

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Advent Crown at St Michael's

Remembrance and Advent November and December 2025

No 937

£1

Meet the Team



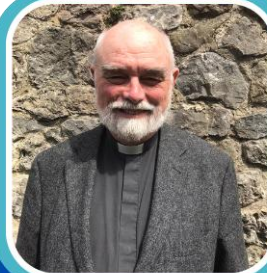
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Revd Dr Anderson Yan
Curate



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Methodist Minister



Revd Dr Michael Chandler
Associate Priest



Revd Canon David Russell
Associate Priest



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Submission deadline for the next issue: **2 January 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

3rd Sunday 11am: Healing and Wholeness

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

ST MICHAEL'S METHODIST-ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTRE

Rampart Road, CT21 5BG

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

11.00am Holy Communion – 2nd & 4th Sunday

Wednesdays

11.00am Midweek Communion at St Michael's

HOLY CROSS, Jubilee Avenue, Palmarsh, CT21 6NQ

Fifth Sunday of the month: 11.30am: Family Eucharist

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

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

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

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

Our vision is:

'We aim to be an ever-more welcoming, inclusive, and caring Christian community that reaches out to all, thankful to God who draws us together and gives us life in all its fullness.'

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

Curate's letter from Revd Dr Anderson Yan

Dear Friends,

The Heart of Advent

How scary is the thought that we're approaching the end of another year! For many of us, it might be a very busy time planning for family reunion over Christmas, cooking traditional dishes, all that shopping, beautiful carol singing and so on. Whilst celebration with family and loved ones is something to look forward to after a busy year with many challenges, we may end up losing touch with the heart of Advent. For over two millennia, Christians have understood this season to be a time of preparation for Christ's triple coming through his incarnation as a fragile baby, his constant presence in the Eucharist and his return. Hope, peace, joy and love are expectations which not only permeate and revolve around Advent, but they are also central to this season in the sense that these virtues prepare the world for Christ's coming at Christmas, helping us to reflect on Jesus' life and ministry.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke present the stories of Jesus' infancy from different perspectives, and I'd like to share some thoughts, particularly on Luke 1–2 since it provides us with three prayers which are part of our daily worship: the *Benedictus* (1:68-79), the *Magnificat* (1:46-55) and the *Nunc Dimittis* (2:29-32). All of them stress the themes of expectation, God's faithfulness and the Messiah's birth. But unlike Matthew, Luke presents Jesus' birth narrative entangled with John the Baptist's birth in a way that the latter plays the role of forerunner of the former. What is interesting, however, is the remarkable parallels drawn by Luke between Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25), and Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 15:1–18:16), as both couples find themselves in a hopeless situation in old age without any heir. As the Messiah's forerunner, John is filled with the Spirit to bring the people to God in Elijah's spirit; one of the most evident associations between John and Elijah is their courage to confront issues of speaking truth to power. In other words, both Elijah and John faithfully fulfil their prophetic role in denouncing injustice. Not only is this an essential part of the gospel, but this is also part of our call as forerunners of Christ in times of extreme

inequality and intolerance as we wait in hope for his return to reign with justice! Matthew's version highlights the fulfilment of the promised Messiah as the Jewish Davidic King worshipped by the wise men; in contrast, Luke's account emphasises Jesus' humble birth with the good news announced to a peasant woman far from the urban capital centre accompanied by modest shepherds elevating her to a position of honour. This theme of reversal, which turns the World upside down, where the humble are looked after with favour, is a recurrent motif in Luke and a poignant reminder of God's future liberation.

Mary's answer to her calling enabled her to be a channel of God's promise and powerful transformation by the Spirit, which is not confined to the past but transcends it to reach our present time as well. My prayer is that during Advent the Spirit may kindle the fire in our hearts to answer God's calling promptly as Mary and John did.

From the Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of Hythe Parish Review, one that covers two significant seasons of the year. The first is one of fond and grateful memories, as we move from All Saints' to Remembrance Sunday (page 21). Then, all too soon, the new church year begins with Advent, and our preparations for Christmas begin in earnest.

Perhaps, in our busyness, we may lose sight of the importance of Advent. In his first letter for us as curate (page 4), the Revd Dr Anderson Yan has provided a welcome reflection on its deeper meaning. For church events over Christmas itself, see pages 6 and 24; it is good to know that St Leonard's will be supporting Josh White, a local trainee pilot with MAF, through its Christmas raffle with exciting prizes generously donated by local businesses. You can read Josh's inspiring story on page 23; and do support Hythe businesses in turn by shopping locally for your presents!

We wish all our readers and advertisers a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

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 7 th November	9:30- 11:30am	St Leonard's	TLC (Toddler Group)
Sunday 9 th November	10:45am	Hythe War Memorial	Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 22 nd November	7pm	St Leonard's	Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment & Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir Concert
Saturday 29 th November	9:30am- 2:30pm	St Leonard's	St Leonard's Christmas Fair
Sunday 30 th November	6:30pm	St Leonard's	Advert Carol Service
Friday 5 th December	9:30- 11:30am	St Leonard's	TLC (Toddler Group)
Friday 5 th December	6pm	Hythe Town Square	Nativity Tableau & Carol Singing
Saturday 13 th Dec	7pm	St Leonard's	The Laudate Choir Concert
Sunday 14 th December	3pm	St Leonard's	Trees of Love Carol Service <i>supporting Pilgrims Hospices</i>
Tuesday 16 th Dec	6pm	St Leonard's	KS2 Carol Concert
Thursday 18 th Dec	10am	St Leonard's	School Christmas Service
Sunday 21 st December	5pm	Hythe Bay	Christingle Service
Tuesday 23 rd December	10am- 12pm	St Leonard's	Children's Christmas Singing Workshop
Saturday 20 th December	7pm	St Leonard's	Carols for All Concert
Sunday 21 st December	11am	St Michael's	Carol Service
Wednesday 24 th December	4pm	St Leonard's	The Christmas Story Crib Service
Wednesday 24 th Dec	6:30pm	Holy Cross	Christmas Eve Eucharist
Wednesday 24 th December	11:30pm	St Leonard's	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th December	8am	St Leonard's	BCP Holy Communion
Thursday 25 th December	9:30am	St Leonard's	Christmas Day Eucharist <i>with children's church</i>
Thursday 25 th December	11am	Hythe URC Church	Combined Methodist-URC Christmas Service

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 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 Dr 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 Children and families at Christmas
- 30 All who serve in our armed forces
- 31 Those parts of the world suffering from famine and natural disasters

A prayer for Advent

Lord of light, alert us to the hope of banishing darkness so that we may be open to the coming of your Son.

May we also have our eyes opened to the end time, ready and expectant, always prepared.

Let the energy of your mighty power dazzle and refresh us, as you bring us your love and peace, mercy and grace, expectation and anticipation.

Amen

Rupert Bristow, *999 Prayers*, Kevin Mayhew, 2015

Tea

Laugh Chat



Parents, Carers,

Babies &

Toddlers Group

St Leonard's Church

9.30 – 11.30am

1st Friday of every month

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

For further information contact Helen on 07927 277615 or Avril on
07807288143

Free of charge

Thoughts from St Michael's

The glories of autumn give us appointments to fulfil. For some of us it means a flu injection followed by a Covid injection at the local surgery as we all queue together.



In the Church we begin to prepare for All Saints, a time of thoughts and memories of those loved ones who have gone before us. Forward then to the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 9 November at the Hythe war memorial, when, as a community, we recall our grateful thanks for lives lost and recorded on the memorial, along with those injured and the families left behind.

In no time we will become involved in preparing for Christmas with celebrations, concerts and events taking place all over the town. At the recent St Michael's Methodist–Anglican Joint Council we spoke together about how best to let the community know of all that is going on. Yes, mobile phones, Facebook and other online communication are a fine way to share activities taking place and invite members of the community to join us, but not everyone is fortunate enough to have the necessary devices or the skills to download them.

The Jehovah's Witnesses called at my home the other day and handed me their leaflet and we had a conversation. Maybe that was a reminder that we all need to share the details of our church activities with those around us and personally invite them, by word of mouth and delivering leaflets, to consider joining us.

Dudley Shipton

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Youth News: Pilgrimage, prayer and pizza

Pilgrimage to Canterbury

On 9 August a group of young people, those who are young at heart, and two dogs set off from Chilham on a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral.



The weather was glorious, if not a smidge too warm, but conversation flowed, jokes were made and new things learnt about each other.

We shared times of prayer while we walked and learnt more about Thomas Becket and why we go on pilgrimages. The day drew to a close with evensong at the Cathedral and then a sleepy train journey home.

Overall, it was a spiritual day that we can't wait to do again.

Ashburnham

Did you know you can recreate the Battle of Hastings using rubber ducks? Or that King Steve likes his subjects to do the moonwalk in his presence? Or that certain people can't be trusted not to 'borrow' other people's rubber ducks? Well, those of us who went to Ashburnham do! Yes, we started our trip away with a visit to Battle Abbey where we took part in the Taskmaster challenges that English Heritage were running.

After that we arrived at Ashburnham where we spent the next few days exploring prayer. We looked at who Jesus was, delved into the Lord's Prayer and its meaning, walked the labyrinth and discovered peaceful prayer, and made bread for our Eucharist service. We went on a prayer walk round the grounds, which was a wonderful experience as some of our young people felt called to lead the prayers for the first time.

On the first night we sat around the campfire learning more about each other thanks to jelly babies, shared evening prayer, and roasted marshmallows with birthday cake.

The second night was games night. We started by playing the sword game, a battle of foam swords with a range of bizarre rules the players must follow.

Many rounds were played but the most anticipated fight was between the vicar and the curate. The rules were set, swords were raised and the fight began. It was an epic battle but ultimately the vicar was victorious! Next

came musical chairs, a calm, chilled-out game . . . Oh, sorry, I meant an utterly terrifying game where friendships didn't matter, family loyalty didn't exist, and rules were made to be broken.



Our final day saw a quick game of cricket followed by our Eucharist service. Then it was back on to the minibus for a sleepy journey home (well, the teens slept; the adults had the best time listening to 'old' music).

Pizza and Praise

Our first Pizza and Praise of the new school year was a great success. We learnt all about how difficult it is to pass a camel through the eye of a needle, and that we should trust God in all we do. We enjoyed lots of pizza and doughnuts and the children had a lot of fun playing the instruments during the songs.

Pizza and Praise is on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm at Hythe Bay School.

Youth nights

What happens when you take a group of teenagers and lots of craft materials? Well, you end up with a sort of biblically accurate picture of St Michael and the head of a Dragon, of course! Our first youth night of the school year was a fun-filled night playing Whispers (don't try it in French unless all of you speak French), learning about St Michael and how he slew the dragon, and peeling PVA off our skin.

If you would like more information on our youth nights or any other Children and Youth things, please feel free to come and talk to me on a Sunday or to email me.

Children's area in St Leonard's

If you ever get a chance to look in the children's area at the back of the church, please do. All the artwork displayed has been done by children who come to church for services, or who have visited us for the day.



I have tried to stock the area with all sorts of things from books to sensory toys, but if you have any jigsaws or building blocks, or other toys that you think the children who use the area might like, please have a chat with me, I am always on the lookout for things to put in the area.

Aimee Babbs, Youth Worker

Congratulations to Thomas!

Members of the St Leonard's community will be glad to know that Thomas Winrow-Campbell, our former organ scholar, did very well in his A levels. He now has a total of five A levels (with four A*s in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Music and one A in Computer Science) to add to his five Grade 8 Distinctions in music, which include organ, piano, violin and viola.



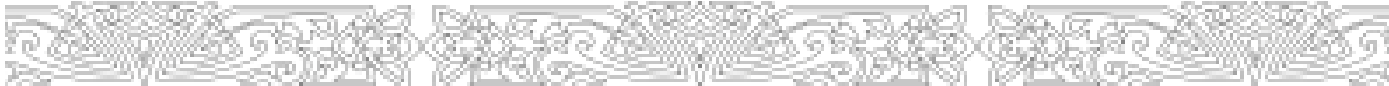
In October he is going to Cambridge University to study mathematics and will be based at Jesus College, but also with an organ award at Churchill College. It will be interesting to learn how this unusual arrangement involving two colleges and two disciplines works out.

Berkeley Hill

Organist Emeritus



Berkeley Hill BEM, formerly Director of Music at St Leonard's, being presented with the Nicolson Award by a member of the Council of the Royal School of Church Music at a service on 4th October in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford. The Award's citation mentioned Berkeley's work with the three choirs at St Leonard's and his role as organist here for 52 years. Others receiving Honours included Dr David Newsholme, Director of Music at Canterbury Cathedral and Miss Anna Lapwood MBE, formerly of Pembroke College, Cambridge and now the first official organist at the Royal Albert Hall.



Events during the



Festive Season

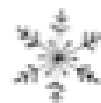


at Lympne Castle



Friday 7th November

Murder Mystery - Red Carpet Revenge £65 per head
Includes 3 course meal and entertainment



Saturday 29th November - Christmas Craft Fair - 12pm-4pm



Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December
Santa's Grotto

Thursday 4th December

Sequins and Sparkles - Festive Music Bingo
Get your glam on! £5 per head for 4 games

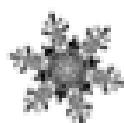
Saturday 13th December

Casino Party Night - £75 per head

Includes Arrival drink, 2 course meal, casino entertainment and disco

Sunday 21st December

Carols at the Castle open from 4pm



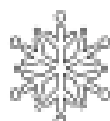
Festive Lunches - £42 per head

Includes 3 course festive meal & welcome drink



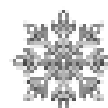
Thursday 4th, 11th and 18th December and Friday 5th and 19th December

Sittings at 12:30pm and 3pm



For more details or to book, please contact us on 01303 533533

or email enquiries@lympnecastle.com



Not looking backwards (contd)

Some lessons learned from St Leonard's choir holidays

In a recent issue of the Review (July and August 2025), I gave an overview of the cathedral 'holidays' that were enjoyed by so many of the St Leonard's choristers over the years, from 1978 to around the turn of the century. I mentioned some of the lessons learned from these trips, but others had to be deferred for reasons of space. In listing them here somewhat light-heartedly, I nevertheless recognise the serious undertow of each.

- Try to **bring home the same number** of children that are taken. In **Dublin** I lost two boys in a crowded city street (we eventually recovered them but not before some anxious moments – how do you tell a parent on a telephone call that you have mislaid their son?). In **Loreto**, Italy, where we sang at a festival of polyphonic music in 1984, a teenager managed to miss the train to Milan airport but, with a clergy 'minder', caught a later one.
- Try not to allow children to **damage each other**. Team games at the YMCA hostel in **Bath** were closely supervised, but excited choristers still managed to bump heads in an enthusiastic indoor football match. At **Lincoln** choristers were competing in leaning out of upstairs windows, until Hilarie threatened to send offenders home.
- **Make sure everyone can swim**. In **Llandaff** the choir school had an outdoor swimming pool into which some of the teenagers decided to tip me. I cannot swim and had to be rescued. Drowning the choirmaster is not a good idea.
- **Alcohol** and young singers do not mix. Though in England it was not difficult to ban under-age youngsters from accessing booze, this did not apply abroad. In **Loreto**, while adults were busy sorting bed

arrangements in our hotel, the trebles managed to consume some of the wine that was on each table – which made several quite sick over dinner. On balance, however, it was the older teenagers who

- posed the bigger problem, with bars happy to serve them. One young bass had to be forcibly removed from the concert stage because he was intoxicated and very unstable.
- **Treat accommodation equipment with respect.** Putting ordinary detergent in a commercial dishwasher is not a good idea. One member of the clergy managed to create vast amounts of bubbles that way in the kitchen of St Michael's College, Tenbury Wells, in a sort of replay of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice'. Mopping up took ages.

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- **Try to avoid setting fire to things.** When we borrowed the Hythe Toc-H bus for a choir trip to Worcestershire we found that the petrol filler leaked fuel on to the ground, a potential fire hazard. Fortunately, this was noticed and tightened up before anything dangerous happened. But in **St George's Chapel Windsor** in 1981 one treble during a bored moment decided to test the fire detection system by feeding paper into a hot floodlight within the building. This was spotted just in time and the foolish child suitably admonished.
- **Prepare for the unexpected.** On our first cathedral holiday to **Exeter** we managed to leave all the surplices behind in Hythe. Fortunately, a parent was coming next day and delivered them to the cathedral vestry. We lost luggage when flying to Christchurch Cathedral, **Dublin** on both the outward and inward flights. And the Sunday Eucharist service was always a liturgical minefield, with musical traps set for the innocent visiting parish musicians.
- **Parents are a mixed blessing.** In some ways it was good to have the support of parents, as weekday services were often not strongly attended in most cathedrals (Canterbury and Bath Abbey were exceptions). But in other respects they could undo good work. For example, if choristers were encouraged to share choir meals in the school or hostel where we were staying, then parents who wanted to take their offspring out for extra chips were undermining the principle of collegiality.
- **Keep a sense of humour.** We are all human, and imperfections are inevitable. It's how you cope that is the test of a good choir. I remember a situation in **Worcester** when the cantor in the psalm got his introduction wrong by one note, but his colleagues countered by repeating his wrong note in every subsequent verse, so no-one knew. In **Norwich** our shortest walking route between hostel and cathedral passed through the city's red-light area and had to be quickly adjusted.

- **Do not over-organise.** Early holidays were timetabled in great detail, with hardly an empty moment. Experience showed that everyone needs a little private ‘downtime’. For most of us it took at least a week at home to recover from the cathedral ‘holiday’.


Berkeley Hill



Choir boys on “holiday” in Italy

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


November


18th-19th Autumn Gala  

29th Santa Specials

30th Santa Specials 


December

6th-7th Santa Specials 

20th-24th Santa Specials 

13th-14th Santa Specials

January 2026

1st-4th Mince Pie Specials  

*character appearances at intervals on selected dates



Remembrance

As time goes on, fewer people are aware of the history of the world wars, making remembrance less relevant for some. Yet the immense loss of life, injury and suffering sustained by people of all nations, in those and subsequent conflicts, should not be forgotten. For military personnel, their families, and those of us who remember the service of parents and grandparents, the two-minute silence is an important moment to remember them.

During the Second World War, the National Service of Remembrance and other commemorations were moved from Armistice Day to the preceding



Sunday to minimise disruption to wartime production. In 1946, the government decided that the Cenotaph ceremony would subsequently take place annually on Remembrance Sunday.

I used to watch the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on television with my parents. My dad would explain to me the roles of the different services and ultimately, the whole point of remembrance. I was intrigued as the soldiers slowly built the

drumhead altar, and then as the poppy petals fell and landed on the heads, hats and shoulders of those mustered at the drumhead. I had no idea, of course that one day I would be among them.

As a child, Remembrance Sunday was quite exciting. A real soldier came to play the Last Post in our church and stayed to chat with the youngsters afterwards. Having subsequently tried to play the bugle, I am in awe of anyone who does!

My dad served in Italy during the war. He told stories over the years about the lighter side of his time there, such as being bitten by a scorpion and managing to lose a truck. He returned with a love of opera and Sorbetto! But, like so many who served and understandably had no wish to relive the horrors of war, he didn't say much about his experience of combat. He was too young to enlist at the start of the war and so he spent some time in the Home Guard. The Private Pike of his platoon perhaps, just not as silly! As soon as he was of age he joined the Hampshire regiment 'The Tigers', landing in Sicily with Montgomery's 8th Army in July 1943. They proceeded to fight their way through Italy to Monte Cassino and beyond. It was while working for the Royal British Legion that I was chosen to be part of a small group representing the Legion at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. We rehearsed for two days alongside the Army, Navy and Air Force, obeying Garrison Sergeant Major's every word!

Behind the scenes it was a real pleasure and inspiration to spend so much time with service men and women of all ages and ranks, mucking in together, enjoying the experience. The feeling of pride at having been chosen was evident in everyone, as was their determination to represent their service or organisation perfectly on the day.

As our moment approached, the prospect of descending the stairs 'by the left' on live television and lining up in exactly the right spot was daunting, but greater than that was the privilege and honour of being part of such a solemn and joyful occasion. And so, the child who used to watch the drumhead being built and the petals falling on television, was now standing beside it and the petals were falling on him.

As the petals fell, I remembered my father in the same way that many will think of their parents and grandparents this year, the many who never came home and those who suffered lifelong physical and mental scars. 107 years after the cessation of the first war and 80 years since the end of the World War 2 hostilities (in Europe), remembrance is as important as ever. Lessons remain to be learned by those who still seek to dominate, annihilate and steal territory from other nations today.

Steve Williams



The Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except August and December) at 7pm in the Hythe Sports' and Social Club on St Leonard's Road. Membership is open to everyone and new members are very welcome, be they veterans, serving personnel or civilians. We also welcome youth members (aged 12–17) for no membership fee, but they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at branch meetings.

For further details contact the Branch Chairman at HytheSaltwood.Chairman@RBL.Community or the Branch Secretary at HytheSaltwood.Secretary@RBL.Community.

My path to becoming an MAF pilot

I grew up in Folkestone, the hometown of MAF UK, in a Christian home and attended Sandgate Primary School. My grandfather pastored, voluntarily, here in Folkestone while my grandmother and mother ran the children's group.

Growing up, I was always playing sport – football, cricket or rugby – and I loved languages! When I was 16, I found my faith for myself on a short mission trip in Mexico, in which a group of young people built a house with Amor in Tijuana. There was a short message about forgiveness, which was a topic that my mother had spoken with me about, and I had dismissed, just days earlier, but this spoke to me on a different level and it was no coincidence – God wanted me to forgive. From there on, I have felt God's love and touch in my life.

At 18, I finished school and went directly into an engineering apprenticeship with Church & Dwight UK. Not long after I started there, my grandfather invited me to his church where a talk was being given by a former MAF pilot. This was my first understanding of the work MAF did,

its purpose and its origins – everything in that service spoke to me. Over the course of the next six years, I stayed in contact with MAF UK and got accepted on to the Future Pilot Training Programme in 2023. Having never flown in a light aircraft before, I found myself in a Cessna 172 for a flight evaluation for acceptance on to the training scheme. Two and a half years on, I am now 26 and I have obtained my Private Pilot Licence (PPL), Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL), Instrument Rating (IR) and my Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL).

In the last week of September, I finished the last of two evaluations for MAFI - this was the final step to becoming an MAF pilot and I am delighted to share that these evaluations went well! Bar signing a contract with MAFI, and being assigned a country, I am unofficially-officially an MAF pilot. Straight after the evaluation, I flew back to the UK and packed my stuff to head off to All Nations Christian College at Ware.

Whilst here I will be doing the 10.5 week En Route course, which is designed to prepare people looking to go out on mission to foreign cultures. So far, I have made some nice friends and found the group to be very relatable. I hope this time will be a great preparation for the field, not only through the course content but also by building relationships with people in a similar position or with those who already have experience in the field.

How the next year looks exactly is unclear, but I will spend a good chunk of time focusing on three main areas:

1. pre-field preparation – mandatory training to ready me for the field;
2. study at All Nations;
3. support-raising.

Josh White

Christmas Raffle

Joshua needs to self-fund 50% of his costs to work as a MAF pilot.

We are planning a raffle in November/ December to raise funds to support Joshua and would like to thank the following local businesses for their support in donating prizes:

The Flying Farmers - A 30-minute flight for three around the local area (starting at Lydd Airport)

Diva Hair – vouchers to the value of £60

The Flower Shop – A Christmas Table arrangement

Torbay – Fish and Chip Lunch/ Supper for two

Bitzer's Pet Store – vouchers to the value of £20

Sewing Space – voucher to the value of £10

Amazing Glaze - Pottery Painting Experience

Farmers Market – a box of vegetables

Waitrose – A bottle of Prosecco

Tickets will be on sale at 101 The High Street from 12 November and will also be available at Church events up to and including Carols for All on 20th December when the winners will be drawn and announced.

Your support is appreciated and thanks again to local businesses.

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Our thriving Society has over 200 members and was established over 40 years ago. We are part of the national Arts Society which has groups all over the UK and abroad, too. Guests are very welcome to come along and try one of our lectures – dates and subjects can be found on our website: www.theartssocietyashford.org.uk. A £7.00 charge includes refreshments and booking is recommended. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.15am at Aldington Village Hall where there is plenty of parking space. We'll even refund the £7.00 should you decide to join!

Here's what's on for the next two months:

Tuesday 18 November: 'Great Gardens of the 18th Century – Landscape Gardening from Ha-Has to Hermits' by Patrick Conner

The landscape garden was an English innovation, replacing the formal patterns and straight lines in vogue throughout Europe with a 'natural' garden, full of variety, drama and surprise. Patrick's lecture will consider examples of landscape gardens and designers, including the possibility that two imperial gardens of 18th century China may have helped to shape the great gardens of Georgian England.

Tuesday 9 December: 'The Music of the Caribbean' by Graham Jones

Colonialism has played an intrinsic part in the musical culture of the Caribbean, which combines African, European, Indian and indigenous influences. Each island has its own complex rhythm patterns and styles. We will discover the origins of calypso on Saint Kitts, *jué* on Saint Lucia and much more in this lecture filled with the sounds of the Caribbean.



If you would like to book, find out more about attending as a guest or about joining The Arts Society Ashford, please contact Chris Smith by email to gday2u@sky.com and she will be very happy to help you.

We look forward to seeing you!

 facebook.com/artssocietyashford



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Parish Directory

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

Methodist Minister	Revd Adrian Roux	07721 006800	revadrianroux@outlook.com
Local Preacher	Dudley Shipton	01303 487388	dbshipton@tiscali.co.uk
Safeguarding Lead	Christine Porter	07549 998977	ceporter1@talktalk.net

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

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

PCC Registered Charity No 1144695

Post for the Parish Office should be addressed to:

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