

**July 2026**

Monthly information for the Parish  
of Ifield

Thought for the Month

## **July Reflections**

### **Sun, Suitcases, and Slightly Lost Routines**



July has arrived - and with it comes that unmistakable feeling that normal life has been gently (or not so gently!) put on pause. School uniforms will shortly be flung to the back of wardrobes, alarm clocks will be silenced, and suddenly Tuesday will feel suspiciously like a Saturday.

For families, the end of the school year brings a mix of excitement and mild panic. There's the joy of six weeks of freedom... quickly followed by the realisation that six weeks is quite a long time to keep everyone entertained! Teachers, of course, will be looking forward to a well-earned rest - and perhaps their first uninterrupted cup of tea since September.

Holidays are now firmly on the horizon. Whether it's a trip abroad, a trusty caravan by the seaside, or a "staycation" involving optimistic day trips, this is the season of packing bags, forgetting at least one essential item, and checking the weather forecast far more often than necessary. (Will it be sun hats or waterproofs? Possibly both- this is Britain, after all.)

And then there's the great British summer itself - full of hope, surprise, and the occasional need to locate the nearest indoor option. One moment we're enjoying sunshine and ice creams, the next we're rescuing garden furniture from a sudden downpour. It certainly keeps us humble!

In the midst of all this, parish life takes on a slightly different rhythm. Some familiar faces are away, new visitors join us, and everything feels just a little more relaxed. It's a time for flexibility, warm welcomes, and perhaps the occasional laugh when things don't quite go to plan.

This season of growth and change is reflected in the world around us too. Gardens are blooming, parks are full, and creation seems to be making the most of every bit of sunshine. It brings to mind the words from Ecclesiastes: *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”* July, it seems, is a season for slowing down, for reconnecting, and for finding joy in the unexpected.

And in all the busyness - or even in the occasional boredom of long summer days - we're reminded of a simple encouragement from Galatians: *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Whether it's keeping the children entertained, offering a helping hand, or simply being patient with one another, the small things we do matter more than we might think.

Summer also gives us those small, unexpected moments that stay with us - a shared laugh, a conversation after a service, a quiet cup of tea in the garden when the sun finally appears. These are the moments that build community and remind us that church is not just something we attend, but something we live out together.

So whether your July is packed with plans or pleasantly unstructured, may it be filled with laughter, rest, and just enough sunshine to keep spirits high. And if things don't quite go as expected - well, that's all part of the adventure.

### **A Thought for July**

Pack lightly, laugh often,  
and always be ready for a change in the weather.  
And if you do forget something important -  
there's a good chance it wasn't that important after all.

With every blessing

*Revd Christine*  
Rector

## **Parish House Group**



Mondays 10.30 am - 12 noon. From May 2026 the Parish House Group will be meeting at The Tree House, Rusper Road, Ifield.

Please contact Jill Bell on 01293 521699 or [reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) for details. New members are always welcome.



## **SMILE – Ladies Fellowship Events**

SMILE, a parish-wide ladies' group, was formed in 2013. We had an extended break following Covid, but in April 2025, six of us got together to regroup and make some plans for future social events. Our focus is primarily friendship, fellowship and offering an opportunity for outreach. For details, or if you would like to join us, please contact Clare Wilson via email: [smile@ifieldparish.org](mailto:smile@ifieldparish.org),



## **Men's Fellowship**

A social group offering fellowship, mutual support and fun for the gentlemen of the Parish. A chance to relax and enjoy some great company.

To be added to the anonymous distribution list for all future events please email [rob@ifieldparish.org](mailto:rob@ifieldparish.org) A great time for fellowship together.

## **Combined SMILE and Men's Fellowship Evening Event**

Trevor and Jo Strutt have kindly offered to hold the following event for Men's and SMILE ladies fellowship groups.

BBQ and Archery evening – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 6pm start. Tickets are £10 each and available in church or from Rita Strutt. Ticket price includes a drink and food.

As numbers are limited please let Rob Pudney or Clare Wilson know if you are going to attend by 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Or email: [Communications@ifieldparish.org](mailto:Communications@ifieldparish.org) or [SMILE@ifieldparish.org](mailto:SMILE@ifieldparish.org).

Some help will be needed please let Trevor or Jo Know if you are able to help in any way.

For more info on church social activities, please speak to Rob Pudney or Clare Wilson [Rob@ifieldparish.org](mailto:Rob@ifieldparish.org) or Clare Wilson [SMILE@ifieldparish.org](mailto:SMILE@ifieldparish.org)



## 200 Club

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The results are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris & Jill Bell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Ward
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan King

The next draw will be 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are always most welcome!



## Save the Date

Dates for future Church fund raising and social events.

- Saturday 11th July - Barn Dance
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Harvest Lunch at the Barn
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Sing Along Movie
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Community Quiz Night, in Church
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Christmas Fayre in Church

All funds raised (*unless stated otherwise*) will go to the St Margarets church building fund for the upkeep of the church.



## Our Youth Group

Our Youth Group meets on a fortnightly basis, on Friday evenings during term-time from 6.30pm – 8.00 pm

For more information, please contact the Rector.



## Easter Team Food Bank

Your recent donations were gladly received last month, as stocks in the warehouse are particularly **low** at the moment – even the rice and pasta mountains have been seriously depleted! So, items most needed for collection are:

Pasta and Rice  
All Tins  
Cereal – Family Size  
Tea Bags – 40s  
Long Life Milk  
Jam and Spreads  
And any non-perishable foods or toiletries

Please leave items in the basket in the church. Thank you for your continued support. Your donations are gratefully received.



Summer is a time of celebration, and we are looking forward to a range of holiday activities and family days ahead, a chance for parents and children to take a break from usual routines and enjoy the summer together. Thank you for continuing to support Family Support Work (FSW) as we work to strengthen families across Sussex, bringing comfort to parents and children who may be finding things difficult this summer. Below you

will find ways to stay connected with our work, how to help over the coming months, and upcoming events.

**Our work with Sussex Families:** Our practitioners support children and families through a combination of school-based sessions, home visits, and close partnership working with schools and other professionals. Their role is to provide early intervention, practical support, and emotional guidance to help families navigate a wide range of challenges.

This can include one-to-one sessions with children to help them explore worries, build confidence and self-esteem, and better understand diagnoses or behaviour. Practitioners also support parents with practical issues such as benefits forms, housing concerns, and access to wider services, as well as attending multi-agency meetings to ensure our families' voice is heard and represented.

A key part of the role is advocacy – supporting families in complex situations and helping them access the right services at the right time, often working alongside schools, health professionals, housing providers, and local authorities. An example of this involved a family living in unsuitable housing for over nine years despite significant medical and developmental needs within the household. Through sustained advocacy and partnership working, including engagement with housing services and elected representatives, the family were eventually supported into a suitable new home.

Practitioners describe the role as varied and deeply rewarding, underpinned by a commitment to being a free, non-judgemental and supportive service that empowers families through difficult times for as long as needed.

### **May's Work in Numbers**

- 186 home visits to families
- 445 phone calls/remote support to 230 parents and 174 children
- 38 supported meetings with other agencies
- 38 group sessions, 489 adults and 224 children supported
- 79 food deliveries made
- 95 number of volunteers who gave their time
- 383 total number of volunteer hours

**Get Involved with FSW!** Our food bank stocks are currently running low. As we approach the summer holidays, we would be very grateful for donations of tinned pasta, tinned vegetables (not pulses), tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, ketchup and mayonnaise, instant coffee, jelly pots or packets, and tinned fruit.

### **Upcoming Events...**

4<sup>th</sup> July – Open Garden: Dale Park House

4<sup>th</sup> July – Phoenix Choir Performance (retiring collection in aid of FSW)

5<sup>th</sup> July – Open Garden: Cupani Garden, Seaford Gardens

28<sup>th</sup> July – Pulborough Circular, Sponsored Walk

Would you like to take on the challenge of this walk? If so, please contact the organiser and seek sponsorship from our congregation, who have always been generous in their giving to this important cause.

If you need help with this, please speak to Jill Bell.

For more information about each of these events, please visit:  
[familysupportwork.org/events](http://familysupportwork.org/events)

**Please pray for the Family Support Work Practitioner in your local area.**

**You can find your local practitioner here: [familysupportwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Practitioner-Map-2026.png](http://familysupportwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Practitioner-Map-2026.png)**



**BARN**

**Dance**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

📍 St. Margaret's Church, Ifield

Doors open 18:30 for 19:00 start

**£12** per head

(includes BBQ/Salad)

Tickets available from:

Church, The Barn, or The Plough

**Raffle & Licensed Bar**

# Wildlife in Focus: Ifield Photo Competition 2026



**Capture the Moment – Show Us Your Best Shot!**

**Do you love photography?**

**We'd love you to enter our Ifield Photo Competition and win a chance to have your photo published in our 2027 calendar.**

**Free to enter!**

- **Theme:** Wild Ifield – Flora and Fauna
- **Deadline:** 14th August 2026
- **Categories:** If it lives, blooms, or flutters in Ifield, it counts — flowers, trees, animals, butterflies, insects and birds. Celebrate Ifield Parish in all its glory.
- **How to Enter:** Email your photo to [communications@ifieldparish.org](mailto:communications@ifieldparish.org) with your name, a short photo description and where it was taken. By submitting your photo, you're consenting it to being published in the calendar.
- **Prizes:** Winners will be notified by email and will receive a free copy of the calendar as their prize. Your name will appear with your photo (*or you can ask to be anonymised*).
- **Good cause:** All proceeds from calendar sales will go to St. Margaret's Church Building Fund.

**Don't miss out – snap, submit, and shine!**



# Southern Cathedrals Festival 2026



The Southern Cathedrals Festival 2026 will be held in Chichester from 16-19 July, with the combined choirs of Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals performing in a vibrant programme of events, performances and services in Chichester Cathedral and other distinguished settings around the historic city centre.

## Services

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026

10:30 Choral Mattins – Sung by Chichester Cathedral Choir

16:00 Choral Evensong – Sung by Chichester Cathedral Choir, and combined boy choristers and lay clerks of Salisbury and Winchester (*Recorded by BBC 3 for future broadcast*)

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

10:30 Choral Mattins – Sung by girl choristers and Lay Vicars of Salisbury Choir

16:30 Choral Evensong – Sung by the boy choristers and Lay Clerks of Winchester Choir

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026

10.30 Festival Eucharist - Sung by Chichester Cathedral Choir, and the combined boy choristers and lay clerks of Salisbury and Winchester

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 202 - Services Sung by Chichester Cathedral Choir

11.00 Sung Eucharist

15.00 Choral Evensong with Dismissal of Choristers

## Venue

Chichester Cathedral, West Sussex, P019 1PX

# Chichester Light Experience | Illuminating Art



Chichester's Annual Light Experience returns again this autumn with *Illuminating Art* - a spectacular after-dark immersive installation.

Running from 23 – 31 October 2026, this year's experience builds on the success of the inaugural event during the Cathedral's 950th anniversary year, when more than 14,500 visitors stepped inside an extraordinary world of light and sound, seeing the building in a completely new way.

Transforming Chichester Cathedral into a breath-taking canvas of light, sound and digital art, the experience invites visitors of all ages on a mesmerising journey through four centuries of artistic imagination.

Using monumental projections, immersive soundscapes and an original score by composer David Harper, the Cathedral's ancient architecture is reimagined in extraordinary new ways.

From the drama of the Baroque and the vibrant colour of the Impressionists to early photography, the age of steam and the dawn of animation, *Illuminating Art* brings familiar creative movements to life through bold contemporary projections - creating an unforgettable experience whether you're an art lover or simply looking for a magical evening out. The experience unfolds through a series of atmospheric immersive scenes, building towards a striking finale in the nave.

Timed entry slots ensure visitors have the time and space to fully immerse themselves in this unforgettable evening experience.

Please ensure you book your tickets online in advance.

Tickets are available on the Cathedral's ticket source – see website for details <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/>

# Who's Who in Ifield Parish

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	01293 561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@ifieldparish.org</a>
Curate	Fr Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	<a href="mailto:curate@ifieldparish.org">curate@ifieldparish.org</a>
Reader	Jill Bell	01293 521699	<a href="mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org">reader@ifieldparish.org</a>
Parish Wardens	Kevin Lawler	07792 809165	<a href="mailto:kevinlawler55@gmail.com">kevinlawler55@gmail.com</a>
	Trevor Strutt	07958 322621	<a href="mailto:trevor@bridgeham.com">trevor@bridgeham.com</a>
PCC Secretary	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	01293 529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Finance Officer	Jack Woolsey	07709 046017	<a href="mailto:jackwoolsey@hotmail.com">jackwoolsey@hotmail.com</a>
Safeguarding	Heather Woolsey	07584 010576	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@ifieldparish.org">safeguarding@ifieldparish.org</a>
DBS Lead Recruiter	Andy Ironside	077581 168411	<a href="mailto:dbleadrecruiter@ifieldparish.org">dbleadrecruiter@ifieldparish.org</a>

## Rest Days

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day.  
Our Curate is only in the parish on Wednesdays and for Sunday services.

## Please Note

St. Margaret's weekly notices can be viewed on the parish website

## Ifield Parish Website

[www.ifieldparish.org](http://www.ifieldparish.org)

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to  
Carl Peirce [carl@ifieldparish.org](mailto:carl@ifieldparish.org)

### Follow us:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield>

**Please send any updates for the August issue of The Buzz to Kim Davis**  
[kim@paradiseblue.co.uk](mailto:kim@paradiseblue.co.uk) by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026



## Welcome to St Margaret's Services

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 11:00am Parish Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 09:30am FIISH for Young Families  
11:00am Parish Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 09:30am Parish Communion

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 09:30am Family Service  
11:00am Parish Communion

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 09:30am Service of the World  
11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Every Wednesday 9.30am Said Eucharist**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



St Margaret's Church  
Ifield Street  
Ifield  
Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH11 0NN