

October 2025
No.352



LEYBOURNE VOICE



No ordinary ordination

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Foreword October 2025

The 21st September is a day that I will remember forever. It was the day that I was ordained deacon at West Malling church, in the Kent Downs and Malling benefice of seven churches, which includes Leybourne. It was, I hope, not just a special day for me, but one in which the local congregations were able to feel a part of. It is unusual for an ordination to be in the local church as they are normally held in the cathedral. Yet I am so pleased that it was. It seems fitting that the people to whom I have promised to serve, heard that commitment.

It signified the end of a long journey of listening to where I and the church discerned where God was leading me. Every clergy-person has a calling story. Some are more 'road to Emmaus' that is, a gradual realisation, some are more 'road to Damascus', a sudden, unexpected and dramatic encounter with God's intention. Mine was the latter which in no way makes it more significant than other people's experiences. The story is that I

was praying one day and I heard a voice in my head telling me to get ordained. This was quickly followed up by multiple people telling me the same and that St. Mellitus was the place to train (for me- there's a perfectly good training centre in West Malling). I don't think I would have listened to God if he hadn't made it so clear. I had never considered ordination before but I concluded that I cannot take all the good things from God and call him Lord of my life and then ignore him when he asked something of me. Prayer is powerful and lifechanging! Be warned!!!

In a sense, the ordination service was like the harvest of theological education and much prayer. It is though, and is probably more importantly, the start of something new. It has always felt like a bit of an adventure, committing to journeying with God. You never quite know where he is taking you. Yet, he is an excellent guide. One in whom we can place our full trust in the knowledge that he loves each of us and has a plan for our lives- even if that takes us

to surprising places, or maybe nowhere at all, but one where he desires for us to walk each day with him, wherever we go and whatever we are doing. The Bible says, commit your ways to the Lord and he will make straight the paths for you. These are words of encouragement, yet even straight paths can have a few bumps, stones and tree roots to navigate! I pray that we all can help each other navigate some of these bumps. May I ask that you pray for me too? The beauty of Anglican ministry is that we are not just left to get on

with it, but have the wisdom of those who have gone before us and the support of experienced clergy and lay ministers to guide us. I am grateful for them all. I am also reminded that ministry is not just for the ordained, its for all of us.

I am so looking forward to getting to know individuals, the community and the churches better. Thank you for your welcome so far, it means a lot.

Trish Hart
Deacon

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

Churchwarden

Janet Tootal 07802 428662

j.tootal@btinternet.com

LADIES BREAKFAST AND SPEAKER
SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2025
TIME: 09.00 TO 12.00
VENUE: OFFHAM VILLAGE HALL
CHURCH ROAD ME19 5NY
(FREE PARKING BUT PLEASE CAR SHARE IF POSSIBLE)



Speaker
Susie Flashman Jarvis.
(Author of Potholes and Belly-Flops)

From Page Three Model to loving mother, wife, and daughter of God, Susie's journey is a tale of two lives, woven into one extraordinary woman.

Susie is a counsellor, accredited therapeutic executive coach, mentor, writer and speaker. She is passionate about ending violence against women and is an ambassador for Restored & The Recovery Course.

Tickets £10

Continental breakfast will be served from 09.15 to 09.45.

Books will be on sale ~ **cash only**.

Last date for purchasing tickets 05/10/25.

For more information, please email

helenmjordan@hotmail.co.uk

The Kent Downs and Malling Team



Sunday 19 October 2025

4:00pm-6:00pm in Ryarsh Church Hall



All Age craft and activities to help us explore the Bible story of Ruth. Lots of things to make and do, followed by informal worship and a cooked meal.

£1.00 per family

This is an event mainly for primary school children and their families.

Everyone welcome but no unaccompanied children please.

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

Rev Helen Burn

rector@kentdownsmalling.church



Deck the halls!

Christmas fayre

@ Leybourne Village Hall ME19 5QL
Saturday 15th November 2025

6.00-9.00 pm

Christmas shopping to kick-off the festive season

Tickets £5.00 to include FREE glass of wine/soft drink
(Kids up to 16 go free!)

- Pre-loved clothes • Cards • Vintage goods * stocking fillers
- Art Prints & Home Accessories • preserves * candles * crafts * live music

Cash bar with snacks and much more...

BOOK NOW! contact j.tootal@btinternet.com

Proceeds in aid of Leybourne Church improvements

DECK THE HALLS! 15th NOVEMBER 2025 Please book metickets@ £5 each

Name/s: Email:

Address/tel no: ·

I enclose cash/cheque payable to Leybourne PCC Fundraising for £ or
I have paid by bank transfer to Leybourne PCC fundraising a/c no. 35225068
Sort code 30-90-89 reference "HALLSyoursurname" eg HALLSsmith.

Please return form to: Deck the Halls, c/o 5 Evergreen Close, Leybourne ME19 5PY.



Melody Makers do ‘Matilda’



On Saturday 27th September our children's choir gave 2 rousing performances of 'Matilda' to a packed church. Much fun had by all! A big thank you to the children, parents and volunteers who made the show possible, and to all of you who came to see it and donated generously to our 2 good causes, Young Lives versus Cancer and the work of our church.

Melody Makers will now be rehearsing for the Harvest Service on Sunday 12th October, the Christmas Show on Saturday 6th December and the Carol Service on Sunday 14th December .

We always welcome new members, any young person aged 7+. Just come along to one of our weekly rehearsals in church on Thursdays 6.30 – 7.30. (Term time only, no fees or auditions)

or contact Stephen for more details on 07774 612651 or st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk.

We learn to sing and read music using the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' scheme. The children can earn medallions as they reach the various levels. We aim to instil confidence and build teamwork within a supportive Christian environment. Having fun is important so we also have social events – we are going 10 pin bowling on 8th November .

So if you know a young person who likes singing and having fun, why not ask them to give us a try?

Safeguarding is of course very important. All leaders and helpers are DBS checked and have safeguarding training and we ask parents/guardians to complete a registration form when their child first attends.

St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



The Old Rectory

Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne

Wednesday 12 November
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

The Kent Downs and Malling Team

invites you to



Toddler Praise

Harvest Celebration



Monday October 13

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, no charge.

No need to book but for more information or to let us know that you
are coming please contact:

Rev Helen Burn

rector@kentdownsmalling.church



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WWW.LRSD.CO.UK



VILLAGE VOICES NEED YOU



FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Rehearsals every Thursday from 2nd Oct to early Dec

At St Margaret's Church, Addington 7.30-9.00pm

No need to be able to read music, come along and join the fun.
Performing in local churches and pubs during December singing Christmas
Carols and old favourite songs like 'Santa Claus is coming to town'

So that we have enough music let us know that you are coming

Contact: christinehallidaysaddler@gmail.com

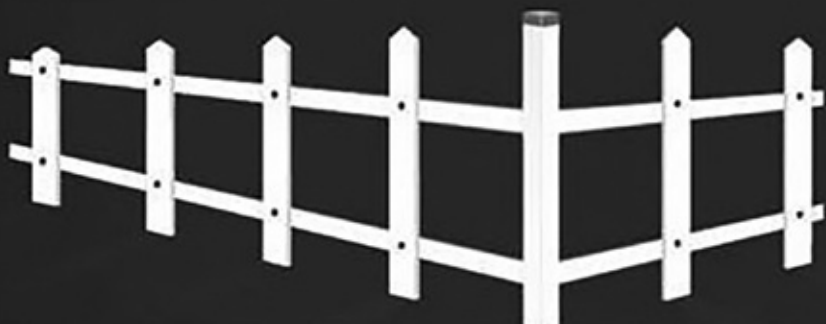
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THURSDAYS:

6.15PM - PILATES

7.35PM - RESTORATIVE YOGA

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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 October 2025

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
Oct 5	10.00 Open House Harvest	11.00 All Age	10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 All Age Harvest	9.30 All Age Holy Communion Harvest		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
Oct 12	10.00 Cafe Church In The Village Hall		10.30 All Age Holy Communion Harvest	9.15 Holy Communion		15.00 Harvest	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age Harvest
Oct 19	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion	9.30 All Age		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
Oct 26	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