

[View this email in your browser](#)

## The Kent Downs & Malling Bulletin



4 February 2026

**From the Team Rector**

Dear

People often describe aspects of our society as 'broken.' It's a way of conveying a sense of sadness and frustration that things that used to seem simple now seem complicated, of naming a breakdown of connection.

Within our own lives we can also feel fragile, breakable. We may be supporting family members who are struggling, we may be feeling overwhelmed by the number of decisions we have to make every day, we may be simply wondering whether we are enough. Being surrounded by brokenness can lead us to ask the question-is there something more? Is there a way to find peace, meaning and wholeness amidst a world so full of anger and division?

One of the ways in which Christians understand Jesus is as a healer. Jesus comes to restore relationships, to bring us a deep and lasting peace which we cannot find anywhere else.

Many of us will be familiar with the story in Luke's Gospel about the good shepherd who leaves the rest of the flock in the sheepfold and goes out searching for the sheep that is lost. I had a picture book of that story when I was a child, and I always remember the final picture, where the shepherd is putting ointment on the lost sheep's scratches and then carrying it very gently back home. It is a picture of Jesus the healer which I still find very powerful. Jesus the Saviour comes for the healing and restoration of all that is damaged, broken and divided- and that includes me.

This year in church we are using the six weeks of Lent to reflect on different aspects of healing. We will consider the physical, spiritual and relational aspects of healing and widen out to look at the healing of God's creation. Healing encompasses more than the restoration

of an individual to physical health, and in our Sunday sermons we will consider the interlocking aspects of health, healing and wholeness.

There are also opportunities to explore more deeply by joining a small group for prayer and discussion- there are details in the Lent information box below.

May we all know the healing presence of Jesus throughout the season of Lent.

Every blessing

Helen

---

**The regular pattern of services for February can be found on the website :**

<https://kentdownsmalling.church/sunday-services/>

#### Services for Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion at Ss Peter & Paul Leybourne

7pm Holy Communion at Ss Peter & Paul Leybourne

At both services there will be the opportunity for the Imposition of Ashes

#### **Lent Sermon series**

The Sunday themes and readings are as follows:

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Healing of our physical bodies 2 Corinthians 12.1-10; John 5.1-15

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Healing of our relationships Psalm 133; Matthew 5.21-26

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Healing of our spirits Psalm 42; John 3.1-15

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday (2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and Luke 2:33-35)

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Healing of God's creation Romans 8.18-30; John 1.1-12

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday (Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 21:1-11)

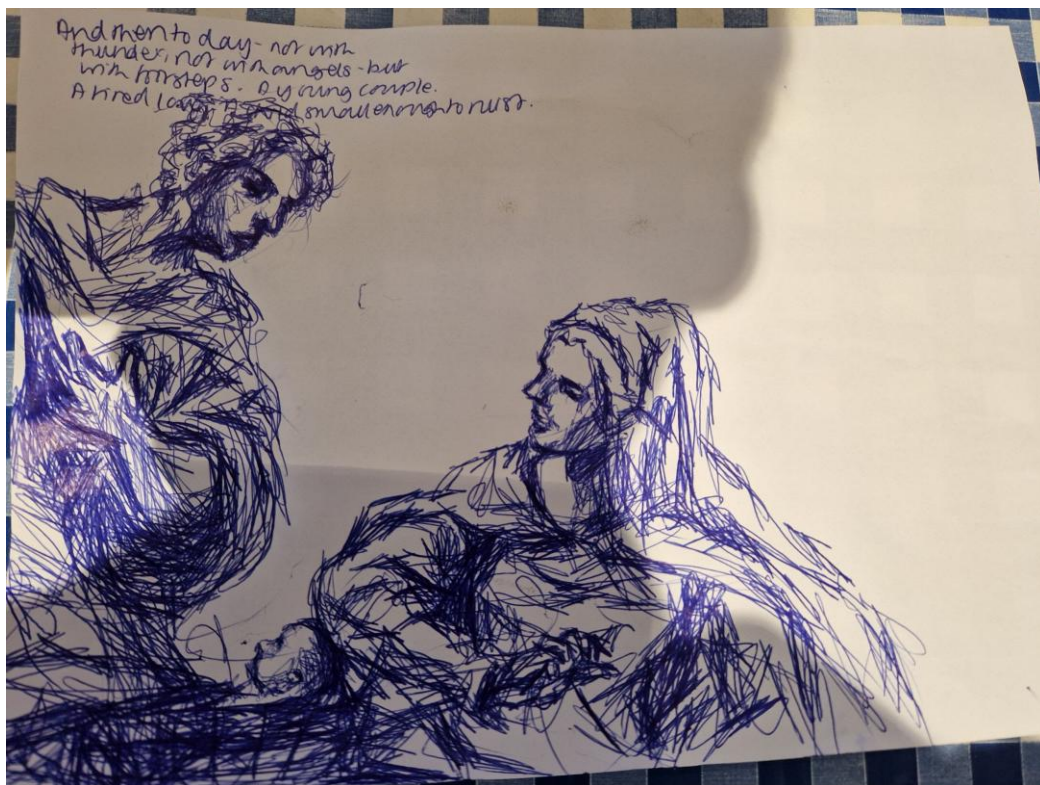
#### **Lent Groups**

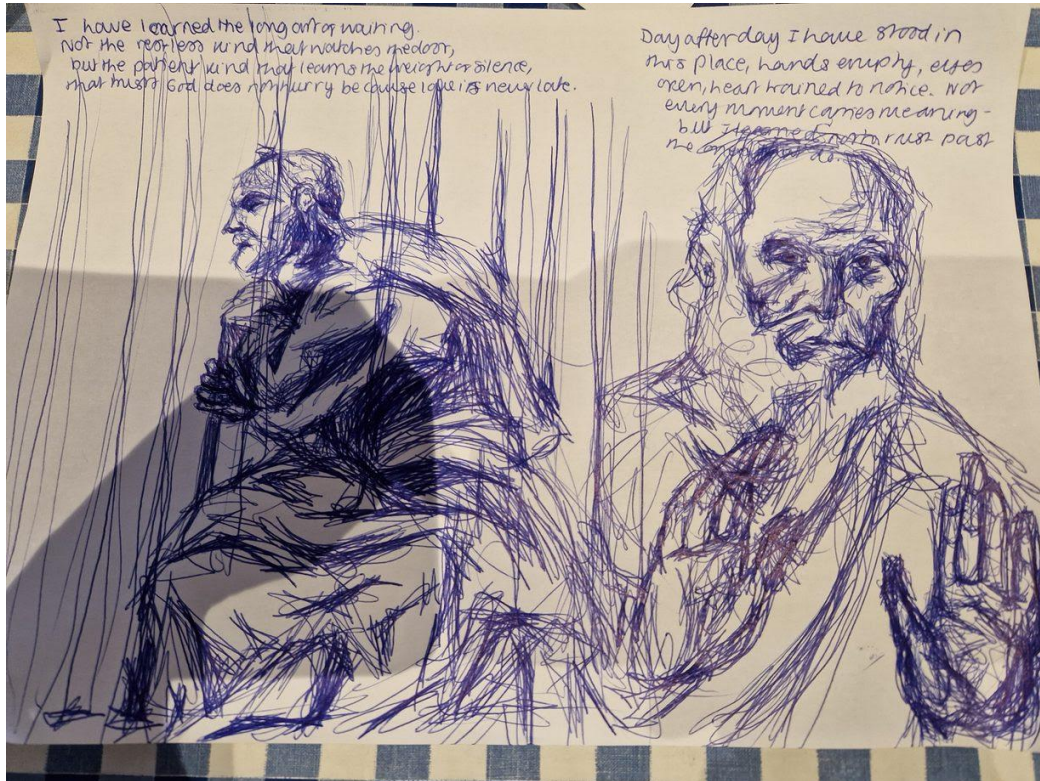
There will be two 'pop up' Lent groups each meeting for five sessions. One will meet 2-3.30pm on Fridays (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20) at the home of Anne Le Bas in West Malling. The other group will meet on a Wednesday 12-1.30pm at the Rectory, 73 Rectory Lane North, ME19 5HD (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25) with a simple soup lunch.

Please email [office@kentdownsmalling.church](mailto:office@kentdownsmalling.church) for further details.

## Around the Team

The young people at All Saints Birling reflected on the story of Simeon and Anna in the Temple.





Cafe Church in Addington explored the Baptism of Jesus



Messy Church in January focused on the story of Zacchaeus, including making a tree complete with Zacchaeus perching in the branches.



Mini-Zacchaeus contemplating climbing the tree to see Jesus.



### **Children, Families and Young People**

As a Team we try to be imaginative and creative in engaging with families, children and young people. Here is a snapshot of what we offer month by month across the Team:

**Pre-school children and carers: Toddler Praise, once a month on a Monday at Ss Peter & Paul Leybourne**

**Families: Messy Church, six time a year around the Team. Next Messy Church is April 26 4-6pm at Addington Village Hall.**

**Secondary school age: Fusion Youth Group, meets monthly at Ryarsh Church Hall.**

**Between January- March 2026 we are experimenting with meeting from 4-5.30pm on a Sunday instead of Friday evening, using a video resource called 'Vox.'**

---

**Forthcoming events**

---

The Kent Downs and Malling Team invites you to



## **Toddler Praise**

Once a month on a Monday

February 9, March 9

Singing, story, craft, play, chat and refreshments for children aged 0-5  
and their carers- everyone welcome, no charge.



## **Prayer and Praise**

### **SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY – 4PM**

Our next Prayer and Praise service, with the opportunity for Prayer Ministry, will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 15 February at SS Peter & Paul Leybourne. The theme is God's love.

This relaxed service will involve sung worship, prayer stations and testimony. It will last under an hour, and tea and coffee will be served afterwards. All are welcome from across the Team and beyond.



# “Come and Sing”

## Fauré Requiem

4<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Holy Saturday  
Church of St Mary the Virgin, West Malling



- Led by the Scholars & Choir of St Mary's
- Augmented by singers from the Benefice
- Conductor: Nick Castell
- Baritone soloist: Jim Clements

**To come and sing:** rehearsal **3 pm** on the day (familiarity with choral parts needed)

**To come and listen: 6 pm**

Informal practices for those unfamiliar with the choral parts (copies provided) at St Margaret's Church, Addington, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 7.30-9.00 pm, led by Philip Le Bas

**All welcome!**

**Free entry – retiring collection for St Mary's Church**

For more information: [music@stmaryswestmalling.co.uk](mailto:music@stmaryswestmalling.co.uk)

---

### Community Coffee Mornings

These take place monthly at Ryarsh Church Hall, The Old Rectory, Leybourne, and Trottiscliffe Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome, no charge and no need to book.

Monday 9 February 10.30-12.30 at Trottiscliffe Village Hall

Wednesday 11 February 11.15-1pm The Old Rectory, Leybourne

Friday 20 February 10.30-12 noon at Ryarsh Church Hall,



#### **Team Clergy Contact Details:**

Team Rector: Revd Helen Burn

07868 124623 [rector@kentdownsmalling.church](mailto:rector@kentdownsmalling.church)

Helen's day off is Friday.

Benefice Office: 01732 914783

Associate Minister: Revd Ollie Phipps

07979644755 [revolliehipps@gmail.com](mailto:revolliehipps@gmail.com)

Ollie's day off is Monday.

Team Curate: Revd Carol Bridge

07958378794 [curatec@kentdownsmalling.church](mailto:curatec@kentdownsmalling.church)

Carol's day off is Thursday, her study day is Friday.

Team Curate: Revd Trish Hart

[revtrish@myyahoo.com](mailto:revtrish@myyahoo.com)

Trish is available on Wednesdays and Sundays

<https://kentdownsmalling.church/>