

May 2026
No. 357



LEYBOURNE VOICE



Barn Dancing


in aid of the Church Windows

Page 10



SUMMER PICNIC

COMMUNITY EVENT!

 **Sunday 7th June**
1pm – 3pm

 **Cricket / School Field**
Rectory Lane North

 **Bouncy Castle**


 **Face Painter**

 **Music**

 **Family Games**

 **Ice Cream Van**

 **Bring a picnic and blanket**

 **Licensed Bar provided by Leybourne Cricket Club**

FREE EVENT

All Leybourne Residents Welcome!

Organised by

**Leybourne**
Parish Council

SS Peter & Paul
Leybourne



SS Peter & Paul, Leybourne

**Please note: unfortunately dogs are not
allowed on the premises**

Living in the Season We Are In

Rev'd Carol Bridge Team Curate

Even though Easter Sunday has come and gone—with celebrations across our seven churches, chocolate eggs at home, and family meals—it's easy to forget that we are still very much in the Easter season. This struck me again last week as I noticed the Easter garden still standing in SS Peter and Paul, Leybourne, and the bright flowers and white vestments still shining across the Team.

One of the quirks of ministry is that we're always living at least two seasons ahead. Advent and Christmas dates are already being pencilled in, and next year's commitments are quietly creeping into the diary. It's no wonder, then, that life, society, and the shops encourage us to leap from one festival straight into the next. Crème Eggs (other eggs are available) appear on Boxing Day, mince pies and hot cross buns seem to be available all year—much to my delight—and we won't even mention the holiday adverts that bombard us in the darkest days of winter and the Christmas adverts appearing hard on the heels if not before the end of October.

This past week, my puppy Sky and I were invited to wander through a stretch of woodland carpeted with bluebells, far from the hum of the motorways, surrounded by birdsong, valleys and open fields. As we shared a cup of tea and a slice (or two) of homemade cake with others, the constant pull toward "what's next" finally loosened. For a moment, I simply allowed myself to be present.

And perhaps that is one of the gifts of the Easter season: the invitation to be present.

Over these weeks we hear again the stories of the risen Jesus among his friends and followers. He walked with companions

on the road; he met them by the lakeside and shared breakfast; he reassured them with his presence behind locked doors. The risen Jesus could have stayed with his disciples constantly, but he didn't. His appearances were moments of encounter—unexpected, grace-filled, and often fleeting. They were reminders that God meets us not only in the great festivals, but in the ordinary paths, meals, and conversations of life.

Maybe those encounters encouraged the disciples to slow down, to notice, to listen, and to trust that Christ was with them even when they could not see him. Perhaps they were being prepared not to rush ahead, but to live faithfully in the moment they were given.

Perhaps that is something we need, too. In a world that pushes us from one event to the next, from one task to another, Easter invites us to linger. To look for signs of resurrection in the everyday. To recognise Christ walking beside us on the road, or waiting for us on the shoreline, or quietly offering peace in the rooms we close off.

So, as we continue through this Easter season, may we resist the urge to hurry on. May we notice the beauty still around us—the flowers, the white vestments, the bluebells, the shared cake, the unexpected moments of calm, even if that involves watching a puppy with the zoomies in the undergrowth. And may we allow ourselves to be fully present to the risen Christ who meets us, again and again, as friend, right where we are.

Rev'd Carol Bridge
Team Curate

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 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
Leybourne Parish Council ..www.leybournepc.org.uk
Tonbridge & Malling Council www.tmbc.gov.uk

Leybourne Food Bank

Phone: 07817 293053

Email: 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

Churchwardens

Janet Tootal 07802 428662

j.tootal@btinternet.com

Anne Thomas

annethomas1@icloud.com

Kings Hill Rotary Hosts Community Chest Evening and Young Artist Awards

This April, Kings Hill Rotary members, local voluntary organisations, and our Young Artist competition winner and runner-up came together at the Spitfire Pub for a tasty buffet meal and a special presentation evening.

Neil Cornford, President of Kings Hill Rotary, gave everyone a warm welcome and shared how the Community Chest works.

Firstly, the Rotary **Young Artist competition** for 7-10 yr olds.... Max, who won our local round, went on to the district-wide competition and became a joint winner there too. He has now progressed further, to the National round. Max says his picture was based on a family photo his Mum took in Manor Park, West Malling. Max was presented with a certificate and £30 voucher at the event, and Irene (our runner-up) also received a £20 voucher and certificate. Well done both!



Winning entry: Max's "Happiness in Nature" & Irene's runner-up entry.

We're delighted for Max and wish him every success as his work heads into the National competition. A prize and certificate for his District win awaits him too.



Proud Mums with artists, Max and Irene

And now to the “**Community Chest grants**” ...

Thanks to our social media and local press efforts, we received 16 applications from voluntary groups and charities—each one a genuinely worthwhile project. Eight of these were successful (see below), receiving up to £250 from the £2000 fund.



Guests arrive for the Spitfire buffet & presentations

- 1st Watlington Rainbows
- KH Walking Netball
- Mereworth and KH Scouts
- 1st Leybourne Scout Group
- Communigrow
- Leybourne Chase Youth club
- Spadeworks
- 1st Watlington Guides

Successful Leybourne/Leybourne Chase applicants:



1st Leybourne Scout Group



Leybourne Chase Youth Club

With creativity celebrated and vital local projects supported, we hope Kings Hill Rotary’s Community Chest Evening showcased the very best of community spirit in action.

For more information about Kings Hill Rotary please email: khrc09@yahoo.com



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MALLING
INVITE YOU TO A



PENTECOST

PICNIC AND PRAISE

Sunday 24th May

in Manor Country Park, West Malling ME19 6PE
gathering near the car park

3-5 pm

**We'll share a picnic* &
some games together**

[*bring your own food, drinks, chairs etc]

followed by

**a service of
Praise at
around 4 pm**



Come and join us as we celebrate God's wonderful gift
of His Holy Spirit given at Pentecost

The Kent Downs and Malling Team

invites you to

Toddler Praise

Monday 11 May

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

St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne
COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



The Old Rectory

Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne

Wednesday 13 May 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 and mince pies together.

THERE IS NO CHARGE AND ALL ARE WELCOME



A Family Barn Dance in aid of refurbishing our Church windows took place on 25th April at the Larkfield Village Hall.

The barn dance brought together over 100 people for a joyful evening and raised just over £400, with many already asking when the next one will be!

A good time was had by all! Participants of all ages were guided by the callers – John and Karen Sweeny – through some complicated moves, and it was most impressive how quickly everyone got the hang of them!



As a bonus, Callers John and Karen, gave us two performances of some very-elegant routines during the break.

Our thanks go to everyone who came along to take part and to Joe, Julie and Ian who organised the event, selling an amazing number of tickets. Chris and Dee did a grand job of selling raffle tickets too, contributing to the profits. Thank you all!

Lynne, For the Fundraising Committee

To find out more about the Friends of Leybourne Church & upcoming events, please email lynneselman@outlook.com

The heart of mission is prayer
A PRAYER FESTIVAL
to explore different ways of praying



Keynote speaker:

Canon Dr Neville Emslie

Director of Mission and Ministry, Canterbury Diocese

With workshops on:

Pilgrimage, Christian meditation, Celtic Prayer, Labyrinth
Pilgrimage, Praying with Dreams, Ignatian Prayer
& the Jesus Prayer

Saturday 30th May 2026

10am-4pm at West Malling:

St Benedict's Centre and Malling Abbey

Suggested donation £10-20

To book:

Scan the QR code or click on the link below

For information: email susanne.carlsson@rochester.anglican.org



<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxLTkwNA/t>



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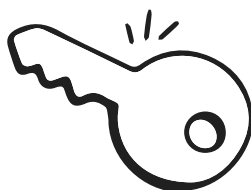
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WWW.LRSD.CO.UK

♪ MELODY MAKERS NEWS ♪



Melody Makers, our young people's choir, have been busy in the run up to Easter. They recorded an audio drama of the Easter Story, available as a free CD (above) in church, or as mp file

This term they'll be singing at All Age service on Sunday 10th May and working on their vocal technique in small group sessions. In the summer they have other services to look forward to. Their next big project is 'The Greatest Showman', which will be performed on Saturday 26th September.



We always welcome new members aged 7+ who enjoy learning to sing in a relaxed supportive environment. To find out more contact Stephen on 07774 612651 or st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk

1st Larkfield Girls' Brigade - Volunteer With Us!

Volunteering with Girls' Brigade is a great way to use your skills and enrich young lives as well as having lots of fun. We're looking for new Leaders and Helpers to start right away.



We run a varied programme with activities that enable girls and young women (ages 4-18) to grow and develop in confidence, resilience, wellbeing and life skills, whilst developing strong friendships, a sense of belonging, taking part in social action, and having great fun along the way.

Leaders are required to be in sympathy with our aims and values.

Don't be shy - ask Val for more information: larkfieldgb@gmail.com

Andrew French

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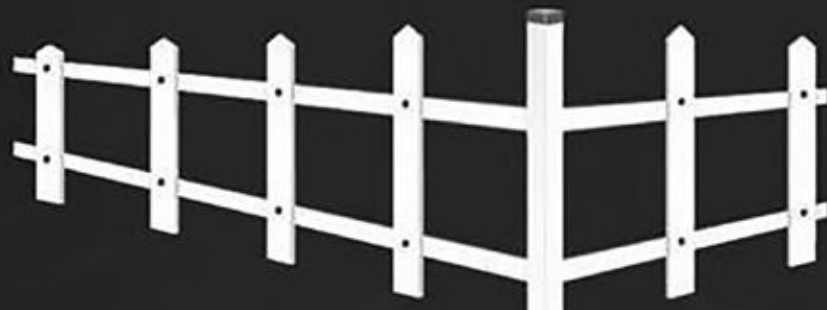
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Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

Team Rota May 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
May 3	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion 11.45 Thanksgiving Service	9.15 All Age	9.30 Holy Communion 12 Noon Baptism		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
May 10	10.00 Cafe Church In The Village Hall		10.30 All Age Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Holy Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age 12 Noon Baptism
May 14					19.00 Ascension Day Team Service		
May 17	10.00 Open House	11.00 All Age	10.30 Holy Communion 12 Noon Baptism	9.15 Holy Communion	9.30 All Age		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
May 24	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
May 31		10.00 Team Service					

BCP Book of Common Prayer

For tickets for the Tenebrae at Ryarsh Church Hall please contact Janet at j.tootal@btinternet.com by Sunday 29 March

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
The Duke of Wellington, Birling Road, Ryarsh ME19 5LS

Friday 15 May

Lovely Birthday cards on sale supporting Fields of Life

