November 2026
No.362

LEYBOURNE VOICE

300 handmade poppies in time for Remembrance

The newly formed Leybourne WI and other ladies in the community attaching over 300 fabulous hand knitted poppies to our memorials to mark Remembrance Day



Foreword

Since the restoration of the church clock, I enjoy listening out for its chime and being reminded of the steady passing of time. Summer and winter, spring and autumn, the church bell punctuates the day. Time is a great mystery: how can some joyful experiences pass so quickly, while it takes so long to go from 3am to 3.30am when we are lying awake and restless?

Not long ago, I came across a simple poem, almost entirely in monosyllables, by Lizette Woodworth Reese set to a haunting melody which I often find myself humming as I walk.

Glad that I live am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of dew.

After the sun, the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Till the work be done.

All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow,
Nearer the sky.

The first verse simply expresses gratitude: 'glad that I live am I, that the sky is blue.' Our very life is a gift, something for which we can daily be grateful. The second verse describes the alternating of sun and rain, joy and sorrow, which are part of the inevitable pattern of every life. That is simply how it is, and each will pass and make way for the other. The last verse invites us all to a common human vocation: to 'grow nearer the sky.' Whatever season we find ourselves in- bright and joyful or dark and difficult- we can still reach for the light, strive for what helps others, look to the greater reality beyond.

As the days shorten, we are invited to spend time reflecting on time, eternity, loss and hope: to remember those we see no longer in this world; to honour those who gave their lives in war; to nurture the fragile hopes we hold for a better future in the face of loss or disappointment.

In SS Peter and Paul Leybourne our 10.30 service on Sunday 1st November has as its focus the loving remembrance of those we no longer see in this life, with the opportunity to hang names

on our tree of life, and everyone is very welcome to attend.
The tree will remain in church throughout November so you are welcome to come in, spend time and light a candle.

The following week on Remembrance Sunday we gather outside church at the War Memorial at 10.30 to remember all those who have died in wars past and present, and those who have been impacted by their deaths. Everyone is welcome- please wrap up warmly. Many thanks to members of the newly formed Leybourne WI who have knitted the display of poppies on the railings outside.

May we each use this season to 'grow nearer the sky.'

Helen



St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



The Old Rectory
Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne

Wednesday 11 November 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 together.

THERE IS NO CHARGE AND ALL ARE WELCOME

Supported by Leybourne Parish Council

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 pleased 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

Leybourne Food Bank

Phone: 07802 428662

Email: foodbank@larkfieldcommunitychurch.co.uk

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 hurch seeks to serve God through prayer, worship, acton 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
churchwardens@leybournechurch.org.uk


St Peter & St Paul Church
Leybourne
Our children's choir
Melody Makers
will be holding a
special Remembrance themed service
on
Thursday 12th November
in church at
6.45 pm
Please come and support them.
Refreshments afterwards

St Peter & St Paul, Leybourne

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
8 November 2026
10.30am
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL



Please join us for our 10.30am Remembrance Service, outside church, where we come together as a community to remember the dedication of all those who served in the Armed Forces, with gratitude and appreciation, giving their lives so that we can enjoy peace today.

Following the wreath laying all are welcome to stay for tea and coffee.

Details of our services are on the Team Website at https://kentdownsmalling.church

Leybourne
Parish Council

Christmas Lights Switch On

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Carols from 4:00pm
at the Christmas tree
next to the Donkey Field,
followed by the
Christmas lights switch on.

Then back to the
Old Rectory for
mince pies and
mulled wine.



Let's come together to celebrate the start of Christmas!

Kent Downs and Malling Team



A service of Holy Communion for Safeguarding Sunday

Together, we can help create safer places – because love protects.

Ss Peter & Paul, Leybourne

On 15th November at 10.30am

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1Corinthians 13:7)

NATIVITY PUPPET SERVICE

A magical Christmas celebration for all the family



SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER · 4pm

LEYBOURNE CHURCH

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Contact: st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk 07774 612651

For tickets contact
j.tootal@btinternet.com
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6-9 PM

14 NOV

Leybourne Village Hall ME19 5QL

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REPLY SLIP

Deck the halls 14th November 2026

Please book me ..... Tickets @£2 each

Name: ..... Email: .....

Address/Tel no: .....

I enclose cash/cheque payable to Leybourne PCC Fundraising a/c for £ .....

Or I have paid by bank transfer to Leybourne PCC Fundraising account 35225068/Sort code:30 90 89

Send to: 5 Evergreen Close, Leybourne ME19 5PY

In aid of Leybourne Church improvements and other local charities

The Kent Downs and Malling Team

Messy Church
Advent

Sunday 22 November 2026
4:00pm-6:00pm in Offham Village Hall



All Age craft and activities to help us explore the season of Advent. 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**

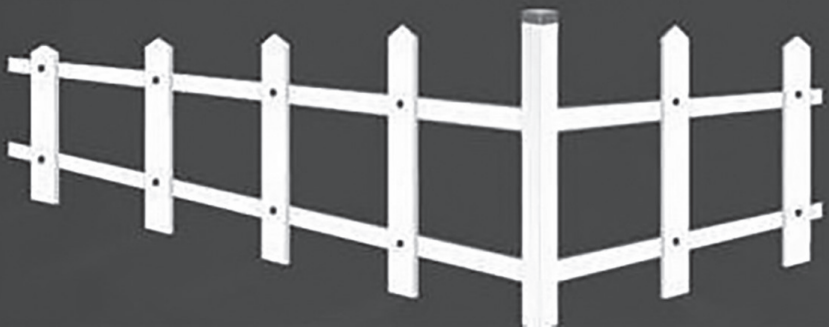
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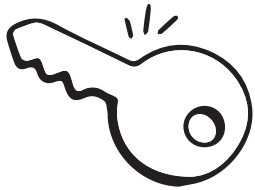
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Kent Downs and Malling Team Ministry

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

Team Rota November 2026

	Addington	Birling	Leybourne	Offham	Ryarsh	Trottiscliffe	West Malling
Nov 1	10.00 Open House	11.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Holy Communion All Souls'	9.15 All Age	9.30 Holy Communion		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 15.00 Team All Souls'
Nov 8	10.00 Cafe Church in the Village Hall		10.30 All Age Holy Communion Harvest	9.15 Holy Communion		11.00 All Age Harvest	8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 Remembrance 14.30 Civic Service
Nov 12			18.45 Melody Makers Remembrance Service				
Nov 15	10.00 Safeguarding Sunday	11.00 All Age Safeguarding Sunday	10.30 Holy Communion Safeguarding Sunday	9.15 Holy Communion Safeguarding Sunday	9.30 All Age Safeguarding Sunday		8.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.00 All Age Safeguarding Sunday 12.30 Baptism
Nov 22	10.00 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion	9.15 Holy Communion		9.30 Morning Worship	8.00 CP Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion 17.00 Choral Evensong
Nov 27							14.00 Viners Annual Memorial Service

BCP Book of Common Prayer

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 20 November

Lovely Birthday cards on sale supporting Fields of Life