

KENT DOWNS AND MALLING BENEFICE

UPCOMING EVENTS

August - September 2026



Across the seven parishes of the benefice, there are events taking place to bring communities together, raise much needed funds, and to provide a welcoming space for outreach.

We invite you to participate in these events, support all the parishes and to join in the fun!

Kent Downs & Malling Team

Kent Churches Ride & Stride



The annual Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday 12th September. Churches across the Team will be open to welcome those taking part.

For those who would like to take part, there will be a short walk (approx. 2 hours) leaving Leybourne church at 10am, calling in at St Thomas More RC church, West Malling Baptist church, St Mary's West Malling, St Martin's Ryarsh and ending back at Leybourne. Everyone is welcome to join in.

You can of course devise your own route to incorporate a different combination of the churches in our Benefice. Sponsor forms available from churchwardens.

WHEN 12th September 2026

There are always things going on across the benefice for people to participate in and enjoy. Meet up with old friends and make new ones at one of our events.

Learning and sharing together in September – Faith Pictures course



Sharing our faith can be challenging, but it doesn't need to be confrontational or frightening. We will learn how to share our beliefs in a non-threatening way and join with God in what He is already doing in the communities around us.

To be as flexible as possible, we are offering sessions on a Monday afternoon or a Monday evening. Choose either 1.30 pm to 3 pm or 7.30 pm to 9 pm, both in Leybourne church and come along for the six sessions being offered.

We'll be surprised just how easy it is to chat about what it is we believe in a simple way without sounding pious or better than anyone else.

WHEN Mondays 1.30-3.00pm, or 7.30-9.00pm

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th September 2026

5th and 12th October 2026

WHERE SS Peter & Paul church, Castle Way, Leybourne, ME19 5HD.

For more information call Stewart Biggs on 07967 282095 or email srbiggs2710@gmail.com

Confirmation classes for adults

Because many people are baptised as babies, Confirmation is an opportunity for young people and adults to make a public declaration of their Christian faith. The next class for young people will run in 2027, but we are running sessions for adults in 2026. Commonly, Confirmation is also understood as the pre-requisite which then enables people to receive Holy Communion.

We are next running Confirmation classes for young people in autumn 2027, but there will be a class for adults this year running on Sunday afternoons 4-5pm on the following dates:

WHEN 13th, 20th September 2026

4th, 11th, 18th October 2026

WHERE Venue TBC

Looking forward: Harvest across the Team



Every year, all seven of our churches are beautifully decorated for Harvest, and we would like to make the most of this. We hope that on Saturday 10th October every church in the Benefice will be open 10am-4pm to enable people to come in and enjoy the Harvest decorations, and to take a moment to reflect and be thankful for the many blessings we enjoy.

We will be producing a poster inviting people to visit their local church (and indeed to venture further and visit other churches too), and we will also provide two simple prayer activities and a children's activity which can be placed in each church for visitors to engage with.

Celebrating the Team

Summer time provides many opportunities to host events which bring communities together. During June and July the following have taken place:

Teddy Bear Zip Wire

St Mary's West Malling took advantage of the numbers attending the monthly Farmers' Market on June 28 to invite people to join in with their annual Teddy Bears Picnic and Zip Wire. Over fifty teddies and soft toys received certificates for their bravery, and people of all ages stayed to enjoy a mouthwatering array of cakes while the sun shone. The money raised went to Relief in Need, a charity which supports local people.

Trottiscliffe Patronal Festival

SS Peter & Paul Trottiscliffe celebrated their patronal festival with a special service followed by cake and prosecco.

Tower Tours at St Michael's Offham

Offham's Open Gardens event included the opportunity to climb the tower at St Michael's and enjoy the wonderful views from the top.

Archdeacon's Visitation

Churchwardens were sworn in for a further year at a service at St Stephen's Tonbridge on July 6th (apologies to the Addington churchwardens, Graham and John, who were both on holiday so attended a different Visitation- we will have to photoshop you into the picture!). Archdeacon Nick thanked everyone for their commitment and reminded us that none of us is on our own: God is with us, we have colleagues and friends to support us, and our roles stretch back from the past into the future.



Left to right:

Jane Broadbent (Trottiscliffe), Anne Thomas (Leybourne), Ann Gillett (Trottiscliffe), Carol Bridge, Sophia Chung (Ryarsh), Janet Tootal (Leybourne), Helen Burn, Jeff Griffiths (West Malling), Clare Innes (West Malling), Gary Cowan, (Offham), Jane Jordan (Offham)

Services – August & September 2026

Sunday 2 nd August	West Malling	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	All Age Service
	West Malling	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th August	West Malling	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Ryarsh	9.30am	All Age Service
	Leybourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th August	West Malling	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	Holy Communion
	Birling	11.00am	All Age Service
Sunday 23 rd August	West Malling	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Addington	10.00am	Open House
	Trottiscliffe	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th August	West Malling	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Leybourne	10.00am	Team Service Holy Communion
Sunday 6 th September	West Malling	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	All Age Service
	Ryarsh	9.30am	Holy Communion
	West Malling	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Addington	10.00am	Open House
	Leybourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	Birling	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th September	West Malling	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	Holy Communion
	Trottiscliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion
	West Malling	10.00am	All Age Service
	Addington	10.00am	Cafe
	Leybourne	10.30am	All Age Service

Sunday 20th September	West Malling	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	Holy Communion
	Ryarsh	9.30am	All Age Service
	West Malling	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Addington	10.00am	Open House
	Leybourne	10.30am	Holy Communion

Sunday 27th September	West Malling	8.00am	Holy Communion
	Offham	9.15am	Holy Communion
	Trottiscliffe	9.30am	Morning Worship
	West Malling	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Addington	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Leybourne	10.30am	Holy Communion

CONTACT US

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