

Hythe Parish Review

MAGAZINE OF THE PARISH OF HYTHE, KENT



Photo: Roger Taylor

Celebrating Creation
September and October 2026

Meet the Team



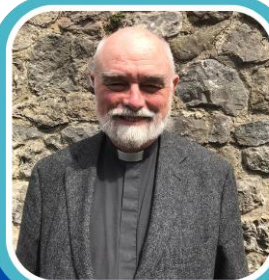
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Methodist Minister



Revd Dr Michael Chandler
Associate Priest



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

Church Services

Sundays

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

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (said)

9.30am Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 5pm: Anglican Rosary

2nd and 4th Sunday 6.30pm: Choral Evensong

4th Sunday 11am: Healing and Wholeness

ST MICHAEL'S METHODIST-ANGLICAN CHURCH CENTRE

Rampart Road, CT21 5BG

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

11.00am Holy Communion – 2nd & 4th Sunday

Wednesdays

11.00am Midweek Communion at St Michael's

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

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

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

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

Our vision is:

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

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

Curate's letter from Revd Dr Anderson Yan

Dancing in the Tomb: Can These Bones Live?

Dear friends,

I have only recently returned from Taiwan following my dad's funeral, and so, as I write this letter, the reality of death feels particularly close and fresh. There are times when death is something we can keep at a comfortable distance. At other times it becomes painfully concrete: an empty place, familiar memories, the finality of saying goodbye.

Perhaps that is partly why the extraordinary vision in Ezekiel 37 has been on my mind: the prophet standing in a valley filled with bones. Not recently dead bodies, but bones that are *very dry*. Ezekiel is confronted with a landscape from which every sign of life appears to have disappeared. Then God asks him the extraordinary question: *'Mortal, can these bones live?'*

It is a question that seems particularly appropriate this summer. During the extreme hot weather we have experienced, we have watched the land itself becoming dry. Fields have turned brown, grass has withered, the ground has hardened, and fires have reminded us how vulnerable creation can be. There have been moments when our landscape has perhaps looked a little like Ezekiel's valley: parched and waiting for life.

Thankfully, in the last few days we have been blessed with rain. After so much dryness, there is something almost sacramental about watching rain fall upon thirsty soil. Hopefully, we shall now begin to see some life and colour returning.

Ezekiel's original vision, of course, concerns something even more devastating. The dry bones represent Israel after the catastrophe of exile. The people lament: *'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'* God does not deny their suffering or pretend that their despair is unreal. Instead, God transforms their perception of what is possible. The scattered bones are re-membered, covered with sinews, flesh and skin; but even then they

remain lifeless until God's breath – God's *rûah*, Spirit – enters them. Then they live.

There is an important echo here of the creation story. In Genesis, God forms the human creature from the dust and breathes into it the breath of life. Ezekiel deliberately recalls that imagery: bodies are formed, but it is God's breath that makes them live. What Ezekiel sees, therefore, is something like creation happening again.

That provides a beautiful bridge to St Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5.17: *'If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.'* Paul does not offer us an escape from the fragile, physical world. Quite the opposite. In the verses surrounding this famous statement, he speaks about mortal bodies, suffering, groaning and death, while insisting that God is already at work. The Spirit is the *'down payment'* or guarantee that what God has begun will ultimately be completed: mortality will be *'swallowed up by life.'*

This year the Church of England introduces a new feast, *Christ at the Heart of Creation*, celebrated on 1 September. It invites us to recognise that the new creation promised in Christ is not merely about individual souls going somewhere else after death. Christ stands at the heart of God's purposes for the whole creation. The God who breathes life into Ezekiel's valley is the God who, in Christ, is making all things new.

Strangely enough, this also makes me think of this year's Venetian Fete here in Hythe. St Leonard's contribution offered two wonderfully contrasting pictures of our community. During the daytime, we had the beautiful sight and sound of a lively choir: people gathered together, singing, celebrating and quite literally filling the air with breath and music. At night, however, the churchyard presented a rather different picture. It was full of skeletons! Life during the day; bones and graves at night. In its own humorous way, it could almost have been a dramatic presentation of Ezekiel 37. Except, of course, our skeletons did not look particularly dead. They appeared to be having a wonderful party in the (g)raveyard!

Perhaps there is more theology in that joke than we might initially imagine. For what is the Christian hope if not God's extraordinary

refusal to allow death to have the final word? Ezekiel's vision was not originally a straightforward prediction of individual resurrection. It was a daring metaphor addressed to people who believed their communal life and hope had died. God takes precisely what appears impossible – the revival of thoroughly dried bones – to teach them to see their circumstances differently. If God can make these bones live, then no situation is beyond God's capacity to bring newness from it.

For Christians, that vision reaches its fullest depth in Christ. The cross appears to be the ultimate dry valley: the place where hope itself is killed and laid in a grave. Yet precisely there God brings forth resurrection. What appears to be the end becomes a beginning. Death becomes the place from which new creation emerges.

That does not make death unreal. As I return from my dad's funeral, I certainly would not want to pretend that grief can simply be covered with cheerful religious words. Nor should we minimise the ecological realities represented by drought, extreme heat and fire. Ezekiel does neither. He begins by looking directly at the bones. Christian hope begins not by denying death, but by refusing to believe that death tells the whole story.

And perhaps this is what *Christ at the Heart of Creation* asks us to rediscover. We look at a dry field and wait for rain. We look at a wounded creation and work for its healing. We stand beside a grave and grieve. We look at our own communities when they seem tired or depleted and wonder what their future might be. And into all these places comes the question: '*Mortal, can these bones live?*' Our answer may sometimes be no more confident than Ezekiel's: '*O Lord GOD, you know.*'

But then comes the breath.

The rain falls.

The earth begins to turn green.

The choir sings.

The skeletons dance in the (g)raveyard.

And the Spirit whispers again the promise at the heart of our faith: In Christ, there is a new creation.

With every blessing,
Revd Dr Anderson Yan

Calendar of Events			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Event</i>
Thursday 3 rd September	7pm	101 Open Door	Introducing the Bible Course <i>led by The Revd Dr Anderson Yan</i>
Thursday 10 th September	7pm	101 Open Door	Introducing the Bible Course
Sunday 13 th September	5-7:30pm	St Leonard's	Come & Sing Evensong
Monday 14 th September	11am	Holy Cross	Holy Cross Day Eucharist
Monday 14 th September	2-3:30pm	St Leonard's	Flower Arranging Display <i>Followed by refreshments</i>
Wednesday 16 th September	6:30-9pm	St Leonard's	Choir Try-Outs Youth – 6:30pm, Adult – 7:30pm
Thursday 17 th September	7:30pm	St Leonard's	Come & Ring Bellringing Try-Outs <i>with wine and cheese</i>
Saturday 19 th September	9:30-4	St Leonard's	St Leonard's Open Day
Sunday 20 th September	11am	St Michael's	Joint Service
Sunday 20 th September	3m	Hythe Bay School	Messy Church
Saturday 26 th September	12pm	St Leonard's	Teddy Bear Picnic & Parachute
Saturday 26 th September	6-8pm	St Leonard's	Youth Night
Wednesday 30 th September	10am	St Leonard's	School Harvest Festival
Saturday 3 rd October	11am	St Leonard's	Pet Blessing Service
Sunday 4 th October	11am	St Leonard's	Harvest Festival <i>followed by bring and share lunch</i>
Sunday 11 th October	6:30pm	St Leonard's	Mayor's Civic Service
Wednesday 21 st October	4pm	101 Open Door	101 Training and Tea Party
Wednesday 28 th October	10-1:30pm	St Leonard's	Holiday Club
Saturday 31 st October	5-7pm	St Leonard's	Crypt by Candlelight
Saturday 31 st October	8pm	St Leonard's	Abalicious by Candlelight

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

From the Editor

September introduces a new feast in the Church of England – although one that is, literally, as old as creation itself. As the Revd Dr Anderson Yan has explained (page 5), this is ‘Christ at the Heart of Creation’, celebrated on 1 September. And throughout this issue of the Review we unpack the theme of creation: in biblical stories, in our natural world, and in the wonderful creativity we see, for example, in the exuberant work of our young people (page 13) and in various exciting church events planned for the near future (pages 15, 22).

For a specific example of nature here in Hythe, and what you can do to protect it, see the article about Hythe SCREAM on page 17. (And if SCREAM as a title seems puzzling, we recommend a look at their very informative website!)

Joanne Hill, on behalf of the Hythe Parish Review team

Tea Laugh Chat

Parents, Carers, Babies

& Toddlers Group

St Leonard's Church

9.30 – 11.30am



1st Friday of every month

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

For further information contact Helen on 07927 277615

or Avril on 07807 288143

Free of charge

Prayer prompts day by day

- 1 Our ministerial team
- 2 Our Churchwardens and PCC
- 3 Revd Michael and his family
- 4 Mission Aviation Fellowship
- 5 The congregation of St Leonard's
- 6 Those who mourn
- 7 All who use our churches
- 8 The situation in Ukraine
- 9 The 101 "Open Door" project
- 10 Our Mayor and councillors
- 11 The congregation of St Michael's
- 12 Those in need in our community
- 13 Bishop Rose
- 14 The people of the Middle East
- 15 Families preparing for the new school year
- 16 Archdeacon Darren
- 17 Revd Adrian and his family
- 18 Revd Andy and his family
- 19 Our musicians, singers and bellringers
- 20 The future of Holy Cross Church
- 21 Our treasurers and Church finances
- 22 Local hospitals and care homes
- 23 Archbishop Sarah
- 24 Young people moving to new schools and colleges
- 25 Those with a ministry of healing and care
- 26 Churches Together in Hythe and Saltwood
- 27 King Charles and our government
- 28 Refugees and asylum seekers
- 29 Aimee, our Youth Worker and her ministry
- 30 Those who volunteer in our churches and community
- 31 Those parts of the world suffering from famine and natural disasters

A prayer for Creation

O Maker of mountains and morning
light,
You breathe life into leaf and tide,
teach us to walk gently upon Your
earth,
to guard the rivers as we guard our
own breath,
to tend the soil as we tend our own
hearts.

Let our hands sow peace,
our voices sing gratitude,
and our lives mirror the beauty
You have woven into every living
thing.

THE PARISH OF
ST LEONARD HYTHE

DO YOU LOVE

Singing?

Join the Youth Choir at St Leonard's Church!

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

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

Contact Anita Jones
MusicalDirectors@lhythe.com

Sign up here!



Thoughts from St Michael's

It could be you!

'It could be you' is a phrase associated with advertisements for the National Lottery, but it is also a reminder that almost anything might happen in our lives without warning.



As Chaplain of the local Royal British Legion I was preparing to conduct worship at Hythe War Memorial recently, to mark the armistice since the end of the Korean War, when I suddenly felt unsteady and sat on a seat while others took my place. Two concerned ladies telephoned 999 for an ambulance and it arrived in less than 20 minutes, parking in the bus bay by the memorial.

Two lovely young paramedics carefully escorted me to the ambulance. After thoroughly checking my temperature, pulse, blood pressure and breathing and doing a full echocardiogram they decided, after consultation with someone online, that I was in fine health. Maybe I was dehydrated and too hot in the summer heat. They handed me over to my wife, Judith, who arrived from home, and, after having my photo taken with Rhianne and Ella, I was told, as usual, to 'slow down'.

The community of Hythe is made up of so many individuals, each with their own needs and concerns: those struggling to look after themselves, under pressure as they care for their children, living a hand-to-mouth existence, attending appointments at the surgery or hospital. Many are caring for elderly relatives, including those with dementia, or helping neighbours or people living alone, perhaps by shopping for those finding it difficult to go outside their homes. Others are living in care homes, relying on Age UK for the delivery of meals, or attending organisations in Hythe providing comfort, respite, conversation and friendship, along with the relief provided by food banks. I am exceedingly grateful to the NHS for unexpected medical support over at least the last two years.

We of course have many opportunities to care for others, whether children, teenagers, or older adults who need our support. The Revd John Wesley, the Anglican priest who founded the Methodist Church, said, 'All the world is my parish.' It was St Augustine who said to his young

novitiate, 'It is no use walking to preach unless you stop to talk with those you see in the marketplace.' I always remember the words of the principal of Westminster College, Oxford, who said, 'It is no use being so heavenly minded that you are of no earthly use.' Which reminds me of a man called Jesus who walked this earth 2,000 years ago and who, prompted by the Holy Spirit, still does in the hearts and minds of the people of God. Indeed, 'It could be you', providing there is the vision to think of others.

Dudley Shipton

Answering the call – Lizzie's next steps

As part of my discernment process for theological college in September, I had the privilege of spending time on placement at St Leonard's, learning alongside the Reverend Michael Darkins and becoming part of the life of the church community.



The discernment process has been both challenging and rewarding. It has involved asking difficult questions, reflecting on my sense of vocation and

considering where God may be calling me. It been an opportunity for growth, prayer and reflection. My placement was an important part of this journey, giving me a valuable insight into parish ministry and the life of a local church.

I am very grateful to Michael for his time, patience and teaching. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from his experience and to see at first hand the many different aspects of parish ministry. His willingness to share his

knowledge and experience made the placement both enjoyable and hugely valuable.

Most of all, I am grateful to the whole church community for the very warm welcome I received. From the beginning, everyone made me feel at home, and I greatly appreciated the kindness, encouragement and conversations I shared with so many people.

As I continue my journey towards theological college in September, I have much to reflect on from my time at St Leonards. I leave with many happy memories, valuable lessons and a renewed sense of excitement for the journey ahead. I pray that the experience will continue to shape and guide me as I take the next step in responding to God's call.

Lizzie Clarke

News from our young people

Youth Nights Our June and July youth nights involved paint, lots of paint. Why, you may ask. We were building and painting our float for the Venetian Fete, of course! We made pizza and had a BBQ while copious amounts of paint made it not only on to the wood that our church was made of but also on to those who were painting it (our apologies to the parents for the state of their young people after each night).

Tombstones were given names, skulls were given faces, windows became more than an outline, the roof was given tiles and the



clock given hands – and before we knew it the church and graveyard for our float were done.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the making of our float! An especially big thank you to Steve and Anita Jones for designing it, building the church and tombstones, letting us use your garden and putting up with paint going everywhere.

Our young people preaching On 5 July Ellen and Ira preached for the first time during our July all-age service. We had spent the previous weeks looking at the Bible passages for that Sunday and talking about what it means to serve. Ellen and Ira used Jenga as props to demonstrate how we all serve each other and how taking away one part can make the whole thing full apart.

We have asked, and there is a chance that our young people may preach again if we ask them nicely (so please do ask them nicely so it's not just Michael and me asking them).

Tea and Theology Over a few weeks the young people, Andy, Michael and I made Anglican rosaries for a new service that Andy will be starting soon. We learned what each bead means, why a rosary has that number of beads, and that some people are not very good at tying knots.

Holiday Club Our summer holiday clubs were full of laughter, imagination, bread making, boat building, sea parting, flaming sword making, and path making. We had 22 children over the two days and it was a joy to see their faces as they drew round their feet, played with balloons that became pillars of cloud and fire, and built boats that survived storms (all except the lifeboat which sank when a Playmobil man was put in it). We parted the red(ball) sea, and we told stories: of Balaam and his donkey, the road to Emmaus, Paul's shipwreck and the escape from Egypt.

The two days were once again joyous occasions, and we can't wait for our next Holiday Club. Thank you to everyone who donated recycling for boat building. I am not sure who had more fun building the boats, the children or the adults.

What's next? Our visit to Ashburnham will take place in February next year. Please speak to Aimee or Michael if your young person would like to join us.

We will be starting **Messy Church** in September, and we can't wait. There are flyers at the back of the church if you would like to take one.

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 that you wish to donate (craft supplies, toys or books for the children's area) then please come and talk to me or send me an email. I would love to chat with you!



Aimee Babbs, youthworker@slhythe.com

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 *

Steam & Diesel Gala



Winston's Wine Train



Bus Rally



Santa Specials



*pre-booking is essential

Hythe SCREAM

Did you see the swifts around Hythe this year?

‘Screaming parties’ have been common on the warm summer evenings around the entrance to Leonard’s where there is a small colony in residence. I have particularly enjoyed watching up to 15 of them giving a spectacular ‘Red Arrows’ style display whilst perched on the bench during my evening constitutional.

The larger of our two known colonies can be seen at the end of Stade Street near the beach, where about 30 were giving lovely displays virtually every clear evening.

These amazing birds not only travel to Africa and back each year, some 6000 miles each way, but spend most of their lives in the air, feeding, socialising and even sleeping on the wing. They are here for May, June and July whilst they nest.

Unfortunately, the UK population is dwindling, with close to a 70% drop in numbers over the last few decades, after millions of years in existence. They are now on the RSPB ‘red list’ as being in danger. One of the main reasons is a lack of nesting locations in our buildings. Swifts were quick to adapt to our leaky wooden and stone houses and realigned their lives with ours. But modern houses have very few natural nesting sites for them. We have sealed up all suitable gaps to keep our houses warm. The only natural spaces remaining in Hythe are in older buildings, such as St Leonard’s: two nests have been identified there, but there are no longer enough nest spaces to bolster their numbers. On top of this, we have also reduced the numbers of available insects through decades of spraying crops, thus contributing to the swifts’ difficulties as their diet comes exclusively from the air.

They often partner up for their whole lifetime and use the same nest year after year. In my opinion, there is an affinity with our own lifestyles in their



monogamous family life, two or three children, freedom to travel and sharing of homes and the wider community. They always bring a cheerful note to our summer skies.

You might ask whether there is anything we can we do to help them? There is! If your house is suitable, you can attach a nesting box to the eaves. If you are planning a new build, or any roof, solar panel, gutter or soffit renovations, this is a great time to accommodate some spaces for swifts.

One of their favourite places to nest is in church towers. These buildings are ubiquitous to swifts and at the centre of every community. They



provide height, shade, protection and crevices to nest in. Many groups around the country are facilitating extra nesting spaces in their churches now. A well-known church in Suffolk has 70 nesting pairs after conservation measures were added.

Additionally, you can leave more of your

garden and lawns to grow wild between May and July to support extra insect life. They eat the tiniest insects which are caught in updrafts, so unkept natural gardens create an additional food supply for swifts – and for bats, which we also have.

And to back up your endeavours, we now have a dedicated support site for anyone who would like to learn about these amazing birds, provide a home for them, or get involved more closely in helping to stabilise and increase the population along our coastal communities. Start planning now, ready for next May.

Go to www.hythescream.co.uk for more information, to ask for advice, get a free survey, or offer to get more involved.

Ron Marsh

Three exceptional care homes across Hythe & Saltwood

“Mum and Dad are treated with such kindness and respect every day.”



Hythe View

Part of The Willow Community

Book a visit: 01303 265441

Find out more: hytheview.com

Rated 9.8/10 by families  carehome.co.uk



Saltwood Care Centre

Book a visit: 01303 262421

Find out more: saltwoodcarecentre.com

Rated 9.7/10 by families  carehome.co.uk



Balgowan House

Book a visit: 01303 266782

Find out more: balgowanhouse.com

Rated 9.7/10 by families  carehome.co.uk

INTEGRUM CARE GROUP

SALTWOOD CARE CENTRE | BALGOWAN HOUSE | HYTHE VIEW | BETSY CLARA HOUSE
MULBERRY HOUSE | SOUTHDOWN | SWANBOROUGH HOUSE | CAVELL HOUSE

Arrange a visit and find the right home for your family

integrumcaregroup.co.uk

How about selling St Leonard's? A response

I read with interest Berkeley Hill's article in the last Parish Review and was relieved by his conclusion that it is not time to sell St Leonard's. However, we still have to face the hard reality of how to find the funds to pay for the upkeep the building. So why am I relieved?

First and most obviously, St Leonard's is central to the physical fabric of Hythe. It stands resplendent above the town and can be seen from so many angles. I, like many others, frequently walk around Hythe and can admire the view. I also walk through the peaceful churchyard on the way up or down the hill. In the recent heat I have found relief in the cool building, perhaps along with a glass of refreshing water, and I can admire the beautiful flower arrangements.

My daughter was christened in St Leonard's in 1997 and I have very cherished memories of the Revd Norman Woods conducting the service. It was a very special day for us as a family. As church warden I often have a need to pop into St Leonard's during the week and am amazed at how many people visit the beautiful building to remember their own family's special day. I often meet people who tell me that their grandparents, parents, or they themselves were married in the church. I also meet lots of adults who are reminiscing about their school years in Hythe, when they made visits to the church or perhaps were a part of Berkeley's boys' choir.

As well as the physical beauty of the building there is the historical interest. I have recently started volunteering in the crypt and am amazed at the diversity of people who come along to see this distinctive part of St Leonard's Church. As well as being historically fascinating the crypt is a very important source of funding for the church as all the proceeds from tickets go towards the running costs of St Leonard's.

Music is also a big part of St Leonard's. Berkeley would be best placed to talk about the organ but I am assured we are privileged to have such a fine example, as well as a concert grade piano. Over the years the Friends of St Leonard's have put on hundreds of concerts, which allow

the church to be opened to a wider audience, not all of whom would normally enter a church, and have put St Leonard's firmly 'on the map'. Money raised by the Friends helps to contribute to the upkeep of the fabric of St Leonard's: many of you will have noticed the scaffolding around the church last year and the completion of essential work, some of which was generously funded by the Friends of St Leonard's.

Assuring the future?

Despite all that we have to be thankful for, Berkeley is right in warning that the future of St Leonard's is not assured. It currently requires an annual expenditure of approximately £150,000, so we do need to ensure we have enough money to keep St Leonard's as a part of Hythe during our lifetimes. So, what more do we need, and how can we provide it?

Berkeley has pointed out that, besides the sterling work done by the Friends specifically for the maintenance of the fabric, the burden of financial responsibility for St Leonard's and its Christian witness falls on a very small number of local residents, those who are committed members of the church and have joined its electoral roll. If you are not yet a committed member, but feel goodwill towards our historic building for any of the reasons already mentioned, why not come along to one of our regular services? You will be assured of a warm welcome, and the contributions you are able to make, financially or through offering your time and talents, will enable you to feel truly a part of a vibrant Christian community.

If you already donate to St Leonard's when you come to worship or visit, could you move to the Planned Giving Scheme, which helps the church to manage funds as we know what is being given? There is also the benefit of Gift Aid which allows an additional 25% to be claimed. Planned giving can also be a gift you can leave in your will. If you need any help or support on this please do speak to our Treasurer Brian Bishop. You can email him at Treasurer@slhythe.com and he will be happy to help you with your query.

Could you spare time in the summer to become a crypt volunteer? Besides being a memorable experience for visitors, the crypt can generate as much as £30–50 each hour it is open, and yet not all shifts can be covered because of the lack of volunteers. If this is not something you feel able to offer, then visiting the crypt yourself and inviting your friends helps to bring more people to St Leonard's and increase the church's revenue.

Could you join the Friends of St Leonard's and support the many concerts? We also have other events throughout the year where your support would be welcomed. This autumn we have our **Heritage Open Day** and our **Sponsored Teddy Bear Parachute Jump** from the church tower on 26 September. And I hesitate to mention this so early, but we are already planning our **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 21 November and a **Christmas Tree Festival** on the weekend of 11–13 December.

Any small way you can help to keep St Leonard's alive is welcomed and appreciated; but most important is to know that St Leonard's is open to all. You are welcome to pop in any time for relief from the heat in summer or shelter from the cold in winter; for quiet reflection or to join our growing congregation at 8am or 9.30am on a Sunday morning (followed by tea or coffee).

Helen Waymouth

Richard Amos

House & Rubbish Clearance

01303 221050

07785 594384

richardrubbish.2@tiscali.co.uk



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

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

Join the other volunteers and help to raise vital funds for our church.

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

Join the St. Leonard’s crypt team!

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

Chat with us today or hand this to Revd Michael or Helen or John, our Churchwardens.

I would like to know more about becoming a crypt volunteer.

Name..... Phone.....

THE PARISH ⊕F
ST LE⊕NARD HYTHE



**CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
(September – December 2026)**

Saturday 12 September, 7.30pm

David Rees Williams (piano/organ), Ken Peers (saxophones), Ian Crowther (oboe)
"A Musical Tapestry"

Saturday 10 October, 7.00pm

Lees Court Music

"A Treasury of English Church Music"

Great English anthems from **Byrd** to **Britten** via **Handel** and **Parry**

Saturday 31 October, 8.00pm

Abalicious

"ABBA by Candlelight"

Sunday 15 November, 3.00pm

Shepway Singers & Amberley Players

"The Magnificent Mr **Handel**"

Saturday 21 November, 7.00pm

Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment & Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir

Saturday 19 December, 7.00pm

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The ordination to the priesthood of our Curate, The Revd Dr Anderson Yan

It was a privilege and a very informative pleasure to join other members of the St Leonard's congregation in Canterbury Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July for the 'priesting' of our curate Andy, along with 19 other ordinands.

It was quite a marathon service – over two hours – but a real eye-opener for someone like me who had never attended one before. After a grand processing-in of the multitudinous clergy, ordinands and others involved, and a warm welcome from the Dean, we began with one of several rousing and familiar hymns: 'Thy hand, O God, has guided'.

The service was essentially in the form of a Eucharist, but with many interpolations. The overriding theme was that of the Good Shepherd and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, plus, of course, the pastoral commitment of Christian ministry. What greatly contributed to the intensity of the service was the Bishop's measured and emphatic reading of the beautiful liturgy, so that every word went home.

After prayers of penitence, we had the Liturgy of the Word including a sermon from the Ven. Will Adam, Archdeacon of Canterbury, whose theme was the mystical inner change which takes place through the Holy Spirit when men and women are ordained. It reminded me of the transformative change which comes over the bread and wine during consecration.

Now came the Liturgy of Ordination itself. The Bishop outlined the duties and responsibilities of priests, and then the ordinands declared that, with God's help, they would commit to these. Next, the prayers, in the form of a Litany, followed by the Bishop and the assembled priests laying their hands on each candidate in turn. They were subsequently anointed, given a copy of the Bible and 'vested' with their priestly garments, and welcomed as 'ambassadors for Christ'.

There followed the familiar Liturgy of the Sacrament. During Communion we sang 'Will you come and follow me?'; and finally came the Sending out, Blessing and Recessional to joyous applause.



The striking thing about this service, for us lay people, was the reminder of our own calling and responsibilities to be our Lord's ambassadors and ministers. Everyone present will have had their own thoughts and memories during this service. Clergy will doubtless have recalled their own priesting, whereas for my part I was reminded of the good priests in literature from Chaucer's Poor Priest onwards, but, far more importantly, the many truly saintly and inspiring priests it is my great good fortune to know or to have known.

Michael Hale

This service is available online on the Canterbury Cathedral YouTube page.

Upcoming events in

September & October



at Lympne Castle



Friday 11th September - Live Music at The Castle 6:30pm – 9:30pm

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



Thursday 17th September - Immersive Sound Bath-18:30-19:30

Join us for this session where André from Sound Emergence leads us into a deeply relaxing and meditative sound journey with singing bowls, gongs and other instruments.



Friday 25th September- Curry and Quiz-£18 per person

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

Book your spot now!

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



Thursday 8th October - 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.



Opening Hours

The Good Knight and Castle

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

The Naughty Dog

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



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

Celebration of the Life of Stephen Mills

On Saturday 15 August a tea party was held to remember and celebrate the life of our dear friend Stephen Mills. Family members joined Open Door volunteers in the garden of 101 High Street to enjoy a delicious spread and give thanks for all that Stephen contributed to the local church and community. A garden party was particularly appropriate since it was something that Stephen himself had been planning to host. Warm thanks were expressed to Chris Porter and her helpers for all their hard work in preparing such a wonderful and fitting tribute.



Joanne Hill (text) and Gillian Vine (photos)



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	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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