

Leeds & Broomfield

50p

July 2026

Leeds Amateur Dramatics
Society

Play and Picnic

~~~~~  
~  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July  
2026  
~~~~~

~~Yes this village event is back for 2026!

Priceless

a one act comedy by Mary Portalska
Come along on either evening and watch an
amusing play. In the interval enjoy your
picnic in the Old Vicarage Garden.

Arrive 6.30pm for a 7pm start

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
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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

Your Summer Reading

If you are in the habit of taking books to read on holiday, why not take in your suitcase a copy of the Bible? Out of a total of sixty-six books, I would recommend my three favourites: The Book of Ruth, The Book of Jonah and The Book of Job.

The Book of Ruth is a romantic story where love abounds not just between a woman and a man, but also between the woman and her mother-in-law, and also of the community welcoming her, a foreigner. The story starts in tragedy but improves as it unfolds. We encounter Naomi first, who is not only a widow but has lost both her sons. She decides to return to her birthplace, Judah; Ruth, her daughter-in-law, insists on following her, imploring, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried." So they travel together in hope and arrive "in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning." (Chapter 1). It's a wonderful story of redemption, full of sunshine, warmth and abundance, but also extolling the value of patience and hard work.

The Book of Jonah must be the earliest blockbuster where we read that our hero is charged by God with a mission to save the world. He turns it down and heads in the opposite direction to the port of Joppa where he embarks on a ship. The Almighty shakes the sea, everyone is praying for their lives, except Jonah. Suspecting something fishy, the sailors throw him overboard in the sea where he is swallowed by a whale. After three days, Jonah prays to be released - was the stench inside getting to him? God orders the whale to vomit Jo-

nah out; this time, Jonah accepts his mission, saves the inhabitants of sinful city Nineveh, but then sulks under a tree. The end is inconclusive, was God planning a sequel? For you to decide.

Lastly if you are planning to head to France for your holiday so to indulge your inner existentialism with Jean-Paul and Simone, then the Book of Job is your ideal companion. It is not an easy ride, poor Job has a torrid time, he loses everything except his life (and his wife) and spends some time moping in the company of his unsympathetic friends. Hearing Job's relentless lamentations, God eventually makes an appearance and amazingly restores Job to his health, wealth and legacy. He also vindicates him and forgives his friends. Whenever you have been wondering why God allows suffering, even to his own flock, then this book is for you.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Christine

churchwardenlbkchurches@gmail.com

Fun at the Village Fete! - See more on pages 14/15 and 18/19.....





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This Month's Duties

St Nicholas

July **Church Cleaning**
Mr & Mrs King

July **War Memorial**
Mrs J Dabbs

July **Brass & Silver** **Flowers**
Vacant Barbara

St Margaret's

July **12** **Readers**
Mrs J Taylor

July **12** **Church Cleaning**
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

Church Services in July

5 July	Trinity 5		
Readings	Genesis 24.34-38,42-49,58-end; Psalm 45.10-end; Romans 7.15-25a; Matt 11.16-19, 25-end		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Prizegiving Service
12 July	Trinity 6		
Readings	Genesis 25.19-end; Ps.119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matt.13.1-9, 18-23;		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Methodist – Morning Worship
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Afternoon Worship Well Blessing
19 July	Trinity 7		
Readings	Genesis 28.10-19a; Ps.139.1-11,23-24; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Morning Worship
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration with Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Celebration with Holy Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Baptist - Morning Worship
26 July	Trinity 8		
Readings	Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11,45b or Psalm 128; Romans 8.26-endMatthew 13.31-33, 44-52		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Leeds & Langley	Café Church @ Leeds Theme - God of the Impossible
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist



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A Taste of Summer is Here!

Hold onto your taste buds — our summer menu has finally arrived, and it's fresher and tastier than ever! From crisp, juicy veggies and the freshest fruit to locally sourced meats and fish, every bite is a little piece of seasonal perfection.

This isn't just a menu. It's a flavour adventure.
A celebration of local produce. A full-on feast you don't want to miss.
So come hungry, bring your appetite and get ready to taste what summer's all about.

Ready to dig in? We've saved you a seat!
Book a table at elitepubs.com



Leeds Amateur Dramatic Society

Honoured with Prestigious Kent

Community Award



Leeds Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) was delighted and honoured to receive a **KALC Community Award** at the Leeds Village Fête on **Saturday 29 June**, in recognition of more than 25 years of outstanding service to the local community.

The award, part of the **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards Scheme**, celebrates local heroes across Kent and recognises individuals and groups who make a real difference in their communities. The scheme provides an opportunity to acknowledge those who consistently go above and beyond to enrich the lives of others.

LADS was proudly nominated by **Leeds Parish Council** for its long-standing contribution to village life through panto-mimes, plays, community performances and entertainment that have brought people together for generations. The award

citation recognised the society's dedication to enhancing the cultural life of the parish and its valued contribution to the community over many years.

The presentation was made by **Duncan "Bob" China**, Chairman of Leeds Parish Council, who was delighted to present the award on behalf of the Parish Council that had nominated the society for this county-wide recognition.

Danny Silk, the newly appointed Chairman of LADS, gratefully accepted the award on behalf of all members, past and present. In doing so, he paid tribute to the countless performers, volunteers, committee members and supporters whose dedication and enthusiasm have helped make the society such a successful and cherished part of village life.

"This award belongs to everyone who has been involved with LADS over the years," said Danny. "We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition and grateful to Leeds Parish Council for nominating us. Amateur dramatics is very much a team effort, and this award reflects the commitment, creativity and community spirit shown by so many people, both past and present."

Receiving the award at the village fête, surrounded by residents and supporters, made the occasion even more special. It serves as a fitting tribute to the many years of hard work that have gone into bringing quality entertainment and community spirit to Leeds village.

Everyone at LADS would like to thank Leeds Parish Council, KALC, and all those who have supported the society over the years. The group looks forward to continuing its tradition of providing entertainment, friendship and community involvement for many years to come.

Congratulations to all past and present members of Leeds Amateur Dramatic Society on this wonderful and well-deserved achievement. 🤔🤔

LEEDS CASTLE

Well, summer has started with rather more variable weather than spring, so hoping that things will have improved by the time you read this. In the Castle Gardens, the Bearded Irises have been in bloom, the stunning wisteria has finished and the roses are in full bloom. The Wildflower Meadow is also blooming with lovely wildflowers.

We had a very positive May Half Term week, with three days of Queens Joust, our all-action Medieval Jousting Tournament. This year featured a Tri-Nation Competition between England, France and Norway. This thrilling live combat event saw lances clashing and splintering, horses' hooves' thundering and the sound, smells and visual spectacle of the medieval camp, giving a taste of medieval living and feasting!

For the rest of the Half Term Week, we ran a 'Measly Medieval' themed Horrible Histories trail, enabling families to discover the horribly historic and often smelly truths of life in medieval times, with tales of marvellous medieval medicine and the opportunity to create their own cure in the Castle Apothecary.

By the time you read this, the new Multimedia Guide Castle Tour, 'Invitation to Decadence', will have launched. This is free with your annual ticket and tells a gossipy story through the eyes of two guests at one of Lady Baillie's 1930's Country House Weekends, with Below Stairs characters too. Do come along and try it out!

The new Knights Retreat Lodges at the Maze end of the Estate are currently undergoing internal fit out and will be launching in late July. This entry level accommodation offer represents an upgrade from the seasonal Glamping Tents, with a small kitchenette and bathroom. Two of the Lodges are fully accessible, providing accommodation for people with disabilities.

Over the summer holidays, we will be running a Woodland Themed Family Trail, as well as the spectacular Motors by the Moat event on 9 and 10 August, featuring even more Classic Cars than last year, stunt driving and jet skis, all included in Annual Ticket.

We will shortly also be launching our Christmas Programme, which will be Neverland (Peter Pan) in the Castle for the daytime offer. We are working with Great Ormond Street who own the rights to this popular multigenerational story.

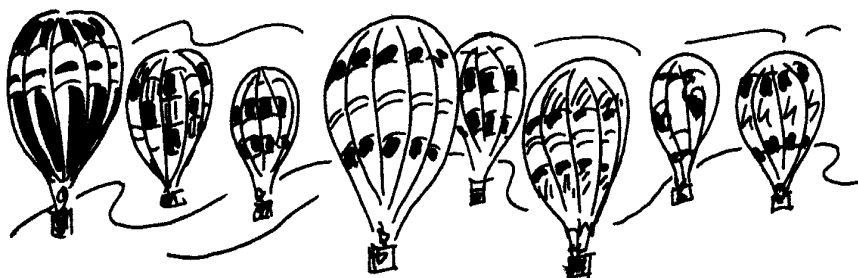
Tickets are now on sale for Christmas Lights and Firework Spectacular too.

Planning continues for the Stonework and Roof Repair Project that starts on site in October. Detailed surveys of the stone to be replaced have now been completed and stone order placed with the quarry. We continue to apply for external grants to offset the £1m cost of this crucial conservation work for our charity.

We have also recently acquired two baby Kookaburras, a blue winged Kookaburra and a Laughing Kookaburra. You can meet them at the daily Meet the Birds Event!

Wishing you a very enjoyable and happy summer.

Helen Bonser-Wilton
Chief Executive



Leeds Village Summer Picnic & Fete

Enjoys Record Success!

Around 400 people attended this year's Leeds Village Summer Picnic & Fete, making it the biggest and most successful event since it began following the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Held on the village playing fields, the fete brought together residents, visitors, local businesses, community groups and volunteers for an afternoon of sunshine, entertainment and community spirit. Visitors enjoyed live music from the P'ZAZ Kent Band, traditional fete games, children's rides, craft and community stalls, delicious food and refreshments, and the ever-popular stocks.

The organisers would like to thank Leeds Parish Council for its continued support of the event, as well as all the volunteers, stallholders, entertainers, food vendors and local businesses who helped make the day such a success.

Organisers Tracie Carlsund, Mel Commings and Pauline Silk said their favourite moment was looking across the field and seeing families and friends gathered around beautifully decorated picnic tables, children playing, games being enjoyed, and hundreds of people smiling, talking and laughing together.

"That's what community looks like," they said. "It was wonderful to see it all come together."

Special thanks also go to Ledian Gardens Retirement Village for their support, including first aid assistance and the use of their parking facilities.

Feedback from visitors and stallholders was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the fete as a traditional village

event with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Many stallholders have already expressed their wish to return next year.

With record attendance and wonderful community support, the Leeds Village Summer Picnic & Fete has firmly established itself as one of the highlights of the village calendar.



See more pics on pages 18 and 19

Leeds Parish Council—Parish Notes

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Greeff & Fort

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

Highways Matters

No items discussed

Clerk's Report

Clerk reported that the CCTV maintenance to the kit on the Pavilion and in the Church car park had been carried out but it had been found that the hard drive in the car park needed replacing at a cost of £330.00. It was agreed by all Councillors present to proceed with the replacement.

Kent Downs Consultation Plan is now open until Sunday 19 July and members of the public can have their say by going to <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/kent-downs>

Financial Matters

The financial statement and payments were approved.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman asked that Ledian Gardens be thanked for offering car parking for the village fete and for providing first aid, Clerk to action.

He also advised that the fete was a great success thanks in the main to the resident's team who organised and ran it, it was estimated that some 400 people attended.

KCC & MBC Councillors' reports

Neither were present so no reports available.

Planning Matters

Several applications made but none deemed contemptuous.

Parish Matters

A price of £400.00 has been received from the Village maintenance contractor for trimming the Christmas Tree adjacent The George. This carried out without the removal of the tree lights. Price accepted by all present, Clerk to place order so that work can proceed.

The concern over the trees at the top of the sports field (behind Farmers Close) was discussed and it was agreed that the PC arrange for a tree surgeon to take a look and report back, Clerk to action.

Concern by residents that metal items deposited on the field were getting picked up by the grass cutting machine and spewed onto the ground creating a hazard for dogs and their walkers. Cllr China to have a word with the maintenance contractor.

It has been seen that when the new fence installed between Abbey Farm and the sports field car park the contractor has placed the spoil on the car park side. Clerk to write to the developer and ask that it be removed.

Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavilion

A meeting to be arranged to discuss the use of the Sports Pavilion and football pitches, Cllr Bernini to arrange.

Brian Doyle was complemented on the work he had done to the children's play area in the sports field.

It had been reported that one of the toilets in the Pavilion was blocked, Cllr China to ask Brian to take a look.

Clerk to write to The Rochester Bridge Trust, owners of the field opposite the sports field car park, to see if they were interested in letting it out at weekends. If agreed this will enable cars to be parked on match and training days. Clerk to action.

Street Lighting

No reports of failed lights. If you see a light out or malfunctioning please note the number on the pole and contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Events

The Church grounds big mow event will start at 10am on Saturday 27 June. If you can spare the time please come along and if you have them bring petrol or battery strimmers, grass cutters etc. Refreshments will be available.

On Remembrance Day fish & chips will be served in the Village Hall, more information to follow.

Date of next Meeting

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

More Pics from the Village Fete





Update from your local MP Helen Whately



Helen at New Palace yard on the day of the State Opening of Parliament

It's hard not to feel a sense of patriotic pride at the State Opening of Parliament. All the history, pomp and ceremony on full display at the only time all the three constituent parts of Parliament - the monarch, House of Lords and House of Commons - meet.

The King's Speech, by convention, sets out the Government's plans for the year ahead. It's a natural point to take stock of what the government has achieved, and then, for Opposition MPs like me, to scrutinise what is on offer to the country for the future.

This time the focus was not on the Government's policy programme, but on questions about Keir Starmer himself: will he keep his job, for how long, and who will replace him. He promised change and he promised stability: whichever promise people voted for, the country feels let down.

The truth is governing the UK right now is hard. We've had years of sluggish growth. Inflation surged after Covid and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The pandemic has left us with higher debt, along with an appetite for generous state support irrespective of people's contributions.

Unfortunately, the Government did nothing to prepare and now it is all

unravelling despite their huge majority. This might be dismissed as Westminster shenanigans but it has consequences across the country. They put up taxes rather than control spending. Household finances are feeling the pinch. Businesses are drowning under tax rises and higher costs. There are 300,000 fewer jobs. A million young people are now not in employment, education or training - 'NEET'.

So many of us feel 'Britain isn't working' in every sense of the word. On the most basic level, we can no longer rely on getting water out of the tap. The recent heat wave triggered low water pressure and outages across Kent – just a few weeks since widespread outages blamed on storms. I called for the Chief Executive of South East Water to go over the hopeless emergency response. He's gone. Now we need someone to sort out our water supply. Meanwhile the Government should hold off forcing thousands more new houses on Kent.

As your MP I will continue to serve you and provide a strong voice for you in Parliament, and if there is anything I can do to help you please contact me.



Thank you also to everyone who signed and supported my 'Stop the Sprawl and Save Kent's countryside' petition which I took to Downing Street today - nearly 7,000 people signed it in total.

Best wishes

Helen

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

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Meeting Coming up:

Thursday 9 July 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 15 July 2026

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Jane Newsome 07508 559558

Leeds Village Hall

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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
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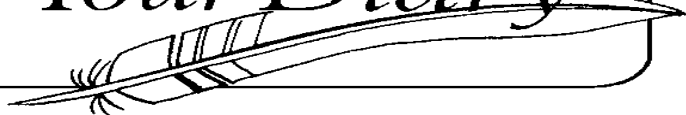
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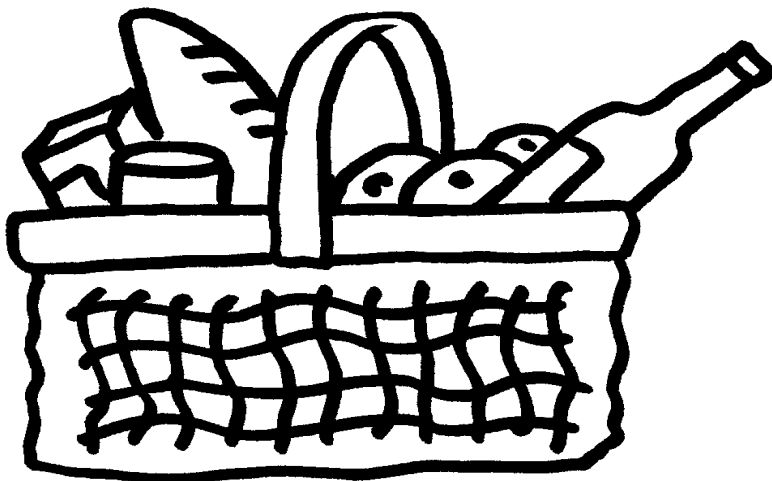


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For Your Diary



- July**
- 3&4 LADS—Play and Picnic— 6.30pm : see front page
 - 9 W.I. Meet in Village Hall :7.30pm
 - 11 Bearsted Choral Society: Operetta : See page 25
 - 12 Well Blessing, Broomfield church—3.30pm
 - 14 Leeds Parish Council meet : Village Hall—7pm
 - 15 Craft & Natter : Village Hall—11am



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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