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50p

Jan 2025

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# 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 Growney	752637
Scout Group	Alan Poulton	843019
Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association	Ross Vaughan	693837
Website : <a href="http://www.leedskent.org.uk">www.leedskent.org.uk</a>	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](mailto:juditaylor4@outlook.com)



# NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

## ***Happy New Year to you all!***

Hope you all had a good Christmas; presents have been opened, the food has been eaten and probably lots of TV and movies watched.

For some of us, New Year resolutions made. I wonder how long they will last. In my case, I doubt I'll get to the end of the month, but I will try to last longer otherwise what was the point. I hope for those of you that have made those resolutions, manage to stick with them and enjoy the rewards. The 6th of January marks an important date for many people as it marks the end of Christmas. It is a special day for many Christians as it is when people celebrate how a star led the Three Kings or the Wise men, to visit baby Jesus, after he had been born.

It's not just the tradition that is said to be bad luck to keep decorations up after the Twelfth night, it is because it marks Epiphany, which falls 12 days after Christmas. Epiphany is also known as 'Three Kings Day', a Christian feast day.

Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal' as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed to the world'.

This is why you might hear people say they've had an epiphany, when they've just realised something. I am sure some of us can associate with those moments in our lives.

Perhaps this year you may find yourself revisiting your faith. Regardless of your spiritual journey so far, you will always receive a warm welcome in our churches.

May the New Year fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter, and may God bless you today and every day.

*Maria Boreham*  
*Church Warden*



At the end of November 19 children from Badger Class joined other children from the Aspire Federation on a residential trip to Bowles Rocks near Tunbridge Wells. Whilst there we took part in: rock climbing, raft building, sledging, teamwork, team building, treasure hunt, campfire, bushcraft, skiing and more! There were children from years 5 and 6, so for some of us it was our second time going, whilst for others it was their first time at Bowles.

When we arrived we had to walk up a big hill with our suitcases, this was really tiring. Then we had to get straight onto making our bed, this was a bit of a pain for some of us!

Our favourite activity was skiing because it was fun and you got to challenge yourself. Rock climbing was good too because it taught us strategies to get to the top of the rocks, although it was quite scary because it's high.

All in all the food was nice, we really enjoyed the roast turkey because the gravy was yummy, the jacket potatoes were great, and the garlic bread was tasty too.

For some sleeping was difficult, perhaps too much fun was being had in the dorms. There was also plenty of sugar stopping us sleeping too!

Those of us in Year 5 are looking forward to going back next year, sadly for Year 6 it was our last time but we've enjoyed the experience.



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# **Church Services in January 2025**

<b>5 January</b>	<b>Christmas 2</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	1 Samuel 2 18-20	Colossians 3 12-17	Luke 2 41-52
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café church
<b>12 January</b>	<b>Epiphany 1</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 43.1-7	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Celebration
<b>19 January</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	<u>Isaiah 62.1-5;</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12.1-11;</u>	<u>John 2.1-11</u>
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Morning Service
	9.30am	Leeds	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Celebration
<b>26 January</b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>		
<b>Readings</b>	Nehemiah 8, 1-3, 5-6, 8-10;	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Luke 4.14-21
<b>Services</b>	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Communion
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist

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# This Month's Duties

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## **St Nicholas**

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### **Readers**

Jan 19 Various 9.30am

### **Church Cleaning**

Jan Mr & Mrs King

### **War Memorial**

Jan Mrs J Dabbs

### **Brass & Silver**

### **Flowers**

Jan 5/19 Mrs Turner Mrs B Turner

26 Mrs Ryan Mrs F Crossley

## **St Margaret's**

### **Readers**

Jan 12 Mrs J Taylor 3.30pm

### **Church Cleaning**

Jan 12 Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor 3.30pm

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Happy  
New  
Year!

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## **Kingswood & Leeds Scouts Group**

***A happy, prosperous New Year to you all!***

The scout group had a stall at the Kingswood fete in the summer, we had Play Your Cards Right, open the box (find the right key) and a firing range, all the children and adults enjoyed it.

We had our Autumn quiz, this was very well attended and was enjoyed by all. I thank Carol and Steve who arranged the questions and were our callers.

The group for Remembrance Day, went to the Tommy in the morning at the cross roads for the 2 minute silence and later in the afternoon we had the service in Broomfield Church. The group made poppies and laid them on the edge of the path up to the church entrance.

All the committee on the group have now been changed to trustees. We have started putting planters outside the scout hut.

### ***SCOUTS***

There are 17 scouts and 6 leaders/volunteers. They had a busy term, they presented 142 badges, well done to them.

Some of the meetings the scouts themselves organise the meeting and run it to make them more adventurous with their ideas.

### ***CUBS***

We now have four leaders, but cubs are a bit low with only 11, but we are expecting 3 beavers coming up to the cubs after Christmas.

Ricky aims to contact schools for a recruitment drive after Christmas with the aim of improving numbers and encouraging more girls join.

Since September, the cubs have completed their Personal Safety badge. For Halloween they have been making crafts and dressing up as ghosts and other frightening things.

In November the cubs will be making poppy key chains for Remembrance day. We will also be visited by a TV and film engineer who will be record-

ing Cubs reading a story for their Readers badge. Recordings will be put on CD's to give to their parents.

In December cubs will be Carol singing at Morrisons to raise money which will go towards a trip to the bowling alley before they break up for the Christmas holidays.

### **BEAVERS**

We have 21 beavers. We have a list of young people waiting to join. There will be a few moving up to cubs.

Beavers are working towards their Earth Tribe Badge and the big Buzz badge. The beavers have been planting Primulas outside the hut.

### **SQUIRRELS**

There are between 12 and 14 in attendance. We have received a grant of £500 to start the squirrels, which has helped to upgrade and reopen the climbing wall for all sections to use.

We have a waiting list for squirrels and some will be moving on to beavers. Our aim is to have a Squirrels camp next year. If you would like to join any of the sections call 843019

### **100 CLUB**

The 100 CLUB is like a small lottery.

The winners are :

### **OCTOBER**

Mr Skinner £20, Mrs Kerr £10, Miss Doherty £10, Mrs M Smith £5

### **NOVEMBER**

Mrs Orchin £20, Mrs Oliver £10, Mrs Carol Jones £10, Mrs Tweddell £5

### **DECEMBER**

Mrs Schroeder £20, Mrs Kerr £10, Mrs V Clarke £10, Mr Green £5

All proceeds to scout funds.

*Alan Poulton, Chair*



# LEEDS CASTLE

As I write, we are two weeks out from Christmas Day, but by the time you read this, the Christmas period will be over for another year. I hope that many of you enjoyed visiting the Christmas Lights and the Nutcracker in the Castle Experience over the Christmas period and perhaps even enjoyed a Nutcracker Afternoon Tea as my family did!

It has been lovely seeing the positive reactions to the Christmas Trees that the Castle donates annually to local schools & churches. They have all been decorated in a beautiful fashion and were a joy to see. Lots of schools have been enjoying our Nutcracker Christmas Experience during December too.

It has been something of an eventful time during our Christmas events, with two weekends of appalling weather and severe gales, meaning we had to close the Christmas Lights Trail and day time visiting for two weekends. As a heavily wooded site, we take high winds very seriously, as branches and entire trees can fall in high winds.

While we clearly don't want to disappoint visitors, especially at Christmas, safety is always paramount and there will be times when we have to close the site due to high winds. We use the Met Office forecasts and on site anemometers to make decisions.

We have two stages of closure; the first is when we close the Woodland Garden and bring guests in through the Main Drive. The second is when we have to close the site completely to guests due to high wind forecasts.

For the duration of Yellow, Amber or Red weather warnings, we do not recommend use of public footpaths near wooded areas to ensure your safety.

Focus now turns to 2025 activity. Soon the snowdrops will be starting to appear, followed by crocuses, daffodils and tulips. We have planted a vast number of tulips this year, so expect the spring show to be especially lovely. The Wild Flower Meadow will be in its second year in summer, bigger and better for 2025.

We have lots of conservation work underway in January, with plaster repairs to the Gatehouse, electrical distribution board upgrades and essential building repairs in the Maiden's Tower, as well as works to refurbish the Moat Sluices, controlling water flow.

Stone repairs were completed to the Moat Bridge during December, using divers and a water-resistant mortar. We have also completed repairs to the Bell Tower and will be starting repairs to the East Terrace in January.

Intensive work is also underway on our new exhibition, focussing on Queen Eleanor of Castile's fascinating life. Queen of King Edward I, Eleanor owned Leeds Castle as part of her personal property portfolio and built the Gloriette in 1278, the oldest part of the Castle on the second island in the Moat. Married at the age of 12, Eleanor made a huge impact on the culture of England, bringing Castilian design, art and literature with her. The exhibition will tell the story of her life, through artistic and digital installations and should open in June 2025.

A very Happy New Year to you all from Leeds Castle!

*Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive*



**Leeds Parish Council would like to wish all the residents in the village a happy, prosperous and peaceful 2025 and thank those who organised and took part in village events during the last year.**

**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. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 7pm**

# **An update from your local MP Helen Whately**

Happy New Year to everyone. As we put the challenges of 2024 behind us I hope with all my heart 2025 will be a better year. It's also a milestone for me, as 7th May is the 10th anniversary as the MP for Faversham and Mid Kent. It continues to be the honour of my life to serve you and represent you in Parliament.

It's been an extraordinary ten years. Brexit, the pandemic, war in Ukraine, inflation, migration, climate change, terrorism, online safety, the struggles of the NHS, the housing shortage, the building over our countryside. There has been so much to grapple with, and that's just a list of things that came to mind.

People sometimes ask me what I am most proud of achieving, as an MP. That makes me think, because being an MP is mostly about lots of contributions you make every day, arguing for this area, trying to make things better across the country, and helping people out. Being a health minister during the pandemic was the hardest time but also the time when every day made a difference. Locally I've worked particularly hard on health, including helping get us the Kent Medical School so we will have more local doctors.

As I write this, we are approaching Small Business Saturday, which is a moment to celebrate small businesses and all they do for our community. This year I'm visiting businesses in and around Bearsted. But wherever you live, do please remember to support your local shops, pubs, cafes, tea shops, or whatever you have nearby. Most businesses do much more for the community than whatever it says on their sign.

It's also looking like a tough time ahead for many of those businesses along with local farmers and GPs, after the tax rises in the budget. I've been meeting many of those affected and have written to the Chancellor. Please get in touch with me if you would like me to know about your situation.

As I write another big local concern is the Deputy Prime Minister's decision to 'call in' the Highsted Park development and decide whether it goes ahead, rather than leave it to Swale Borough Council. It's unusual for a minister to step in like this, and odd that the news came moments before local councillors were due to make their own decision. I've written to her to find out what's going on.

I'll keep you up updated on progress with this, not only because it affects lots of people but also because if this becomes a trend, it'll have serious consequences across the constituency

As ever, if I can help in any way, please reach out.

Best wishes *Helen* [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk) / 0207 219 6472

# **St Nicholas, Leeds & St Margaret's, Broomfield – Electoral Roll**

The Church of England Parish Electoral Roll is revised every year, but every six years a new electoral roll has to be drawn up. The next occasion is 2025, so we will be doing this in preparation for the next Parochial Church Council (PCC) AGM in April 2025. As St Nicholas and St Margaret's are two churches in a single parish with a joint PCC, there will be a single Electoral Roll to cover both.

You may already be on the current Electoral Roll, or perhaps you are not aware you could be on it. As the 2025 Electoral Roll will be a new one, everybody who would like to be on it needs to make an application.

What is the Electoral Roll?

In the same way that being on the civic electoral roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and stand for election to the PCC (although you do not have to do any of these).

There is no cost to being on the Electoral Roll. It also does not make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding St Nicholas or St Margaret's as your spiritual home does that.

## ***Do I qualify for the Roll?***

- ◆ To apply for the Electoral Roll you must meet the following conditions:
- ◆ You must be aged 16 or over (though you can apply in the year you become 16 and your name will be entered once your birth date has passed).
- ◆ You must be baptised.
- ◆ You must be able to declare one of the following:
  - ◆ That you are a member of the Church of England, or of a Church in communion with it, and live in the parish; or



- ◆ You are a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, do not live in the parish, but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months; or
- ◆ That you are a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.
- ◆ Can I be on more than one Electoral Roll?
- ◆ Yes you can. The only restriction is that you can serve on the PCC of only one parish.
- ◆ How do I apply to be on the 2025 Electoral Roll?
- ◆ Notices have been posted in both churches giving full information including the deadline for applications, which is 21 March 2025. There are application forms available near the church entrances (including by the south door at St Nicholas, which is open during the daytime most days).

You can also contact the Electoral Roll Officer to ask for an application to be sent to you by post or email. Please contact Judie Sweatman at church services, or on [judie17@europe.com](mailto:judie17@europe.com) (please put Electoral Roll in the subject line), or leave her a note asking for a form at St Nicholas church. JS

## **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\*](mailto:lbkchurches@gmail.com) and Tracey will endeavour to help.

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**Thursday 9 January 2025**

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Cost £3.50 to cover costs

**For more details please contact**

**Jane Newsome 862558**

# You're Invited to Join Our Community Charity



## 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.

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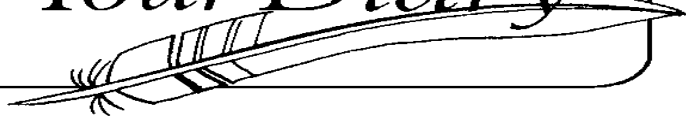
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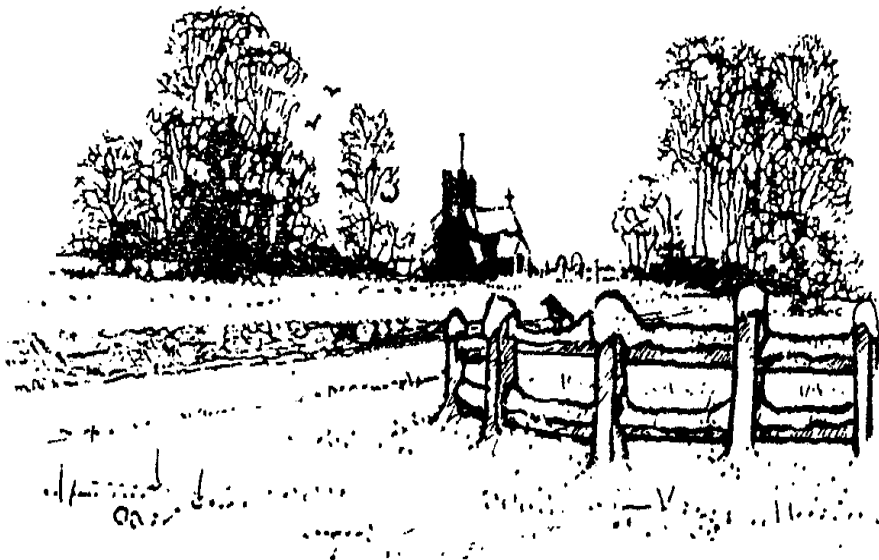


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# For Your Diary



- Jan**    9    Leeds W.I. Meet—Village Hall —7.30pm  
          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



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House of Commons

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