

1875



2025

Christ Church

St Leonards on Sea

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

*Programme of Major Events
& Services in 2025*

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2025 marks 150 years since Christ Church was opened for public worship on 13th May 1875.

To commemorate this anniversary, we have planned a programme of special services, events and celebrations across 2025, as well as some new groups and initiatives - with a particular focus on the week of the 11th – 18th May.

Much of the emphasis will inevitably be in and around the church itself; but we also want to use this anniversary to put Christ Church back at the heart of our community (as it was at its foundation and for many decades) and rediscover that missionary zeal of our founder Charles Lyndhurst Vaughan.

As well as welcoming the community to regular open days and other events, a central plank of our celebrations will be an ambitious fundraising programme with a goal of raising £21,000 over the course of the year. Mindful of the Christian imperative to love our neighbours as ourselves – and Our Lord's clear teaching that all are our neighbours – we intend to split what we raise three ways:

Christ Church

One third will go towards a project to restore and replace the sacred vestments of Christ Church, many of which have now sadly come to the end of their life. Their use is central in the offering of the Mass, which is itself at the heart of our life and worship: this project will ensure that we can continue to offer worship of the Lord in the beauty of holiness for generations to come.

Our neighbours in the community: St Michael's Hospice

One third will be donated to St Michael's Hospice, who do incredible work in our local community to ensure the dignity of every person in the final stages of their life.

Our neighbours overseas: the Church in Tanzania

One third will go to support the work of the Church overseas amongst some of the poorest in the world, focussed on the work of the Church in Tanzania where Christ Church has historic links.

Current fundraising plans include parish quizzes, a sponsored pilgrimage, sponsored lifting at the gym - and even sponsored sobriety from the Rector!

If you've any ideas for the parish or offers for sponsored fundraising, please do get in touch!

150@christchurchstleonards.co.uk

Programme Overview

Major Events

- + Monthly Social Events, including a Summer BBQ, Wine Tasting, Parish Quiz & a Harvest Lunch
- + A Gala Dinner to relaunch the Friends of Christ Church
- + A Christmas Tree Festival

New Parish Groups

- + The Magdalenas – a new ladies' group
- + The Fishers of Men – a new men's group
- + Bible & Bacon – a new scripture study group

Christ Church Daily Life

This year we'll also be re-founding some of the traditional guilds to organise the huge amount of volunteering work that goes on to keep Christ Church running, and place them under the patronage of some of our parish saints – including **St Thérèse of Lisieux** and **St Frances de Sales**. We will launch **annual guild dinners** to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work throughout the year.

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Music

Our centrepiece new offering will be 'Second Sundays at Christ Church': Choral Evensong & Benediction, followed by supper with a guest speaker. Our first will be on Sunday 11th May in our anniversary week.

We also look forward to launching a new partnership with the Hastings Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra as part of our music programme, which will include free lunchtime concerts on Saturdays from May.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in offering a lunchtime concert, please get in touch at 150@christchurchstleonards.co.uk

We also will bless and dedicate our new Chapel of St Peter & St Paul, which uses the old altar from the former church that is now part of our parish – complementing the Chapel of St Mary Magdalen which provides our link with that former church. It will be an ongoing focus for our ecumenical efforts to build links and grow relationships with other churches and Christians in St Leonards & Hastings.

In addition, we will be commissioning and installing a new Confessional, made by a local craftsman from re- and upcycled materials, as well as offering regular contemplative Taizé prayer & an Alpha course for those interested in exploring the Faith.

MAIN EVENTS ACROSS 2025

FEBRUARY – THE MONTH OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Open Day & Table Sale

Saturday 1st

MARCH – THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Parish Quiz & Pancakes - Sunday 2nd March

1230pm (after Mass)

Shrove Tuesday - 4th March

6pm Pancake Party

730pm First Christian Initiation Class (Confirmation Classes) *Weekly until Easter*

Ash Wednesday - 5th March

All Day: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

1030am Low Mass with Imposition of Ashes

7pm Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes

The Solemnity of St Joseph - Wednesday 19th March

1030am Low Mass

7pm Sung Mass *followed by drinks at the pub*

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord - Tuesday 25th March

1030am Low Mass

7pm Sung Mass *followed by drinks reception*

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APRIL – THE MONTH OF THE RESURRECTION

Community Easter Play - Saturday 12th April 2pm

Holy Week: 13th – 20th April

Palm Sunday Procession - Sunday 13th April

1030am Procession & Sung Mass

Sung Compline by Candlelight - Monday 14th April – Wednesday 16th April 9pm

The Triduum: Maundy Thursday 17th April

7pm Mass of the Last Supper *followed by Solemn Watch until Midnight*

The Triduum: Good Friday 18th April

Ecumenical Walk of Witness *followed by Hot Cross Buns*

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

3pm Liturgy of the Day

The Triduum: Easter Vigil & Party – Saturday 19th April

8pm Sung Mass

Easter Day - Sunday 20th April

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by Easter Party*

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MAY – THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEK

150th Anniversary Opening Mass – Sunday 11th May

1030am Sung Mass *followed by drinks reception*

6pm Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper*

Launch of new monthly event

150th Anniversary of Opening - Tuesday 13th May

7pm Sung Mass *based on the original service in 1875*

Followed by drinks reception

150th Anniversary Open Day - Saturday 17th May

150th Anniversary Closing Mass - Sunday 18th May

1030am Sung Mass with the Bishop of Lewes *followed by a cream tea in the courtyard*

6pm Evensong *by The Songbirds*

“Thy Kingdom Come” Octave of Prayer

Thursday 29th May – Sunday 8th June

Daily Prayers for the growth of the Church and the Coming of the Kingdom

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Wednesday 28th May

6.30pm Vigil Latin Mass

Thursday 29th May

1030am Low Mass

7pm Sung Mass

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JUNE – THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

“Thy Kingdom Come” Octave of Prayer

Thursday 29th May – Sunday 8th June

Daily Prayers for the growth of the Church and the Coming of the Kingdom

Pentecost

Saturday 7th June
6.30pm Vigil Latin Mass

Sunday 8th June
8am Low Mass
1030am Sung Mass

Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper* - Sunday 8th June
6pm

Corpus Christi Thursday 19th June

1030am Low Mass

Daytime Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7pm Sung Mass & Procession *followed by drinks reception*

Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Sunday 22nd June – Friday 27th June

The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Friday 27th June

10.30am Low Mass

7pm Latin Mass

The Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (Minor Patronal) - Sunday 29th June

6.30pm Vigil Latin Mass (Saturday)

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by Hymns & Pimms Parish Social*

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JULY – THE MONTH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper* - Sunday 13th July

6pm

St Mary Magdalen (Minor Patronal Festival) - Sunday 20th July

6.30pm Vigil Latin Mass (Saturday)

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by Wine Tasting Lunch*

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**AUGUST – THE MONTH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY**

Anniversary of the Death of Charles Lyndhurst Vaughan – Friday 8th August
7pm Founder's Requiem Mass

Founder's Day BBQ & Open Day - Saturday 9th August

Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper* - Sunday 10th August
6pm

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Friday 15th August
(6.30pm Vigil Latin Mass 14th August)
10.30am Low Mass
7pm Sung Mass *followed by drinks at the pub*

Assumption-tide Procession at All Saint Margaret Street - Sunday 17th August
Coach travelling up after 1030am Sung Mass

Rectory Open House - Sunday 31st August
12.30pm (After Mass)

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SEPTEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Ride & Stride - Saturday 13th September

Participating in the fundraiser for Sussex Historic Churches Trust

The Feast of the Holy Cross – Sunday 14th September

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass

6pm Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper*

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OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Saturday 4th October

930am Parish Sale

1030am Low Mass followed by the **Blessing of the Animals**

Harvest Festival & Blessing of the Sea - Sunday 5th October

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass with Procession to the Sea

Followed by Harvest Lunch

Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper* - Sunday 12th October

6pm

(Re)Launch of the Friends of Christ Church

Gala Dinner

Date TBC

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NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The Solemnity of All Saints - Sunday 2nd November

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by drinks reception*

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed *All Souls' Day*

Monday 3rd November

1030am Low Mass of Requiem

7pm Sung Mass of Requiem

Festival of St Leonard & Open Day - Saturday 8th November

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass with Act of Remembrance

6pm Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper*

Christ the King - Sunday 23rd November

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by drinks reception*

DECEMBER – THE MONTH OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

Christmas Tree Festival – Dates TBC

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Monday 8th December

10.30am Low Mass

7pm Sung Mass *followed by drinks in the pub*

Gaudete Sunday - Sunday 14th December

8am Low Mass

1030am Sung Mass *followed by drinks reception*

6pm Evensong & Benediction *with Guest Speaker & Supper*

Carols in the Courtyard - Friday 19th December

7pm

Nine Lessons & Carols - Sunday 21st December (Advent IV)

6pm

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

3pm Family Nativity

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December

8am Low Mass

10.30am Sung Mass

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the dates and times for these published events, please check back closer to the time on the parish website and parish publicity for any changes or updates.

www.christchurchstleonards.co.uk

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ChChStLeonards



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