

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Photo: Joanne Hill

Renewal and Hope

May and June 2026

No 940

£1

Meet the Team



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Associate Priest



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Submission deadline for the next issue: **15 June 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

Curate's letter from Revd Dr Anderson Yan

Dear Friends,

Spirit and Justice in Luke–Acts; Mission in Hythe this Pentecost

Time seems to pass more quickly than we expect. It hardly feels long ago that I was ordained deacon, yet I still vividly remember two things that have stayed with me ever since. The first was the bishop's prayer: 'You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God.' The second was Bishop Rose's exhortation to look carefully at what God is calling his Church to be and to do in the Diocese of Canterbury – a place of arrival for many refugees and asylum seekers.

As we journey from Eastertide towards Pentecost, I have found myself returning to these words and reflecting on what they might mean for us here in Hythe. In particular, I have been drawn again to the Gospel of Luke and its companion volume, the Acts of the Apostles – texts we have been exploring together over the past six months in our *Growing in Faith and Fellowship* home group.

One of the things that has become increasingly clear in our study is that Luke places a distinctive emphasis on two closely related themes: the work of the Holy Spirit and God's concern for those on the margins. More than any other Gospel writer, Luke highlights how the Spirit is active – guiding, empowering, and sustaining both Jesus and, later, the Church. From the very beginning, we see the Spirit at work: in Simeon recognising the Christ child, at Jesus' baptism, and in the wilderness where Jesus is led and strengthened for his ministry.

At the same time, Luke consistently draws our attention to those whom society often overlooks or excludes – the poor, women, tax collectors, sinners and foreigners. Again and again, Jesus is shown not simply acknowledging such people, but welcoming them, restoring them, and sharing life with them. He is, quite plainly, their friend.

What is striking, however, is that these two themes – Spirit and justice – are never separate. Whenever Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, reaches

out to restore someone on the margins, there is also resistance. Acts of healing, forgiveness and inclusion are not always received with joy; they often provoke discomfort, criticism, and even opposition.

This pattern does not end with the Gospel. In Acts, we see it continue in the life of the early Church. The same Spirit who empowered Jesus at the beginning of his ministry is poured out at Pentecost, now empowering the Church to carry that mission forward. The Church becomes, in a sense, the continuation of Jesus' Spirit-filled work in the world. It is perhaps for this reason that Luke–Acts has held such an important place within Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions, with their strong emphasis on the Spirit, as well as within Liberation theology, with its focus on justice and the dignity of the oppressed. There is much within these traditions that I deeply admire – their passion, their conviction, and their desire to see lives transformed.

And yet, I also find myself wanting to approach Luke–Acts with certain care. A purely literal reading can sometimes risk overlooking the complexity of people's lives and the need for pastoral sensitivity. Equally, while the desire for social transformation is both right and necessary, history reminds us that change pursued without the Spirit's guidance can easily lose its way. This is why I am drawn to Jesus' words in Luke 4, where he reads from the prophet Isaiah: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.' Here, Jesus sets out his mission – to bring good news to the poor, freedom to captives, sight to the blind, and release to the oppressed. It is, if you like, a manifesto – but one that is inseparable from the presence and power of the Spirit. And in Acts, this same Spirit is given to the Church so that this mission might continue.

So what might this mean for us, here in Hythe? Perhaps it begins with a simple but profound calling: to be a place of refuge. A church should be more than a building or a meeting; it should be a sanctuary – an oasis in a world that can often feel harsh, demanding and isolating. In a time when the cost of living continues to rise and many feel the pressure of uncertainty and anxiety, the need for such a space is greater than ever.

We are also living in a time when division can easily take root. Extremism and forms of nationalism sometimes present themselves in ways that appear to be shaped by Christian language, yet the message of Luke–Acts reminds us that the salvation and liberation offered by Christ are for

all people, without exception. To live this out is not always easy. In fact, if Luke's account teaches us anything, it is that genuine hospitality and inclusion will at times be met with resistance. To become a truly welcoming community – to open our doors and our lives to those who are different from us, those who struggle, those who are overlooked – will inevitably challenge us. And this brings us back to where we began: we cannot do this in our own strength.

The mission of the Church is not sustained by our energy alone, nor by our best intentions, but by the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit who gives us courage when we feel uncertain, wisdom when we feel unsure, and compassion when we are tempted to turn inward. In this Pentecost season, then, my prayer is a simple one: 'Come, Holy Spirit.' Come and renew us. Come and empower us. Come and enable us to speak truth with grace, to act with courage, and to love with generosity.

May we, as a church here in Hythe, be shaped more deeply by that Spirit – so that we might become a community where justice and mercy meet, where all are truly welcome, and where God's transforming love can be known.

Revd Dr Anderson Yan

Calendar of Events			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Event</i>
Friday 1 st May	9:30-11:30	St Leonard's	TLC (Toddler Group)
Thursday 7 th May	7pm	St Leonard's	Deanery Synod
Thursday 14 th May	11am	St Leonard's	Ascension Day Eucharist
Thursday 21 st May	6pm	St Leonard's	APCM
Wednesday 27 th May	10-1:30	St Leonard's	Holiday Club
Thursday 28 th May	7pm	101 Open Door	Opening the Door Course
Saturday 30 th May	6-8pm	St Leonard's	Youth Night
Thursday 4 th June	7pm	101 Open Door	Opening the Door Course
Thursday 11 th June	7pm	101 Open Door	Opening the Door Course
Thursday 18 th June	7pm	101 Open Door	Opening the Door Course
Thursday 25 th June	7pm	101 Open Door	Opening the Door Course
Saturday 27 th June	6-8pm	Holy Cross	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.

THE PARISH OF
ST LEONARD HYTHE

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

Contact Anita Jones
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From the Editor

As the Easter season continues into Pentecost and beyond, we pray for 'hope in a fragile world' (page 9): for the liberating Spirit of God to renew us, empower us, and enable us 'to speak truth with grace, to act with courage, and to love with generosity' (page 6).

And there is much to give thanks for, especially in the continuing good news from our young people. See page 10 for a joyful account of the youth choir's visit to the cathedral to welcome our new Archbishop. We pray for all our young people, especially for any facing important exams this summer, for the Friends who support St Leonard's so faithfully (page 14), and for all the work and witness of our parish.

Joanne Hill, on behalf of the Hythe Parish Review team

The Church Door

'O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. Make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom.'

I came across this prayer whilst preparing my intercessions. It was written by Thomas Ken (1637–1711), Bishop of Bath and Wells, who wrote a number of hymns and was an early collector of them. The wording speaks as a metaphor for a good mission statement!

Roger Taylor

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 South Africa

Creator God

Give us a heart for simple things:
love and laughter
bread and wine
tales and dreams.

Fill our lives
with green and growing hope;
make us a people of justice
whose song is Alleluiah
and whose name breathes love.

From 'Pocket Prayers for Troubled Times', Church House Publishing, 2009

Thoughts from St Michael's



The celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the new life of Easter seemed to be greatly marred this year by the conflicts of war around the world. Gaza destroyed and in pieces, Lebanon attacked by rockets from Israel, the Holy Land, where traditional Christian processions on Palm Sunday and Easter Day were banned. The United States of America bombarded Iran trying to use its military might to remove despotic rule and liberate its people. The Middle Eastern States then came under attack from Iran. The Russians continued to be at war with Ukraine and there was political trauma around the world. Civilians, including many children and whole families died in the rubble of conflict or became homeless refugees.

Meanwhile a few days later Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch, Jeremy Hanson and Victor Glover were blasted into Space in Integrity II, the Orion spacecraft flew on a ten-day mission around the moon and back to safety. As a NASA spokesman said 'If you cannot take love to the stars then what are we doing, like, why would we even go?'

This season of Easter and Pentecost assures us we are loved, not alone, and worth rescuing. Maybe the success of the Space Mission gives us hope in a fragile world. Writing from his Nazi prison cell, the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer argued that only a suffering God can help.

Dudley Shipton

News from our young people

Easter joy and celebration at the cathedral

Holiday clubs In the last issue I wrote that we were preparing for our Half Term Holiday Club. Over 25 children had great fun with our panto, racing around the church tossing pancakes (which was surprisingly competitive) and burying the alleluias which have now risen! And they ate lots of yummy pancakes.

This time as I write we are preparing for our Easter Holiday Club. We will be overcoming obstacles, singing songs, retelling the Easter story, making sun catchers and playing games. It should be a fun day as always.

A very special occasion On 28 March our young people were privileged to spend the day in Canterbury at the Diocesan Young Vocations Day and the Welcome Service for Archbishop Sarah. The day started with Eucharist led by Revd Michael and Bishop Rose; we had a surprise visit from Archbishop Sarah who was then quizzed by some of our young people. Sarah was asked questions like: 'Why do you believe in God?', 'What is your favourite food?' and 'What is your favourite animal?'



After lunch we joined in some workshops including one on Singing and Everyday Ministry. Our youth choir then went over for rehearsals for the service. The welcome service was a wonderful event; our youth choir sang beautifully. It was a joy for our choir to be invited to take part and to

see so many from the congregation there to support Archbishop Sarah and our choir.

Easter The sun was shining, the church was full and it was a great way to celebrate our risen Lord. In Sunday school we made eggs that shared the journey through Holy Week from Palm Sunday. We then had an Easter Egg hunt . . . 45 cardboard eggs were hidden around the church, 44 were found. I did not hide all the eggs so, unfortunately I don't know where the last one is, but if you find it then I owe you an egg!

Prayer chain During our January all-age service I had the idea to start a prayer chain and to have it ready for Easter. Over the last few months prayers have been added by our young people and members of the congregation. On Holy Saturday two clergy, a church warden, two members of the congregation and the youth worker created comedy gold by hanging our prayer chain across the church. Now this in theory should have been an easy task, but it really wasn't. However, our chain is now up, and it is a blessing to see a physical reminder of our prayers and how powerful they can be. Each prayer is a private moment with God, but some of the themes include family, friends, the people of St Leonard's and Hythe, health concerns, the current global unrest and world peace. Thank you to everyone who wrote a prayer for our chain.

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

The following is from Lex who took part:

'Singing in the choir at Canterbury Cathedral is a great honour, in itself. But to sing at the welcome ceremony of the new Archbishop of Canterbury is a once in a lifetime opportunity! The workshop was so much fun too. We discussed why music is important for our well-being and how it keeps us close to God. I feel privileged to have been a part of such an inspiring day!'

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

Concerts at St Leonard's Church

The Friends of St Leonard's Church came into being in 1981 and so has been in existence for some 45 years. As a reminder, we are an independent organisation with charitable status and the defined aim of "promoting the care, restoration, preservation, repair, improvement and beautification of the Parish Church and its fabric, fittings, organ, pianos, furniture, monuments and stained glass". Because of the church's long-established choral tradition, its musical assets and superb ambience and acoustics, fund-raising has mainly been through organisation of concerts.

2025 concert programme

Last year's programme was yet another busy and varied one for music organised by the Friends of St Leonard's Church, during which we hosted and supported 25 concerts, recitals and other music events. Amongst these were eight choral concerts featuring the BBC Singers, The Chapel Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge (both during the annual *JAM on the Marsh Festival*), Shepway Singers, Caritas Chamber Choir (twice), Folkestone Choral Society, Lees Court Music, and our own Choirs of St Leonard's Church during the traditional 'Carols for All' concert. We also enjoyed several chamber music and solo instrument (violin, piano, flute, guitar and organ) recitals usually 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 2025 included vintage cabaret songs, Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School Year 13 music students, singer Jason Lee performing 'The Showman Goes On' and the contrasting music styles of the Hythe Town Concert Band (celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Hythe Civic Society), Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra and a gala military concert by The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment with the Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir.

We continue to experiment with different start times and concert durations to determine what best suits our audiences at St Leonard's Church.

Generally speaking, earlier start times of 6.00pm or 7.00pm are favoured by both concertgoers and performers, especially those who may have considerable distances to travel home afterwards. Shorter concerts of an hour and a half or less, sometimes without an interval, are also appreciated, while coffee morning or lunchtime recitals are popular, too. We have taken these preferences into account in planning our 2026 programme. In addition we have scheduled four Saturday and Sunday afternoon concerts.

2026 concert programme

We have a full programme of 23 concerts and recitals of various musical genres organised through until the end of 2026 but including only one concert during this year's shortened *JAM on the Marsh Festival* during 8-12 July. A trifold brochure listing all these concerts is now in course of widespread distribution. The cover design with another lovely illustration by Catherine Winters is shown alongside. The delay in it not being available sooner has been due to the difficulty of pinning down dates and programme details of some concerts, especially those in the second half of the year.



Already we have held eight concerts this year: a lunchtime piano recital by Ronojit Bhuyan on 20 February; a welcome return of the Orsay Ensemble with Nathan Winters (clarinet) on 1 March; the 'Just Men Singing' male voice choir on 15 March; another superb piano recital by Francis Grier on 22 March; a concert by Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School's impressively talented A-level music students on Thursday 26 March; the Shepway Singers performing Herbert Howell's *Requiem* and other music for Holy Week music on Good Friday, 3 April; a vintage cabaret musical entertainment, "A Special Relationship", on Saturday 18 April; and an organ recital by Gerard Brooks (Past President of the Royal College of Organists) on 1 May. However, we would have welcomed larger audiences at each of these events, which were diverse and first-

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rate musically. This is one of our challenges when so much other good

music is now available elsewhere – and frequently on clashing dates – in the local area.

Financial

We hope our efforts have given pleasure and enjoyment to our audiences. Financially they resulted in an overall net profit of £7,204 (including a very useful element from bar sales before and during concerts) during the Friends' 2025 financial year (1 January to 31 December), which goes towards funding repairs to the fabric of the church and its contents. Late last year saw the installation of a long-awaited extension to our bar/servery, comprising a new unit housing a refrigerator and dish-washing machine against the west wall behind the original servery. This was funded largely by the Friends to the tune of £8,157 (excluding the appliances) and is much welcomed by those involved in our bar operations (and also by other church users who serve drinks and refreshments after church services and special events). During the past financial year, the Friends paid to the church a total of £24,798.27 (including the cost of the servery extension), the difference between these figures being a major contribution to the cost of glazing repairs recommended in the 2023 Quinquennial inspection report. Altogether during the past nine years, the Friends have contributed over £60,000 to the PCC to cover various essential repairs to the organ, wooden flooring and church clock plus purchases of specialised items such as bell ropes, additional staging sections, an adjustable height organ bench and the servery extension.

Do please support the Friends by attending our concerts and in so doing help to support our parish church financially – as well as enjoying some wonderful musical performances and entertainment!



Brin Hughes

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



Friends of St Leonard's Church – Executive Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of the *Friends of St Leonard's Church* held on 23 March 2026 Revd Michael Darkins was reaffirmed as President and the following re-elected to be Honorary Officers:

Brinley Hughes – Chairman (*and Concert Manager*)

Graham Johnson – Treasurer

Janet Hughes – Secretary

Other elected members of the Executive Committee are:

Dr Berkeley Hill BEM

Jim Bryant

Marilyn Johnson (*Membership Secretary*)

Anita Jones

Roger Taylor

Diana Ward

Nathan Winters

Dr Berkeley Hill, Brinley Hughes and Graham Johnson are nominated Trustees of *The Friends* charity (registered number 282249).

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

Book review: *The Interior Silence* by Sarah Sands (Short Books, 2022)

I was recommended this book by a friend and I would now highly recommend it to Review readers. Sarah had a very high-powered job as a BBC journalist working on the *Today* programme in London, which involved early-morning starts and her phone bleeping incessantly. But her home was in the countryside of Norfolk and at the bottom of her garden were the remains of a wall belonging to an old Cistercian monastery called Marham Abbey – one of many destroyed in the time of Henry VIII.

These stones were the springboard of a remarkable journey as she decided to find out more about monastic life worldwide. Her own life seemed to be crying out for this different, peaceful way of living which the monks inhabited – a time to keep silence.

First Sarah, with her daughter, goes to Japan to a Buddhist monastery, wanting to find out about finding enlightenment through meditation. Arriving there, to her consternation she finds she can't buy a charger for her phone, although she is later supplied one by a monk. She is tempted to follow Twitter! The beautiful gardens encourage meditation and she feels she has reached the first stage of enlightenment as has a new harmony with her daughter.

Her next visit is to a monastery in Assisi, Italy founded by St Francis. His life-history and lifestyle are well known, as is his belief that nature should be a perpetual source of wonder. Sarah learns to really listen to birdsong, and the value of fasting.

Next she travels to Montserrat in Catalonia, Spain where she is profoundly moved by a statue of a Black Madonna. It sounds the most idyllic setting, high up in the mountains – but a bit touristy with cars and coaches in evidence. The monks here are less strict but still live simple and ordered lives.

Her next visit, in contrast, is to Egypt, the land of the desert fathers where monasticism began. Here she seeks the silence of the desert – the hush of heaven. It is chilling that the monastery has to have security guards around it as the Copts live with the threat of Islamic cruelty and violence. Sarah's only attack is from the mosquitos, having left a window open at night because it was so hot.

Her next visit is to Bhutan in the Himalayas – a small country living out what the world needs to do to combat climate change and global warming. The secret of their happiness is to live in harmony with nature and to be happy with what they've got. Living in such idyllic surroundings makes these aims seem easier. The monks here start at a very young age and enjoy playing football.

Sarah's further travels were interrupted in March 2020 by Covid and the resulting lockdowns. While much of the world shut down monasteries

continued in their customary routines and semi-isolation. So Sarah has more lessons to learn away from family and friends 'locked down' in her Norfolk home. Once again birdsong becomes comforting – just being outside with nature. She researches the Cistercian monasticism to which her wall belonged, and a nearby Carmelite nunnery where she was later able to go on retreat – learning that the less we have, the less we need.

When allowed to travel again Sarah books into a Cistercian monastery in southern France founded on the teaching of St Bernard of Clairvaux, a life of separation from the world. The monks speak as little as possible but they do sing psalms. In the chapel she finds both stillness and peace, all in the most beautiful surroundings.

With a second wave of Covid again making travel difficult, Sarah decides to go to Lindisfarne, Holy Island in Northumberland. Here, between tides, she walks round the island and absorbs Celtic monasticism.

Her penultimate visit is to Austria and Nonnberg Abbey, made famous by *The Sound of Music* and its heroine Maria, a one-time nun there. She finds Salzburg to be a mixture of that film and Mozart, but is able to join the nuns in the Abbey for a service of communion which is a world away from all the commercialism.

Sarah's final visit is to Mount Athos in Greece where there are both monasteries and convents. They have become a tourist attraction in themselves, something accepted by the monks who hope their values will have rubbed off once visitors have left.

So what are the values that she sought and found? Her final sentence in the book is a resolution to be attentive to the interior silence – 'silent' is an anagram of 'listen', she notes. It is all so different from her working life – which by now she has decided to leave. She doesn't say much about the beauty of chanting plainsong in the services she attends, but it is interesting that there is now often music broadcast to 'unwind' stressed-out people, and programmes about the natural world. I am reminded, too, that Elijah heard the voice of God, not in loud noise, but in quiet calm.

June Le Maître

Upcoming

Events



at Lympne Castle



Sunday 3rd May - Castle Gardens Open Day - 10:00am - 4:00pm

In association with the National Garden Scheme, take a wander through our beautiful Ornamental, Orchard and Castle gardens.

Adults - £10 Children - Free Dogs Welcome

Tickets available from ngs.org.uk or on the day at the castle



Monday 4th May - Busy Bee Adventure - 11:00am - 12:00pm

From tiny wings to colourful petals, we're learning how the smallest creatures make the biggest difference to our planet in this wonderfully fun workshop.

Perfect for children aged 5-11

£15 per child



Thursday 21st May - 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 or watch the sunset on the terrace.

Free entry. Socialising optional.



Thursday 11th June - 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



Opening Hours

The Good Knight and Castle

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

The Naughty Dog

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



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

Thoughts on Christianity or ‘Christianity’

I usually find the colour supplement of our Sunday newspaper holds no interest for me, being too full of advice about fashion or home improvements. None to my taste. Just recently, however, as I flicked through the pages my eye caught an article that seemed more interesting than what I normally encounter. It was about a woman called Lamorna Ash, of about 30 years of age, who has written a book called *Don't Forget We're Here Forever*. She spent three years researching into the relationship that young people in this country have with religion. While doing so she also found herself examining her own relationship with faith and religion and how she fluctuated between loss of faith and then rediscovering it.

I have not, as yet, read the book, since I only discovered it from this recent article, but the summary of its content was enough to stir up thoughts about my own relationship with faith. I'm sure I'm not alone in sometimes questioning what I was brought up to believe. Faith, though, does not depend on fact and scientific proof and I feel that questioning my faith is healthy. It really makes me try to think so much harder about what I believe. Back to Lamorna Ash; it is interesting to note that each time she found her faith again was when she encountered a group of Christians. And here is something that is so significant in our own journeys of faith. We need the support and love of other people to fuel and maintain it.

But the very next day there were articles in my daily newspaper that I found very disturbing. These were about the extreme right-wing ‘Christians’ who seem to have taken on the title ‘Christian’ to give credibility to what they actually believe. This isn't, of course, breaking news. We've heard before that the thinking of these groups in no way encompasses the central core of Christianity – love, respect and compassion for the whole of humanity – but is entirely the opposite. Adherents to such thinking seem to distort what they say God is telling them to do in order to justify their actions of aggression and seeking for power over others. This becomes a platform for spreading hatred towards any whose lives and beliefs are contrary to their own, instead of trying to understand and respect other ways of thinking.

To quote one of these articles: 'Throughout the Gospels, of course, accounts of Jesus's taboo-breaking encounters with reviled outsiders of every description make precisely the same point' (*Guardian* editorial, 6 April 2026). As we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter we must counter these malicious movements and show that it is dialogue and peaceful interaction with those who have different ways of thinking that will overcome hatred and revenge. And so, as Lamorna Ash found, we know, as Christians, that working together and supporting each other is the most powerful of tools. It is the might of people held together by true and honest respect for everyone that will surely overcome all else.

Jane Spencer

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Gerard Brooks (organ)

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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, 11.00am

Oliver Nelson (violin) & Vasilis Rakitzis (piano)

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

Thursday 11 June, 7.30pm

Huw Watkins (pianist/composer)

Works by **Schumann, Debussy, Huw Watkins, Ravel, John Woolrich, Stravinsky, Oliver Knussen**

Saturday 27 June, 3.00pm

Folkestone Choral Society

Summer Concert – Music on the lighter side

Monday 6 July, 7.00pm

Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra

Thursday 9 July, 7.00pm

JAM on the Marsh

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

Beethoven Sonata No 1 in F minor

Debussy Petite Suite for Piano 4 hands

Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition

Hudson [tbc – world premiere]

Saturday 18 July, 4.00pm

The choir of the International Children's Choir Festival

Works by **Chillcott, Schutz**

Saturday 25 July, 11.30am

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

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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.

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