# Leeds & Broomfield

November 2026

## CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS




### INSIDE THIS MONTH


- Church Services
- Community Events
- Leeds Castle News
- Parish Council Updates
- Meet the Villager
- MP Updates


**Remembrance Day School Assembly**
**St Nicholas Church Leeds - 9am**
**Friday 6th November**
**All Welcome**




Villages | Remembrance | Community | Events | Worship







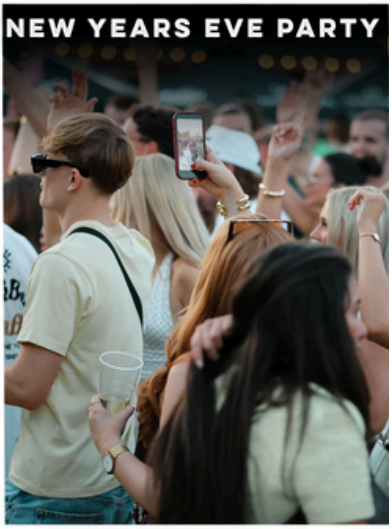






THE

POTTING SHED












# From the Editor



November has arrived, bringing darker evenings, chilly mornings and that familiar feeling that winter is just around the corner. I think we'll soon be reaching for the heating switches!

I'm really settling into my new role as editor and thoroughly enjoying discovering more about the people, groups and organisations that bring Leeds and Broomfield to life.

I recently had a wonderful chat with Derek from Broomfield, hearing all about his life and many years of history in the village. It's fascinating to learn about the people and stories that make our villages so special.

I love the excitement of Bonfire Night, although my dog definitely doesn't share my enthusiasm! The loud bangs can be frightening for our pets, so let's remember our four-legged friends and make sure they're safe and settled.

November is also a time for remembrance. Leeds and Broomfield Primary School will hold a Remembrance Assembly at St Nicholas Church, Leeds Village, on Friday 6th November at 9am.
All welcome.

The church is also being beautifully decorated with crocheted poppies, lovingly made by local craft groups and the children at our school — a wonderful example of our community coming together.

Thank you to everyone who contributes articles, photographs, events and stories to the magazine. Please keep them coming! I'd also love to hear your thoughts on the magazine. What would you like to see more of, and is there anything you feel doesn't belong? Your feedback will help me make it as interesting and relevant as possible for everyone in our villages.

So, grab a cuppa (coffee in my case!), settle down and enjoy this month's magazine. I hope you find something that makes you smile, brings back a memory or inspires you to discover something new on your doorstep.

Thank you, for your continued support.

Happy November!

Pauline

**MAGAZINE MATERIAL**

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

Email: pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk




## YOUR MAGAZINE, YOUR SAY!

As I continue to develop Leeds & Broomfield Church & Village News, I'd love to hear what you think!

📰 Meet the Villager – Have you enjoyed getting to know our local residents? Would you like more interviews?

📸 Local Stories & Photos – Would you like more village history, old photographs or stories from residents?

🌿 New Features – Would you enjoy gardening tips, recipes, local achievements or more puzzles and competitions?

💬 Your Honest Opinion – What do you enjoy most about the magazine? Is there anything you don't like or would prefer to see less of?

Have an idea for something new? I'd love to hear it!
Your feedback will help make our magazine something the whole community can enjoy.

📧 Email Pauline: pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for helping to shape YOUR village magazine!

**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!
As Magazine Distribution Organiser, you'll support the church and village by ensuring that the magazine is reaching all our villagers.
Just two days a month can make a big impact. Interested?

Contact Pauline: pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk / 07917 105460

November has always seemed to me a month that encourages us to slow down.The bright colours of autumn begin to fade, the evenings draw in, and many of the trees stand quietly, letting their leaves fall. Walking through the countryside at this time of year, it is hard not to notice the change. What was full and vibrant only a few weeks ago now appears bare and vulnerable.

Yet the trees are not dying. They are preparing.By letting go of their leaves, they conserve their strength for the winter months ahead. Beneath the surface, life continues unseen. The promise of spring is already there, hidden from view.I wonder if there is a lesson for us in that.

All of us carry things that become burdens: worries about those we love, disappointments we cannot change, old hurts that are difficult to forgive, or regrets that still linger. We hold on to them because they feel familiar, even when they weigh us down.

Jesus often invited people to do something different. He encouraged them to place their trust in God and to bring their burdens to him. Sometimes faith is not about doing more; sometimes it is about learning to let go. Letting go of anxiety. Letting go of resentment. Letting go of the need to control everything ourselves.

November is also a month of remembrance. On Remembrance Sunday, we honour those who gave so much in the service of others.

Many of us will also think of family members and friends we have loved and lost. Their absence can still be keenly felt, especially as the year draws towards its end.

Yet remembrance is not simply about looking backwards. It is also about gratitude. We give thanks for lives that touched ours, for sacrifices made on our behalf, and for love that continues to shape us even when someone is no longer physically present.

For Christians, remembrance is always accompanied by hope. We believe that God remains faithful through every season of life. Just as winter is not the end of the tree's story, difficult times are not the end of ours.

Perhaps this November we can take a little time to pause, to be thankful, and to release something that has become a burden. We can trust that even when we cannot see what lies ahead, God is still at work.

The trees, quietly shedding their leaves, remind us of a simple truth: letting go is not always a sign of loss. Sometimes it is an act of faith.

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

May this November bring each of us peace, comfort and hope.

Kind regards,
Peter Callway, Area Dean

# Church Services in November

Service readings can be found at: www.churchofengland.org

| Date | Time | Church | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1 Nov** | | **Services** | **All Saints Day** |
| | 9.30am | Otham | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Leeds | Morning Celebration |
| | 11.00am | Langley | Morning Celebration |
| | 11.00am | Kingswood | Cafe Church |
| **8 Nov** | | **Services** | **Remembrance Sunday** |
| | 9.30am | Otham | Holy Communion (short) |
| | 10.45am | Otham Memorial | Remembrance Service |
| | 10.50am | Langley | Morning Celebration/ Remembrance |
| | 11.00am | Peter Pease Memorial/ Kingswood Hall | Remembrance Service |
| | 3.30pm | Broomfield | Remembrance Service |
| **15 Nov** | | **Services** | **Second before Advent** |
| | 9.30am | Otham | Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | Leeds | Holy Communion |
| | 11.00am | Langley | Holy Communion |
| | 11.00am | Kingswood | Morning Worship / AGM |
| **22 Nov** | | **Services** | **Christ The King** |
| | 9.30am | Otham | Holy Communion |
| | 10.00am | Leeds with Langley | No Café Church |
| | 11.00am | Kingswood | Communion Service |
| **29 Nov** | 10.00am | Langley | Advent Sunday<br>Joint Castle Churches Advent Service with Holy Communion<br>“God’s Story of Hope” |

CASTLE CHURCHES
OTHAM • LANGLEY • LEEDS • BROOMFIELD • KINGSWOOD

## God's Story of Hope - Castle Churches Advent Service

As we gather at the beginning of the Advent season, join us for a service of worship, reflection and hope as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

**Sunday 29th November • 10.00am**

**St Mary's, Langley**

☕ **Refreshments on arrival**

**All are warmly welcome.**

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”
Isaiah 9:2



# This Month's Duties

| St Nicholas | |
|---|---|
| Reader | Maria Watson |
| War Memorial | Mrs J Dabbs |
| Brass & Silver | Vacant |
| Flowers | Helen/Belinda |

| St Margaret's | |
|---|---|
| Reader | Mrs Judi Taylor |
| Church Cleaning | Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor |
| Flowers | Beryl |

## 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




RINGERS

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 minutes

**Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Greef

**Declaration of Interests**

There were none declared

**Previous Minutes**

The minutes were agreed and signed off.

**Public Participation**

The new editor of the Parish magazine, Pauline Silk, introduced herself and gave a short brief as to how she sees the magazine progressing under her editing ship.

She advised that she is keen to involve as many residents of both Leeds & Broomfield contributing and if anyone has a interesting story to tell to please contact her. Also looking for volunteers to distribute the magazine each month.

**Highways Matters**

Councillors were asked to consider the purchase and install of a sign indicating that there is a public footpath through the Church rather than using the road when heading north. The Clerk advised that these can be purchased from the British Legion at Aylesford.

**Clerks Report**

Following a recent AED aftercare inspection it had been reported that the heater inside the defibrillator cabinet had been physically disconnected.

Cllr China advised that he had spoken to the Village Hall committee chairman to see if he could throw any light on the matter but none forthcoming. Clerk to check with the inspector if plug and socket within the defibrillator had been reconnected at the time of the inspection.

**Chairmans Report**

The chairman advised that he had attended the Maidstone Parish Conference and that he had been told that the Leeds Village sign at the south end of the village had been seen lying in the vegetation having looked as if it had been hit by a vehicle. He advised that he has asked the village handyman to take a look to see if it is repairable or not.

**Financial Matters**

The financial statement and payments were approved.

**Report from KCC Councillor**

Cllr Linden Kemkaran attended the meeting and advised the following: The new proposed unitary reorganisation has been put on hold by the Government and that she had written to the minister in charge on three separate occasions seeking clarification and that KCC had now lodged a complaint with the court.

A meeting had been held regards fly and waste tipping with all parties involved, this has resulted in a clear policy as to how the problem is best resolved and that she expects positive results to come from it.

A simular meeting held with the local water companies to achieve a clear plan going forward. Again Cllr Kemkaren felt this would lead to positive actions being taken in the future.

She is also looking into rural broadband and the need to improve special needs.

Report from MBC Councillor

Cllr Gill Fort advised that a motion to look at numbers for the local plan had been put forward and that she was very concerned as to the amount of land around the village has been highlighted for possible development.

**Parish Maintenance**

The Village Christmas Tree and associated lights were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk to arrange for a street light company to provide a cost to replace the lights.

Cllr. China advised that having spoken to the chair of the Village Hall committee he had been told that they had voted against positioning the two silhouettes outside of the hall. After discussion councillors agreed that they would go on the grass verge adjacent the Leeds Village sign opposite the entrance to Forge Lane. Cllr China to arrange with the Village handy man.

**Leeds Playground, Playing Field,Tennis Courts & Pavilion.**

The repairs highlighted by Safeplay in the children's play area have been completed as has the repair to the table& chair unit adjacent the tennis courts.

Clerk to seek two further quotes for the replacement water heater in the Pavilion.It has been reported that several of the timber bollards between the car park and the field are showing signs of rot, price required to have them renewed and painted.

**Street Lighting**

No reports of lights not working but please if a light near you deemed faulty please report it to the Clerk providing the number stamped on the support pole. Now that the nights are starting to draw in we need all the street lights working.

**Parish Council Events**

The leader of the village events team has provided a budget for the 2027/28 events along with 2026 expenditure.

The team intend to increase fundraising next year and explore grant funding opportunities, working with the Parish Council and Playing Fields Charity particularly towards the cost of the summer event.

The team has also raised the possibility of purchasing a storage container for events equipment. Councillors were generally in agreement but indication of costs required and location to be agreed.

**Date of next meeting**

The next PC meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10th November at 7pm.

If you have a complaint or indeed a compliment please do come along and join in during Public Participation.

# LEEDS CASTLE

November always feels like a month of transformation at Leeds Castle. Autumn is still very much with us at the beginning of the month, with the last of the colour across the parkland and gardens, but behind the scenes the Estate is rapidly preparing for some of the busiest weeks of our year.

We begin the month with the final days of our Horrible Histories Halloween adventure, which has brought plenty of ghosts, gruesome stories and rather questionable medieval superstitions to the Estate over Half Term.

It also marks the end for now of Pilgrimage of Love, our exhibition exploring the remarkable life of Queen Eleanor of Castile. Since opening in March, it has been wonderful to see visitors discovering more about a woman whose story is so closely connected to Leeds Castle. So far, the Eleanor AI Avatar has answered over 41,000 visitor questions! Eleanor and her exhibition will return in the New Year.

There is barely time to catch our breath before the Fireworks Spectacular returns on 7th and 8th November. This year's theme is TIME, with fireworks choreographed to music alongside projections and lasers transforming the Castle itself.

Fireworks weekend is always an extraordinary couple of days for the Estate and there is something very special about seeing thousands of people gathered together on the Castle lawns as darkness falls.

Once the final firework has disappeared, however, an entirely different transformation begins.

As I write this, preparations are well underway for the Christmas Castle Experience - Wallace & Gromit: A Cracking Christmas Caper. From 21 November, visitors will be recruited to Wallace and Gromit's Anti-Theft-O Security team to help investigate the mysterious disappearance of the Leeds Castle Diamond.

The adventure will take visitors through the Castle, encountering some familiar faces along the way, including Feathers McGraw, Shaun the Sheep and a few other suspicious characters. Creating Christmas at Leeds Castle is always a huge undertaking and much of the work happens when visitors have gone home. Rooms are transformed, decorations installed and countless finishing touches added before the doors open. After many months of planning, it is enormously exciting to finally see it all beginning to come together.

Christmas Lights also returns from 20 November, transforming the wider Estate after dark with illuminated installations, the Fire Garden, Christmas Cathedral and the spectacular fountain show. Father Christmas will also be back from 21 November, so by the end of the month there will be very little doubt that Christmas has arrived at Leeds Castle. Before then, I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the final weeks of autumn across the Estate. November may bring darker evenings and colder days, but there is certainly plenty happening behind the gates.

With best wishes

Helen Bonser-Wilton
Chief Executive

# Meet the Villager: Derek Hadlow
# A lifetime in Broomfield

At 83, Derek Hadlow has a lifetime of memories to share about Broomfield. Born here in 1943, he has witnessed enormous changes over the years. Having served as verger at St Margaret's Church since 1971, Derek has dedicated 55 years to caring for this special part of the community.

**Growing Up in Broomfield**

Derek was born at No. 2 Upper Street and christened at St Margaret's Church, just across the road. Life was very different then, with no indoor toilet and baths taken in a tin bath!

He remembers a happy childhood playing cricket and football in the road with friends and racing around in homemade soapbox carts. There was so little traffic that he recalls seeing just two cars in a week! He also remembers walking to school and crossing a bridge near Broomfield that was demolished around the 1950s.



**Memories of Leeds Castle**

Derek worked in farming and gardening, following in his father's footsteps. His father worked at Church Farm before becoming a gardener, and Derek also spent time working at Leeds Castle.

He fondly remembers Lady Baillie as a good employer who looked after her staff. She loved birds and gardening, and the castle had 14 greenhouses where peaches and flowers were grown. One Christmas, they even had to adapt an enormous Christmas tree to make it fit inside the Castle!

**Devoted to St Margaret's Church**

In 1971, Derek became verger because he felt the village church needed someone to care for it. The churchyard was badly overgrown, with grass reaching the height of the gravestones.

Since then, Derek has helped prepare for services, weddings and funerals, cared for the churchyard, rung the bells and created beautiful floral displays. He remains proud of the church and its traditions, despite the changes in village life.

**Family and Village History**

Derek shared some wonderful old photographs of his family and villagers gathered on the church green. Several generations of his family have lived locally, making Broomfield part of his story throughout his life.

He also devoted more than 40 years to caring for his sister after she became paralysed. Today, he still enjoys gardening and has kept old church magazines and photographs that offer a fascinating glimpse into the village's past.







With 55 years of service to St Margaret's Church and a lifetime of memories, Derek is a wonderful link to Broomfield's history.

Thank you, Derek, for sharing your memories and helping us discover more about the history of Broomfield.

Would you like to be featured in 'Meet the Villager'?
I'd love to hear your story.
Contact me at pauline.silk@hotmail.co.uk or 07917 105460.

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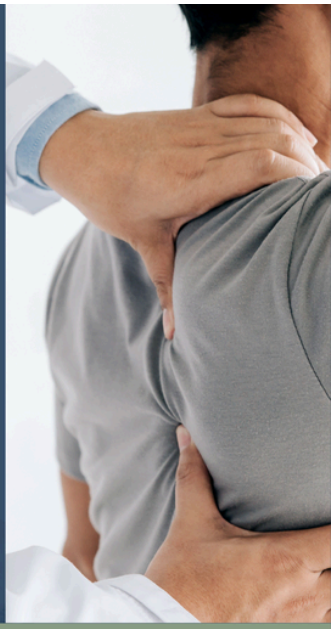
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LEEDS CASTLE
KENT ENGLAND



# Wallace & Gromit™
## A Cracking Christmas Caper

## 21st Nov 2026 - 3rd Jan 2027

**Included in your admission ticket**

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# HARVEST THANKSGIVING

## St Margaret's Church, Broomfield

It was lovely to see everyone at our Harvest Service.

Many thanks to Derek Hadlow for the great vegetable decorations.









# What a great Community we have!

A big thank you to everyone who recently took part in the village litter pick and to the members from Ledian Gardens who also gave their time to clean and renovate our bus stop.

It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to help keep Leeds Village looking its best.

So many bags of litter were collected, and the team worked hard to tidy the surrounding area.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and to Ledian Gardens for their support and for giving back to our community.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Could you help us keep Leeds Village Church looking its best?**

We are looking for volunteers to help cut the grass and keep the church and its surroundings tidy. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Contact the Church Warden for details.**








*Litter picking, cleaning and caring...* ♡ *Thank you!* ♡

# Leeds and Broomfield
## Church of England Primary School

ASPIRE FEDERATION
WE ASPIRE TO INSPIRE

*"As many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school."*
(Matthew Ch 7 24-27)

At Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School we aim to inspire our children to enable them to fulfil their potential at every stage of their life. Our school is about far more than academic results: it is about community, respect, honesty and family. We deliver a learning experience for every individual that is innovative, creative and fun.

Through our dedicated team of teachers and support staff, we provide the children with as many opportunities as possible to learn in a fun and exciting way. Our pupils are equipped with the skills they need to make good progress through their primary education so they can confidently make the transition to secondary school.

We understand the difficulties faced by working parents and so we offer an extended day; our Breakfast Club starts at 7:30 am and our After School Club ends at 6pm.

## Open Events for prospective Reception parents for admission September 2027

**Tours will take place with the Head of School, Mrs Steer, on the following dates:**

Friday 25th September @ 2pm
Monday 28th September @11am
Tuesday 6th October @ 1:30pm
Wednesday 14th October @11am

Friday 23rd October @ 10am
Wednesday 4th November @ 1:30pm
Friday 20th November @ 2pm
Tuesday 24th November @ 1:30pm

We are delighted to invite prospective parents to visit our wonderful school. During the tour you will have the chance to see the classes in action, meet our teachers, see the fabulous grounds and hear about our close links with the local community. We do limit to 4 families per tour.

Booking is required, please call the school office on 01622 861398 or email office@leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk

Online applications to KCC for Reception 2027 must be submitted by the deadline 15th January 2027.






Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School, Lower Street, Leeds, Maidstone ME17 1RL
www.leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk • office@leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk

# Update from Helen Whately MP



Helen Whately MP taking her 7,000 strong ‘Stop the Sprawl’ petition to Downing Street for the direct attention of the Prime Minister. She is now applying for a debate in Parliament to keep the pressure on Ministers to reduce our housing numbers.

This summer, Kent was officially classified as being in drought. We've had a hosepipe ban virtually all year round and multiple major water outages. Water is being tankered along narrow country lanes just to keep our taps flowing.

The fact is, we don't have enough water to supply the current population of this area, let alone thousands more houses. There are 20,000 new houses proposed for Faversham and Mid Kent alone.

Don't just take my word for it. South East Water has said publicly there's not enough water for development planned in neighbouring areas like Tonbridge and Malling. I'm waiting for their judgement on the houses planned for Maidstone and Swale.

There is a new Kent reservoir coming but it won’t be operational until the mid-2030s at the earliest.

In the summer, the housing secretary at the time (Steve Reed MP) told BBC South East that new homes “will not be built” if the infrastructure to provide them with water is not in place.

That should mean a hard ‘no’ for the 8,400 houses proposed for Highsted Park near Sittingbourne.

But the change of Prime Minister means a change of Secretaries of State – and that decision will now be made by the current Housing Secretary, Angela Rayner, in November. I am working with local councillors and campaigners to persuade her to refuse the application.

Thank you to everyone who has supported my campaign to get the Government to think again about the volume of houses being imposed on rural Kent. I know we need more homes, but it simply doesn't make sense to build 20,000 more houses on greenfield sites meanwhile brownfield sites in London and other towns are left undeveloped.

If you agree with me, please give me your backing by signing my Halt the Houses petition at www.HaltTheHouses.com.

Best wishes

Helen

# REMEMBRANCE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

## Friday 6th November
## 9.00am

### St Nicholas Church
Lower Street, Leeds, Kent
ME17 1RL

Leeds & Broomfield Primary School will be holding a special Remembrance School Assembly at St Nicholas Church, bringing together pupils, staff and our local community to remember and honour those who gave their lives in service of our country.

*All welcome*





WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

## HELP US MAKE BROOMFIELD ROAD SAFER – LORRY WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!




Are you concerned about the number of large HGVs using Broomfield Road and the congestion and potential dangers they pose to residents, motorists and other road users?

The Parish Council continues to raise concerns about HGVs using Broomfield Road, but we need your help to build a clearer picture of the problem.

We are looking for local volunteers to join a Lorry Watch initiative.

Lorry Watch is a way for residents to help monitor and record HGV movements, particularly where large vehicles are using unsuitable routes or causing difficulties on narrow roads. By collecting information such as dates, times, vehicle details and photographs where safe and appropriate, we can build up evidence to support our concerns and help make the case for action.
How can you help?
Record HGVs travelling along Broomfield Road.
Note dates, times and any difficulties caused.
Take photographs only when it is safe to do so.
Help us build evidence to present to Kent County Council Highways and the relevant companies.

You don't need to commit lots of time, even a small contribution can make a difference. We are simply asking residents who share these concerns to work together to help us establish the scale of the problem.

The Parish Council cannot introduce road restrictions itself, but a stronger body of evidence may help us press for a meaningful action from KCC.

Would you be willing to help?

If you are concerned about HGVs using Broomfield Road and would like to volunteer for Lorry Watch, please email Hayley Parish Clerk at parishclerk@bandkpc.uk

Together, we can make our concerns count and work towards safer roads for everyone.






# 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."**

# November For Your Diary

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 4th | School: New admission 2027 tour- 1.30pm (see page 19) |
| 6th | School Remembrance Assembly - 9am St Nicholas Church (Page 21) |
| 7th | Fireworks Display - Leeds Castle - 5.30pm |
| 8th | Fireworks Display - Leeds Castle - 5.30pm |
| 8th | Remembrance Service - St Margaret's Church, Broomfield - 3.30pm |
| 10th | Parish Council Meeting: Village Hall - 7pm |
| 12th | Leeds W.I. Meet: Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| 12th | Comedy Night - Potting Shed |
| 18th | Craft & Natter: Village Hall - 11am |
| 20th | School: New admission 2027 tour-- 2pm (see page 19) |
| 24th | School: New admission 2027 tour-- 1.30pm (see page 19) |
| 29th | Castle Churches Advent Service - St Mary's Church, Langley 10am |




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.

# Useful contact numbers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parish Administrator | Tracey Pavan | 07516 159879 |
| Curate | Rev. Peter Roberts | 07771 937648 |
| Churchwarden - Leeds & Broomfield | Christine Oakland | 07925 500756 |
| | churchwardenlbkchurches@gmail.com | |
| Verger - Broomfield | Derek Hadlow | 01622 861955 |
| Borough Councillor | Gill Fort | 07798 668821 |
| County Councillor - Leeds | Gary Cooke | 01622 694480 |
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Website : www.leedskent.org.uk

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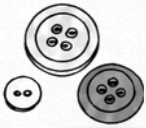
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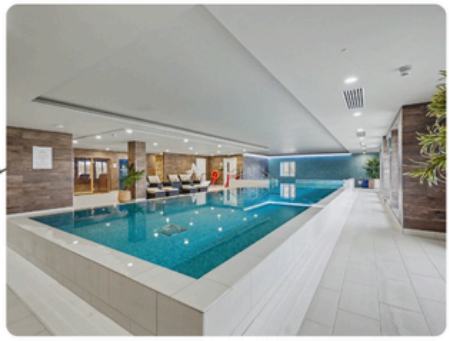
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