

Friendship Lunch

2025-26

Lunches take place on the second Saturday of the month from September to March and run from 12pm for about two hours. We offer a welcome drink followed by freshly baked rolls and homemade soup. Homemade cake follows, with tea or coffee and chocolates. We welcome donations to cover costs. We encourage people to book if they can but always prepare extra so that anyone dropping by is catered for. We have a team of about 7 helpers each time who make the soup and cakes and other church members are kind enough to provide cakes occasionally. Not all helpers attend church services but support us with events involving catering and are valued members of the team.

The lunches are advertised on Facebook, the weekly church newsletter and on fliers and posters in and around church. There is a sign-up sheet in church.

The number of non-church members has grown significantly over the September to March period. We now have a core group of new attendees who came into contact with the church through the Loose Ends Thursday afternoon monthly drop in session which was introduced in 2025. They enjoyed these sessions so much that they have come with friends to the Friendship Lunch group on a regular basis. It has been lovely to get to know them and to tell them more about the church and other opportunities to join us.

We are so pleased that this area of outreach has resulted in an average of 72% of attendees over the seven months being non-church members. They are of course valued members of the wider St Leonard's Church family and it has been great to welcome them at other church events too. These include the Quiz Night, coffee mornings, the summer fete and Christmas Market.

Once again a big thank you to the team who so cheerfully give of their time and cooking skills.

Rachel Burrage May 2026