

Leeds & Broomfield

September 2026

CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS

Ride & Stride



Saturday 12th September

Cyclists, Walkers and Dog walkers!

see full details on page 13

INSIDE THIS MONTH

-  Parish Council Update
-  17 Community Events
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-  Church Services
-  Leeds Castle News
-  MP Updates

LADS Open Day
Sunday 6th
September 2026
2-5pm
Leeds Village Hall



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Tracey Pavan	07516 159879
Churchwarden - Leeds & Broomfield	Christine Oakland churchwardenlbkchurches@gmail.com	07925 500756
Verger - Broomfield	Derek Hadlow	01622 861955
Borough Councillor	Gill Fort	01622 861605
County Councillor - Leeds	Gary Cooke	01622 694480
County Councillor - Broomfield	Shellina Prendergast	07970 461160
Craft & Natter	Jane Newsome	01622 862558
Cricket Club - Secretary	Sarah O'Connell	01622 880340
Football Club (Men & Ladies)	Colin Pitchers	01622 670700
Friends of Leeds & Broomfield Churches	Pauline Royer	07711 830436
Leeds Allotments	Strutt and Parker	01227 473741
Leeds Amateur Dramatic Group	Danny Silk	07527 470679
Leeds Playing Field	Sherrie Babington	01634 863719
Leeds/Broomfield Bellringers	Andrew Saunders	07948 715268
Leeds W.I.	Lois Hurst	01622 861601
Magazine Advertising	Judi Taylor	01622 862316
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Magazine Distribution	Humphrey Goodhew	01622 861624
Memorial Hall - Chairman	Steve Bond	07472 760460
Memorial Hall - Bookings	Jane Steele	01622 863481
Parish Council Chair - Leeds	Bob China	07971 861460
Parish Council Chair - B & K	Tina Clark	01622 880929
Parish Clerk - Leeds	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Parish Clerk - Broomfield & Kingswood	Hayley Roberts	01622 474190
Primary School	Fiona Steer	01622 861398
Roman Catholic Priest	Fr. Peter Growney	01622 752637
Scout Group	Alan Poulton	01622 843019
Sutton Valence Gardeners' Assoc.	Ross Vaughan	01622 693837

Website : www.leedskent.org.uk

MAGAZINE MATERIAL

Please email copy for the magazine by 12th of the month to the Editor, Pauline Silk.

Email: pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk

Meet the New Editor



Hello everyone,

My name is Pauline Silk, and I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Editor of the Leeds and Broomfield Church and Village News.

Firstly, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to Judi Taylor for her incredible dedication over the past 27 years. Producing a community magazine month after month is no small task, and I hope I can continue the wonderful work she has done in keeping our churches, villages and community connected.

A little about me... I grew up in the neighbouring village of Otham and now live in Langley, so village life has always been a big part of who I am. I love being involved in the local community and have been fortunate to help organise and support a number of local events over the years.

I feel incredibly honoured to have been given the opportunity to take on this role and hope I can do Judi proud. My aim is to build on the strong foundations she has created while introducing a few fresh ideas along the way.

I hope this magazine continues to be at the heart of our churches and villages - keeping everyone informed, celebrating the people, organisations and events that make our community so special, and helping neighbours stay connected.

I'd love this magazine to reflect all aspects of life across our churches and villages, so if you have a story to share, an event to promote, news from your organisation, or photographs from community activities, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you for the warm welcome I've already received. I look forward to getting to know even more of you through these pages and hope you'll enjoy reading each edition as much as I'll enjoy putting it together.

Best wishes,

Pauline Silk
Editor

YOUR MAGAZINE, YOUR SAY!

As Leeds & Broomfield Church & Village News gets a little refresh, I'd love to hear what you would like to see and read in your monthly magazine.

Your ideas will help me make it interesting, useful and enjoyable for everyone in our villages.

Would you enjoy regular features such as:

Please tick all that apply.

“From the Village Archives” – old photographs & stories from the past

“Meet a Villager” – getting to know people who live in our community

“What’s On” – a monthly diary of local events and activities

“Village Heroes” – celebrating local volunteers, achievements and community spirit

“Your Photos” – photographs submitted by residents

Recipes & Baking – favourite recipes and local baking

Puzzles & Competitions – something fun to do each month

Is there anything else you would particularly like to see or read?

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for the magazine?

THANK YOU!

Your feedback will help me shape Church & Village News into a magazine that really belongs to our whole community.

Please email:

pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk



NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

A great day at Canterbury Cathedral

I wonder what is your most memorable event, maybe surviving the summer heat, getting married, buying a house or enjoying a wonderful holiday. Mine certainly includes all of these but I can now add being ordained. Yes, even in my retirement! Permit me to explain. On Saturday 4th July at Canterbury Cathedral, along with twelve others, I was ordained as Deacon to serve as an Assistant Curate.

A Deacon is someone who serves God, the Church and the Community which includes bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. My area of service is the Castle Churches Benefice which includes Otham, Langley, Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood.

During the Ordination Service, Bishop Rose (Bishop of Dover) laid hands on each of the candidates and said, 'Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant ... for the office and work of a Deacon in your Church.' An experience I shall never forget! The cathedral was full of ministers, family and friends and I am so grateful for their support and prayers over many years as I have discerned this calling to ministry.

There is a verse in the bible where Jesus says, 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).' This verse illustrates what it means to be a Christian in experiencing the full life that Jesus has to offer, at every stage of our lives including retirement! Before the ceremony, all of us being ordained spent three days at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, and the surrounding precincts.

For nearly two days we experienced a silent retreat, which provided a time of reflection before the Ordination Service. The worship song 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here' was very much in my mind during this time as I was encouraged to embrace the silence.

Our lives can be so busy and it was a wonderful opportunity to take time out in this way. In the creation story in the book of Genesis, we read that 'On the seventh day God rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all that he had done', giving us a pattern of living with the importance of rest. We have been reading recently in our churches Matthew's gospel and the miracles of Jesus feeding 5,000 people and walking on water at the Sea of Galilee. It is interesting to note that before these supernatural events, Jesus went up a mountain to be with his heavenly Father and pray. If Jesus needed to take time out and pray, what makes us think that we don't need to. It doesn't have to be up a mountain but anywhere where we can be still before our heavenly Father and pray.

I do hope and pray that you have had some rest over the summer months and look forward to meeting you in my role as Deacon.



With every blessing Rev Peter Roberts – kingswoodchurch@outlook.com
Assistant Curate,
Castle Churches Benefice

Church Services in September

6 Sept Creation in Christ or Trinity 14

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

13 Sept Trinity 15

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

20 Sept Trinity 16

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Baptist – Morning Celebration

27 Sept Trinity 17

Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Leeds & Langley	Café Church @ Leeds
	11.00am	Kingswood	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Morning prayer

This Month's Duties

St Nicholas

St Margaret's

War Memorial

Mrs J Dabbs

Flowers

Helen

Readers

Christine Oakland

Brass & Silver

Vacant

Church Cleaning

Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor

Parish Administrator

If you need help with dates for church weddings, 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



Come and Have a Go at

St Nicholas' Church in Leeds

(One of the few churches in England with 10 bells)

Interested?

If you're an adult or a child over 9 years old

Contact Andrew Saunders

07948 715268

Leeds Parish Council

The next full meeting will be on Tuesday, 1st September 2026 at 7.00pm in Leeds Village Hall. All residents are welcome.

The Council is in summer recess but Councillors and the Parish Clerk continue to monitor key village areas including the church car park, street lighting, play area, and general maintenance.

For any issues before the next meeting, contact the Parish Clerk:

Email: clerk@leedsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: (01634) 867173

For news and alerts: www.leedskent.org.uk

Mrs S Babington

Parish Clerk, Leeds Parish Council

LEEDS VILLAGE

Litter Pick

Saturday 3 October 2026
10am

 **Sports Field, Leeds**
ME17 1RU

**Hi viz Vests**

**Pickers**

**Bags Provided**

Love where you live

Can you help out?

Contact **Mel Comins**
07811 217821
if you can help out

Every piece counts!

Let's work together to keep Leeds a clean and beautiful place

Make a diary note – a great way to spend an afternoon or evening



Apologies for keeping this to ourselves for so long, but there is nothing better on a spring or summer afternoon or evening than overlooking the beautiful Leeds Castle estate and the North Downs while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee, or perhaps a glass of beer or wine.

Whether you're interested in cricket or not, it's a wonderful place to relax and unwind.

With the strongest junior section in Kent cricket, there's far more to the club than adult matches.

Our First XI is currently among the top 40 clubs in the county, and we have teams across all junior age groups, as well as a growing section for women and girls. Quality coaching and a fun, welcoming atmosphere create an encouraging environment for players of all ages and abilities.

"Dom Smith
explaining
how he got
his first 100
of the
season!"



Off the field, a dedicated team of parents, volunteers and friends work hard to maintain and improve our facilities while ensuring we meet modern safeguarding standards.

We are currently working towards replacing our ageing pavilion to meet the requirements of today's leagues, with valued support from Councillors Gill Fort and Gary Cooke as we pursue funding for this important project.

Leeds Castle continues to be a supportive landlord in many ways (although they do not provide funding for the club).

The ground is located in Burberry Lane, Leeds, with free parking on site. It's also easily accessible via the many public footpaths linking the villages of Leeds and Broomfield.

Please do come along and see us.

If you have skills, experience or contacts that could help the club achieve its ambitions, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you know about maintaining a cricket ground, are a handyman, electrician or mechanic, or simply have some spare time to volunteer, you would be made very welcome.

LEEDS & BROOMFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Glenn Aitken

glenn8ken@gmail.com



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Rotary

Weald of Kent



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18th September 2026

7:00 for 7:30pm

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secretary@wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

Ride and Stride



CYCLISTS, WALKERS AND DOG-WALKERS!

Friends of Kent Churches

annual bike ride and walk will take place

Saturday 12th September

This is the day when we invite walkers, hikers, bike riders and horse riders to undertake a sponsored tour around as many Kent churches as they can. Choose your own route and “clock-in” at the churches as you go round.

**Sponsorship forms can be obtained from
*Christine Oakland***

07925 500756

Or downloaded from: kentrideandstride.co.uk

Half of the sponsorship money raised goes to Friends of Kent Churches to maintain the structures of the many ancient church buildings throughout Kent – which can be and indeed in recent years has been used for a grant to one of our local churches. The other half goes to maintain your local village church. So get a sponsorship form and start planning your route.

LEEDS CASTLE

What an extraordinary summer it has been. After complaining about seemingly endless rain earlier in the year, we have certainly experienced the other extreme over recent months, with prolonged periods of very hot and dry weather. The drought has presented its own challenges across the Estate, particularly for our Gardens and Grounds teams, who have worked incredibly hard to care for the gardens and wider landscape through some very difficult conditions. I suspect many of you have been facing similar challenges in your own gardens!

Despite the heat, it has been a very busy summer at Leeds Castle. Families have spent the school holidays exploring our Little People, BIG DREAMS trail, discovering the stories of 12 extraordinary women from Marie Curie and Agatha Christie to Mary Earps and Emmeline Pankhurst. It has been lovely to see children engaging with their stories and, hopefully, leaving the Estate with a few big dreams of their own.

We also welcomed thousands of motoring enthusiasts for Motors by the Moat in August, with hundreds of vehicles on display across the Estate alongside live entertainment and driving displays. It is always a very different weekend at Leeds Castle and wonderful to see such a diverse collection of vehicles against the rather unusual backdrop of a 900-year old Castle.

As the school summer holidays come to an end, our annual Sculpture Trail has returned to the Estate and will run throughout September. Sculptures created by a range of talented artists have been positioned around the gardens and grounds, creating some unexpected encounters as you explore. One of the pleasures of the trail is seeing contemporary art sitting within this historic landscape, and perhaps discovering corners of the Estate you might otherwise walk straight past.

September may only just mark the beginning of autumn, but behind the scenes our thoughts are already turning towards Christmas. We were delighted, earlier this summer, to announce that Wallace & Gromit will be coming to Leeds Castle for Christmas 2026. The Castle will be transformed for a brand-new festive experience featuring the much loved Aardman characters, and preparations are already well underway to bring everything to life ahead of opening in November. We are tremendously excited about the partnership and look forward to sharing much more over the coming months.

Before Christmas arrives, of course, we have a busy autumn ahead. October Half Term will see Horrible Histories return to Leeds Castle for a new Halloween adventure, followed by our annual Fireworks Spectacular in November.

For now, we hope September brings slightly gentler weather and perhaps even some much-needed rain. It is a lovely time to enjoy the Estate as the summer crowds begin to ease and the first signs of autumn gradually appear across the landscape.

With best wishes

Helen Bonser-Wilton Chief Executive, Leeds Castle

Leeds Village Hall Needs You!

Volunteers Wanted!

Join our friendly Village Hall committee and help keep this community space thriving.

What's involved?

- One-hour meeting every two months
 - Help with running the hall
- Occasional fundraising (as much or as little as suits you)

No experience needed — just a little of your time.

Get in touch:

Jane

☎ 01622 863481

✉ leedsvh@gmail.com

"A little time can make a big difference to our village."

Leeds and Broomfield School

I hope everyone has had a lovely summer holiday and managed to keep cool.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Leeds and Broomfield school on 3rd September and hearing all about their adventures over the summer.

Mrs Steer
Head teacher

DINNER



BED



BREAKFAST



— THE —



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LEEDS AMATEUR DRAMATICS

PANTO OPEN DAY

★ SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026
2PM – 5PM

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We need help with costumes, set building, painting,
acting, curtains, lighting, sound, backstage,
treasurer and refreshments.

MAKE MEMORIES ★ MAKE FRIENDS ★ MAKE MAGIC

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Update from Helen Whately MP

Another hot summer and just like clockwork, we had another hosepipe ban to go with it. Water outages and hosepipe bans are becoming the new normal for us in Kent.

Three times in the last year hundreds of my constituents were left without water for days on end.

Households had the choice of buying water from the supermarket - until they ran out - or travelling miles to far flung distribution points.



Businesses were left in the lurch, forced to cancel bookings and close their premises.

Livestock owners spent hours filling up water containers, relying on friends outside the outage areas.

Helen talking to Dargate businesses at Lamberhurst Farm about recent water outages

In the UK we expect to be able to turn on the tap and get drinkable water, it doesn't seem a lot to ask. But no longer.

My instinct is generally to look for an answer rather than pinning blame on an individual. But this has been different. Last year David Hinton, the Chief Executive of South East Water promised he would fix the problems – especially with the poor emergency response. Except for livestock, which he told me was not a priority. I disagreed.

Then we had the next outage, and none of the problems had been fixed.

That's when I called for the Chief Executive to go. I had lost all confidence in him. He showed no sign of caring about the impact of water outages on households, businesses or farmers. And there was no reason to believe he would fix the problems.

It took a while, including several debates in Parliament, but eventually he got the message and resigned.

Since his departure, I have held two meetings with South East Water – one with local businesses and one with livestock owners.

The livestock meeting was encouraging. South East Water staff listened and sounded concerned. They have set up a livestock register for people with larger animals like horses. You can find this by searching for 'South East Water agricultural community'.

At the business meeting we discussed the loss of revenue they have suffered as well as extra costs. I have pushed for more compensation. No answer as yet – so I will follow this up with the new Chief Executive. We also discussed better back-up supplies of water for businesses in the event of outages.

New leadership at the top of South East Water gives us an opportunity to influence the future direction of the company. That is why I am asking for your views. I would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the survey on my website by searching 'Helen Whately Water survey'.

I will collate all the feedback and take this to the new Chief Executive, John Halsall, so he can take your views into account as he shapes the future direction of the company.

Best wishes,

Helen

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

A WELL- DRESSER'S APPRENTICE

You may have seen the floral decoration above the well at Saint Margaret's Church in Broomfield and thought 'I wonder how they do that, and why?'

Some time ago Bill Waters, a Church Army Captain, came from Derbyshire to Kingswood, bringing the idea of a Well Dressing here. It is common there, but we are possibly the only place in Kent to make such a decoration over the well, which would have been so important to inhabitants of the area 100 years ago.

It does make us unique and thus is important to continue, so if you would like to learn more about how it is done, to continue this tradition in the future, please give me a ring on 01622 843431.

Beryl Andrew



**Could you spare 2 days a month?
We're looking for someone to take over
the Magazine Distribution Organiser Role.**

It's a great opportunity to help your community!
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by ensuring that the magazine is reaching all our villagers.
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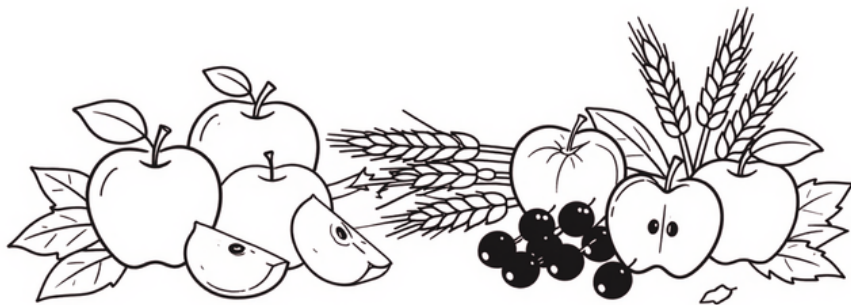
For Your Diary

Sept

- 1st** Leeds Parish Council Meet : Village Hall - 7pm
- 5th** Farmers Market : Ledian Gardens - 10am - 2PM
- 6th** LADS Panto Open Day : Village Hall - 2-5pm (see P19)
- 10th** Leeds W.I. Meet : Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 12th** Ride & Stride : See page 13
- 16th** Craft & Natter : Village Hall - 11am
- 18th** Murder Mystery : Headcorn Village Hall - 7pm (see P12)
- 18th** Langley Quiz night : Langley Village Hall - 7pm

Oct

- 3rd** Leeds Village Litter Pick - 10am - see page 9
- 10th** Leeds Quiz Night : Leeds Village Hall - 7.15pm (see page 18)



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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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 10th September 2026

All welcome. Non-members:£4.50

7.30pm. Leeds Village Hall

Join our FacebookPage @LeedsWI

Email us at: leedsvillagewi@gmail.com

Or call Lois Hurst on 01622 861601

LEEDS CRAFT AND NATTER GROUP

WEDNESDAY 16th September 2026

LEEDS VILLAGE HALL 11am-1pm

A hot drink and biscuits will be provided

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For more details please contact

Jane Newsome 07508 559558



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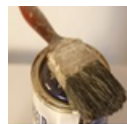
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