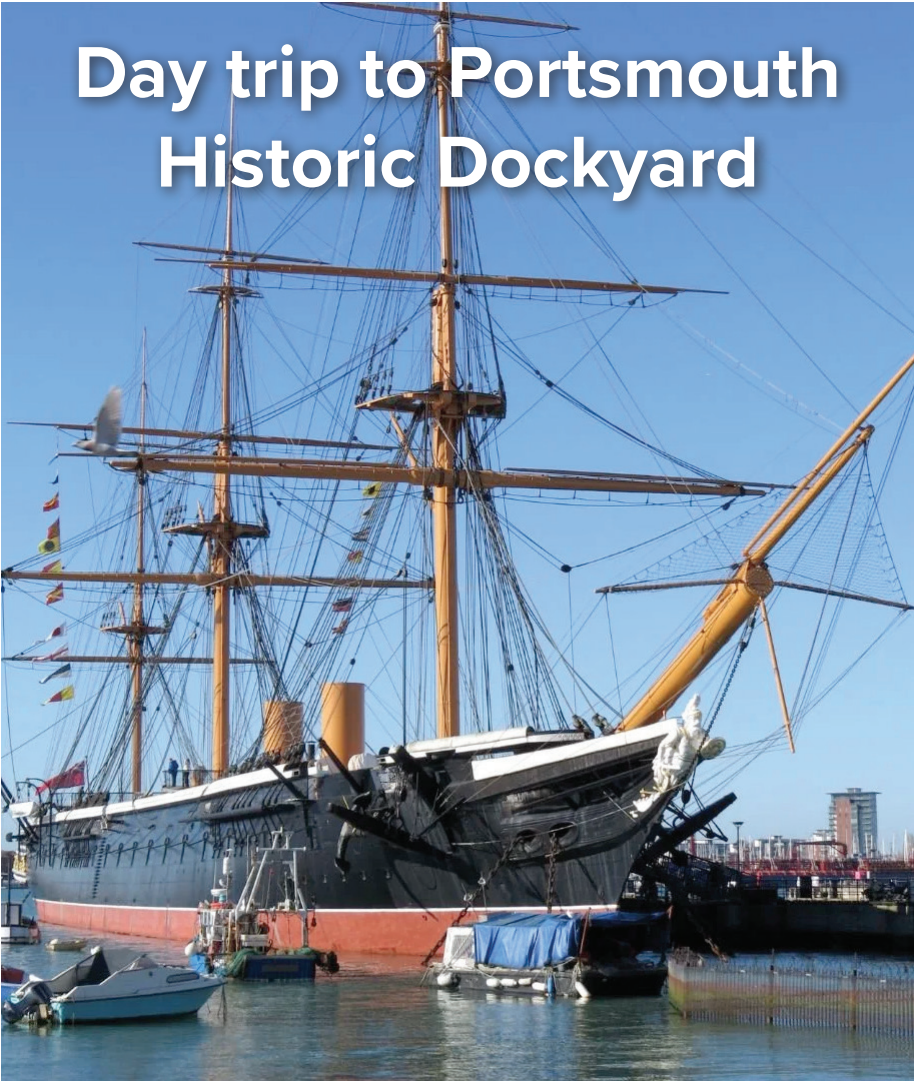


June 2026
No.358



LEYBOURNE VOICE

Day trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



West Malling Companions Group

A local group where we can all support each other, help alleviate loneliness and social isolation following the loss of a loved one.

Together, we will share stories, memories and feelings, offer guidance, and help others through their grief and the difficult times ahead.

Everyone within our group has experienced loss and maybe needs someone else to understand the life changes that a bereavement brings to them.

Don't be alone,
become part of West Malling Companions Group!

On the second Wednesday of each month
between 10am and 12 noon

with tea and coffee available at:

Stephen P. Gay

39-41 High Street, West Malling, ME19 6QH



June marks the start of 'Ordinary Time' in the church calendar, all the way until November. After the excitement of Christmas and Epiphany which then rolled into Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we now have a period of 'down time' to just get on with the business of being Christians day to day. But of course, there really is no such thing as ordinary time for Christians. Every day is Christmas, Easter and Pentecost as we live the reality of knowing God who became human, who died for our sins and then came to us, and remains with us, in the form and power of the Holy Spirit. It is this Holy Spirit who lives in us, around us and through us that gives us the ability to live holy lives. Not 'holier than thou' but 'holy as thou', because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. I call this a miracle because it is not something that we can generate ourselves.

We are surrounded by daily miracles. The miracle of new growth each summer, the miracle of birth, the miracle of planets orbiting, the miracle of gravity, the miracle of waves on the seashore, the miracle of how bumble bees fly. I could go on but you get my drift. The thing about these miracles is that we are so used to them as normal that we

barely recognise how extraordinary they really are. So, it is with living with God. We can get so used to living ordinary lives that we can forget how extra-ordinary it is that God should come among us in the form of Jesus and then send his Holy Spirit to us, to live in us as we open ourselves to him. We are all ordinary people, living ordinary lives in ordinary times but have access to the most extra-ordinary power. Let's not take this for granted nor ignore it but embrace this miracle with gratitude. God always gives more than he asks. So, we live not for ourselves but for Him in response to this extra-ordinary outpouring of love and daily miracle. We will of course, fail but rather becoming crestfallen and self-accusing, we can rejoice that we have a Saviour who understands what it is to be human and has left us his Spirit to enable us to try again. Ordinary time is never ordinary when we live daily with the extraordinary presence and power of God.

With Love
Rev Trish



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

Anne Thomas

annethomas1@icloud.com

Teddy Bears' Picnic and Zip Wire

Sunday 28th June 12 - 3pm

St Mary's Church, High Street, West Malling



Bring your own teddy and picnic
and enjoy the beautiful Churchyard
Delicious Homemade Refreshments available
£1 charge for your Teddy to enjoy the Zipwire
Musical Interludes including U3A Ukelele Group
Raffle
In aid of local charity Relief in Need

The Kent Downs and Malling Team

invites you to



Toddler Praise



Monday June 8 2026

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



Day Trip to The Historic Dockyard **Portsmouth**



Another great day trip!

On Saturday 9th May a group of 50 people from our church, and the wider community enjoyed a wonderful coach trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, organised by the ever-patient and highly organised Stephen, who somehow managed to keep us all together despite the combined wandering abilities of the group.

The journey down was pleasant, with plenty of conversation and laughter. Some folk had enough snacks to survive a small expedition at sea. Stephen gave us an outline of the day

and even briefed us on the various attractions we could see. Once we arrived, everyone quickly divided into their chosen missions for the day. Some explored the historic ships and attractions around the dockyard, while others embarked on a scenic boat trip around the Solent.

We all met up again for sandwiches, chips and drinks for lunch. After lunch some visited the fascinating D-Day experience, which brought history to life in a moving and memorable way, while others continued around the dockyard.



The amazing and informative exhibitions included HMS Warrior, HMS Victory, Mary Rose and various museums.

The historic ships were fascinating and gave us all a real appreciation for Britain's naval history. It was also comforting to know that after climbing several steep ladders aboard the ships, most of us could still walk unaided by the end of the day.

Meanwhile, a separate expeditionary force, mainly consisting of the ladies, headed bravely towards the nearby shopping centre in search of discounted designer brands. Judging by the number of shopping bags returning to the coach later in the day, this mission was extremely successful and may even have exceeded the Royal Navy's achievements.

One of the highlights was the



excellent three course meal we enjoyed together at a nearby restaurant overlooking Hayling island. The food was delicious, the company was even better, and for a brief moment the table went completely quiet, always the highest compliment to the chef.

The whole trip was extremely well organised, and Stephen deserves a great deal of thanks for arranging such an enjoyable day out. Everyone appeared to have a fantastic time, and we all returned home tired, happy, and with slightly more knowledge about ships, shopping, and wartime history than we had when we left that morning.

Overall, it was a lovely day of friendship, laughter, history, bargain hunting, and food, a combination that is very hard to improve.

Chris Trollope

Stephen P. Gay

Funeral Service

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as well as non-religious



St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne
COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



The Old Rectory
Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne
Wednesday 10 June
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
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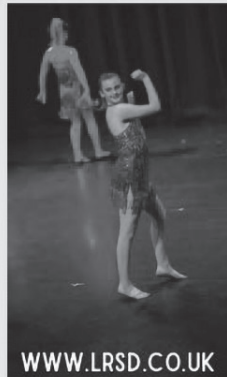
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St Martin's Ryarsh Coffee Mornings

**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
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Ryarsh ME19 5LS**

Friday 19 JUNE

Lovely Birthday cards on sale supporting Fields of Life



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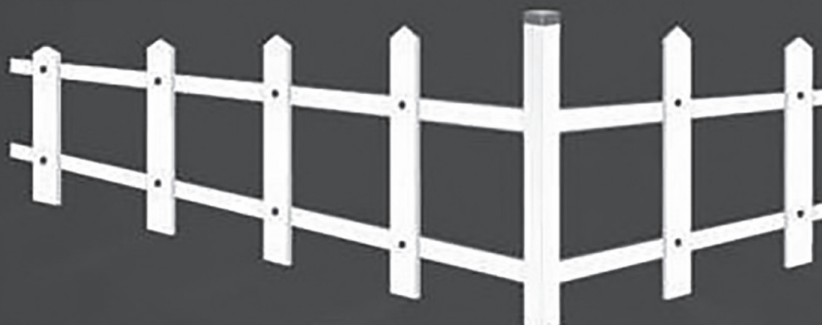
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Go Green!

at St Mary's Church, West Malling

Sunday June 14th

3-5pm

Green-themed craft activities for children of all ages
in St Mary's Churchyard, (ME19 6NE)

Join us to mark Great Big Green Week.

Help us explore and celebrate the glorious diversity of
God's creation in our churchyard.

Free, and open to all – just turn up!

Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

N.B There are no toilets on site!

Organised by St Mary's Church, West Malling, with friends from
other churches in the Kent Downs and Malling Benefice

<https://kentdownsmalling.church/>

Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

Team Rota June 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottscliffe	West Malling
Jun 7	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion	No Morning Service 17.00 Village Service	9.30 Holy Communion		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
Jun 14	10.00 Cafe Church In The Village Hall		10.30 All Age	9.15 Holy Communion	12 Noon Baptism	9.30 Holy Communion	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age
Jun 21	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
Jun 28	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion 11.45 Baptism	9.15 Holy Communion		10.00 Patronal Festival	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion

BCP Book of Common Prayer