

50p

THE COMPASS

MAGAZINE



MAY to



JUNE 2026

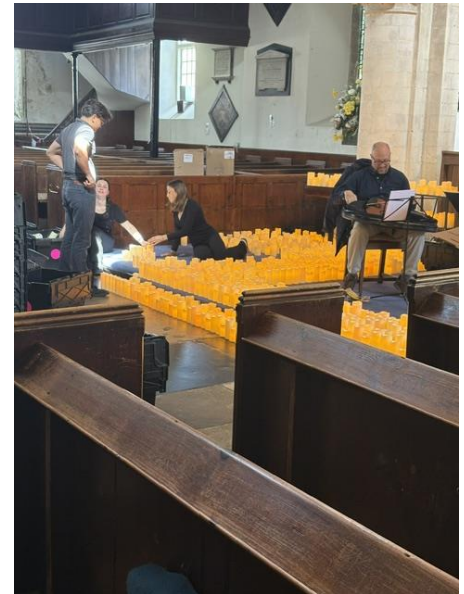
St Leonard's - Upper Deal
St Martin's - Great Mongeham
St Nicholas' - Sholden
St Richard's - Mill Hill

EDITORS NOTE

Dear All!

Thanks for your help with this edition. Please keep your contributions coming. Get ready for the July/August edition.

I'm taking the chance to add the Easter pictures to the Compass while *Lumos Experiences* are setting up for the three concerts (beginning at 5pm) they have hired



St Leonard's for. Set up began at 1pm. Janet and I are overseeing the day (in shifts) and at 10pm, with Steve's help, we will be putting the church back in time for the 8am in the morning. The trio have just started rehearsing. 2000+ LED candles. Just a little bit exciting...



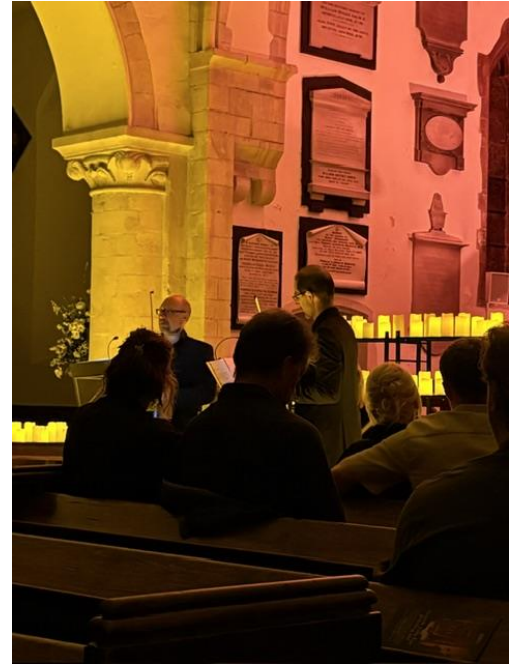
The building was much admired, some had never been inside, some came with memories, including memories of violin lessons next door with Dorothy Sokell.

The concerts were an hour long. There were no refreshments so mess was minimal.





If the company uses the church again- now we know what we are doing – we can share the music with some people from our congregation who would like to help in exchange for some lovely music and atmosphere.



Spring really is glorious! Can you spot the bee? *(Thanks for the photo Jennie)*

See you next Compass!

Wendy M (Editor)

stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com

A reflection on my time in the Parish – from Rev Lynn Overington



Dear All,

As the time approaches for me to leave the parish, it seems a good moment to reflect on my time here as a parishioner, ordinand and curate (deacon & priest). The many stages of my spiritual journey within the loving care of this community.

We moved to Deal from Hertfordshire in May 2014. After a break to get my bearings, I started the search for a new spiritual base. It took a few months, but as soon as I walked into St. Leonard's, two weeks before Christmas of that year, I knew that I had come 'home'. I was greeted by Wendy and Ted Smithson at the door and welcomed as a visitor by Rev. David Flewker during the service. I wasn't a visitor for very long.

As I was working full-time, I was not around for many of the church community activities, but I was a regular on Sundays. I can't quite remember the timescale for all this, but at some point I ended up on the refreshment rota. I enjoyed this as it gave me a chance to chat to people. I also volunteered to be a Deanery Synod rep and joined the PCC.

In the background of all this was a growing feeling that God wanted more from me. I had a sense of being 'called to something' for many years, even before there were women priests. However, I was on a different part of my faith journey then. I was a very involved Quaker, an elder of



Watford Quaker Meeting, so obviously I ignored this sense of restless searching.

When we moved to Deal and I found this parish, the feeling returned, stronger and more insistent. I only attended St. Leonard's initially, but in time I worshipped at all four churches. When I first arrived, there was still a small congregation at St. Richard's.

Time passed and the noise of God calling me got louder. There is only so long you can ignore it! After a profound spiritual



experience on Palm Sunday 2018, I decided that I had to at least ask the question. I spoke to Rev. David and the process was set in motion.



I attended information sessions, completed written work, went through a discernment process of several months and had to attend two interview panels before Bishop Rose rang me in January 2021 to say

she was recommending me for ordination training. I was exhilarated! Through all this process, I was supported by all of you in the parish. I knew I was being held and prayed for. I was especially supported by the PTOs as we were in Interregnum for most of this process. Wendy Jackson-Hill provided the clergy reference for me, for which I am very grateful.

I started my ordination training at St. Augustine's Theological College in September 2021, which was the same month that Rev Monica joined us. Although I had cut my NHS hours, I was still



working three full days per week alongside the studying. It was tough, but my life in the parish sustained me through it. I so enjoyed my time at college. It was mentally stretching, but also fun. I made some good friends. I did a placement at St. George's in Deal, as a church with a different worshipping tradition. I was made very welcome and I enjoyed it. I also did a placement with the chaplain at the Port of Dover, which I found challenging, exhilarating and fascinating.



It is normal practice for an ordinand to be sent to a different parish to serve their curacy. Therefore, I was surprised and delighted in February 2023 to be asked by Jon Marlow, the Head of Vocations, if I would like to stay in my own parish to be curate after my ordination. It made sense for so many reasons both practical and spiritual. The day of my ordination as Deacon was one that I will never forget 1st July 2023. It was so wonderful to have your support, some of you at the service, and many more of you at the party afterwards in the Social Centre.



I felt very loved. When I was 'priested' in June 2024, I felt like my heart was going to burst with the joy of it all. I have never felt so blessed. The joy of celebrating the Eucharist never fades.

I cut my NHS working days from three to two per week when I became a curate, to enable me to be more involved in the parish. I took over the visits to Sholden Hall for their monthly Holy Communion service. I also started to support Janet Thorpe

Jones with the Memory Café. I have loved these aspects of my ministry, being especially drawn to working with these groups of individuals. I have enjoyed my working relationship with Sally Barclay and now Tina Cook from Age Concern Sandwich, who are our partners in providing the Memory Café.

In spring last year, I was given the opportunity to do a prison chaplaincy placement at HMP Rochester. This is another area of



interest to me as I worked in this environment in my NHS role. I am considering this as a future possibility for my ministry.

Through all this I have been guided, supported and trained by Mother Monica, my training incumbent. I couldn't have asked for a better one. I am proud to have been her protégé. I have also been helped and supported in my priestly development by our wonderful PTOs Patrick, Peter, Sharon and Wendy. They have all given me sound

practical advice and spiritual support as I stumbled my way through the early days of 'what to do and in which order to do it!!' Thank you for that. Thank you to all of you for your kind tolerance when I have missed hymns out, done things in an alternative sequence and especially read hymn numbers out the wrong way around!!!



When I became a curate, I had some worries. I wondered how it would be to go from being in the pews to being up at the front, wearing my collar. I was worried that it would affect my relationships with you all. All my worries were groundless. I feel that I have been carried from 'punter to priest'



surrounded by your love, care and prayerful support.

I am so sad to be leaving you, but I know it is the right thing to do and also the right time. Keith and I are looking forward to being closer to our family and to seeing more of our two grandsons while they are still young enough



to appreciate us! It seems like a good time to have a new adventure, but I will miss you. Please pray for us.

I give my thanks, love and blessings to all of you in the Parish of Upper Deal and Great Mongeham, in all your many and varied roles. You have been dear friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. I will hold you in my thought and prayers.

With all my love and blessings

Reverend Lynn 😊 xx





Sat 23rd May

12-3pm

Beginning with bring
& share lunch &

Entertainment from Ravi Holy

At St Richard's Church,
Mill Hill, Deal

Come & have your say...

Please try and make time for this important event, a time to think about and pray for the future of the parish. We have been disappointed in the turn out for recent years and have, therefore, reduced the time from a day to an afternoon. It's important that we all take part in these discussions, so that no one is left with a feeling of having things imposed upon the parish. Please give serious prayer and thought to taking part so that your voice is heard. In Ezra Ch10: 4 we are encouraged to **'Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.'** God will support us if we are all ready to come together and prayerfully take part in annually discerning his mission for the Parish. With grateful thanks and appreciation.



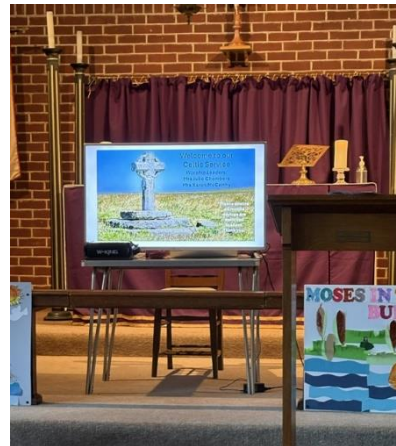


LENT & EASTER ACTIVITIES 2026

Palm Sunday
Whole Parish procession before
the service at St Martin's.



Celtic Service, Holy Monday at St
Richard's led by Julie Chalmers &
Karen McCarthy



Tenebrae Service, Holy Tuesday at St
Nicholas' led by Rev Nick Toamaszewski



Easter garden in the porch at St Martin's



'Wood between the Worlds', reflections on the cross led by Rev John Wakeman & Steve Manion



Our Agape supper this year was led by Revs Wendy, Sharon and Lynn.

We celebrated the Passover Meal (Seder) and moved on to celebrate a new way in Christ.

The altar was stripped and the silent watch began.



Chrism Eucharist - 2nd April 2026

On Maundy Thursday Muriel and I, with Nicola our daughter, and Rev'd John, attended the Chrism Eucharist with a Renewal Commitment to Ministry and Blessing of Oils at Canterbury Cathedral. Presiding was our new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, with Bishop Rose preaching. The cathedral was packed to capacity on the day. I was honoured to present to the Archbishop, the Oil of Chrism, which she blessed after our renewal to commitment to ministry. The Archbishop addressed John and I in our role as deacons and many of our colleagues with these words:



"At your ordination as a deacon, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth and serve them in his name? "



Our thanks go to Rev'd Deacon Pat for her experience and advice on the logistics of the service and especially the robing in the dalmatic.

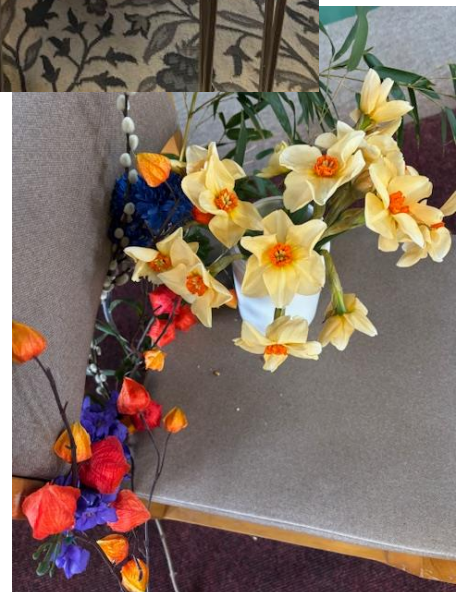
The Liturgy of the Sacrament followed. We brought home sufficient Oils of Chrism for our four churches. It was a wonderful day filled with the Holy Spirit.

Nick Tomaszewski



Good Friday

Workshop – well attended –
what a happy bunch!





Easter Saturday Vigil – St Leonard's



A joyful celebration of the new light.



2026

Summer Concert (incl. school choirs)	June	TBC
Hornbeam Yr R/6 Exploration of place of worship	23 rd June	(School only)

The Parish Families & Youth team are already busy planning events for the year; these are our events for the community and schools for June. We can always do with volunteers to help at our events. If you would like to lend a much-needed hand please speak to Tracey. Thank you all for your continuing support and prayers.

The Parish Families and Youth Team.

Rev Monica, Rev Sharon, Karen McCarthy, Julie Chambers, Julie Murrow, Tracey Nesbit

Our own Tracey Nesbit is walking a mile a day in May in aid of **DementiaUK and in memory of mum, dad & Aunty Nora.**

Anything you can give towards her target would be gratefully received. Please use the link below to donate. **Thank you.**

<https://fundraise.dementiauk.org/fundraisers/tracey nesbit/walk-31-miles>

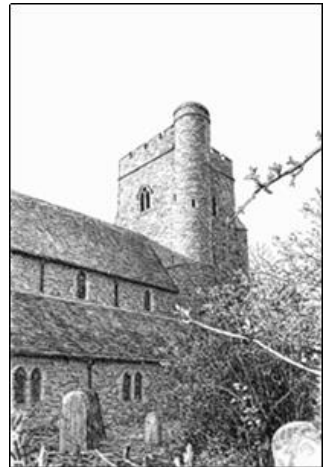


SWIFT PROJECT AT ST MARTIN'S

(Article taken from April's GMNews)

Older residents will have fond memories of a colony of swifts arriving every May to nest in the church tower of St Martin's. Like many other churches the louvred windows on the tower have since been boarded up to stop pigeons entering and damaging the bell hanging area, and today swifts are on the red list of endangered species, their numbers having declined by 60% since the 1990s.

Success has been achieved locally in providing nestboxes in suitable spaces, and a project is underway to adapt nestboxes to fit into the east window of the tower with the hope of encouraging swifts to return to the church. If you have space on your house for a swift box, please contact walmerdealaction4swifts@gmail.com (J. Esposito)



*Fifteenth of May. Cherry blossom. The swifts
Materialise at the tip of a long scream
Of needle. 'Look! They're back! Look!' And they're gone
On a steep
Controlled scream of skid
Round the house-end and away under the cherries.
Gone.*

*Suddenly flickering in sky summit, three or four together,
Gnat-whisp frail, and hover-searching, and listening
For air-chills – are they too early? With a bowing
Power-thrust to left, then to right, then a flicker they
Tilt into a slide, a tremble for balance,
Then a lashing down disappearance
Behind elms.*

*They've made it again,
Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's
Still waking refreshed, our summer's
Still all to come –
– From Swifts by Ted Hughes.*



**Memory Café
at St Richard's Church
Mill Hill, Deal
CT14 9JU**

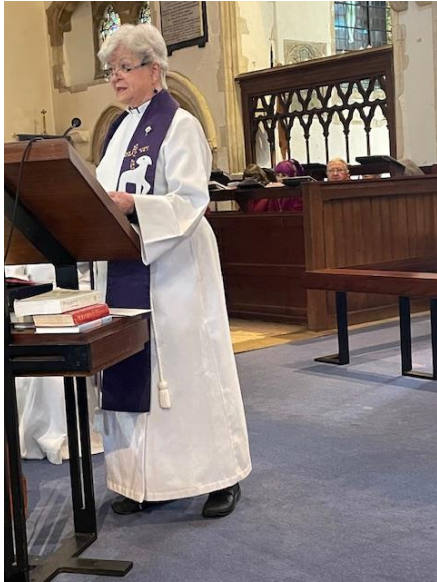
- Are you living with dementia or memory loss or caring for someone who does?
- If so, our Memory Café is for you. An opportunity for carers and cared-for to meet others with similar life experiences and find support.
- Social Prescribers will be in attendance to help with daily living tasks, housing queries, benefits advice and so much more.
- **Second and last Tuesday of the month, 3-5pm**
- For more information contact
Tina Scott on 01304 626954 / 01304 614237
sunflowermanager@ageconcernsandwich.com
Sneller House, 19/21 Cattle Market, Sandwich, Kent.
CT13 9AP
- Information also available at
DDC, Carer's Support and
Stilwell and Singleton
Solicitors



Mothers' Union Enrolment Service

for Carol McCaughan from St Nicholas' and Becky Danican from St Leonard's on Sunday 8th March.

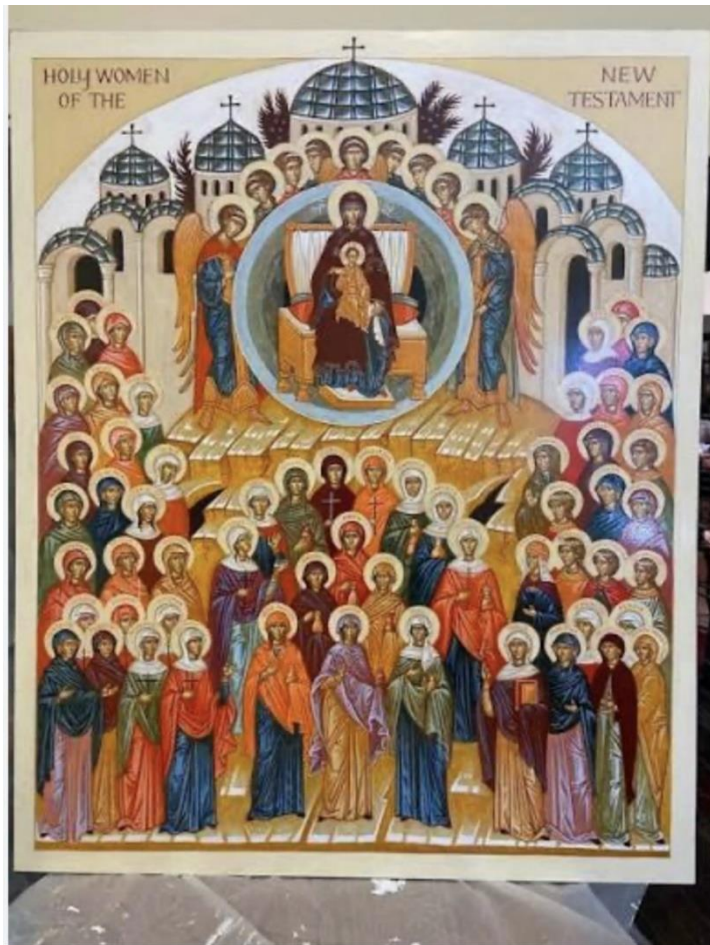
If you would like to join this thriving group – it is open to all - please ask any of the members for more information.



Jackie Curd, the Canterbury Mothers' Union Diocesan President was with us.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026 Heather MacKean, iconographer was commissioned by the University of Portland in Oregon to create an icon of the **Women of the New Testament**.



The first list she received had 18 names, several months later, the list grew to 58. Many of the names not mentioned in the NT maintain a mention in the Orthodox tradition. Some of the names may be found in the Apocrypha. When blessed, the Icon will live in the chapel of a women's dorm in the University of Portland.

The women are; Anna, Elizabeth, Prophetess Anna, Widow of Nain, the poor

widow, Wife & daughter of Jairus, Peter's mother in law, Junia, Apphia, the mother of Rufus & Alexander, Lydia, Chloe of Corinth, Persis, Thekla, Syntyche, Euodia, Priscilla, Eunice, Lois, Numptha, Deacon Phoebe, Mary wife of Cleopas, Mary of Rome, Basilissa, Anastasia, Damaris, Julia, Syrophenician woman, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Zenaida, Philonella, Berenice, Drusilla, Claudia, Candace, Photini (the Samaritan woman), Anatole, Phota, Photida, Kyriake, Paraskeva, Domnina. Rhoda, Mariamne, Enkhidia, Charilene, Dorcas/Tabitha (same person), Hermione, Salome, Joanna, Mary, Susanna, Martha, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Bernice.



A Synopsis of the Belonging Course lead by Julie Murrow in February 2026.

For more information go to: belongingcourse.uk

The Oxford Dictionary definitions of 'belong' are *to be the property of; to be a member of; to be put into a particular position or class and; feel at ease in a particular place or situation*. We might not be the property of anyone, but we are members of our families, our churches and our communities. That's why we feel comfortable in those groups. But what if someone doesn't feel comfortable in your group?

- Loneliness can lead to devastating consequences on mental and physical health. *It's a complex personal feeling that arises from a mismatch between the relationships we have and the relationships we need.*
- Is someone enjoying their solitude or are they isolated, perhaps from friends or family? *Learn the difference. Solitude is intentional and beneficial for personal growth. Isolation is not and can lead to physical and psychological ill health.*
- Rushing to assist someone before you have taken the time to fully connect with them can negatively impact their self-worth. *Sometimes the best way to support someone is to stand with them in their pain, sharing their burden rather than trying to fix the unfixable. Listen without judgement. Validate people's emotions.*

- Reacting to someone’s behaviour without thinking can cause further damage to that person and their relationship with you. *A person’s internal struggles may impact their behaviour and the way they respond. Understanding this enables us to approach them with empathy and patience, foster healing and avoid further harm. Loving, consistent relationships help overcome barriers to belonging and promote recovery and healing. Remember ‘All behaviour is a form of communication, and emotions are signals.’*
- Saying yes is not always the best response. It can cause you to burn out and make a situation much worse. *Learn the difference between being responsible for someone and being responsible to them. Being compassionate includes setting boundaries that demonstrate respect for all parties.*
- Helping people before asking what they really want limits their agency, disempowers them and impacts their sense of worth and control. *Instead, create opportunities for them to step into their potential. You’ll give them greater agency and value. Consider the power dynamics in your relationships. Could you change the recipient/server dynamic?*



Finally, consider why we’re happy to talk about our need for healthy food and exercise but struggle to talk about our need for friendship and connection. Why is that? Is that you? Is it someone you know?

A Prayer

Heavenly Father, we humbly ask you to send your Holy Spirit to help us relax our minds and bodies and speak to us as we cultivate our quiet time with you. Lead us to those who are suffering, hurting or struggling and give us fresh eyes to see them as you do. Fill our hearts with compassion and tenderness towards them. Please give us the tools to deepen our friendships in church and in our community. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we can form new friendships, seeing, hearing and understanding others. Help us be patient, kind and gentle with ourselves and let us see transformation in our own lives in order to help others. Please hear us when we say that we are willing to be used by you in the lives of others. Know that our time, homes, personalities, and gifts are all available for you to use for your glory and the good of others. In the name of Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

(A big thank you to both Julie Murrow for leading this course and to Rev Monica for hosting in the Rectory.)



Meanwhile at St Nicholas', this little cat has been a regular attender to services for some time now. Thank you Carol M for the picture, she is determined to get a better shot one day.



TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER



on Tuesday 12th May 2026

at ST LEONARD'S SOCIAL CENTRE

9.30-11.30AM

Coffee, lots of cakes, goodies, etc. Usual Stalls will be present. Donations for raffle prizes gratefully received.



‘Little Lights’ learning about Mothering Sunday – March 2026

And more fun in April...



Thank you team for your love for this work and energy!



There were two special birthdays in March. Sue and Bernie were celebrating their 80th birthdays! Who knew?

There was a bit of a do with a cake from Linda Dixon and a buffet at the Social Centre.

This was also a bit of a 'thank you' for many years of

hard work at the Social Centre running the coffee mornings. They will be taking a bit of a back seat with these from now on but *will continue to organise the fundraising mornings.*



We are enormously grateful to Anne Varney, Jane

Stubbington, Christine Taylor, Jane Wright, Marian Nesbit & Paula who will be serving the teas and coffees from now on.



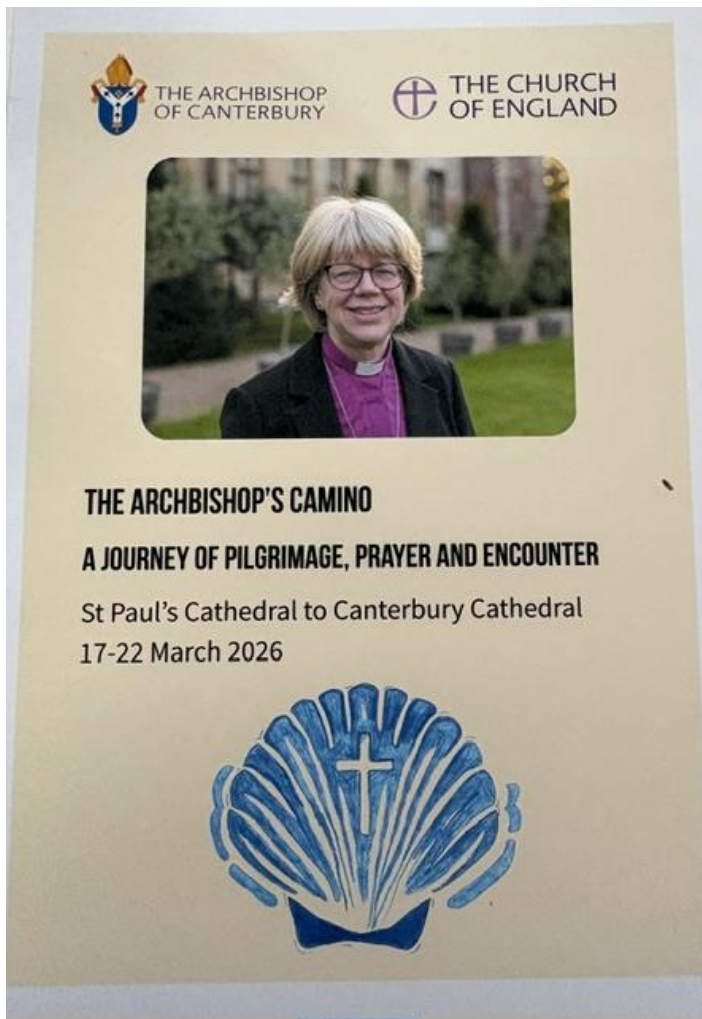


Also huge thanks to Linda Hewings and Phil Chambers who will help with setting up. (There's always room for more volunteers on the rota, so if you are willing and able please contact Rev Monica or the office.



Sue and Bernie are probably exhausted now, they had a very happy trip to see Sue's son. Sue even brought cake and bubbles to choir practise. Many happy returns the both of you.

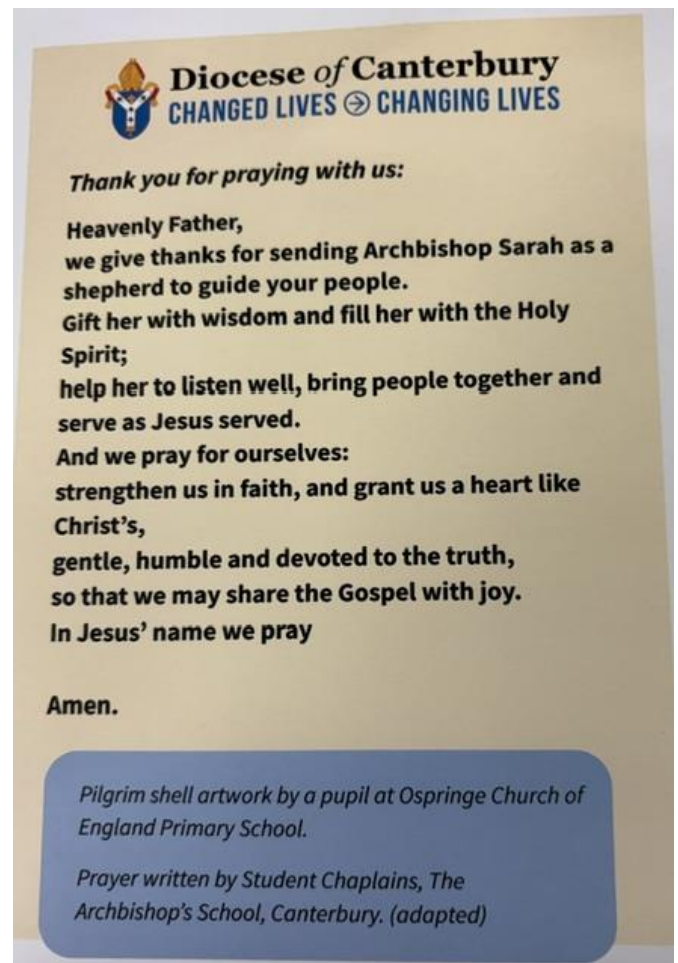




The prospect of the Installation of our new Archbishop, Sarah Mullally caused a stir on the way to and in Canterbury this last week of March.



Some of our church family attended the less formal Welcome Service at the Cathedral on the 28th and picked up these cards from her camino 17th-22nd March 2026.



To sleep...to dream...

We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams

Saturday 2nd May 5.00 pm
St Leonard's Church

Rectory Road, Deal.

Tickets £ 8 inc. refreshments

Children under 16 free

All proceeds to the replacement
heating and roof repair fund



Book online via the QR code
Tickets also available from St Leonard's Church



St Richard's Church Youth Choir

Numbers are growing, please join us. The choir
meets on the

1st Sunday of the month

at

St Richard's Church, Mill Hill, Deal

*All reading age children welcome to join
(no singing experience required)*

The morning runs as follows;

10.00am – Rehearsal

10.45am – Refreshments

11am – Family Communion Service

11.30am - Finish

Please contact youth musician, Julie Murrow on 07512 978419 or
juliemurrow6898@gmail.com for more information.

**We look forward to meeting you. Please pray
for this outreach to our children in the
community.**



Thy Kingdom Come 2026

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from

Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Come and hear the Good News



Rev Monica will be reading the four gospels over four days between Ascension and Pentecost at our four churches.

Monday 18th May	The Gospel according to Matthew	St Richard's Church 2-4pm
Tuesday 19th May	The Gospel according to Mark	St Leonard's Church 4-6pm
Wednesday 20th May	The Gospel according to Luke	St Martin's Church 11-1pm
Thursday 21st May	The Gospel according to John	St Nicholas' Church 2-4pm

Come and sit and listen for all or part of the readings. Join the Wave of Prayer 14th – 24th May 2026

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY UPDATE – PLEASE READ

Whether we have an official duty or role in the parish, we might be a volunteer or we may just come along to our services and events – we all need to know about safeguarding. It not just somebody else's job.

We have a safeguarding officer – Mandy Forrest – 01304 372521 or 07999 910197. Any concerns are **immediately** raised with Mandy on one of those numbers.

However, a lot of us need to get, at least basic training — on the Diocesan website it describes training as being 'For everyone within Church communities who need to have a basic awareness of safeguarding issues.' I don't think there is anyone this doesn't apply to.

Please see the table on the next page and how it might apply to you.

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/safeguarding-basic-awareness-module.php>

The PCC would be very interested to hear if you do take up this offer. **Thanks to the people who have already taken this important step.**

Role	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Leadership	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Safer Recruitment and People Management
Incumbents and clergy, including those with PtO*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (for those involved with recruitment)
Licensed Lay Ministers, e.g. Readers and ALMs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish workers with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Leaders/Supervisors of work with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Churchwardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PCC Members	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Tower Captains and Choir Leaders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Anyone else involved in the recruitment of employees and volunteers	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Roles within the church and/or ministry working alongside children and vulnerable adults; e.g. welcome, homegroup leaders, organists, adult bell ringers, choir and worship band members.	Yes	No	No	No	No

- Clergy or readers with PtO who only lead occasional services may opt for the PtO Pathway instead of the Leadership Pathway.

This is a guide only. Your context may differ from this. For example, if an organist directly teaches young people or vulnerable adults, they will need to train at a higher level than stated above.

Deanery Synod Meeting

Tuesday 30th June

7.30pm

at

St Richard's Church

Mill Hill, Deal

Speaker before the
business part of the
meeting will be
Rev Neville Emslie
who will talk about leading
your church into growth.



All welcome

Come and meet the new Area Dean for
Sandwich, if you haven't already, **Fr**
Sebastian, Rector of Sandwich and Wort



'LITTLE LIGHTS'

Let
your
light
shine



CHILDREN'S SERVICE
THIRD SUNDAY
EVERY MONTH
10:00am
ST RICHARD'S CHURCH,
MILL HILL, DEAL.



Come and join us at **'Little Lights'**

Children of **all ages** and **abilities** are **welcome** and encouraged to take part and express themselves through **drama**, **music**, **action songs**, **craft** and **prayer**.

We start the service with a good chat around the **breakfast table**.

For more information email the UDGM Team@ udgm.kids@gmail.com



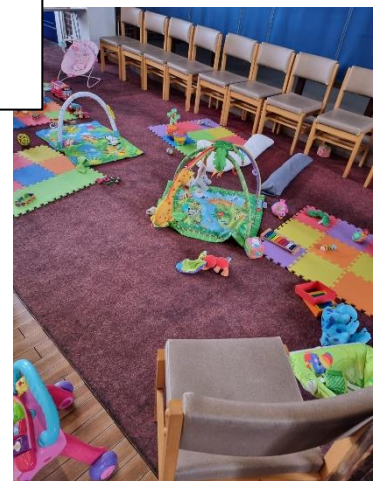
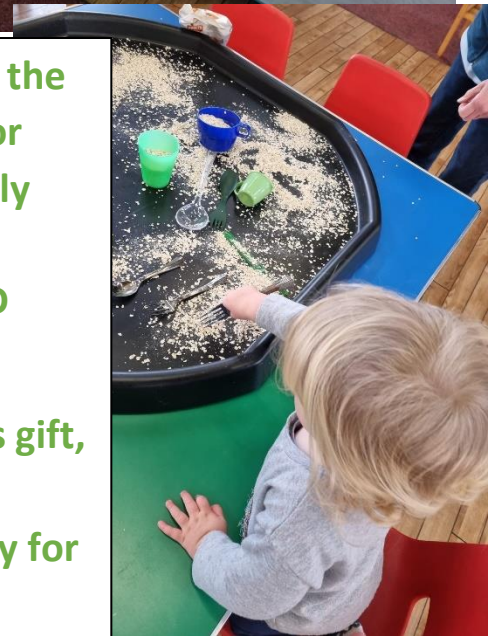


Froglets



We have new people on the rota but there is room for more. Please prayerfully consider joining the rota once a month. WE NEED YOU

Pray: Thank God for this gift, for volunteers, new and those already there! Pray for the mums, dads and grandparents that come, pray for the children.





Advanced Notice

**The Great Mongeham
History Society
is having a
History day for families
and friends on
Saturday 4th July 2026
At**

St Martin's Church

11-4pm – details to be confirmed

**The theme of the day will be 'maritime history' – of which
there is a lot in the area and the churchyard.**

**There will be exhibitions, activities for children,
refreshments and fun.**

If the weather is wet, we will be inside the church.

**The Society meets on the third Thursday of each month of
the year.**

**Please contact greatmongehamsociety@hotmail.com for
further information**



**Great Mongeham has had some names in
the past, not sure if this was ever one of
them...**

Herne Bay Concert Band



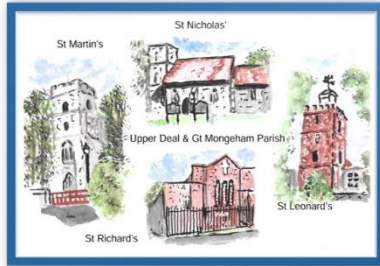
Concert at
St Nicholas' Church
Sholden.
May 31st. at
2,00pm.
admission £5.
Children under 16
free.

*We'll
play, you'll
remember !!*



On 19th April at St Nicholas' we said farewell to Rev Pat Wright, our Distinctive Deacon. Rev Wendy led the tributes and Pat was thanked for her dedicated work in the Parish and the Diocese as a chaplain to the LGBTQ community amongst many other jobs. Pat is moving, with our prayers to a community in East Grinstead and we wish her peace, our love and best wishes in her new home.





**PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR REGULAR
EVENTS IN THE PARISH OF UPPER
DEAL AND GREAT MONGEHAM**

Book Club: Monthly, check What's On? for details.

Coffee Morning, St Leonard's Centre: Weekly, Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am

CrafTEA, St Leonard's Centre: Monthly, first Tuesday 2-4pm

Dwelling in the Word Group, The Manions': Alternate Fridays 7pm

English Lessons for Ukraine, St Richard's: Monthly, 2nd Thursday

Friendship Lunch, St Richard's, Monthly, first Thurs, 12 noon, not January

Froglets, St Richard's: Term time, Weekly, Fridays, 10-12 noon

'Little Lights' Children's Service, St Richard's: Monthly, third Sunday, 10.00am

Memory Support Café, St Richard's: Twice monthly, second and last Tuesdays 3-5pm (new time from Nov 2025)

Men's Breakfast, Sir Norman Wisdom: Monthly, first Saturday, 8.30am

Mother's Union Holy Communion, St Leonard's: Monthly, first Thursday, 10am

Mother's Union Meetings St Leonard's Centre, Monthly, second Tues., 2.30pm

Sunday School, St Martin's: Available Weekly, 11.00am

UDGM Prayer Group, where you are: Monthly, second Saturday, 10am

Youth Choir with Family Service, St Richard's: Monthly, 1st Sunday 10-11.30am



‘Dwelling in the Word’ passage Mark 1. 4-18

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision for our planning

Wisdom to our actions,

Joy to our worship

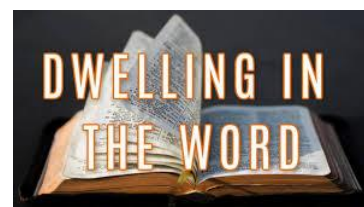
And power to our witness.

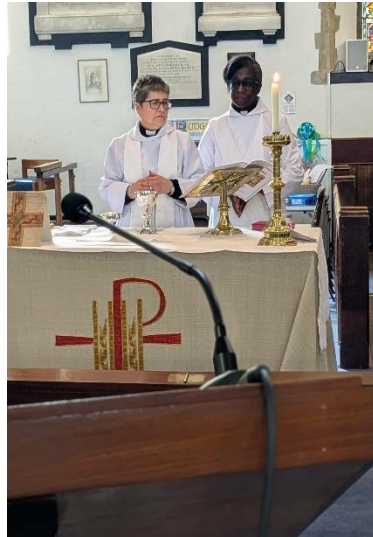
Help our church to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





On Sunday 26th April we said farewell to our curate. We wish Rev Lynn and family all the best as she travels along with God in Daventry.



Lynn's Farewell Lunch - A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this a great success. Those who helped set up, pledged food, brought things, came, served or washed up and cleared away afterwards. Thank you!!



THE PARISH OF UPPER DEAL AND GREAT MONGEHAM

has two halls that may suit your hire needs.

ST LEONARD'S SOCIAL CENTRE

Rectory Road, Deal

A small and a larger hall is available for hire.

Manager: Julie Murrow

Bookings:

stleonardshaldeal@gmail.com



A lot of work has taken place in the Social Centre this year. We are grateful to our caretaker, Phil Chambers for his gifts, time and talent.



ST RICHARD'S CHURCH

Mill Hill, Deal

A large hall with a stage.

Please contact;

strichardshire@gmail.com

SERVICES MAY 2026	ST LEONARD'S	ST MARTIN'S	ST NICHOLAS'	ST RICHARD'S
Sunday 3 rd May	8.00am Holy Communion 10am Family Service without Holy Communion	11.00m Family Service without Holy Communion	9.30am Family Service with Holy Communion	10.00am Family Service with Holy Communion. Children's Choir
Sunday 10 th	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am No service	11.00am No service	9.30am No service	10am Short service with communion followed by APCM
Sunday 17th	8.00am Holy Communion 10am Family Service without Holy Communion 5.30pm Choral Evensong	11.00am Family Service without Holy Communion	9.30am Family Service with Holy Communion	10.00am 'Little Lights' Children's Breakfast Service
Sunday 24 th Pentecost	8am Holy Communion 10.00am No service	11.00am No service	9.30am No service	10-2pm Whole Parish Pentecost Service celebrating the birth of the church.
Sunday 31st Trinity Sunday	8am Holy Communion 10.00am No service	11.00am No service	9.30am Whole Parish Service with Herne Bay Concert Band	10 – 2pm Church open for quiet prayer

SERVICES June 2026	ST LEONARD'S	ST MARTIN'S	ST NICHOLAS'	ST RICHARD'S
Sunday 7th	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family service without Holy Communion	11.00am Family service without Holy Communion	9.30am Family service with Holy Communion	10.00am Family Service with Holy Communion. Children's Choir
Sunday 14th	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion - farewell to Rev Wendy followed by bring and share lunch in Social Centre.	11.00am No service	9.30am No service	10am-2pm No service
Sunday 21st	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service without Holy Communion 5.30pm Choral Evensong	11.00am Family Service without Holy Communion	9.30am Family service with Holy Communion	10.00am 'Little Lights' Children's breakfast service
Sunday 28th	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service with Holy Communion	11.00am Family Service with Holy Communion	9.30am Family Service without Holy Communion	10am -2pm Church Open for silent prayer

REGULAR SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS – PLEASE JOIN US

St Leonard's - after the 10am Sunday service

St Martin's - before the Sunday service 10.15am onwards

St Nicholas' – after the Sunday service

St Richard's - various times depending on type of service but always

Evensong – a glass of sherry is served after Evensong

Evensong times – 5.30pm when the clocks go forward - 4.30pm when the clocks go back.



St Leonard's Church Hand bell Ringers have an ap-'peal' and would like to invite you...

- To join their small group of novice and experienced hand bell ringers
- If you are interested in having a go, they meet every Tuesday at 7pm in Deal
- There's no need to be able to read music
- Beginners are welcome
- More information from Jane on 01304 379698 – please give her a ring!



CrafTEA

Knitting/Craft group. First Tuesday afternoon of the month, 2-4pm in St Leonard's Social Centre. Come and join us for coffee, craft and chat.

Regular Coffee Mornings Tuesdays

9.30-11.30am

St Leonard's Social Centre

Look out for Charity Specials - announcements soon



English Classes for Ukrainian Students, monthly, 2nd Thursday mornings.



First Saturday of the month. 8.30 at the Sir Norman Wisdom, Deal.



- **Friendship Lunch, St Richard's:** Monthly, first Thursday, 12 noon

Parish Prayer Group, wherever you are: Monthly, second Saturday, 10.00am



Who's Who at Upper Deal and Great Mongeham

Priest	Rev Mthr Monica Cameron revmonicacameron@gmail.com	07938 360395
Curates	Rev Nick Tomaszewski revnicholastomaszewski@gmail.com Rev John Wakeman revjohnudgm@outlook.com	
Parish Office	Administrator: Wendy Manion St Leonard's Church Office Tues- Thurs 9-12am stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com	01304 369919
Church Wardens	Wendy Manion Steve Manion (until May 2026) Janet Thorpe Jones	07411 432541 07968 972746 01304 368433
Deputy Church Wardens	John Fletcher Phil Chambers	01304 362109 01304 360230
Safe-guarding Officer	Amanda Forrest	01304 372521 07999 910197
PCC Treasurer	Patricia Brazier TreasurerUDGM@outlook.com	
PCC Secretary	Wendy Manion (until May 2026)	07411 432541
St Leonard's Social Centre	Julie Murrow (Manager) stleonardshalldeal@gmail.com Phil Chambers (caretaker)	see email
St Richard's	Bookings (Tracey Nesbit) strichardshire@gmail.com Phil Chambers - Caretaker	

Ministry Team	Rev Mthr Monica Cameron (Priest in charge) Rev Sharon Greenwood Rev Peter Hambrook Rev Wendy Jackson-Hill Rev Patrick Kavanagh Rev Nick Tomaszewski (Deacon) Rev John Wakeman (Deacon) Julie Chambers (ALM) Stephen Manion (ALM) Mary Shorten (ALM)	
Sacristans	Carol McCaughan Julie Chambers Karen Fairclough Karen McCarthy Sue Cooke	
Pastoral Visiting Team	Rev Mthr Monica Cameron Rev Patrick Kavanagh Rev Peter Hambrook	
Missional Learning Communities Team	Rev Mthr Monica Christine Taylor Sharon Greenwood Steve Goodsell Steve Manion Jane Slater Wendy Manion Diane Thurgood	
Website	https://upperdealandgtmongehamparish.com/	

DEFIBRILLATOR ST LEONARD'S SOCIAL CENTRE

1. For those who were unaware, there is a defibrillator at St Leonard's Social Centre. It is on the exterior wall straight ahead as you enter the car park.
2. It had a brand new battery and pads (Dec 2025) and is now on 'The Circuit' which is a network used by the ambulance service to identify the location of the nearest defibrillator when necessary.
3. The defibrillator is available 24/7.



4. **Julie Murrow, manager of the Social Centre**, is the monitor of the defibrillator so if you have to use it or become aware that it has been used please inform her at stleonardshalldeal@gmail.com in the first instance or on 07512 978419. Failing this, please inform **Rev Monica** or **Wendy** in the office.
5. There will be a notice to this effect in the Social Centre in due course. Please check out this 'link' to find out what to do in an emergency.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/national-defibrillator-network-the-circuit>



Our friends at Cavell's, who have generously sponsored the refreshments at our events, have a vacancy in Deal for a full time Funeral Arranger, they would love a local person for the job. Please see the link below for more details and pass them on;

<https://dignity.kallidusrecruit.com/VacancyInformation.aspx?Vid=4039>

To sum up...

Our parish financial situation is in much need with a significant number of structural repairs required to maintain our beautiful buildings for us and future generations. More details to follow in future editions.

We now have two payment machines, a fixed one at St Leonard's where there is WIFI & a 'CollecTin' machine, a card reader, currently at St Richard's. The cost of both have been obtained through generous donations and a grant from the Diocese. We are using both machines at parish events to help increase giving. Keep your eyes 'peeled' for both machines and pray for their effectiveness and the ability they will have to help our parish finances so we may continue our outreach to the community.



This QR code may be used to give via the Parish Giving Scheme. It is very easy to use and, as always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A DEDICATED JUST GIVING PAGE has been set up to raise money for essential repairs across the parish – heating systems x 2 and roof replacement. Please share the link where and whenever you can. Thank you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/Ecclesiastical-Parish-of-Upper>

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

– **John, Chapter 13**

¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

– **Colossians Chapter 3**