed by the Shepway Singers on Good Friday.



Larger audiences would have been welcomed at some of these events, which were diverse and musically first rate. This is one of our challenges when so much other good music is now available elsewhere in the local area. However, do please come and support the future programme of concerts organised by the Friends of St Leonard's Church, since this is also a means to raise funds for the maintenance, repair, enhancement and beautification of our handsome and historic church building.

*Brin Hughes*

*Chairman & Concert Manager of Friends of St Leonard's Church*

### **Friends of St Leonard's Church**

For more information about the *Friends of St Leonard's Church* contact Brin Hughes: ☎ 01303 264470 or email: [brin.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:brin.hughes@btinternet.com) or visit: [www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk)



What's on in

# May

at Lympne Castle



### Castle Book Club

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Cosy up with your favourite book in front of our roaring open fires.

Bar opens at 6pm.

Silent reading from 7pm.

No booking required

### Music Bingo

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May

4 games - £1 per game

Match the songs played to those on your bingo card and compete for fabulous prizes.

Gather your friends and family for a fantastically fun evening!

### Curry and Quiz Night

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**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)**

### V<sup>E</sup> Day Celebration

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Join us from 3pm to commemorate this historic date.**

**V<sup>E</sup> Day Beacon lighting at 9.30pm**

**We shall also be celebrating National Fish and Chips Day**

**£16 per meal**

### Lympne Castle Garden Open Day

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Come and explore the beautiful gardens

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Adults £10 Children Free

Dogs welcome

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### Sunday Roasts

4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May

12:00 - 16:00

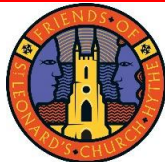
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## CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

(May – July 2025)

**Friday 9 May, 12 noon**

**Stephen Banfield** *organ*

**JS Bach** *Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543* ♦ *Trio Sonata No 6 in G major, BWV530*  
*Chorale Prelude on "Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr", BWV662* ♦ *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV582*

**Saturday 31 May, 11.00am**

**Ariodante Ensemble:**

**Sarah Hale** *soprano* ♦ **Stelios Chatziiosifidis** *violin/viola* ♦ **Anthony Halstead** *piano*

**Richard Strauss** *Morgen* ♦ **Haydn** *Cantata: Arianna a Naxos* ♦ **Hindemith** *Trauermusik*  
**Brahms** *Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer, Op 105 No 2* ♦ *Wie Melodien zieht es mir, Op 105, No 1*  
**Brahms** *Violin Sonata No 2 in A major, Op 100*

**Sunday 15 June, 3.00pm**

**Caritas Chamber Choir**

"Dawn to Dusk": varied choral music from **Tallis** to **Jonathan Dove**

**Saturday 28 June, 7.30pm**

**Folkestone Choral Society**

"Great Choral Classics"

**Monday 7 July, 7.00pm**

**Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra**

### JAM ON THE MARSH

**Friday 4 July, 7.00pm**

**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*

**Belle Époque** organ recital

**Friday 11 July, 7.00pm**

**The Chapel Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge**

with **Onyx Brass** and a local multi-generational choir

conducted by **Sarah MacDonald**

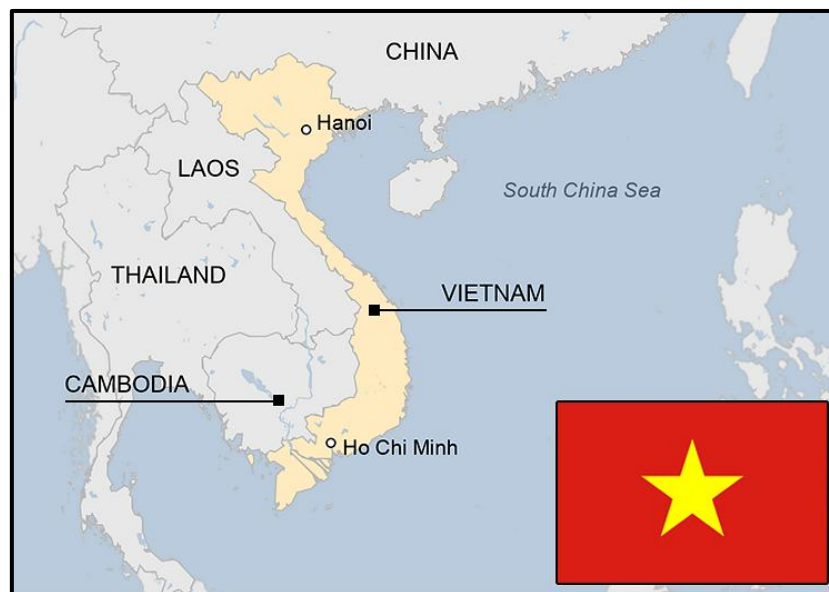
**Mealor** *The Farthest Shore*

## Ngôn ngữ độc đáo của Việt Nam (The unique language of Vietnam)

My wife and I recently travelled on vacation to Vietnam. Among the many wonderful surprises we encountered, it was the written language of Vietnam that intrigued us both.

Given its geographical location it is no surprise that the language of Vietnam has a rich history. Although the roots of Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt) lie in the Austroasiatic language family, it has evolved significantly over time through contact with various powers, particularly China and, much later on, European colonial forces.

Curiously, one of the most significant developments in the history of the Vietnamese language was the role of French missionaries in creating the current Latin-based writing system known as *quốc ngữ*.



Before the arrival of Europeans, Vietnamese was primarily written using classical Chinese characters (*chữ Hán*), and later a system that employed adapted Chinese characters (*chữ Nôm*) to represent native Vietnamese words. While the adapted language facilitated a more accurate representation of Vietnamese speech, it was complex and difficult to learn, limiting literacy mainly to the elite.

European missionaries began arriving in Vietnam in the 17th century. This proved to be a turning point for the language. Alexandre de Rhodes, a French Jesuit missionary, played a central role in the development of *quốc ngữ*

*ngữ*. Building on the earlier work of Portuguese and Italian missionaries, de Rhodes helped to codify a Romanized script for Vietnamese. This system used the Latin script with additional diacritics to capture the tonal nature of Vietnamese, making it more accessible and easier to learn than *chữ Nôm*.

The French colonial administration promoted *quốc ngữ* as a tool for spreading Western education and as part of their broader efforts to undermine Chinese influence and traditional Confucian institutions.

By the early 20th century, *quốc ngữ* had become the dominant writing system in Vietnam. It played a significant role in the rise of nationalism and the spread of literacy, especially as it was used in newspapers, literature, and revolutionary publications. Today, *quốc ngữ* is the official script of Vietnamese, and the influence of the French missionaries remains a key chapter in its linguistic history. Their efforts inadvertently helped modernize and unify the Vietnamese language, shaping its development into the present day.

Guy Sharrock



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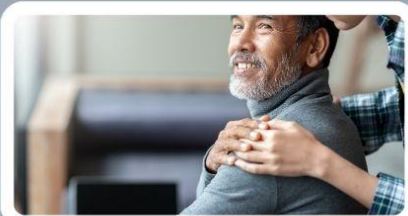
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**Tel:** 01303 242085

**Mobile:** 07976 654486

# Parish Directory

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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Christine Blackman	01303 269179	<a href="mailto:bryanblackman26@gmail.com">bryanblackman26@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director of Music</b>	Anita Jones		<a href="mailto:MusicalDirector@slhythe.com">MusicalDirector@slhythe.com</a>
<b>Bell-ringers</b>	Nigel Spencer	01303 260524	<a href="mailto:np_mjs@btinternet.com">np_mjs@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Friends of St Leonard's Church</b>	Brinley Hughes	01303 264470	<a href="mailto:brin.hughes@btinternet.com">brin.hughes@btinternet.com</a>

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**Methodist Minister** Revd Adrian Roux 07721 006800 [revadrianroux@outlook.com](mailto:revadrianroux@outlook.com)

**Local Preacher** Dudley Shipton 01303 487388 [dbshipton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dbshipton@tiscali.co.uk)

**Safeguarding Lead** Christine Porter 07549 998977 [ceporter1@talktalk.net](mailto: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

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