

# Leeds & Broomfield

50p

Sept 2024

## Ride and Stride



### CYCLISTS, WALKERS AND DOG-WALKERS!

*Friends of Kent Churches  
annual bike ride and walk will take place*

*on  
Saturday 14 September*

*(See page 22 for details)*

# Church and Village News

# PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy	Rev Mark Pavey	07516 159879
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County Councillor - Leeds	Gary Cooke	694480
County Councillor - Broomfield	Shellina Prendergast	07970 461160
Craft & Natter	Jane Newsome	862558
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Football Club (Men & Ladies)	Colin Pitchers	670700
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## MAGAZINE MATERIAL

Please email copy for the magazine by 12th of the month to the Editor, Judi Taylor. Email : [juditaylor4@outlook.com](mailto:juditaylor4@outlook.com)



# NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

## ***THANK YOU!!***

So I have some news... in case you haven't heard already. I'm being appointed to a new role at St Faith's church in Maidstone. Essentially this means that my final service in the current role will be on the 29 September at St Nicholas Church, Leeds at 10am.

This is a bittersweet appointment for us as a family, on the one hand we're really excited to see what God will be doing with us in the new role but on the other hand we're bitterly disappointed to be leaving our current churches. Perhaps the hardest part will be to leave all the good people we have met and come to love. From day one we were welcomed, valued and encouraged and we genuinely couldn't be more thankful. But in truth we leave full of optimism for ourselves and the North Downs Churches.

It's been a real joy for me to be part of the community in Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood, and I've gotten to know some wonderfully gifted people across the villages and churches. It's partly for this reason that, despite our departure, I'm incredibly hopeful for the churches moving forward.

The Christian faith always offers new beginnings. Every time we fall short we come to God in confession and we trust in his grace and mercy, that we have been forgiven and we start again. A bit like when Peter takes his eyes off Jesus when walking on water, he cries out to be saved and Jesus immediately takes his hand and returns him to the boat.

I truly believe there are even brighter days ahead for the churches and maybe the future of all depends on the people's willingness to

step out of the boat at times, to show faith, to be brave. Our willingness to do this so often depends on our continued falling in love with Jesus. We do this through prayer and exploring scripture, keeping our eyes set firmly on him and growing in the knowledge of His love for us!

The beauty of Luke's account of Peter walking on water is that he wasn't rebuked for messing it up... Jesus said 'you of little faith, why did you doubt?' in other words why did you stop looking to me? The disciples' response was to worship... redirecting their gaze to Jesus! It's why we meet together regularly in the churches to worship.

I guess for all of us there are question marks over our futures, but please know this...

We will miss Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood greatly because we love the people ... but not as much as God does!!! So keep your eyes fixed on him and trust him with your new beginnings.

We're so grateful to have been welcomed into your community and we continue to pray for you all of you.

Please remember, our last service is 29 September 10am at St Nicholas Church, Leeds. It would be lovely to see you and to thank you in person.

God Bless,  
*Mark*



Leeds Amateur  
Dramatics Society  *Panto Open Day* 

~~~~~  
Sunday 15 September 2024  
~~~~~

**L.A.D.S.** invite you to come along to our Open Day at the Leeds Village Hall, Lower Street, Leeds village **1.30pm to 4pm**

Want to be involved the village community Panto in Feb 2025?

**If you have ever wanted to become more involved in village life, fancied yourself as a bit of an artist or a handy person, wanted to show off your costume making skills or wanted to tread the boards then this is your opportunity. Don't miss out come along and say hello. At the very least you will meet some new people and get a cuppa out of it.**

We're looking for help with costumes, set building, painting, acting, curtains, prompt, ticket sales, lighting, sound and backstage during performances.

**No experience necessary!** Come along and have fun, Refreshments will be available.

Facebook: LADSamdram

E-Mail: [ladsamdram@gmail.com](mailto:ladsamdram@gmail.com)

# **Church Services in September**

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<b>1 September</b>	<b>Trinity 14</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Song of Solomon 2.8-13; James 1.17-end; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15,21-23		
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Worship
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration
<b>8 September</b>	<b>Trinity 15</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; James 2.1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7.24-end		
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration & communion
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Afternoon worship
<b>15 September</b>	<b>Trinity 16</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Proverbs 1.20-33; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-end		
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Worship and communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration
<b>22 September</b>	<b>Trinity 17</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Proverbs 31.10-end; James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a; Mark 9.30-37		
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Family Communion
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
<b>29 September</b>	<b>Trinity 18</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Genesis 28.10-17; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-end (tbc)		
<b>Joint Service</b>	10.00am	Leeds	Communion

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# This Month's Duties

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## **St Nicholas**

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### **Readers**

Sept	1/15	D King	9.30am
	29	TBC	10.00am

### **Church Cleaning**

Sept Mr & Mrs King

### **War Memorial**

Sept Mrs J Dabbs

### **Brass & Silver**

### **Flowers**

Sept	1/8	Mrs Turner	
	15/22	Mrs Ryan	Mrs L Gallihawk
	29	Mrs Turner	Miss E Chapman

## **St Margaret's**

### **Readers**

Sept 8 Dr C Oakland 3.30pm

### **Church Cleaning**

Sept 8 Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor 3.30pm

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Please come along to our

# **LBK House Group starting soon!**

**We are a small group of Christians  
who meet regularly in someone's  
house to worship and study the Bible**

*We meet at 7 Laurel Grove,  
Kingswood, ME17 3PS at 7:15pm with  
tea and cake for a 7:30pm start and  
aim to finish by 9pm.*

Here are our meeting dates :

4th September

11th September

25th September

**All Welcome!**





## Comedy Night at The Potting Shed

Our Comedy Night is fast approaching, be the first to secure your tickets for the best evening!

You'll be greeted by our comedians to enjoy some well overdue laughs with friends on 10th October.

As well as guaranteed laughs, you can enjoy your favourite pub grub and a glass of wine (or two) before the fun begins. All ticket holders will receive 25% off food on the evening.

\*Table for food must be booked separately to redeem discount

Book your tickets at [elitepubs.com](http://elitepubs.com)



# Re-Cycle your Bicycle

...and your old tools



**We need your used bikes and old tools!!!**

**Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club and Maidstone Lockmeadow Market are collecting used bikes and tools for Africa**

**We will send used bikes and tools to rural communities in Africa.**

**Those not suitable may be stripped down for parts or re-furbished and sold to the community here in the UK**

**The next bike and tool drop off:**



Lockmeadow Market (Car Park)  
Barker Road  
Maidstone ME16 8SF



**Saturday 26th October - 9.00am to 3.00pm**

**For more information call 07793 817226**

For information about the Re-Cycle.org charity and their bike drop off locations visit [www.re-cycle.org](http://www.re-cycle.org) or call 01206 617865

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# What a wonderful Well Blessing Display!

Well done Derek and team!





**FREE ENTRY**

**Broomfield & Kingswood  
Parish Council**

**Bar and BBQ supplied by  
The Kings Head Sutton Valence**

**Raffle**

**Ice Cream Van**

**Baking competition**

**Arts and Craft Exhibition**

**Live music from The Old School  
Samba Band and The Invicta Jazz  
Orchestra**

**Fire Eating**

**Nerf games**

**Football games**

**And much more!**

**Join us for some  
family friendly  
fun at the  
Village Fete!**



**21st September 2024**

**2pm—7pm**

**Kingswood Village Hall**

# LEEDS CASTLE

Well, we finally seem to be in proper summer as I write, with consistently beautiful weather every day. In the gardens, there is still lots of stunning colour, while the Hollyhocks have now gone over for the year, the roses are still lovely and there are lots of beautiful dahlias in full flower.

The beautiful wild flower meadow continues to flower and should do so well into Autumn. It has been great to see so many visitors enjoying walking the mown paths through it and taking pictures with the Castle in the background during the summer.

It is a very busy time of year at the Castle, with lots of happy visitors enjoying the estate. If you get a chance to bring children or grandchildren, they will definitely enjoy the beautiful *Secret Lives of Woodland Animals Trail*, featuring intricate (imagined) miniature homes of the wildlife that lives on site. There are also performers each weekend to bring the stories to life.

We held another successful *Leeds Castle Concert* in mid-July, featuring an ABBA Tribute Band as well as John Rigby and the fabulous Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. It was unfortunate that there was a huge downpour during the ABBA Tribute, with lots of concert-goers getting absolutely soaked. But, many danced on through the rain and a great time was had by all.

We just finished a weekend of *Motors by the Moat*, this popular event returning for the first time since 2019. It was stunning weather and a lovely atmosphere as thousands enjoyed the spectacular car stunts on Main Drive and jet ski display on the Moat. It was great to see so many happy people enjoying the vintage and super cars on display, & enjoying themselves in the sun.

From 26 August, we move into a brand-new Sublime Sculpture Trail, running until 6 October and included in the 12-month admission ticket.

Looking ahead to Autumn and Winter, we have daytime *Hallowe'en* & Christmas experiences. During October Half-Term, children are invited to become Spell Seekers and interact with six magical beings around the Estate, before joining the Hallowe'en Ball and Fancy Dress competition.

From 23 November to 31 December, the Castle will be transformed into scenes from *The Nutcracker*, with live performers at weekends and during the school Christmas holidays. Many of you will have enjoyed Narnia in the Castle last year, so we hope you will join us for this magical experience too. Both *Hallowe'en* and *The Nutcracker* are included in your 12-month ticket.

We will also have a bookable Nutcracker themed Afternoon Tea (adults & children).

In the evening, separately ticketed events, sales are now underway for both Christmas Lights and Fireworks Spectacular. 80% of Christmas Lights installations are new for this year, so we hope you will come along to this stunning festive show, with great catering, marshmallow toasting and fairground rides. This year, we will also have a Big Wheel which will give exceptional views over the Castle from height!

In July, our new caterers refurbished the Castle View Restaurant and Stable Café and introduced new menus. We now also have a stunning cocktail bar which serves small plates of delicious squid bites, charcuterie and other tempting fare, so come down to try it out!

*Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive*

# **Notes from Leeds Parish Council**

## ***Welcome to newcomers to Leeds***

Welcome to any new residents to the village. We hope that you will be happy here. Please don't be shrinking violets – come and support the village and its community in whatever way you wish.

## ***Parish Council Meetings***

Leeds Parish Council usually meets on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Leeds. This is your opportunity to bring to our attention any issues that you are concerned about. There is no Parish Council meeting in August or December.

## ***Date of Next Meeting***

Tuesday, 10 September 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

# **WE HAVE SQUIRRELS IN THE SCOUT HUT!**

But don't panic these are not the ones with the furry tails, these are 4-6 year old children. This is a new section that Lydia is leader. Lydia had started them after the Easter break. At the moment she has 14 squirrels. and has asked that parents come along to assist until they have settled in.

For St George's day the group paraded through Maidstone town past the Mayor on their way to All Saint's church for the service.

## **GROUP CAMP**

In June the beavers, cubs and scouts went to Comp Wood near Borough Green. For some of the children this was their first night in sleeping in tents. They heard all the different sounds at night like the trees creaking about and also hearing owls which some hadn't heard before. We split the sections up so some did first aid, making fires, chopping wood and making hats for our 20th birthday of Leeds and Kingswood scout group. We had a cake with the scout group name on it. Later we were entertained by having a display of reptiles. We saw corn snakes, Boris the large tortoise, one small one about a year old. But the main attraction was the Python which all the children loved and all wanted to have photos with it sitting on their shoulders and laying across their legs.

Our thanks go to Lydia for organizing the camp and Andy the chef for for keeping us fed.

## **QUIZ**

We had our spring quiz at Langley village hall, this was very well attended and every one enjoyed it. We are all looking forward to our autumn quiz at the end of October.



The group took part in the litter picking around the village and down Broomfield Road to the church and finishing back in the scout hut for a cup of tea.

We have found there is quite a lot of dog mess surrounding the scout hut, so we are helping to prevent it by tying a container with poo bags to the post outside the hut, please be obliged to use them.

### **BEAVERS**

At the moment we have 16 beavers and slowly increasing in numbers. They have learnt about Baden Powell and do the promise each week.

The beavers are keen to learn about outer space, dinosaurs and sport so Lydia is working towards them.

Science has been the theme for this term. They have since done their badge for coding. a scientist came and did some experiments with them.

Many parents are keen to assist with the beavers.

### **CUBS**

There are 17 cubs, we have a new leader Ricky, he says he would like a few more helpers in running it. They have been looking at the history of scouting, learning about healthy eating and the chefs badge to coincide with pancake day, kitchen safety and home safety.

The cubs made a large puppet of a dragon to take to the St George's parade in Maidstone.

They had a day at Leeds Castle where they saw Jousting and the birds of prey.

### **SCOUTS**

We have currently got 5 leaders, There are 15 scouts, 5 boys and 10 girls.

Future events include first aid, hikes to Leeds Castle, healthy life style and water sports.

### **JOINING**

If your child is interested in joining any of the above sections call 843019

### **FUND RAISING**

Besides our quizzes, we have the 100 club, this costs £12 for the year and we have four prizes a month. The profits from these all help in running the the scout activities and maintenance of the scout hut, If you are interested in joining call Alan 843019

### **The winners**

#### **April**

Mr Earl £20, Mrs Mellish £10, Mrs Lurcock £10, Mr Jury £5

#### **May**

Mrs Edmed £20. Mrs Monk £10, Mrs Monk £10, Mrs Leandro £5

#### **June**

Mrs Dann £20, Mrs Thompson £10, Mr S Poulton £10, Mrs Neeves £5

*Alan Poulton Chairman*

## **Update from Helen Whately your local MP**



Thank you to everyone who voted for me in July. It is the honour of my life serving as Faversham and Mid Kent's MP and I am so proud to be re-elected.

That said, It was a tough general election campaign. Many of you told me about your frustrations with the Conservatives - the message was loud and clear. Whether you voted for me or not, I am here for you if you need my help.

I know that people across the country voted for change, and I respect their decision. I will not oppose the Labour Government for the sake of it. That said, if they propose legislation that is not in the interests of the country or local people, I will fight our corner.

The Government has already made decisions that were not in their manifesto with announcements to slash transport infrastructure investment, ditch social care reforms, means test winter fuel payments and put the country on notice for tax rises.

On top of these announcements the Government's new planning reforms will totally change the look and feel of Kent. They will reverse all my hard work in persuading the last Government to drop mandatory housing targets and focus on higher density in urban areas.

Instead, they will stop communities from having a meaningful say in the planning process and will reinstate housing targets for councils - while also cutting London's housing targets from 100,000 to 80,000

This is a slap in the face for Kent. Labour have chosen to prioritise building on our green fields over brownfield sites in London. It is the wrong choice, and will result in hundreds more new houses here, over and above current plans

I am also heartbroken that Labour has chosen to abandon the cap on social care costs. After years of political disagreement about social care, we had at last achieved a consensus - this was in both the Labour and Conservative manifestos. This will mean higher care costs for people who need it.

The Government have also announced scrapping the extra cash for training care

workers. This will force social care to continue to rely on low paid staff and will inevitably result in people paying more for a reduced service. It will also continue our reliance on workers from overseas which is another backward step.

And I have already been inundated with people contacting me who are worried sick about Labour's choice to means test Winter Fuel Payments. This means that pensioners not receiving pension credits or other means-tested benefits will no longer get up to £300 to help with the cost of heating their homes.

This will leave many older people who are just about managing to have to choose between heating and eating this winter. I am advising people who contact me about Winter Fuel Payments to double check to see if they are entitled to Pension Credits, and to sign up for them if they are.

This policy is particularly shocking when we remember that just over 2 months ago in PMQs, Keir Starmer asked Rishi Sunak about the Conservative Government cutting Winter Fuel Payments!

After the Chancellor the Prime Minister and Cabinet said over 50 times that they would not increase taxes they have put the country on notice for future tax hikes. We will know in the Autumn whether they will tax our homes, pension or income.

It's clearly going to be a tough few years for us with this Government but I will keep my election promises and fight for Faversham and Mid Kent every step of the way.

Best wishes

Helen [www.helenwhately.org.uk](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

## **ACTING CLUB**

*Opening soon in the Leeds village area*

*Covering all aspects including  
improvisation, Shakespeare, vocal  
training with the added option of LAMDA.*

*Please contact Rebecca for more  
information or expression of interest*

[bexperry@yahoo.com](mailto:bexperry@yahoo.com)

**Call or WhatsApp: 07495992566**



# You're Invited to Join Our Community Charity



## Be part of organising fun, local fundraising events

Previous annual events include:

- Beer Festival
- Afternoon Tea
- Winter fairs
- Curry and Soul evening



## Friends of Leeds and Broomfield Churches Charity

No:1080363

Whether you're passionate about local historic buildings, looking to meet like-minded individuals, or simply want to have fun while making a difference, our charity group is the perfect place for you!

We need some more local support and therefore asking residents who care about Leeds and Broomfield Churches to join. Our charity was founded to raise money to help preserve the historic churches of these two villages and to prevent them from falling into disrepair.

We aim to raise money and have fun while doing it!

This is not a religious group.

The charity meets once every three months in either Leeds or Broomfield Village.

# Join now

Contact Jenny for more information about joining  
07970119467

If you don't wish to join the charity but would like to offer a donation please visit our website.

<https://www.friendslbc.co.uk/support-us>

# Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association

Parents, grandparents: Are you looking for ideas to keep your children/ grandchildren busy during the summer holidays? Then why not let their imagination run wild and encourage them to enter our Autumn Show??

Please bring their exhibits along between 9am and 11.15am to the Village Hall on the Show Day. The Show then opens to the public at 2.15pm so parents and friends can come along to admire the Show and enjoy tea and cake. Exhibits to be collected after prizegiving has taken place approx. 3.45pm.

## AUTUMN SHOW



# In Sutton Valence Village Hall Sunday 8 September 2024

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

AGED 8 YEARS AND UNDER 83

Your Tallest plant - either a photo (showing its height) or bring along in its pot

A picture using vegetable printing

AGED 9-15 years

something I have grown in my garden that I am most proud of '

A picture using (pressed) flowers

Our members exhibit at our Shows and our membership is £5 per year and offers discounts at Rumwoods , Millbrook, The Potted Garden, Bearsted and local outlets ( T&Cs apply)

Contact us at ::[suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com](mailto:suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com)

# Ride and Stride



## **CYCLISTS, WALKERS AND DOG-WALKERS!**

*Friends of Kent Churches  
annual bike ride and walk will take place*

***Saturday 14 September***

This is the day when we invite walkers, hikers, bike riders and horse riders to undertake a sponsored tour around as many Kent churches as they can. Choose your own route and "clock-in" at the churches as you go round.

**Sponsorship forms can be obtained from  
*Christine Oakland***

**07925 500756**

***Or downloaded from: [kentrideandstride.co.uk](http://kentrideandstride.co.uk)***

Half of the sponsorship money raised goes to Friends of Kent Churches to maintain the structures of the many ancient church buildings throughout Kent - which can be and indeed in recent years has been used for a grant to one of our local churches. The other half goes to maintain your local village church. So get a sponsorship form and start planning your route!



*It's not what you think!*

We are a small, perfectly-formed, friendly group of local women, who meet in Leeds Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

Yes, we do eat cake. Yes we do drink tea. But we also laugh a lot, learn a lot and go out a lot.

**Meeting Coming up:**

**Thursday 12 September**

**All welcome. Non-members: £4.50**

**7.30pm. Leeds Village Hall**

Join our Facebook Page @LeedsWI  
Email us at: leedsvillagewi@gmail.com

**Or call Susan Wenham on 07905 479870**

**LEEDS CRAFT AND NATTER GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY 18 September**

**LEEDS VILLAGE HALL 11am-1pm**

A hot drink and biscuits will be provided

Cost £3.50 to cover costs

**For more details please contact**

**Jane Newsome 862558**



# **Wine and Wisdom**

**Saturday 12 October  
Memorial Hall, Leeds**

**7.15 for 7.30pm  
Teams of four to six**

**Supper with wine provided**

**Bring your own glasses**

**In aid of Leeds Memorial Hall funds**

**Tickets £10.00**

**Please note tables need to be  
booked by Friday 4 October**

**Tel : Jane on 01622 863481  
Or email [jane.steele@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jane.steele@hotmail.co.uk)**



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# *For Your Diary*



- Sept**
- 4 LBK House Group—see page 8
  - 8 SVGA Autumn Show—SV Village Hall
  - 10 Leeds Parish Council Meet : Village Hall—7.00pm
  - 11 LBK House Group—see page 8
  - 12 Leeds W.I. Meet : Village Hall— 7.30pm
  - 14 Ride and Stride—see page 18
  - 15 LADS Panto Open Day : Village Hall—1.30pm
  - 18 Craft & Natter : Village Hall—11am
  - 25 LBK House Group—see page 8
  - 29 Vicar's leaving service : Leeds church—10am
- Oct**
- 6 SVGA Talk—For venue contact Ross : **01622 693837**
  - 10 Comedy night : Potting Shed—See page 9
  - 12 Wine & Wisdom : Village Hall—7.15pm
  - 26 Recycle your bicycle/tools—see page 10
- Nov**
- 24 SVGA AGM—For venue contact Ross : **01622 693837**

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or Publisher. Whilst every care is taken to present the articles with an innocent opinion, the Editor and Publisher take no responsibility for any effects the articles or advertising features may cause.

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