



April 2026  
No.356

# LEYBOURNE VOICE



# Happy Easter



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**



The main symbol of Easter is still the egg, despite the rise of the Easter bunny, and a very good symbol it is. New life, the emergence of a chick out of a shell, the promise of a season of growth.

I wonder how many of us have seen an egg hatch? When we lived in Cornwall we had some friends, Anthony and Pauline, whose house we loved to visit with our girls. It was like a small zoo, with dogs, tortoise, quails, chinchillas and various free range chickens. One year Anthony had set up an incubator for the eggs laid by the chickens, and as the time drew near we were on alert to come and watch the chicks hatch.

Finally we got the phone call- they're hatching, come over now! We headed over and watched, fascinated, as very slowly and gradually each chick pecked its way through the shell and struggled out. Anthony explained that although it seemed like a good idea to help the chick on its way, it was best to leave it to do the slow work of emerging by itself.

Across our Benefice of seven

churches, during Lent we have been exploring different facets of healing, reflecting on how God gradually brings us to greater wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Often what God offers is not an instant cure but a slow and loving journey of healing. Perhaps we need to peck our way steadily into a new place as we hatch. Perhaps that process can't be rushed. Often it takes time for us to enter into the resurrection presence of Jesus and recognise him with us- it certainly took the disciples a while to take in the fact that death had not defeated Jesus and that his risen presence was real.

The Easter hymn 'Thine be the glory' states 'Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb, lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.' It is Jesus who comes to meet us- we simply have to be ready to recognise and welcome him.

Let's be ready to meet the risen Christ over these next days and weeks, and to take hold of the new life and hope that he offers.

**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](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)

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

Dear Friends,

A busy evening on Saturday when 8 teams of “Quizzers” gathered in

Leybourne Village Hall for our first quiz of the year, led by Joe Shepherd (known locally for his community choir events as well as his challenging quizzes).

We raised £550 for Church improvements from the tickets, raffle and “heads and tails”, and the Church stained-glass window repair is still our priority. We now have approx. £16.5 k towards the estimated repair cost of £30k, which includes a generous £1k donation from the Parish Council.

Anyway – the winning team (by a small margin) was team **“SIX”**. Runners up, with just 1.5 marks fewer, were Kings Hill Rotary calling themselves **“Sausage Roll wars”** for reasons best known to themselves!

Joe Shepherd (quizmaster) and Patrick Tootal (Chair of Fundraising/Treasurer) announcing the winners at the end of the quiz.



The Winning Team - “SIX”.



FLC

Friends of Leybourne Church



Friends of Leybourne Church

Thanks go to all the Fundraising Team for another successful event, to Joe for leading us, and all who came along to support us on the night. Also at the Quiz, we rolled a random number for the 110 club March draw – the winner was Jay Brooks with number 93. Well done, Jay.

Tuesday 24th March, saw our second Fireside talk of the season – Ralph Turner speaking on IT security at home – all available seats have been reserved.

Finally, a reminder about our next big event, a **Family Barn dance**, coming

up in on 25th April in Larkfield village hall. We hope to see as many of you as possible there for a fun time. Bring your own snacks and drinks. (see also separate advert). Tickets £6 from Ian 07393 330437 or Joe 07804 830638

We look forward to seeing you there ...

With every good wish

From

**Lynne & the FLC/Fundraising Team.**



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)

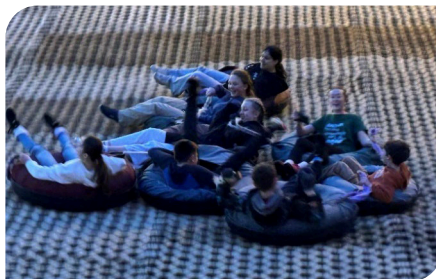
# Melody Makers News



Melody Makers, our young people's choir, has been very busy.

They led the singing at our popular Mothering Sunday service. They have recorded an audio drama of the Easter Story complete with sound effects. And, as part of our programme of social events, they went tobogganing and snow boarding at the Chatham Alpine ski centre

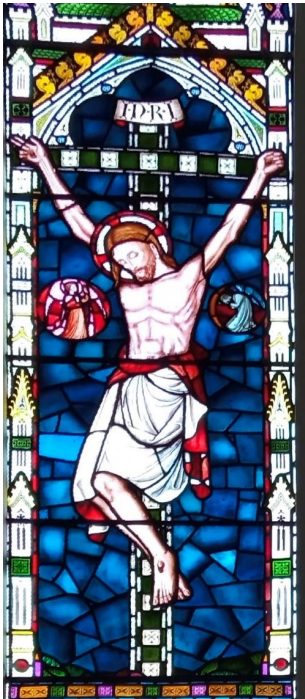
We always welcome new members aged 7+ who enjoy learning to sing in a relaxed supportive atmosphere. For more details contact Stephen on **07774 612651** or [st@stephentomaslaw.co.uk](mailto:st@stephentomaslaw.co.uk)



# “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)

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



**The Old Rectory**  
Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne  
**Wednesday 8 April**  
**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**

Supported by Leybourne Parish Council



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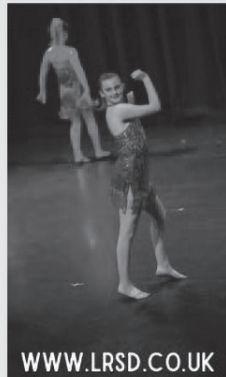
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[WWW.LRSD.CO.UK](http://WWW.LRSD.CO.UK)





# **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 our new venue the  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON  
Birling Road  
Ryarsh ME19 5LS**

# **Friday 17 APRIL**

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

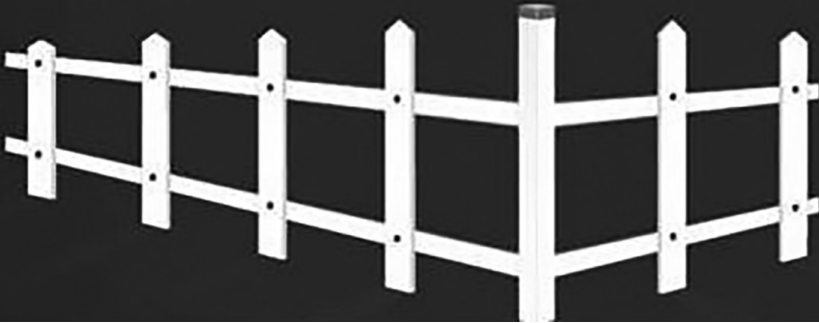
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# Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

## Team Rota April 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
<b>Apr 1</b>			18.00 Evening Prayer				
<b>Apr 2</b>					19:15 Light Supper With Tenebrae In Church Hall <b>Please See Note Below</b>		19.30 Holy Communion With Stripping Of The Altar
<b>Apr 3</b>				9:15 Morning Prayer		14.00 An Hour At The Cross	14.00 An Hour At The Cross
<b>Apr 4</b>							18.00 Faure Requiem
<b>Apr 5</b>	10.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion	6:15 Dawn Service 9:15 All Age Holy Communion	9:30 Holy Communion	9:30 Holy Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
<b>Apr 12</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

### BCP Book of Common Prayer

For tickets for the Tenebrae at Ryarsh Church Hall please contact Janet at [j.tootal@btinternet.com](mailto:j.tootal@btinternet.com) by Sunday 29 March