

March 2026  
No.355



# LEYBOURNE VOICE

The Season  
of Lent



# Foreword

Lent has traditionally been a time when we might choose to voluntarily give something up. Often its chocolates or some other treat we enjoy but do not need. The self-discipline that is required has value in itself. Sometimes it can release us from the power that some habits can negatively have on us. Sometimes it's a training ground for preparation for being able to give more and more of ourselves to the radical yielding of our entire selves in service to God and each other.

This process encourages a period of reflection on what is wholesome in our lives and what is not. This Lent, our benefice is focusing collectively on the healing and wholeness that only God can give. It has a much wider scope than just physical healing.

We are integrated beings of body, mind and souls set within social communities of various sizes and importance to us. Healthy communities impact our sense of acceptance and belonging. We all long for connection. The church community can be an important source of this, which is why Leybourne church creates social events where positive relationships can be encouraged and enabled.

The monthly community coffee morning is one such event.

Our churches are reflecting on what facilitates physical, relational, spiritual and creation (environmental) health and healing, by looking at what Jesus taught and how He modelled an integrated life. We are doing this during our Sunday services and also via various house-group discussions. It is not too late to join one.

Jesus sometimes taught in soundbites as well as in stories. In the Bible, Matthew Chapters 5 to 7 are full of these soundbites. 'Love your enemies' is probably the most famous but there are many more which are worth checking out. As a communicator par excellence, it helps us to remember. Significantly, Jesus taught that it's not enough to behave decently, it's our underlying attitudes that are important. He wants us to reach further into the hidden places of our heart. He calls for a holiness that is radical. The word radical comes from the Latin 'radix' meaning root. Christ desires a virtue not rooted in fear of punishment, or through social expectation but in a heart radically transformed by God's unconditional love. When

## Trish Hart, Deacon

this grace over-rides the root causes that drive our behaviour, we can live radical, holy lives. Of course, this is easier said than done. But Jesus is always about transformation and redemption, not just about managing our negative behaviours and emotions.

It's why I think that God has to be at the centre of all our emotional and relational ill-health. God can use medicines, behavioural therapies and talking therapies, to help us understand and cope with issues, but we need God to fully resolve the heart of any issue. We need to

involve Him. Sometimes he can do it in an instant, often it is a longer process as he takes us at a speed that we can cope with. Sometimes it's a process of coming to see ourselves and each other as God sees us, flawed and damaged but deeply loved by Him. In essence its about changing our perspective to God's perspective.

And we do that through prayer.

**Trish Hart**



The Kent Downs and Malling Team

invites you to



# Toddler Praise



**Monday 9th March**

in SS Peter and Paul Leybourne

10.30-11.45 am



**Singing, story, craft, play, chat and refreshments  
for children aged 0-5 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)

# 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](mailto: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 member of the Leybourne Church community to apply.

Please spread the word.

**Janet**  
Churchwarden

# BOARD

**Link**  **Line**

**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)



Friends of Leybourne Church

# Family **BARN DANCE**

(Children welcome under adult control)

**LARKFIELD VILLAGE HALL**  
NEW HYTHE LANE

**Saturday 25th April**  
**7.30pm**

with popular caller  
**Liz Scholey**

**Ticket £6 pp**

*For tickets phone*  
*Ian 07393 330437 or Joe 07804 830638*

**RAFFLE**  
in aid of  
Church Funds

*Please bring  
own drinks  
and nibbles*



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



A 45 minute non-Eucharistic service for all ages  
followed by refreshments.

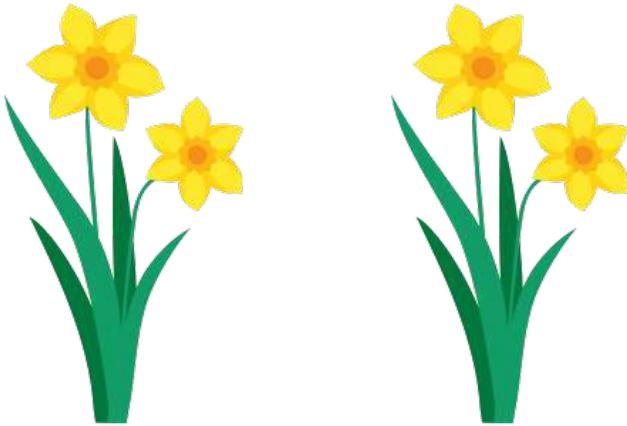
All are welcome.

# Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

A Communion service for all ages

With the Melody Makers Choir



Please come and join us at 10.30am in  
SS Peter and Paul, Leybourne.

# Leybourne Cricket Club Open Day Saturday 21 March



Come and find out more about your grassroots village cricket club, 1pm - 3pm



**Clubhouse, Rectory Lane North, ME19 5HD**

- Men's team competing in Sunday Kent Village Cricket League
- Summer junior training for 5-11 year olds
- Clubhouse available for hire with licensed bar

## **Dates for the diary**

- Open Day - 1pm - 2pm Leybourne Cricket Club Saturday 21 March
- Adult nets - 8pm - 9pm Tonbridge School, each week, Wednesday 25 February until Wednesday 1 April
- Junior cricket - 5.30pm - 6.30pm Leybourne Cricket Club Friday 12 June until Friday 17 July

Contact: Dan Palmer - **07747 023316** / [dtpalmer5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dtpalmer5@hotmail.co.uk)  
or Paul Rose - **07858 379633** / [paulrose602@btinternet.com](mailto:paulrose602@btinternet.com)



# **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 Roughetts Road**

**ME19 5LB**

**Next Coffee Morning**

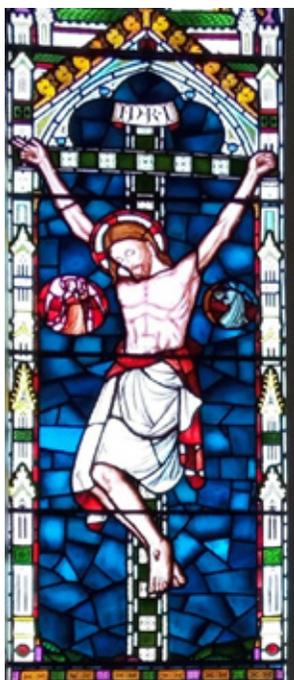
## **Friday 20 March**

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

# “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

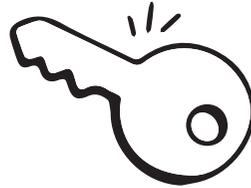
**All welcome!**

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

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

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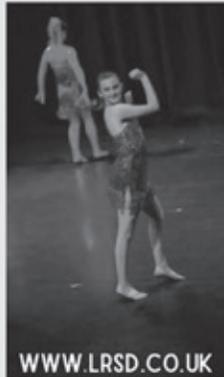
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DANCE - TAP



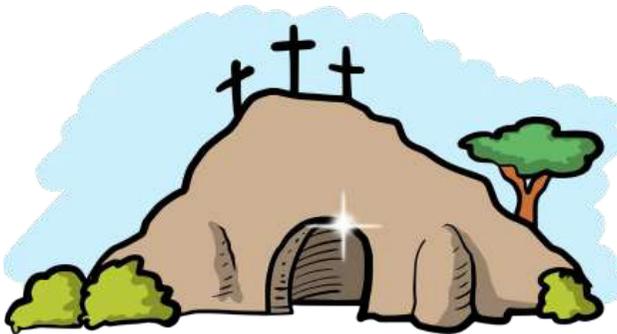
SS Peter & Paul Leybourne invites you to

# Xplore Easter 2026

A morning of craft, fun and activities for families  
around the theme of Easter

No charge, all are welcome

Good Friday 3 April 10-11.30am  
in Leybourne Primary School Hall



This is an event for primary school aged children and families- no  
unaccompanied children please.

For further details, please contact Revd Helen Burn  
[rector@kentdownsmalling.church](mailto:rector@kentdownsmalling.church)

## Andrew French

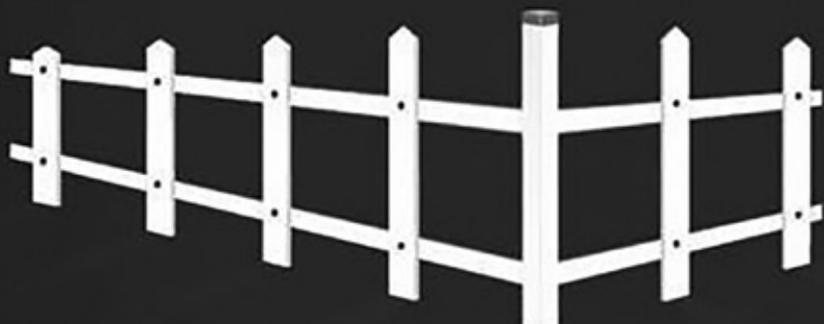
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## PILATES & RELAXING & RESTORATIVE YOGA Leybourne Village Hall

THURSDAYS:

6.15PM - PILATES

7.35PM - RESTORATIVE YOGA

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# Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

## Team Rota March 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
<b>Mar 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>Mar 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>Mar 15</b>	10.00 Open House	11.00 All Age	10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion	9.30 All Age		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age
<b>Mar 22</b>	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion			8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
<b>Mar 29</b>							10.00 Palm Sunday Holy Communion

BCP Book of Common Prayer

## St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



**The Old Rectory**  
Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne

**Wednesday 11 March 11.15am to 1pm**

Come and join us for a relaxed time of warmth and companionship in a friendly environment where people in the local community can enjoy tea, coffee cakes together.

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

Supported by Leybourne Parish Council

