

# The Buzz



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



## May 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

### Thought for the Month



As we embrace the month of May, we are blessed by the breathtaking beauty of spring. The vibrant tapestry of blooming flowers, the sweet fragrances that fill the air, and the warm sunlight wrapping us in its gentle embrace—though, as I write this, the rain is gently falling, allowing me to dream of sunnier days to come. Nonetheless, we hold onto the hope that the sun will shine again, reminding us of nature's incredible power to renew and transform. This season invites us to reflect on our spiritual journeys and to anticipate fresh beginnings.

May holds particular significance within the Christian calendar, offering moments for contemplation and celebration. We observe the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, occurring 40 days after Easter. This miraculous event signifies His return to the Father and the fulfilment of His promise to send the Holy Spirit. This promise serves not only as a source of comfort but also as an empowering call to action, urging us to continue His mission of love, kindness, and hope in a world that so greatly needs it.

During this sacred month, I invite you to reflect on how the Holy Spirit is actively guiding your life. Are you attuned to the unique gifts and talents bestowed upon you by God? How might we allow these blessings to flourish as we serve our church and community? May is an opportune time to be bold in our faith and to seize every opportunity to become vessels of God's love and light.

As we prepare for Pentecost, let us prioritise nurturing our relationships—with God and with one another. Make it a daily practice to pause and appreciate the blessings around you. Consider setting aside moments for prayer, seeking guidance and strength in your spiritual journey. Acts of kindness—whether supporting someone in need or sharing joyful moments with a neighbour—can create ripples of positivity. Each small act contributes to the beautiful tapestry of God's kingdom on earth.

This May, as nature awakens and blossoms, let us strive to mirror that growth in our faith and communities. Let us embrace the spirit of renewal and allow it to inspire us to live out our calling to love and serve others, following the exemplary model set by Jesus.

How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives? What steps can we take to engage meaningfully with our church and community this May? Are there spiritual practices—such as prayer, meditation, or scripture study—that we can adopt to deepen our faith during this time of reflection and renewal?

Whatever you do I wish you a month filled with peace, joy, and profound spiritual growth.

Yours in Christ,  
*Christine*  
Rector



## WELCOME TO ST. MARGARET'S SERVICES

1st Sunday	9.30 am	Sunday Celebration
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	FIISH for Young Families
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Parish Communion
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
5th Sunday	9.30 am	Service Of the Word
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield)



St. Margaret's Church,  
Ifield Street, Ifield,  
Crawley, RH11 0NN.

Wednesdays

9.30 am

Said Eucharist

## PARISH HOUSE GROUPS



Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Rd.  
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details  
New members are always welcome

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm  
Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt [jo@bridgeham.com](mailto:jo@bridgeham.com) for details  
**(PLEASE NOTE THIS GROUP IS NOT CURRENTLY MEETING)**

## 200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 11<sup>th</sup> April. The results are set out below:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bridgeham Pilates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Pedlow
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brenda Ward

The next draw will be on 11<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!



As we move through spring, the complexity of the challenges facing families continues to grow. Many are dealing with multiple, overlapping issues, and all our practitioners are still working with full caseloads. While we've made progress in reducing waiting lists in some areas, the demand for support remains high across Sussex.

One of the things we value most about our work is having the time to build meaningful relationships with the families we support.

Without the pressure to offer quick fixes, we can walk alongside parents at their own pace – helping them feel heard and understood.

For more information, or to donate, please visit: [www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)

# WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

Laura Darrall's poem "What do you believe?" commemorates the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, (the word creed comes from the Latin credere, "to believe")

The poem serves as a poignant reminder of the living faith that has persisted since the Council of Nicaea, challenging us to consider what we truly believe in our hearts and how we express it in our lives.

Laura is the vicar of Lavant near Chichester.

What do you believe?

As we stand in our pews or rows of chairs, and recite the Nicene creed, I wonder, what do you believe?

As we sit in a meeting about whether we should use pews or rows of chairs, I wonder, what do you believe?

As we put out the tables and make the coffee, and put out the rota for making the coffee and put out the rota for putting out the tables, what do you believe?

As we sit with a stranger who was looking for quiet, as we hand them a candle to light and remember, as we clear up the crumbs from a mum's giddy toddler, what do you believe?

As we stretch out our hands to share Peace and for bread, as we lift up our voices and bow down our heads, as we love one another just like Jesus said- what do you believe?

Do you believe in the Father who flung stars into space, whose benevolent image can be found in your face, who traced lines of eternity into every embrace, do you believe?

Do you believe in the Son, the second person of the trinity, the three in one, the one who would come and renew us all with a promise to be with us until the Kingdom will dawn- do you believe?

Do you believe in the Spirit? The giver of life? The teacher of Love and the queller of strife, who pours out its gifts at our baptismal start, and makes us one body, one faith, one heart. Do you believe?

Do you believe in the church? The vessel for God's mission, who is called to stay humble and accept the commission to be beacons of hope and children of light until that day comes when we resurrect and reunite with the one who made us. Do you believe?

We stand with the Saints, and join with their praise, in our pews and our chairs all our voices we raise, to proclaim our faith, our Creed, our Way.

On this 1700th anniversary we say: We believe.

# THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER'S TRIBUTE TO POPE FRANCIS

On behalf of the Diocese of Chichester, I wish to assure our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton of our prayers, following the news of the death of Pope Francis.

In a very particular way, as Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis exercised a primacy of service, love and Christian witness that was open to all Christians. Strong in faith and hope, he engaged with pressing issues that face the human race, and outstandingly with the issues of war and migration, and the environment.

Within the Church, he has built upon the work of his predecessors in bringing to life the insights of the Second Vatican Council. Returning to the sources of Christian faith, in Scripture and tradition, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he has striven to bring to all people that light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church.

This work of renewal has included addressing the abuse of power, the inclusion of the gifts of all the baptised, and reaching out to those who feel that they are not welcome.

His refrain has been, "Tutti, tutti, tutti": all are children of God, loved by God. He will be remembered by many for calling priests and bishops to a pastoral authenticity which is attuned to 'the smell of the sheep'.

His humour never left him, nor did compassion and a delight in the family, children and young people.

May Mary, the Mother of the Church, be the sign of comfort for all who feel the loss of this good shepherd. May her confidence in the promises of God direct us, with thanksgiving for his life, towards the hope of the resurrection.

+Martin Cicestr

## EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Current particular needs are for toilet rolls, toothpaste and washing up liquid.

Please leave items in the basket in church or contact [sue@ifieldparish.org](mailto:sue@ifieldparish.org) for collection.

# 🌸 IFIELD MAYFAYRE BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5th MAY 🌸

Our much-anticipated annual Mayfayre is just around the corner! 🎉 Get ready for a day filled with fun, excitement, and community spirit.

Pick up the Competition Schedules & Posters from St. Margaret's Church, Ifield Barn Theatre or The Plough Inn, or download at <https://www.ifieldparish.org/ifieldmayfayre>

Raffle Tickets are available from Ifield Barn Theatre, St. Margaret's Church or The Plough Inn.

Help: We need your help to make this event a huge success! If you can assist in any way, please reach out to us at [help@ifieldmayfayre.co.uk](mailto:help@ifieldmayfayre.co.uk) or contact the team members below:

- Cakes: Give to Lindsey (07909 697028). Freezer space available or deliver on Mayfayre weekend.
- Books: Deliver to Barn Theatre on Friday evening (2/5) or Sunday afternoon (4/5).
- Tombola Items: Pass on in church (give to clergy or wardens) or Barn Theatre (Peter Stewart).
- Stall Help on the Day: Contact Sue Gilbert (07932 106688).
- Site Setup (Tents, Gazebos, etc.): Help needed for setup and takedown over the Mayfayre weekend there is jobs for all – Sunday From 2pm, Monday from 7:30am and after 4pm. Contact Carl Peirce (07834 409830) for more details or just turn up and pitch in.

Please find a few hours to show that our community spirit is thriving and help us make this a fantastic day for everyone.

Thank you for your support!

## CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

A new rota for operating the sound and visual system on Sundays is being prepared. To keep this going, we need additional helpers. If you think you can help, please speak to Chris Bell.

## Would you like to receive this publication by email?

If so, please send your email address to [reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) with The Buzz in the subject line





# LITTLE DRAGONS

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

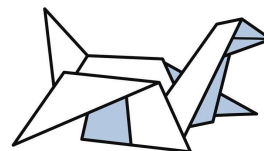
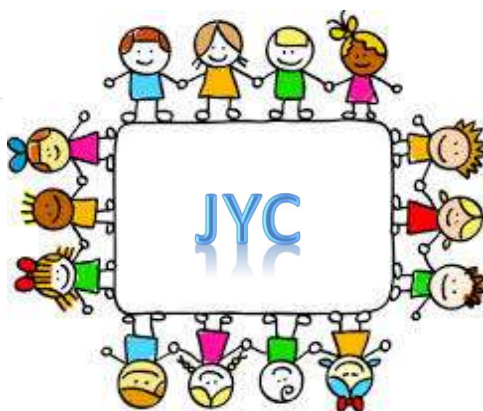
In church, 9 till 10.30am every Monday in term time

For more information, please contact the Rector

## OUR YOUTH GROUP

### JYC: SUMMER SCHEDULE

25 April, 9 & 23 May, 6 & 20 June, 4 & 18 July



**For children from year one.**

Fortnightly during term time on Fridays 18.30 – 20.00, St Margaret's Church.

*St Margaret's: Loved as you are*

For more information, please contact the Rector

# WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@ifieldparish.org</a>
Curate	Revd Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	<a href="mailto:curate@ifieldparish.org">curate@ifieldparish.org</a>
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	<a href="mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org">reader@ifieldparish.org</a>
Parish Wardens	Andy Ironside	07758 168411	<a href="mailto:andy@ifieldparish.org">andy@ifieldparish.org</a>
	Kevin Lawler	07792 809165	<a href="mailto:kevin@ifieldparish.org">kevin@ifieldparish.org</a>
	Clare Wilson	416438	<a href="mailto:pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org">pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Secretary	James May	529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Treasurer	Jack Woolsey	07709 046017	<a href="mailto:jackwoolsey@hotmail.com">jackwoolsey@hotmail.com</a>
Finance Officer			
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:dbsleadrecruiter@ifieldparish.org">dbsleadrecruiter@ifieldparish.org</a>

## REST DAYS

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day  
Our Curate is only in the parish on Wednesday mornings (and Sundays)

## 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 June issue to Jill Bell**  
[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) **by 19<sup>th</sup> May**