

The Buzz

April 2022



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As part of my Lenten discipline last year, I read again 'Darkness Yielding'; which is a collection of writings on Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. Many different and varied writers have contributed to this collection of poems, chapters and articles written for newspapers. The aim of the book is to approach the Christian festivals with questions or nostalgia but also with thoughtfulness.

Whilst some of the contributions are very serious, I was particularly struck by a passage for Holy Saturday entitled 'The Sound of Silence', by Martin Percy who writes of a friend who won a competition to write a short play for radio.

He chose to write on the first three chapters of Genesis, and it features two lowly 'angels' who were 'backroom boys' in God's workshop, who had to 'dub' sound on to creation. The story tells of all God created, but not of the sounds they make.

The two angels grumble "it's all right for 'im upstairs to say 'let there be birds', but who's gotta put the soundtrack on a flock of flippin' seagulls? – muggins 'ere. And it must be different from the parrot, the sparrow and the cormorant ..." as they talk about their work and why waves on pebbles must make a different sound to the 'plop' of a pebble in still water, attention focuses on a box in the corner of the sound studio.

"What's that box for?" asks the junior apprentice angel. "Ah, you don't want to touch that," replies the senior angel. "That box is full of sounds you don't want to hear – a child crying, a mother dying, the sound of war, screams, the rattle of death. Once you open that box, you'll release the noise of chaos, and you'll never get them back in."

When the senior angel leaves for a coffee break, the junior apprentice angel goes to the box and inspects it more closely. It looks such a nice box. How can one small box contain so many sounds? He prises open the lid and lifts it slightly. He hears no scream, nor the sound of war, only the crunch of teeth into a delicious, crisp green apple.....!

Martyn Percy points out that Lent is about acknowledging all those sounds that were let out long ago over which we have so little control. Sounds that deafen, destroy and disturb us in the tragedies and traumas, the betrayals and denials, the woundings and the killings of our failures and faithlessness – caught up in the inadequacies of our own personal lives and the sin of the world to which we belong, since the Fall.

We are no more capable of closing the box on those noises of terror than the junior apprentice angel. They are unleashed all around us, so they threaten to blot out all other sound. Once that box was opened it is impossible to push those sounds back and close the lid.

But on a Friday that was Good, a man on a cross absorbed all that sound. He took the cries of dereliction, the scream of physical torture, the ridicule of the world, to himself. The sun was darkened, the earth quaked and the rocks were split open. And from the cacophony of that chaos came whispers of love – ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do’; ‘today you will be with me in Paradise’; ‘it is finished’; ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit’. Alone amidst the chaotic confusion of the world, only he could hear the still small voice.

And on a Saturday that was Holy, there came the sound of silence – quiet, exhausted waiting.

But very early on the Sunday morning, while it was yet dark, another emptiness, the open tomb. And out of that emptiness came a new sound – the sound of hope; of joy; of peace. To Mary, the sound of her name: to the disciples his word of peace; to Cleopas and his friend, a gesture of hope.

Easter is not the reversal of Good Friday but its inevitable consequence. The sounds released when the box was opened, and the apple eaten, can never be put back. They still threaten to deafen and destroy us. But on Good Friday they were absorbed and transformed. For the Lord was not in the wind, and the Lord was not in the earthquake, and the Lord was not in the fire, but after the fire - a still small voice.

On Easter morning as we wake to the dawn chorus of Spring, a new sound comes through the stillness, which can never be obliterated by the cacophony of chaos.

Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia

May I wish you all a very blessed, peaceful and joyful Easter!

Christine

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

1 st Sunday	8.00 am 11.00 am	Said Eucharist Non-Eucharistic Service
2 nd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	FIISH for young families Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
4 th & 5 th Sundays	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist
Wednesdays	9.30 am	Said Eucharist

Current guidelines are that masks must be worn in church.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sun 10 th April	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 9.30am Fiish Service & Palm Procession 11am Palm Procession & Communion Service
Mon 11 th April	7.30pm Compline with reflection
Tue 12 th April	7.30pm Service Of Wholeness & Healing
Wed 13 th April	7.30pm Tenebrae – A Service of Shadows
Thu 14 th April	<u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> 7.30pm Eucharist With foot washing & Watch in the Garden of Repose.
Fri 15 th April	<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> 10am Children's' Station Of the Cross (With Hot Cross Buns.) 1pm Good Friday Service
Sat 16 th April	<u>HOLY SATURDAY</u> 7.30pm Prayers at the foot of the Cross.
Sun 17 th April	<u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> 6.30am Easter Vigil With Lighting Of New Fire 9.30am Family Service (With Easter Egg Hunt) 11am Holy Communion

*Happy Easter from everyone
at St. Margaret's Church*



**IFIELD MAY FAYRE
MONDAY 2ND MAY**



In the last month the effect of the pandemic has really hit home for many of our families, and financial hardship is a key concern. We have been using our winter fuel fund to help families with rising energy prices as well as making more deliveries from our foodbank. Over half term some of our practitioners were able to hold group events which were very well received by the families who attended. One parent said:

"A huge big thank you for the activities sessions FSW held. They were a life saver for our family . We all enjoyed the activities and spending time with other families."



HELP US TO WIN THE TESCO VOTE

From 1st April - 30 June 2022 we are one of three charities hoping to win the Community Grant at Crawley branches of Tesco. PLEASE help us by collecting blue tokens and helping us win £1500!



- Tesco Extra Hazelwick Avenue
- Tesco Express, Peterhouse Parade, Pound Hill
- Tesco Express Downland Drive
- Tesco Express, Plaistow Street, Lingfield
- Tesco Express, Hyde Drive, Ifield
- Tesco Express Haslet Avenue
- Tesco Express Betts Way



CHICHESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK
CHARITY NO 285337 A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE REGISTERED NO 1648903 REGISTERED OFFICE:
GARTON HOUSE 22 STANFORD AVENUE, BRIGHTON, BN1 6AA

LENT LUNCHESES IN AID OF FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Every Wednesday during Lent at 12.30 pm., in the Youth Room at the back of the church. Vegetable soup, roll, butter and cheese for £5.00.

Please join us for fellowship and to support this worthy cause.



PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

Besides being a way of deepening our faith, being a member of a house group is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation in an informal setting. If you would like to know more about any of these groups, please contact the person named below, or speak to our Reader, Jill Bell, on 01293 521699 (reader@ifieldparish.org).

Day & Time	Contact	Venue	Study Topic
Mondays 10.30 am	Chris and Jill Bell 521699	Tree House, Rusper Road	Diocesan Lent Course
Thursdays 7.30 pm	Ian Edgson 552662	Please check	The Shack (book and movie)

LITTLE DRAGONS

**It's church, it's messy, it's for little ones,
their parents and carers!**

Starting 9th May 2022

9 till 10.30am

St Margaret's Church, Ifield.

Every Monday in term time.



www.ifieldparish.org

or email ycofficer@ifieldparish.org for further details

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Jamie Gater	852763	curate@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Lizzi Green	07565 126233	curatelizzie@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Rob Pudney	437038	rob@ifieldparish.org
	Chris Bell	521699	chris@ifieldparish.org
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
Safeguarding	Andy Cottee	202167	safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	lmhull@virginmedia.com

REST DAYS

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day and our Curate's rest day is Monday

PLEASE NOTE

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

IFIELD PARISH WEBSITE

www.ifieldparish.org

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to
Carl Peirce carl@ifieldparish.org

Follow us:

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

IFIELD PARISH OFFICE

Mondays-Thursdays 9.00 am – 12 noon

1 Lychgate Cottage, Ifield Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 0NN
Parish Administrator: Mave Eshun Tel: 537578 Email: office@ifieldparish.org

Please send any updates for the May 2022 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 18th April