

Leeds & Broomfield

50p

April 2026



**LEEDS VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMER ON THE PLAYING FIELDS
LOWER ST ME17 1RU**

**JOIN US FOR OUR
LEEDS BIG SUMMER PICNIC**

**Wear a Hat for our Silly Hat Theme!
Prizes for greatest Hats!**

**SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026
12.00PM - 4.30PM**



Dog friendly day, for dogs on lead - with a tasty stall to buy some treats!

**It takes a Village! We would love some help! Send us a note or call!
If you would like to reserve a seat at our tables or a stall please message.**

More information coming on a flyer to you!

**Please message or call or an online message to help, reserve or questions:
Mel Comins 07811217821 or Tracie Carslund or leedsvillageevents@gmail.com**

Church and Village News

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Tracey Pavan	07516 159879
Churchwarden—Leeds & Broomfield <i>churchwardenlbkchurches@gmail.com</i>	Christine Oakland	
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—Chairman	Steve Bond	07472 760460
Memorial Hall – <i>Bookings</i>	Jane Steele	863481
Parish Council Chair - Leeds	Bob China	07971 861460
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 : www.leedskent.org.uk

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

Happy Easter!

You may have noticed that Easter is early this year, possibly gone by the time you read this. If you have given up chocolate or taken up kindness to others, breathe a sigh of relief as the end of your suffering is here! After the harshness of winter and the sadness of Lent, Easter is a time of hope, of tiny miracles of new life, seen everywhere in nature with lambs in the fields and plants sprouting all around. Lathers of snowdrops followed by swathes of daffodils are gracing both our churchyards.

At St Nicholas in Leeds, we are fortunate in having a faithful and committed team of volunteers, turning up every week, and often several times in the week, to create order out of a tangle of vegetation. Trees now show off visible trunks, instead of being shapeless big hulks. As the ivy is carefully lifted off the tombstones, revealing the names of those buried there, it is as if they are brought back out of oblivion to new life. Here a loving couple, together till death us do part, there a young child, gone too soon; elsewhere, a hero who gave his life so that we can live.

In the Book of Matthew, we can read that when Jesus died, “The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’s resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.”

A picture comes to mind, *The Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard*, painted in the mid-1920s by the artist Stanley Spencer, depicting the scene described by the Gospel writer, except that the backdrop of the story is the local churchyard. So the people who emerge from

the tombs are family members, friends, neighbours next to Bible figures such as Christ and Moses. Imagine this happening in our own churchyard, seeing our loved ones return to us at the end of times!

It is not a dream, but the promise Christians have been given, following the crucifixion of Jesus and his burial on Good Friday, and his coming back to life three days later on the first Easter Sunday. According to the Gospel of Luke, the angel at the empty tomb explained, "He is not here; he has risen!" Jesus himself appeared later to the disciples and told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." Centuries later, the message is still clear and announced in every church of all nations, and it is for all of us, for you and for me, who believe in Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!

Christine

churchwardenlbkchurches@gmail.com

LBK Home Group Lent Course

We will be looking at the book

Women of Holy Week by Paula Gooder

at 7 Laurel Grove, Kingswood, ME17 3PS

at 7:15pm for refreshments.

Time 7:30pm - 9pm Wednesdays

18th Feb; 25th Feb; 4th Mar; 11th Mar; 18th Mar:

25th Mar; 1st Apr

Sonya & Peter 01622 843625

LEEDS  CASTLE
KENT ENGLAND

Enchanted Easter

Help Find the Lost Spring Crystal!

3 - 19 April 2026

Embark on a magical quest: solve riddles, meet enchanted characters, and save the Spring Crystal!

Included in your admission ticket

Small additional charge for adventure booklet and Leeds Castle treat

This Month's Duties

St Nicholas

Church Cleaning

April Mr & Mrs King

War Memorial

April Mrs J Dabbs

Brass & Silver

April Vacant

Flowers

Belinda Hardy

St Margaret's

Readers

April 12 Mrs J Taylor

Church Cleaning

April 12 Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor

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

April Services

2 April

Maundy Thursday

Readings

Ps.116.1, 10-end; 1 Cor.11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31b-35

Services

7.00 pm Otham Maundy Thursday Service

3 April

Good Friday

Readings

Leader's Choice

Services

10.30 am Kingswood Reflection

2.00 pm Langley Reflection

5 April

Easter Day

Readings

Acts 10.34-43 or Jeremiah. 31. 1-6; Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3.1-4

Services

9.30 am Otham Holy Communion

9.30 am Leeds Holy Communion

11.00 am Hollingbourne Holy Communion

11.00 am Langley Holy Communion

11.00 am Kingswood Family Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt

12 April

Easter 2

Readings

Acts 2.14a, 22-32; Ps 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-end

Services

9.30 am Otham Holy Communion

11.00 am Hollingbourne Eucharist

11.00 am Langley Morning Celebration

11.00 am Kingswood Morning Worship (Method)

3.30 pm Broomfield Afternoon Worship

19 April

Easter 3

Readings

[Zeph.3.14-end]; Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Ps. 116.1-3,10-end

Services

9.30 am Otham Holy Communion

9.30 am Leeds Morning Celebration

11.00 am Hollingbourne Holy Communion

11.00 am Langley Morning Celebration

11.00 am Kingswood Morning Worship (Baptist)

26 April

Easter 4

Readings

Acts 2.42-end; Ps 23; 1 Peter 2.19-end; John 10.1-10

Services

9.30 am Otham Holy Communion

10.00 am Leeds (+ Langley) Café Church

11.00 am Hollingbourne Holy Communion

11.00 am Kingswood Communion Service



Leeds Litter Pick

**Saturday 18 April
10am**

Meet at Sports Field Upper Street

Volunteers needed

Picks, High Viz Vest and

Bags provided

Contact Mel Comins 07811 217821

LEISURE AND LUNCH



A Relaxing Saturday Morning Experience

Take time to unwind and enjoy a leisurely morning in our wellness centre at Ledian Gardens, followed by a delicious lunch in our restaurant.



£40PP

Whether you're looking to relax, recharge, or enjoy a social morning followed by a lovely lunch, Leisure & Lunch offers the perfect balance of wellbeing and comfort.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✦ Use of the pool, sauna, and steam room from 10:00am – 12:00pm on Saturday mornings
- ✦ Robes included
- ✦ Tea or coffee on arrival
- ✦ Two-course lunch served from 12:00pm



BOOKINGS

For bookings please contact-

- ✦ holly.sheridan@inspiredvillages.co.uk
- ✦ 01622 948500



Sutton Valence Gardeners Association

2026 SPRING SHOW

Sunday 22nd March @ 2.15pm

Sutton Valence Village Hall

Our shows are opportunities for our members to showcase their produce and talents.

****Members, please bring your exhibits to the hall between 9am-11am in the morning****

There will be tea, cakes and a raffle

Membership is £10.00 per year and gives you discount at certain local retail outlets. You can join at the show or any of our talks.

For further information contact

Ross 01622 693837 or E-Mail

suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com

Runwoods are offering our members 20% discount on 21st March – don't forget to take your cream-coloured membership card!

Website: www.sv.gardening.co.uk



Easter Family Fun Day

Join us on Friday 3rd April for a fantastic day of Easter celebrations and family fun! We're bringing the community together for a full day of entertainment, delicious food, and activities for all ages.

Live Music

Enjoy live performances throughout the day, creating the perfect feel-good soundtrack to your Easter celebrations.

Food & Drinks

A variety of food and drink options will be available, with something to suit every taste. From savoury favourites to sweet treats, you can make a full day of it with us.

Family Activities

We'll have plenty to keep the whole family smiling, including: Easter-themed activities, Face painter And a few seasonal surprises along the way!



LEEDS CASTLE

After what has felt like a particularly long and rainy winter, it has been wonderful to see the first real signs of spring emerging across the Estate. Snowdrops and early daffodils have been appearing in the gardens, and the recent sunshine has brought a noticeable lift to the landscape. The grounds always feel especially hopeful at this time of year, as the season begins to turn.

Spring also brings new life to the wildlife around the Castle. You may already have spotted the latest brood of Egyptian Geese goslings around the lakes. These fluffy newcomers are always a highlight of the season and a reminder that the Estate is home not only to centuries of history but also to a thriving natural environment.

Over the winter months, conservation work has continued on the Castle's stonework and roof. These essential repairs help ensure that the building remains protected for generations to come. As the scaffolding begins to come down, it is encouraging to see the results of this careful work, which has been supported by a number of heritage funding partners. Alongside the repairs, we have also been sharing the craft and skills behind the work through heritage demonstrations and tours, giving visitors the chance to see – and try – traditional conservation techniques up close.

Inside the Castle, our new exhibition *Pilgrimage of Love: Eleanor of Castile* has recently opened. The exhibition explores the life and legacy of Queen Eleanor (1240-1290), one of England's most significant medieval queens, whose influence extended far beyond her own time. Through a combination of historical interpretation and new technology, visitors can encounter Eleanor's story in a fresh and engaging way, including the opportunity to interact with an AI interpretation of the Queen herself. The response so far has been ex-

tremely encouraging.

Elsewhere across the Estate, preparations for the warmer months are well underway. Maintenance work across the grounds, play-grounds and visitor areas continues so that everything is ready for the busy spring and summer season ahead.

April also brings the Easter holidays, when the Estate once again fills with families enjoying time outdoors together. This year visitors can take part in a seasonal Easter Quest, following clues hidden around the Castle grounds and exploring different corners of the Estate along the way. Of course, there is the traditional chocolate treat at the end!

With spring flowers emerging across the gardens and longer days returning, it is a particularly lovely time to visit.

After the long winter months, it is always a pleasure to see the Castle and gardens coming back to life. We hope you will have the chance to visit and enjoy Leeds Castle as the season unfolds.

With best wishes,

Helen Bonser-Wilton

Chief Executive



Leeds Parish Council—Parish Notes

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Fort & Ingram. No declarations of interest.

Public Participation

The owner of the property whose wall was damaged in Lower St attended to advise that she was awaiting the insurers' programme of works which was due in some six weeks. She was asked by the Council for a copy which she agreed to do. It appears that a road closure will be required but as yet uncertain as to it being partial or a full closure.

A resident next door to the above property asked if the 20mph speed limit could be enforced.

Concern as to the litter in Lower St opposite the village hall was raised by a resident, she was advised that a village litter pick had been arranged for Saturday 18 April, meet in the Sports Field car park at 10.00am.

A church representative enquired as to who owns the section of cobbled road between the B2163 and the church gates as it is in need of repair to potholes. She was advised that the section is probably the responsibility of the owner of the cottage that aligns with it.

Highways Matters

The clerk advised that no response as yet received from KCC HIP team regards the proposal for 20mph and 30mph extensions through the village and yellow box markings at park crossings etc.

The bus review being carried out by Cll Razzell is still ongoing but he did think that bus number 6 had been discontinued.

An update to the HIP plan is still awaited.

Cllr China again suggested that a mirror be fitted on the school's boundary fence to improve driver vision when coming out of the car park access road onto the B2163. This wasn't approved as it would mean that the PC would have to take on any liability.

Cllr China again raised the need for some form of pedestrian crossing in front of the school to assist pupils and staff safe access across the B2163. Hopefully with both KCC and MBC representation at the meeting some progress on this matter can be made.

Given that a road closure will be required for the aforementioned wall reconstruction it was proposed that SEWater be contacted to see if they had plans for phase two of new pipework between Forge Lane and Lower St which would also require a road closure, Cllr China to action.

Report of newspapers being dumped on Penfold Hill on Sunday the 8 March, Cllr Fort arranged for clear up by MBC which took place on the 10th.

Clerk's Report

The clerk advised that KCC have arranged for a Road Safety & Travel Group Seminar. This designed to offer a broader insight in how make effective and long term solutions to road safety matters. Cllr China will be attending the seminar on 21 April at County Hall.

Financial Matters

The financial statement and payments were approved.

The precept for 2026/27 was agreed at 5% by a show of hands.

Chairman's Report

No report

Report from KCC Councillor

The KCC Councillor Linden Kemkaran attended and presented her report.

Report from MBC Councillor

Councillor Gary Cooke advised that MBC were looking at the local government reform proposals. The MBC precept budget agreed at 4%. He was also disappointed that proposals had been made to increase car park charges in the town which he was very much against.

Parish Council Communication

Cllr Razzel advised that a Ramblers map showing public footpaths in and around the village is now available on the web site.

Parish Maintenance

The damage to the overhead barrier at the entrance to the Sports field car park has been repaired. the refurbished notice board has been completed and located in front of the Village Hall. The one at the entrance to Farmers Close has been removed.

The maintenance charges for 2026 were given, these showed a 4% increase from last year. A show of hands in favour was unanimous.

Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavillion

Quotes to be sought for updating kit in the childrens 'play area.

Street Lighting

No reports of failed lights.

Parish Council Events

Village litter pick Saturday April 18th meet in Sports Field car park at 10.00am

The Village Fete will take place on the 30 May in the Sports Field.

Quotes required for Tommy Soldier silhouettes.

Date of next Meeting

As always, members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, and we encourage residents to get involved in village life where they can.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Leeds Village Hall

Can you help?

The Village Hall is an integral part of Leeds village community with regular classes, clubs and social events.

It is a registered charity and is run by a management committee made up of volunteers who organise the bookings, maintenance and general day-to-day running. The committee also organises events to raise funds for the continued operation of the hall.

We need more people to keep this precious asset going. Can you spare some time to help and get involved?

We meet every two months for an hour or so at the hall.

Without support, the Hall will not be able to continue offering its services to the community.

If you would like to help or want more details, please call our secretary

Sue Sinclair on 01622 863533 or email

leedsvh@gmail.com



Leeds Village Hall Quiz

Saturday 16th May

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Teams of four to six

Tickets £5.00 per person

**Bring your own drinks and
nibbles**

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Raffle

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Charity No. 237173

Annual North Downs Walk – 14 June 2026 **Sponsored Walk for Cancer Research UK and** **your own selected charities**

The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent are running our annual North Downs Walk on **Sunday 14 June**, starting at Harrietsham Village Hall. It is a sponsored walk, which has been held annually (except in 2020 due to the pandemic) since 1985 and has raised in excess of £600,000 for Cancer Research UK and the walkers' chosen charities.

There are alternative routes to suit walkers of all levels of fitness. The 1 mile and 3 mile routes are fairly flat; the 6 mile and 9 mile routes take in the beautiful North Downs, with stunning views across the Weald. We have water stations, including dog bowls (this is a dog-friendly event, so give your furry friends an extended walkies) and toilets en-route.

Walkers can start at any time between 8am and 11am and should be back in time for lunch. When you get back to Harrietsham, all walkers are given a free ploughman's lunch, strawberries and cream, and entertainment by local musicians. Come and make a day of it, and raise money for your favourite cause or charity at the same time.

Half of your sponsorship money will be donated by Rotary to Cancer Research UK. The other half is yours to donate to your selected cause or charity, which could also be CRUK but might include Scouts, Guides, school PTA, local church, sports club etc. This makes it a great way of raising money for your cause, with Rotary looking after all of the details.

Many thanks to our event sponsors, Family Funeral Service, who have underwritten all the costs of the event; every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.

Visit our website at www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk to download registration forms, route maps and event posters, or to learn more about Rotary. For further details contact Duncan Payne, our walk committee chairman at walkline@wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary
Weald of Kent



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY 14th JUNE 2026

Register online from 1st March.
www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live music.

Choice of 1,3,6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your own fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (100946), Scotland (SC041056), The Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247).
Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London E20 1JQ

Update from your local MP Helen Whately

Enough is enough. Faversham & Mid Kent's infrastructure can't cope with the extra 20,000 houses planned to be built on our green fields and farmland over the next few years. I know we need new homes for young people to move into, but taking all these developments together, this is an extraordinary scale of building in the countryside.

To put this into perspective, Faversham and Mid Kent is one of eighteen Parliamentary constituencies in Kent and Medway with less than 5% of the area's population, and yet it is in line to take nearly a fifth of the planned housing. This concentration of development in one rural part of the county is clearly wrong and should not be allowed to happen.

At the heart of the Garden of England, we are historically an agricultural area and we do not have the infrastructure to support this level of growth. Development here means building on green fields and farmland, rather than on brownfield sites in cities and towns where there are jobs, public transport and infrastructure.

Recent water outages in Kent have shown that we don't have enough water for current residents. Many of our roads are already gridlocked and the ubiquitous potholes show they can't support current traffic levels let alone more.

The Government reduced London's housebuilding targets and increased targets for counties in the South East, including Kent. I am calling on Ministers to look again at our housing numbers, reject massive developments on green fields, and build more in London.

We need to stand together to make clear to the Government that

we cannot continue with this scale and pace of development. If you agree with me that enough is enough, please sign my 'Stop the Sprawl and Save Kent's Countryside' petition at www.SignHelensPetition.com

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you please contact me.

Best wishes

Helen

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

Heathlands - Helen raising objections to Heathlands at the consultation at the Dog & Bear last year



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EDITING TEAM
FOR THIS MAGAZINE!**

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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 9 April 2026

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 16 April 2026

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



**Broomfield and Kingswood
Parish Council
Pop-Up Café**

**Kingswood and
Broomfield Village Hall**

19th February 2026

9th April 2026

28th May 2026

23rd July 2026

13th August 2026

10.30 – 12.30 pm

Come along, meet up with old and new friends and
enjoy a hot drink and a piece of cake!



YMCA FUNDRAISER

PICKLEBALL *Tournament*

Sunday 17 May 2026	£15 /Person	Venue YMCA
------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------

Mixed Couples / Under 50s / Over 50s
Melrose Close, Cripple Street, Maidstone
ME15 6BD / 9AM - 4PM

For Further information and to book your place:
Email nigel@harvey51.co.uk or **WhatsApp** 07793817226

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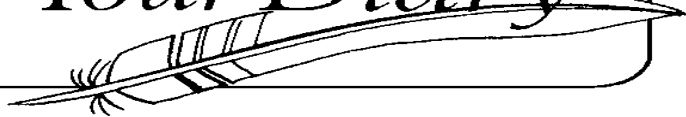
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For Your Diary



- Apr** 5 **Easter Day—Communion : Leeds church—9.30am**
- 9 Pop up Café : Broomfield & Kingswood Village Hall
 10.30am
- 9 Leeds W.I. Meet : Village Hall—7.30pm
- 14 Leeds Parish Council meet: Village Hall—7pm
- 16 Craft & Natter : Village Hall—11am
- 18 Leeds Litter Piick : Meet 10am—Sports Field
- May** 16 Leeds Village Hall Quiz—See page 17
- 30 Leed Village Fete —see page 1
- June** 14 North Downs Walk—see page 19

April 

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