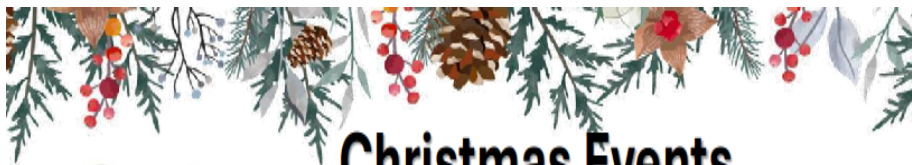


Leeds & Broomfield

50p

Dec 2024



Christmas Events



Otham with Langley
Churches

LBK
churches

Oh come
let us
adore
Him

Sat. Nov 30	Christmas Market	10-12.30pm, St. Nicholas, Otham
Mon. Dec 2	Messy Christmas	3.30pm, St. Nicholas, Otham
Sun. Dec 8	The Christmas Story	11am, Kingswood Church
Sun. Dec 8	Carol Service	3.30pm, St. Margaret, Broomfield
Fri. Dec 13	Who is Jesus?	6pm, St. Mary, Langley
	a contemporary carol service	
Sat. Dec 14	Leeds Village Carolling	4pm, from Upper Street
Sun. Dec 15	Carols Round the Tree	4pm, Heath Road, Langley
Sun. Dec 15	Christingle	6pm, Kingswood Church
Thur. Dec 19	Christingle	4pm, St. Nicholas, Leeds
Sun. Dec 22	Christmas Celebration	3pm, St. Nicholas, Otham
	carols, readings, poems, prayers	
Tues. Dec 24	Family Nativity	4pm, St. Nicholas, Leeds
	come as someone or something from the nativity story, or as you are!	
Tues. Dec 24	Midnight Communion	11.30pm, St. Nicholas, Otham
Wed. Dec 25	Christmas Day Service	10am, St. Margaret, Broomfield
		10am, St. Mary, Langley
		10.30am, Kingswood Church

Church and Village News

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Tracey Pavan	07516 159879
Churchwarden—Leeds & Broomfield	Maria Boreham	436296
Verger - <i>Broomfield</i>	Derek Hadlow	861955
Borough Councillor	Gill Fort	861605
County Councillor - Leeds	Gary Cooke	694480
County Councillor - Broomfield	Shellina Prendergast	07970 461160
Craft & Natter	Jane Newsome	862558
Cricket Club - Secretary	Sarah O'Connell	880340
Football Club (Men & Ladies)	Colin Pitchers	670700
Friends of Leeds & Broomfield Churches	Pauline Royer	07711 830436
Leeds Allotments	Strutt and Parker	01227 473741
Leeds Amateur Dramatic Group	Lesley Finlay	862467
Leeds Playing Field	Sherrie Babington	01634 863719
Leeds/Broomfield Bellringers	Andrew Saunders	07948 715268
Leeds W.I.	Susan Wenham	07905 479870
Magazine Editor & Advertising	Judi Taylor	862316
Magazine Distribution	Humphrey Goodhew	861624
Memorial Hall – <i>Bookings</i>	Jane Steele	863481
Parish Council Chair - Leeds	Bob China	07472 760460
Parish Council Chair – Broomfield & Kingswood	Tina Clark	880929
Parish Clerk - Leeds	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Parish Clerk – Broomfield & Kingswood	Hayley Roberts	474190
Primary School	Fiona Steer	861398
Roman Catholic Priest	Fr. Peter Gowney	752637
Scout Group	Alan Poulton	843019
Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association	Ross Vaughan	693837
Website : www.leedskent.org.uk	leedsparishcoun- cil@gmail.com	

MAGAZINE MATERIAL

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



NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

Merry 
Christmas

We sadly had to say goodbye to our vicar Rev Mark Pavey, Tansye and the girls during September with Mark taking up a new position as Priest-in-Charge at St Faith's Church, Maidstone. Mark's licensing was on 15 October at a wonderful Service taken by Bishop Rose and Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone and attended by representatives from all of Mark's former churches.

Mark's final service with us was on 29 September at a packed St Nicholas' Church, Leeds. It was a wonderful celebration as we gave thanks to Mark, Tansye and the girls for their tremendous love and service to Langley, Otham, Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood churches over many years. The previous Sunday, at Kingswood Church, Mark was presented with his favourite biscuits, chocolate and cards, in the shape of doughnuts, by the children.

We remember with thanks the on-line Sunday services, taken by Mark, Tansye and the girls every week, during those long months of isolation with Covid19, where the worship, bible teaching and prayers kept us renewed in mind, body and spirit. Many can testify to coming to faith, others to a renewal and strengthening of their faith, through Mark's ministry in our churches, schools, care homes and communities. We wish them God's blessing as they continue their ministry at St Faith's Church and Community Centre at Ringlestone, Maidstone. There is also a great Cafe which is open Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 1:30pm!

The period in the run up to Christmas is called Advent which starts on 1 December and lasts until 24 December, Christmas Eve. Advent means 'arrival' and derives from the Latin word *adventus* which means 'coming' and during this four week season Christians remember and celebrate the arrival or coming of the Lord Jesus to the earth. The anticipation of

Christmas is heightened by the numerous Advent calenders that are now available in our shops with gifts ranging from perfume to chocolates as each day passes. For Christians, Advent is a time of reflection as we think of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world at his birth. Also, to pause and reflect on his second coming. The advent hymn, "O come, O come Emmanuel" perfectly represents the Advent season.

I wonder how ready we are for Christmas, with all the shopping required, but also how prepared we are to once again celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus to this earth? Our churches will be holding services each Sunday during Advent and we look forward to welcoming you.

As we approach Christmas Day, we are reminded that it is Jesus who is the reason for the season. The birth of a baby, the Son of God, bringing light and hope into our troubled world. A message of peace on earth and goodwill to all people that is as relevant today as it was over 2,000 years ago.

Luke's gospel records the birth of Jesus and the appearance of an angel which said to the shepherds, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.' This was followed by 'a great company of heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace.' Not content to be merely observers of this amazing event the shepherds 'hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in a manger.' May we take time over the Christmas period to seek and find the Lord Jesus, to hear the good news and experience his love, joy and peace in our lives as we meet together with family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming you at our services over Christmas and may I wish you on behalf of the LBK Churches a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

Peter Roberts
Reader/Licenced Lay Minister



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BROOMFIELD

**CAROLS AT
BROOMFIELD**



**Sunday 8 December
at 3.30pm**

*Please come along and bring the children
Mulled wine and mince pies after the
service*

Church Services in December

1 December	Advent 1		
Readings	Jeremiah 33.14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end; Luke 21.25-36		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café Service
8 December	Advent 2		
Readings	Baruch 5 or Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	The Christmas Story
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Morning Worship
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration & Communion
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Carol service
13 December	6.00pm	Langley	<i>Who is Jesus? A contemporary Carol Service</i>
15 December	Advent 3		
Readings	Zephaniah 3.14-end; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Morning Service
	9.30am	Leeds	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Morning Service
	11.00am	Langley	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Heath Rd Langley	Carols around the tree
	6.00pm	Kingswood	Christingle
19 December	4.00pm	Leeds	Christingle

22 December Advent 4 Advent 4

Readings	Micah 5.2-5a;	Hebrews 10.5	Luke 1.39-45
		-10;	
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Otham	Carol Service
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hucking	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Otham	Midnight Mass
	4.00pm	Langley	Nativity

24 December

	4.00pm	Leeds	Family Nativity
	4.00pm	Hollingbourne	Christingle
	11.30pm	Otham	Midnight Communion

25 December Christmas Day

Readings	Isaiah 9.2-7;	Titus 2.11-14;	Luke 2.1-14[15-20]
Services	10.00am	Broomfield	Christmas day Celebration
	10.30am	Kingswood	Christmas day Service
	10.00am	Langley	Joint Christmas Celebration

29 December Christmas 1

Readings	1 Samuel 2.18	26; Colossians	Luke 2.41-end
	-20, 26;	3.12-17;	
Services	10.00am	Detling	Joint area Service



This Month's Duties

St Nicholas

Readers

Dec	1	D King	9.30am
	15	TBC	9.30am

Church Cleaning

Dec Mr & Mrs King

War Memorial

Dec Mrs J Dabbs

Brass & Silver

Flowers

Dec	1/15	Mrs Turner	<i>Advent</i>
	22/29	Mrs Ryan	Miss E Chapman

St Margaret's

Readers

Dec 8/25 Various 3.30pm

Church Cleaning

Dec 8/25 Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor 3.30pm





christmas
is here!

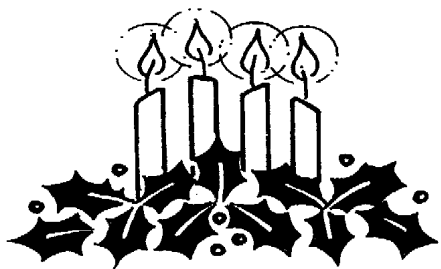


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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BROOMFIELD

CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY



10.00AM

25 December
2024

**Save the Date
Leeds Village
Christmas Events**



Leeds Village Christmas is back!

Early Dec - Village Tree & Village Get Your Lights On!

Dec 14 - 4pm - Charolling through the Village

Dec 19 - 4 pm - Christingle at St Nicholas

Dec 19 - 7pm - Carols in The George



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CHRISTMAS
at the Castle



23RD NOVEMBER 2024 - 5TH JANUARY 2025

STEP INTO THE MAGICAL WORLD
OF THE NUTCRACKER THIS CHRISTMAS

THIS WARMING FESTIVE EVENT IS INCLUDED IN ADMISSION TICKETS

LEEDS CASTLE

It has been great to have an extended period of good weather recently, enabling lots of people to enjoy the stunning autumn colours across the estate. October Half Term was very well attended, with lots of families enjoying the Guardians of the Grounds trail and the performers who were bringing the story to life.

We were equally pleased to have good weather for the Fireworks Spectacular that took place last weekend. It was the usual high standard of fireworks, with the theme of Colours this year. At one point there was a giant multicoloured chameleon projected onto the Castle, to the tune of Karma Chameleon. Much fun had by all.

It is the season for clearing undergrowth and preparing the garden for the winter, along with widespread new bulb planting. Our new Gardens and Grounds Manager, John Myers, is driving a major investment in spring bulbs, meaning we should have a stunning spring flower display for 2025. Much more to come in gardens development!

We have now completed repair works on the Pavilion, which has stood empty for some time. In Lady Baillie's time, this lovely building was used for afternoon tea while people played tennis on the Pavilion Lawn. We were delighted to have the support of PAYE Stonework, who are our partner in the long-term project to repair the stone work on the Castle. They donated the labour of six workmen to restore the Pavilion as part of their contribution to the local community.

We now have a stunning restored space, which will be available for the use of the community groups we are partnering with. PAYE also partnered with us to run some schools' workshops in September for students from local secondary schools to learn about heritage con-

servation skills & careers.

Over the summer we worked with a number of local community groups on a trial basis to evaluate how we could work with these groups to bring people to Leeds Castle, who have barriers to access. These might be due to cost, disability or confidence.

We worked with Kent Young Carers charities, Imago & Crossroads and 21 Together, a local charity that supports families with children with Downs' Syndrome to host visits and learn more about how we can make them more welcome on site. We hope to expand this programme gradually over the next year.

From 23 November to 31 December, the Castle will be transformed into magical scenes from *The Nutcracker*, with live performers at weekends and during the school Christmas holidays. Both *Halloween* and *The Nutcracker* are included in your 12-month ticket and you can get a flavour of the experience from videos now on website.

The special themed *Nutcracker* Afternoon Tea (adults & children) is looking stunning (and having tried the cakes, I can confirm they are absolutely delicious). This needs to be pre-booked on our website or by calling Castle View Restaurant.

Christmas Lights Trail is returning from 22 November, with 80% new installations, great catering, marshmallow toasting and fairground rides, including a Big Wheel giving great views over the Castle!

The Castle will be donating Christmas Trees to local schools and churches as usual, so I hope that you enjoy these as you go around your Christmas preparations!

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.

Present

Those present, the Clerk, Cll's Bernini, Ingram and Razzle. Meeting chaired by Councillor China

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cll's Greeff, Springford and Fort.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Resident Bernie Razzle was welcomed onto the council by the Chairman.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed & signed as a true record. Declaration of Interests : None declared.

Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

Highways Matters

Leak at the bottom of Foley Hill still ongoing. Clerk has yet to receive a response from South and South East Water.

The hatch lines by The George have been repainted.

KCC appear to have acknowledged the request to refill/renew the salt bins.

If you have concerns about pot holes and empty/damaged grit bins please either use the KCC website or advise the Parish Clerk.

Chairman's Report

I met up with our MP Helen Whately at Lenham Village Hall with numerous other Parish Councillors and raised the Haven Farm development in Sutton Valance. This is where the developer has agreed to finance a road change on the Headcorn road by The Plough whereby traffic will be encouraged to turn into the B2163 when heading towards Maidstone to go North towards the M20 as opposed to using Willington St. This would be a totally retrograde step putting more vehicles onto an overloaded B road and must be disregarded. Whilst Helen agreed it was outside of her area but she would take it up with KCC and MBC councillor Gary Cooke. Other topics raised, by other Parish Councillors were Operation Brock on the M20 and anti social behaviour.

Financial Matters

The financial statement & payments were approved and made.

Report from KCC Councillor

Cllr Cooke advised that there were now five community wardens two of which dedicated to the south east of the borough.

MBC were pursuing a new local plan which would raise a new call for sites.

he also offered to attend a meeting with the school to discuss the parking issues.

Report from MBC Councillor

Cll Fort advised that she would, on behalf of the Leeds Parish Council, discuss and strongly object to the road change proposed by the developer involved with the Haven Farm Development in Sutton Valance with the planning team at Maidstone. This a matter now of extreme urgency as the closing date for any objections is later in the month. The proposal is to change the road layout by the Plough Public House to encourage traffic heading towards Maidstone from Sutton Valance needing to turn north to turn into the Leeds/Langley road rather than use Willington St!

Parish Maintenance

Response received from Leeds Castle re a contribution to the cost of hedge pruning around the Church graveyard. The Castle unable to contribute as they have only a small team of contractors now. It was decided to review the hedge cutting in the new year.

Leaves on the pavement through the village and in the tennis courts giving concern, contractor to be asked to remove.

Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavilion

Insurance inspection of the children's play area highlighted that a wooden cap on one of the gate posts was missing. Cll China to get local handyman to replace. Report that tennis courts are being used by dog walkers and complaint from resident that drug taking being carried out. It was decided that the tennis courts would be locked and if entry required residents to contact the Parish Clerk. Cllr Gary Cooke is to take up the drug problem with the community police team.

Street Lighting

With the nights drawing in it is important that all the street lights are working. If you spot any that are not please contact the Clerk.

The new bollard light on the path through the Church grounds has been replaced and the studs cut down.

Parish Council Events

December 6. The lights on the Christmas Tree, decorated by pupils from the school, at the end of Wykeham Grove adjacent to The George will be switched on.

December 14. Carolling through the Village with a stop at Ledian, the Christmas Tree & The George then onto the Church where the beacon will be lit.

December 19. Late afternoon Christingle in the church and carols in The George. For more details and times please contact Tracie on 07505372823.

Date of next meeting

There is no PC meeting in December so the Parish Council would like to wish the residents of the village a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday the 14 January 2025 at 7pm

All Items collected on our Leeds Village Charolling are donated to:

maidstone homeless care

Day Centre, Food Bank, Hot Meals, Clothing, Mental Health Support
amongst many services...

Give whilst you sing, and bring in the Light..

Wondering what to donate?

Any of the below list are commonly requested.

Tinned Potatoes; Tinned Vegetables; Tinned Tuna;

Tinned Meat (ham, stewing steak, corned beef)

Meat Puddings and Fray Bentos Pies

Tin openers; Tinned Fruit; Hot dogs in tins/jars

Tinned Ready Meals (irish stew, bolognaise, curry etc)

Plain microwave rice / Fray Bentos Puddings

Biscuit collection / Chocolates collection

Long Life Milk / Long Life Apple / Orange Juice

Toothpaste / Toothbrush

Shampoo / Conditioner Shower Gel / Soap

Deodorant / Baby Wipes

Razors & Shaving Gel / Foam/Cream

Comb / hairbrush / Hair bobbles/ties

Clean socks / underwear

Sanitary items for women / Nappies

Cleaning materials

*Any questions please call Tracie 07505372823
or email leedsvillageevents@gmail.com*





Leeds Village Christmas Charolling



**Starting 4pm Sat 14th Dec. from Upper St
by The Square and Chapel Cottages and road build out**

*A little bit of Charity, & little bit of Carolling,
bring it all together, and join us for Charolling!*



Come join the village in your **festive gear**;

As we **walk** from top to bottom all full of cheer.

Meet us on the way with **your donations** for the carts;

Then **gather at the Beacon** to sing with your hearts.

With sparkles and **carols** and the Beacon lit;

We head **into St Nicholas** for a warm place to sit.

Keep the Wise Men, the **Star** and the Inn in your sight;

Away in a Manager our last song for the night;

Mulled Wine and Hot Chocolates, **Tea, Coffee** and more;

Cakes, cookies and **crafts**, there is something for all.

Children might want to keep an **ear to the ground**;

Where **a little gift of Christmas** may just be found.

Approximate Timings

4.45 Ledian Gardens; 5.10 Christmas Tree; 5.45 Beacon; 6pm St Nicholas

A Christmas update from your local MP

One moment it was summer, and the next, a November mist settles over the fields, and here I am writing for the Leeds and Broomfield Christmas Special. Where did the time go?

Talking of fields, many of you have contacted me concerned about building on fields especially the best 'Grade 1' farmland. This top quality land is scarce – only about 3% of the UK's farmland – and it's important for food production. We are lucky to have a swathe of it here in Kent.

That's why I recently introduced a Private Members Bill in Parliament seeking to stop so-called Garden Villages being built on Grade 1 land. As a 'PMB' its path to get onto the statute book is a difficult one. And it can't stop developments that have already received planning permission. But I will do what I can to protect the farmland we need to feed future generations.

The budget was also challenging for food production. The increase in the minimum wage is good for workers on low pay, but together with national insurance it's a big rise in costs for farmers, especially local fruit growers who need a large workforce. And then there's the changes to 'Agricultural Property Relief' and 'Business Property Relief' which have drastic consequences for family businesses. I've been meeting some of those affected locally. If you are caught by these changes and would like to attend a future meeting, please let me know.

Against all of that, there was some good news to welcome in the budget – like continued investment in high-speed broadband and extra funding for pothole repairs. The road maintenance money is not enough, given the state of our roads and volume of traffic, but it's something. I'll keep lobbying for a larger budget and a solution to Operation Brock, which puts so much traffic onto our roads whenever it's activated.

I count as a success the delay of the EU's new 'Entry Exit System' (EES), which was set to launch in November. When I visited Dover in the summer it was clear that the technology wasn't ready – a point I made robustly to the EU's Deputy Ambassador a few weeks ago. Thankfully they postponed the launch. But I'm still concerned that when it comes we'll get queues at Dover and Operation Brock again, so I'll keep a close eye on this.

Until then, if I can help in any way, please reach out. I would also like to pass on my thanks to all of those who organise the many festivities across Leeds and Broomfield over the Christmas period. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Helen - helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk / 0207 219 6472

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Parish Administrator

If you need help with dates for church weddings or christenings or any other church services before a new Vicar is appointed, please contact our Parish Administrator Tracey Pavan on 07516 159879 or email *lbkchurches@gmail.com* and Tracey will endeavour to help.

Bearsted Choral Society

A Christmas Carol Concert

**Saturday 14 December 2024
at 7.30pm**

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church
Button Lane, Bearsted
ME15 8NJ

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Andrew Lowen

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Meeting Coming up:

Thursday 12 December

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 15 January 2025

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

REVERSE SANTA IS COMING AGAIN!

Friday 13th December

Procession starts at 5pm in Broomfield

Follow the sleigh and give Santa a gift



Refreshments and music in the Village Hall from 6.30pm

More details to follow shortly!

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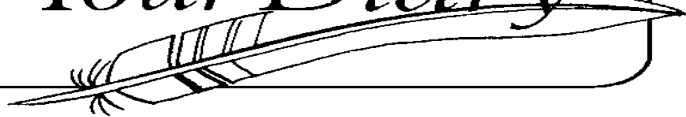
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For Your Diary



- Dec** 6 Christmas Lights Switch on : Leeds Village
- 8 Carols at Broomfield : Broomfield church—3.30pm
- 12 Leeds W.I. meet : Village Hall—7.30pm
- 13 Reverse Santa : Broomfield—5pm
- 14 Leeds Charolling : Starts Upper St—4pm
- 19 Christingle : Leeds church—4pm
- 19 Carols in the George—7pm
- 25 Carols on Christmas Day : Broomfield church—10am
- Jan** 14 Leeds Parish Council meet : Village Hall—7pm
- 15 Craft & Natter : Village Hall—11am
- Feb** 7/8 Robinson Crusoe Panto : Village Hall, Leeds. See page 8



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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