

Leeds & Broomfield

50p

Mar 2026

Services

Leeds and Otham

9.30am

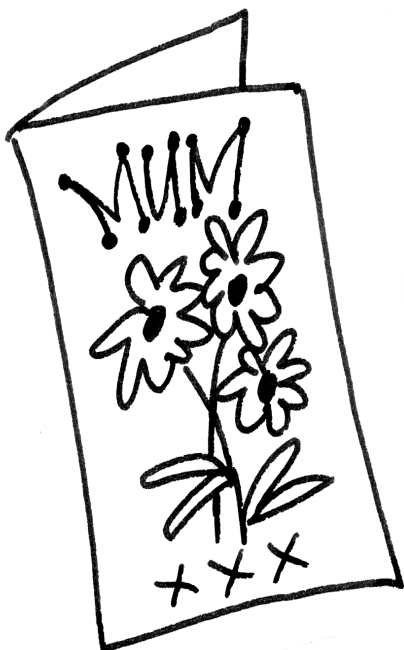
Hollingbourne

Langley

And

Kingswood

11.00am



Mothering Sunday

15 March Don't Forget!

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
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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

Giving thanks in all circumstances

I wonder how you coped last month with the lack of water supply, the abundance of water from the heavens, electricity cuts and dodging the number of potholes on our roads?

Such challenges can try our patience but, in the Bible, Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, tells his readers to ‘give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’

How can we give thanks in all circumstances, particularly when things are going wrong? Perhaps by looking for a positive in the negative, for example, during the water crisis our community came together in volunteering to provide water bottles at the village hall and helping those who are vulnerable to obtain water. We perhaps take our utility services for granted and would do well to think, pray and give to those in other countries where there may be only one tap of clean water in the village. The charity Water Aid says that ‘Over a year, donating the cost of a monthly coffee could buy five standpipe taps that mean more people can enjoy a reliable supply of clean water, whenever they need it.’

I have a friend who is a professional musician and suffers from tinnitus which has resulted in him being unable to play his musical instrument or even listen to music. Going out to a pub or restaurant is impossible with so many conflicting noises. However, he is thankful for the things he can do, like walking and painting wonderful pictures.

Where does such strength come from? We might say our inner self but as Christians we believe that Christ, who suffered on the cross, is able to help us in our sufferings. The poem ‘Footprints in the Sand’, written by Mary Stevenson, is her story of a dream where she is looking back over her life and sees two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to her and the other to God. She was, however, disturbed that during the most challenging times of her life there was only one set of footprints. On enquiring of the Lord, where were you during these hard times, the Lord answered this

was when I carried you.

There is a verse in the Bible that says, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God' and goes on to describe various circumstances including trouble and hardship where God's love will always be with us.

In the Church calendar this month we are in the season of Lent where we are encouraged to take time out to pause and reflect. Not always easy in our busy lives but something that is important for our physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. Lent reminds us that Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness where he was hungry and tempted by the devil but never gave up.

During Lent, we have a number of Church Services in Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood, most notably Mothering Sunday (15 March) and Palm Sunday (29 March). We also have a Lent Group, which meets every Wednesday during Lent (please see details below).

Whatever we do during this period of Lent my prayer is that we will all take time to pause and reflect on the meaning of life and learn to be thankful to God in all circumstances.

Peter Roberts

Reader/Licensed Lay Minister

layministerlbkchurches@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



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This Month's Duties

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Church Cleaning

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War Memorial

Mar Mrs J Dabbs

Brass & Silver

Mar Vacant

Flowers

Linda Gallihawk

St Margaret's

Readers

Mar 8 Dr C Oakland

Church Cleaning

Mar 8 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

Services in March

1 March Lent 2

Readings Gen. 12.1-4a; Ps. 121; Rom.4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café Church

8 March Lent 3

Readings Ex.17.1-7; Psalm 95; Rom. 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Methodist Worship
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Afternoon Communion

15 March Mothering Sunday

Readings Colossians 3.12-17. Luke 2.33-35

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Baptist Worship

22 March Lent 5

Readings Eze.37.1-14; Ps.130; Rom.8.6-11; John 11.1-45

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Leeds & Langley	Café Church @ Leeds
	11.00am	Kingswood	Communion Service

29 March Palm Sunday

Readings Matt.2.1-11; Liturgy of the Passion ; Matt 26.14-27.66

Services	10.00am	Otham	Joint Area Communion
	11.00	Kingswood	Family Service

Leeds Amateur Dramatics Society

Thank you!

LADS wants to say thank you to all those that came along and supported our annual pantomime this year. Robin Hood was a great success with audiences laughing and singing along with the cast.

The cast get all the plaudits but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. So as Chairman I would like to say a big thank you to the unsung heroes of the show:

Set designers and painters, Jane Cowen, Ann Renel, Sara Greasley and Zoe Border. Our prompt, Jane Newsome. Hair by Gemma Wallace, Make up by Nicki Humbles - both also provided raffle prizes & on show nights they were both assisted by Clare Hopgood-Clarke.

Our director Helen Apps, who kept her cool, helped us cross the line. The programme was designed by Lesley Finlay and local business Inca Island provided a great raffle prize.

The other two people I would really like to thank are 1) our Fairy Godfather, Scott Lagden who does sound and lights and everything else to make the show run smoothly, and 2) Jason Tharp from the George pub. Not only does he take time to appear on stage (Despite his rare appearances at rehearsals!) but he generously supports the raffle with numerous prizes, allows us to use his barn room for meetings etc. supplies food and drink for cast and crew and even gets up early to help clear down the hall. His generosity is only matched by the quality of service and food at the George.

The show would not work without a lot of hard work from cast and crew and also the support of our audiences. So thank you!

Paul Cordier (Chairman)



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Sutton Valence Gardeners Association 2026

Sunday 8 March Talk: Sue Davies 'Flower arranging from your garden / foraging' SV Village Hall 2.30pm

Rumwoods have kindly offered another 20% discount day for our Members on 21 March 2026 (membership card must be shown at purchase) includes coffee shop

Our member benefits : On production of your membership card, you will receive 10% discount at the following:-

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Ross Vaughan (Secretary SVGA)

email : suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com



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LEEDS CASTLE

March always feels like a moment of quiet change at Leeds Castle. The mornings are brighter, the days a little longer, and across the Estate there is a sense of winter gently giving way to spring. The gardens are beginning to stir, and even on cooler days there are flashes of colour and life starting to emerge.

Over the late winter months, the Castle has continued to welcome visitors enjoying a calmer time to explore. Our *Talks in the Castle* programme has been running through February and into March, offering informal moments of storytelling and insight into the history of the Castle and the people who lived here. These small encounters help bring the building to life, particularly during the quieter season.

One of the most significant developments this spring is the opening of our new exhibition, *Pilgrimage of Love: Eleanor of Castile*. This exhibition tells the story of Eleanor, our first medieval queen, as a remarkable figure in her own right rather than as an add-on to the reign of King Edward I. Eleanor was an influential woman whose cultural, architectural and political legacy can still be seen more than 700 years after her death.

As part of this exhibition, we are also exploring new ways of interpreting history, including the introduction of Eleanor as what we have rather playfully described as the world's first AI queen. Using new technology, visitors will be able to engage with Eleanor's story in a more immersive way, bringing her personality, intelligence and influence to life for modern audiences, while remaining rooted in rigorous historical research.

Elsewhere on the Estate, work continues steadily on the Castle Stonework and Roof Repairs project. Much of this activity happens quietly behind the scenes, but it remains a vital part of caring for the Castle for future generations. Our programme of conservation tours and engagement activities continues alongside the works, offering visitors a closer look at the specialist skills involved.

In the gardens, winter maintenance is gradually giving way to spring preparation. Bulbs planted over the colder months are beginning to emerge, and the first daffodils are appearing across the Estate, offering welcome splashes of yellow after the long winter.

As we move through March, we are also starting to look ahead to the Easter holidays, when the Estate will once again be full of families enjoying time outdoors and exploring the Castle together. It is always a lively and joyful period, and our teams are busy preparing for the change in pace that spring brings.

March is a month of transition, and Leeds Castle remains a place to pause, reflect and look forward. Whether visiting for a walk, to explore the Castle, or to discover the story of Eleanor of Castile, we hope the Estate offers a sense of renewal as the season turns.

With best wishes,

Helen Bonser-Wilton
Chief Executive



Leeds Parish Council—Parish Notes

Welcome to Newcomers to Leeds

Welcome to any new residents to the village. We hope that you will be happy here. The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday every month except December and August.

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.

PLEASE NOTE Due to unforeseen circumstances the February PC meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

A review of Robin Hood

A Pantomime by Tom Whalley

Leeds Amateur Dramatics society (LADS) put on their annual pantomime at the start of February and this time it was Robin Hood who got the LADS treatment directed by Helen Apps.

Robin Hood was played by Bella Lagden in her first lead role. She hit all her cues and delivered her lines with a big smile and her solo song was a hit. Unfortunately her arrow shooting skills were a bit lacking to the amusement of the rest of the cast. Jane Cowen played the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham ably assisted by her minions Scratch it and Sniff played by Sara Greasley and Kieran Wallace. They played up to the baddy roles and got plenty of (friendly) abuse from the crowd.

The merry men were there to back up Robin Hood. Little John played by Sara Greasley in her second role needed a lot of quick costume changes; Alan-a-dale was played by Kim Richards who strummed along on her lute. Friar "Here to save our souls" Tuck was played by Emily Wheelhouse and the final merry man "Big Bad" John was played by LADS newbie Dennis Istrati.

Robin's "love interest" Maid Marian was played by another newbie Keira Border who had to endure being kidnapped by the sheriff. Her lady in waiting Beth Roome (Yes, lady in waiting Roome!) was played by Alexan-

dra Istrati in her first pantomime.

The comedy Dame was played by me appearing as Nanny Fanny Flapjack in a number of elegant dresses and a number of dreadfully sung songs! Nanny's son Silly Willy stole the show with amazing performances by Boris Dimitrov. He wanted to be a merry man and kept threatening to get his secret weapon out!

The Innkeeper played by Anne Renel had to keep her trouble making customers in line and also had to act as the sheriff's publicity raiser and the occasional bear in the woods. The Sherwood Sprite who tried to use the magic of the forest to save poor Robin Hood was played by Hrisi Gyuretova who also had a dual role as villager 2, so like Sara she had lots of quick costume changes.

The ensemble who had to rush from scene to scene to deliver their lines were: Villager 1 played by Heaven Lea, the Page (and a bear) was Kristian Gyuretova and Barmy Betty Flapjack was played by Betty Dimitrova in her first pantomime. She got lots of audience appreciation for her dancing and her appearance at the bar of the Stumble Inn.

Jason Tharp from the George PH appeared as the Old Man Forest Guardian whose job was to look after the trees and trim the bushes! He had to endure singing and dancing with Nanny at the end of the show. Ian Seath delivered a commanding performance as King Richard who returned to England to Knight Robin Hood.

Quotes from the audience – *“Even had me singing at the end, well done!; “Absolutely brilliant. So funny, laughter in abundance”; “It was really good! You have some very talented young people. More mature actors were great too”; “Fantastic show, really enjoyed it. Highly recommend it to anyone thinking of going to watch it”; “Absolutely brilliant show, laughed all the way through” “Great show lots of laughter, lots of talent”*

So all in all another success for the LADS team. If you fancy joining in the fun contact LADS via ladsamdram@gmail.com

Paul Cordier – Chairman of LADS

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

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
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Mel Comins/Tracie Carlslund

07811 217821

Update from your local MP Helen Whately



South East Water's response to the water outages after Christmas was abysmal. Thousands of people were without water for days, forced to buy water from supermarkets or drive all the way to Headcorn. Many elderly or vulnerable people - who should get bottled water deliveries to their doors - were forgotten or ignored by South East Water. Others were given the wrong information about supplies. Businesses were left in the lurch, schools had to close and the emergency water supply for livestock was grossly negligent, yet again.

Last July, South East Water left people in East Kent without water for up to 8 days and I went through the long list of failures in the company's emergency response then. The Chief Executive committed to my face that he would fix their failures. What a lie. If anything, it was worse this time.

So, I got together with local MPs to write to the Chairman of South East Water to tell him the Chief Executive has to go. And then I went and met him to tell him so in person. I didn't do that lightly. But the fact is, he is in charge of South East Water's crisis response. It failed in the summer and his promises to fix the problems amounted to nothing. Now there is no public confidence in him or South East Water. To add insult to injury, he gets paid around £500,000 a year including a £100,000 long service bonus. His time is up.

I know this problem is bigger than South East Water. We need a secure water supply. So, I will also keep pressing the Government and Ofwat to do more to prevent outages and ensure there is a much better response if there is another emergency.

These water outages raise another issue too. The basic problem is that we don't have enough water for our population in Kent. What's going to happen when we have 20,000 more houses in Faversham and Mid Kent? There's a new reservoir on the way but that won't be operational until the 2030s. It doesn't stack up. There's another letter on the way to the Housing Secretary making exactly this point. The Government needs to think again.

To keep up-to-date with my progress please follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HelenWhatelyMP/>

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

Parish Treasurer Needed!

Are you organised, reliable, and keen to make a real difference in your local community? We are seeking a dedicated individual to take on the vital role of Parish Treasurer. You'll play a central part in overseeing our charitable status, managing Gift Aid, and maintaining accurate records of income such as standing orders, donations, fees, and investment income.

Your attention to detail will also help ensure the smooth handling of parish expenditure. Financial experience is not essential but would be helpful —enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are most important. If you'd like to support the church's mission and contribute to its ongoing work, we'd love to hear from you!

The role would take 4 – 5 hours per month plus a few meetings per year and whilst a volunteer would be perfect, it could be a paid role. For more details, contact the **Area Dean**,

Peter Callway at northdownsareadean@gmail.com



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

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Meeting Coming up:

Thursday 12 March 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 18 March 2026

LEEDS VILLAGE HALL 11am-1pm

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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

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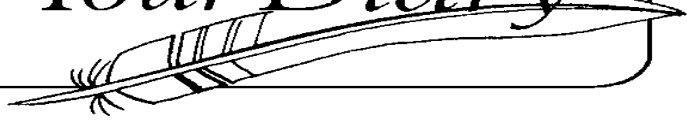
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For Your Diary



- Mar** 8 SVGA Talk : SV Village Hall—2.30pm
- 10 Leeds Parish Council Meet : Village Hall - 7pm
- 11 LBK Home Group Lent Course - See page 4
- 12 Leeds W.I. : Village Hall—7.30pm
- 18 Craft & Natter ; Village Hall—11am
- 21 Bearsted Choral Society see page 25
- 29 *Clocks go forward one hour*
- May** 16 Leeds Village Hall Quiz—See page 17
- 30 Leed Village Fete —see page 19



**Mothering
Sunday**

**15 March
2026**

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