



December 2025/January 2026

No.354

# LEYBOURNE VOICE



# Foreword

Many years ago, when I was in my school choir, we sang a song called Ring Out, Wild Bells in one of our Christmas concerts. It is a carol composed by Percy E. Fletcher, with words from the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. That carol has always stayed with me. At the time, I didn't think too much about the words, I simply liked the tune, but as I grow older I find myself reflecting more deeply on their meaning.

“Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

These words can bring us hope. As we approach the end of the year, we naturally look back on all that has happened. For some, the memories are joyful; for others, they carry sadness. Yet as we celebrate Christ's birth, we can look forward in faith, for we have been given a Saviour who

offers hope, healing, and reconciliation. He enables us to “ring out” bitterness and fear, and to “ring in” grace and peace, for his birth brings us both light and love.

At Leybourne, and throughout the Kent Downs and Malling Team, there will be many Carol, Christingle, Crib and Nativity services to help us prepare for that most special birth.

On Sunday 14 December, we will hold our All-Age Toy Service at 10.30am, where we will collect toys, ladies' gifts, and toiletries (please note: only new, unwrapped items can be accepted) for a local women's refuge.

On the evening of Tuesday 16 December, we will be singing carols and Christmas songs at The Old Rectory, and we warmly invite you to join us.

As we continue to work closely with the Leybourne Parish Council, The Old Rectory, and the wider community, we are deeply grateful for the

# December 2025 - January 2026

support we receive from the people of Leybourne. We are overwhelmed by the generosity shown in contributions to both the Food Bank and the animal supplies collection. These donations remain greatly needed, so if you are able, please continue to leave items in the boxes in the church porch.

We also recognise that while many look forward to this season with joy, others face it with dread. For those who are bereaved, living with abuse, facing financial hardship, ill health, or relationship breakdown, this time of year can bring deep sadness. If you are in need of prayer, support, or have any pastoral concerns, please be assured that you can contact us confidentially at [rector@kentdownsmalling.church](mailto:rector@kentdownsmalling.church) or [churchwardens@leybournechurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@leybournechurch.org.uk), and we will do our best to help.

Details of all our services can be found on the church website at:

<https://kentdownsmalling.church/our-parishes> and at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

We would be delighted if you could join us in church for our Melody Makers musical “The Mince Spies” at 4pm on Saturday 6th December, Carols by Candlelight at 4pm on Sunday 14th December, the Crib and Christingle Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve, the Christmas Eve Mass at 9pm or on Christmas morning at 10.30am where we will echo the song of the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all”.

In this season of goodwill may you, your homes and all those you love be filled not just with celebration but with Christ himself, our Emmanuel, “God with us”

Yours prayerfully,

**Janet**

# 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)

The Kent Downs and Malling Team

invites you to



# Toddler Praise



Monday 8 December

Monday 12 January

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:

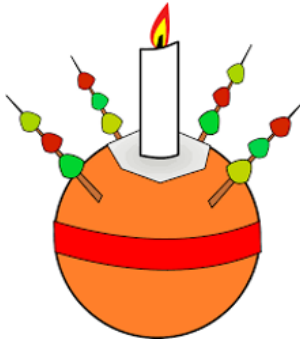
Rev Helen Burn

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



St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne

# **Crib and Christingle Service**



Wednesday 24 December 3pm

**Come and join us for this short service  
perfect for all the family, big or small,  
where we tell the Christmas story, sing  
some carols and take a Christingle  
home.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



# **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 Mornings  
Friday 19 December  
Friday 16 January**

**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 10 December**

**Wednesday 14 January**

**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



# Deck The Halls 2025



The weekend of 15th November was another busy one for the Church fundraising team....

“Deck the Halls 2025” has come and gone, and our grateful thanks go to the 120 people who came along to shop, have a relaxing drink at the bar, and enjoy Joe’s Christmas music. Thanks must also go to our volunteers who helped with vital jobs including event planning, decorating the hall, manning the bar, raffle, selling pe-loved clothes, photography, meeting and greeting at the front desk and setting up/ closing down the event, to name but a few.



We made a much-needed profit of £1060 and understand most stallholders did well too. The funds raised will go towards maintaining/repairing the Church windows – an expensive job at over £25,000!



We would also like to applaud the stallholders who provided a great variety of goods ranging from terrariums, cakes, graphic art, many varied craft items, jams, through to cards, cosmetics and much more...

The Amazing raffle 1st prize

hamper is in the background, pictured here with Michelle who organised it (see also below).



*Second prize winner, Wendy.*

*Dee & Chris were prize-winners too!*



Michelle Brennan – one of our fundraising committee members – is leaving the team at Christmas. Michelle was thanked for all her input over many years – especially for producing superb hampers for our raffles. Michelle was presented with some fizz and flowers with our best wishes - she will be a hard act to follow! See pic of the hamper above.

**The November 110 Club Draw** also took place at Deck the Halls – Reg Brooks was the winner with number **34**. Congratulations Reg!

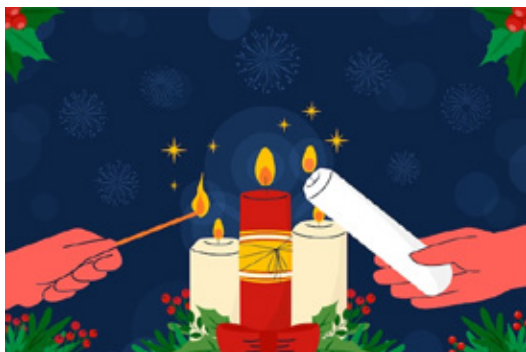
The Friends of Leybourne Church will be providing refreshments after the popular Carol Service to be held on Sunday 14th December at 4.00 pm – we hope to see you there...

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year from

***Lynne and the Fundraising Committee.***



# Carols by Candlelight



**Sunday 14 December 4pm**

at St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to  
sing your favourite carols with Christmas readings  
in the beautiful surroundings of the church  
followed by prosecco and mince pies

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

# Parish Day Trip to Portsmouth

Saturday, 9 May 2026

It seems a long way away, but in January we will be taking bookings for the Annual Parish Day Trip. This is a community event organised by the church for anyone who would like to come along.

There are many splendid attractions in Portsmouth. We are arranging a boat trip around the harbour, a visit to the Historic Dockyard, which features Henry VIII's ship Mary Rose, and Nelson's flag ship Victory, and a visit to the D-Day Museum. You can choose which attractions to visit. Some might just wish to enjoy part of the day in Gun Wharf Quays shopping centre. We've negotiated a group rate for the visits and by coming on an organised trip you can skip the queues and make the most of your day.

The day will end with dinner in a lovely pub restaurant overlooking the harbour in Havant just outside Portsmouth.

We have booked the Brookline coach company. The coach fare is £30 per head.



We will leave Leybourne at 8am and aim to be back by 9pm

Contact Stephen Thomas on

**07774 612651** or  
**st@stephenthomaslaw**

for more information or to book a place on the trip.

# Melody Makers News

After the resounding success of “Matilda”, which raised over £200 for Young Lives v Cancer and church funds, we sang at the Harvest Service and at an informal Remembrance Service.

Now we’ve started work on our Christmas Musical – The MINCE SPIES – see poster overleaf - a musical mystery which tells the Christmas story in a fun way, with some lively music and dancing.

The show is at 4 PM on Saturday 6 December and all are welcome. There will be refreshments after the show. The Melody Makers would love to see you there.

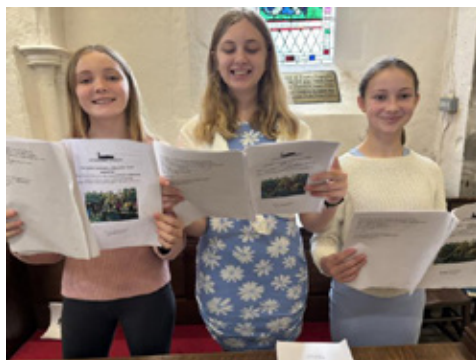
Christmas is a busy time for us. By the time you read this, the children will have been involved in carol singing at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Leybourne. On 14th December the choir will be taking part in the Carols by Candlelight service in church.

We have a lovely group of children who love music and through Melody Makers they learn to sing and read music and develop their confidence and team work.

We arrange social events. This year we went tobogganing and tenpin bowling.

Anyone aged 7 to 17 years old is welcome to join us. The choir is free to join and there are no auditions. If you would be interested or would like more information, please contact me on **07774 612651** or **st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk**.

***Stephen Thomas***





MELODY MAKERS  
PRESENT

# The Mince Spies



A festive musical  
case to crack!

SATURDAY

6<sup>th</sup> December

4.00 p.m

Leybourne Church

ALISON CARVER

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





Ss Peter & Paul Leybourne  
invites you to a  
**Toy Service**  
**10.30 Sunday 14 December**



A 45 minute non-Eucharistic service for all ages.

You are invited to bring a new toy to give to families who  
are struggling this Christmas.

All are welcome.

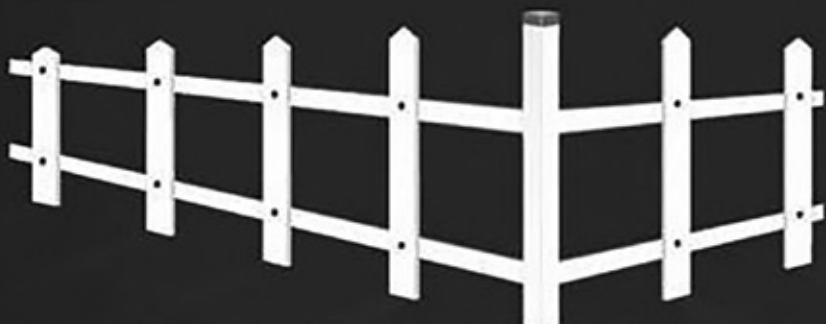
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# Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

## Team Rota December 2025

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
<b>Dec 7</b>	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 All Age 16.00 Carol Service	9.30 Holy Communion		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
<b>Dec 14</b>	10.00 Cafe in the Village Hall	17.00 Carol Service	10.30 All Age Toy Service 16.00 Carol Service	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Holy Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age
<b>Dec 16</b>						19.00 Carol Service	
<b>Dec 17</b>	19.30 Carol Service						
<b>Dec 18</b>	10.00 Team Service			19.00 Carols in the Pub			17.00 Advent Evensong
<b>Dec 21</b>	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion	17.00 Family Carol Service	9.30 Morning Worship	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 18.00 Carol Service
<b>Dec 24</b>	16.00 Christingle		15.00 Crib & Christingle 21.00 Midnight Mass	23.15 Holy Communion		15.00 Crib Service 23.30 Midnight Mass	15.30 & 17.00 Christingle 23.15 Midnight Mass
<b>Dec 25</b>	10.00 Family Service		10.30 All Age Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion	10.00 All Age Holy Communion	9.30 Family Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age Holy Communion
<b>Dec 28</b>							10.00 Joint Team Service

## Team Rota January 2026

<b>Jan 4</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>Jan 11</b>	10.00 Café 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 12.30 Baptism
<b>Jan 18</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 Holy Communion
<b>Jan 25</b>	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion 16.00 Mess Church	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Morning Worship	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion

**BCP Book of Common Prayer**