



February 2026  
No.355

# LEYBOURNE VOICE



**Music Man wins  
Community Award**



# ?

# QUIZ

# TIME

Join us on Saturday 21 March 2026

At Leybourne Village Hall

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 pp - book individually or as a table of up to 8.

Bring your own food and drinks & cash for  
raffle/"heads and Tails"

Email: [lynneselman@outlook.com](mailto:lynneselman@outlook.com) to reserve your  
place/s

Or ring 01732 847290 and leave a message.

PROCEEDS TOWARDS REFURBISHING  
CHURCH WINDOWS

## Lent sermon series 2026: The God who Heals

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.

There's a story in the Bible 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.

Everyone is welcome to all and any of our 10.30 Sunday services throughout Lent. March 15 is Mothering Sunday, where our Melody Makers choir will be singing and we will celebrate all that brings us joy in human relationships.

Lent begins with two services at SS Peter & Paul on Ash Wednesday, February 18, one at 10am and the other at 7pm, to which all are welcome.

**Helen**

# NOTICE



## HARDSHIP FUND

As the cost of living crisis continues to cause difficulties for many we appreciate that some are finding it hard to manage on a day to day basis.

We have access to a fund which can be used for a wide range of hardship and welfare needs in this parish and the wider community. It may be more than food, there may be a situation that has arisen resulting in an unexpected cost, rent, energy bills, clothing or other essential needs. The fund is administered by the PCC and

can be accessed by contacting me **Janet** at **j.tootal@btinternet.com**

If our readers know of any families or individuals in need please encourage them to contact us and please be assured that any enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. The fund is open to all so you do not have to be a member of the Leybourne Church community to apply.

Please spread the word.

**Janet**

Churchwarden

# BOARD



**Call / text: 07817 293053**

**We can offer assistance with;**

- Shopping for basic supplies
- Emergency food & sanitary supplies
- Prescriptions for collection

If you are vulnerable, we are here to help. If you have a neighbour who may be vulnerable, please draw their attention to this advertisement.

**Beware of fraudsters. Do not give your card or pin number to anyone.**

**Supported by:**

Leybourne Church ..... [www.leybournechurch.org.uk](http://www.leybournechurch.org.uk)  
Leybourne Parish Council ..... [www.leybournepc.org.uk](http://www.leybournepc.org.uk)  
Tonbridge & Malling Council ..... [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

## Leybourne Food Bank

**Phone: 07817 293053**

**Email: [leybournelinkline@gmail.com](mailto:leybournelinkline@gmail.com)**

Please donate non perishable food and sanitary goods. Donations can be left at the porch of Leybourne Church, any time, in the box provided.

**Your donations really matter and will be used in Leybourne or the surrounding area in time of need.**

**If you are vulnerable, we are here to help.**



## Ss Peter & Paul Leybourne

“Leybourne Church seeks to serve God through prayer, worship, action and example in the wider community.”

Please contact the churchwardens on any parish matters: [churchwardens@leybournechurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@leybournechurch.org.uk)

**Churchwarden**

**Janet Tootal 07802 428662**  
[j.tootal@btinternet.com](mailto:j.tootal@btinternet.com)

The Kent Downs and Malling Team



# Toddler Praise



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

in SS Peter and Paul Leybourne

10.30-11.45 am

Singing, story, craft, play, chat and refreshments for  
pre-school children and their carers- everyone  
welcome

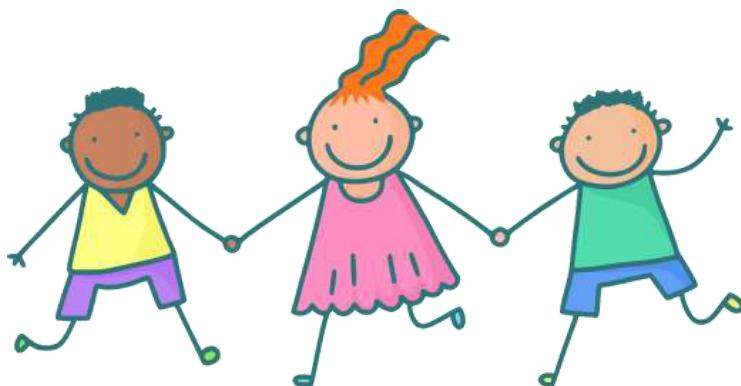
For more information or to let us know that you are coming please  
contact:

Rev Helen Burn

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



SS Peter & Paul Leybourne  
All Age Service  
10.30 Sunday 8 February



A 45 minute non-Eucharistic service for all ages on  
the theme of God's care for us, followed by  
refreshments.

All are welcome.

# Our Joe – “the Music Man”



Winners of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Awards were presented with their certificates at a special ceremony at the Council Offices in Kings Hill last November.

Modest man that he is, Joe Shepherd's award of the major prize of the evening was kept quiet! He received the Outstanding Community Achievement Award for running four community choirs and a ukulele group in Larkfield and Leybourne, including sessions that use singing to help with stroke rehab. He also won an award for Individual Volunteer of the Year.

Joe told the audience at the time “I am truly honoured that somebody thinks I am worthy of such an award. I have found that I have a gift for enabling people to enjoy singing, and I absolutely love doing what I do. Whether the group is 15 or 50 members,

# wins Community awards



the principal aim is to have fun and make friends. I have a simple “yard stick” – ie if people don’t leave the session with a smile on their face, then I have failed! Fortunately, I don’t think that has ever happened!”.

Cllr Des Keers – Cabinet Member for Community Services – said “The dedication I’ve seen and heard about during these awards is an inspiring reminder of the impact that ordinary people can have when they turn ideas into action”.

Joe regularly plays keyboard for our Leybourne Church services and participates in our fundraising activities on top of all the above. He is a valued member of our Fundraising sub-committee/ Friends of Leybourne Church as well as other Church committees.

The full list of winners is available on the website [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk).



# **St Martin's Ryarsh Coffee Mornings**

**We meet for Coffee, Cake and a Chat  
on the third Friday of each month**

**Join us anytime between**

**10.30am to 12 noon**

**at**

**Ryarsh Church Hall**

**Church Road**

**off Roughtets Road**

**ME19 5LB**

**Next Coffee Morning**

**Friday 20 February**

**Lovely Birthday cards on sale supporting Fields of Life**

# St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



The Old Rectory  
Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne  
Wednesday 11 February  
11.15am to 1pm

Come and join us for a relaxed time of warmth and companionship in a friendly and supported environment where people in the local community can enjoy Tea, Coffee and Cakes together.

**THERE IS NO CHARGE  
AND  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

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# **Sunday 15 February 4pm**

**at St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne**

An informal service for all the family where we can worship together with one voice for the Kingdom of God to come to our Church, Community and beyond as we follow where the Holy Spirit leads us.

This service gives an opportunity for relaxation and reflection as we give thanks to the Lord in prayer and heartfelt praise without any of the formality of a normal service.

Following the service there is the chance to chat over a cup of tea and cake.

If you have been thinking of coming to church why not come and join us – we look forward to welcoming you.

**Andrew French**

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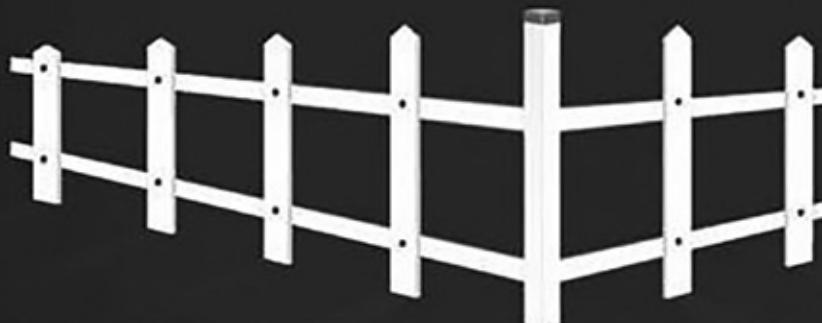
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## **PILATES & RELAXING & RESTORATIVE YOGA**

### **Leybourne Village Hall**

**THURSDAYS:**

**6.15PM - PILATES**

**7.35PM - RESTORATIVE YOGA**

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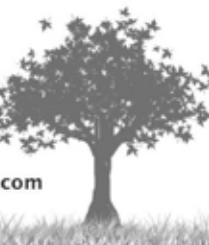
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Email: **bunneyz@sky.com**

# Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

Covering Addington, Birling, Leybourne, Offham, Ryarsh, Trottiscliffe and West Malling

## Team Rota February 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
<b>Feb 1</b>	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 All Age	9.30 Holy Communion		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
<b>Feb 8</b>	10.00 Cafe Church In The Village Hall		10.30 All Age	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Holy Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age
<b>Feb 15</b>	10.00 Open House	11.00 All Age	10.30 Holy Communion 16.00 Prayer And Praise	9.15 Holy Communion	9.30 All Age		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
<b>Feb 18</b>			Ash Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion 19.00 Holy Communion				
<b>Feb 22</b>	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Morning Worship	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion

**BCP Book of Common Prayer**