

The Buzz

November 2023

Monthly information for the Parish
of Ifield



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Thought for the Month



November has always felt like the remembering month, hasn't it? We begin the month by celebrating All Saints on Sunday 5th November, the Sunday in which we will also read the list of All Souls. Then, of course, there are our Acts of Remembrance around Armistice Day.

When we remember, it is often with the joy of a cherished time being brought back to our minds, but with the sadness that that time is now past – that it can only be revisited in our memories. The memories themselves bring a smile to our faces yet are often tied up with a ribbon of grief because some of the people at the heart of that memory have died. It is not always easy to do so, but it is important that we know it's okay to hold that joy and pain together – to find moments of light and laughter in the darkness – because both the joy and the pain come from the same source: love. If we didn't love, we wouldn't grieve.

Whilst the death of someone we love is painful, we may find ourselves grieving other things too. We might be struggling with all sorts of other losses at the moment. The loss of a relationship. The loss of who we 'used to be' before age, injury or illness changed things. Maybe we have had to leave a home or friends behind as our circumstances change, and their loss hits us more than we had imagined.

In our remembering we have to come to terms with a new way of being and not to get stuck in our longing for the past. Our remembering – however slowly we do it, however long it takes – must be part of our re-forming, our re-grouping, our re-emerging.

As we go through this, we can be reminded that in faith God is with us and holding us. God is there when it feels darkest, and because He is there, there is light. Maybe just a flicker at first, but even a flicker of light makes a huge difference to our darkest time. As the light grows, it beckons us forward. However, the light doesn't deny our grief, rather it illuminates it and helps us to find new ways to be, new ways to live with, and despite, our loss, new ways to find the balance between joy and pain.

It is no accident, I think, that our season of remembering moves into our Advent season of waiting for the light – and ultimately the explosion of the light into the world at Christmas, the light that is Jesus. My prayer is that you will trust that His light is there for you, today and always.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it”
(John 1:5)

Every blessing,

Christine

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET’S

1 st Sunday	8.00 am 11.00 am	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist
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
Last Wednesday	5.00 pm	Family Church

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Sunday 5th November at 11.00 am

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12th November

We will gather at the War Memorial from 10.50 am for the combined Act of Remembrance at 11am, followed by the service in church

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 3rd December at 6.00 pm

SERVICE CONSULTATION

All are invited to a meeting in church on Saturday 4th November at 10.00 am, at which two new examples of church services will be discussed. Please come and share your views.



PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Road
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details

New members are always welcome

OPEN DOOR

**St. Margaret's Church
Ifield**

**1st Wednesday of the month
10.15am - 12 noon**

All welcome to come and

**chat
drink coffee
make friends**



MUSIC FOR CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, 18th November at 4.00 pm in St. Margaret's Church
Proceeds to Crawley Open House

200 CLUB

The third 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 8th October, the results of which are set out below:

1st prize Kevin Lawler
2nd prize Bridgeham Pilates
3rd Prize Ann Utting

The next draw will be on 5th November.

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



Harvest Gifts from St. Margaret's were much appreciated, helping us to re-stock our food bank. More and more of our families are asking for food support now so it is wonderful to be able to provide them with help in this way. Since September there has been a continued stream of new referrals, as the new school year brings issues to the surface that may have been hidden

over the summer. We are spending a lot of time in meetings with schools, supporting parents in achieving the most appropriate help for their children so that they can thrive.

For more information, or to donate, please visit: familysupportwork.org



TOYS AND TOILETRIES FOR FSW

As usual, we will be collecting new toys for the children supported by FSW, and toiletries for them to give to their parents. They have children of all ages on their caseload, but mainly between the ages of 7 and 13. Please bring your gifts to church on Sunday 19th November or Sunday 3rd December.

LITTLE DRAGONS

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

9 till 10.30am every Monday in term time
St Margaret's Church



OUR YOUTH CLUBS

Junior Youth Club - School Years 1-4

Above Youth Club - School Years 5-8

Beyond Youth Club - School Years 9 and above

For more information, please contact Naomi Gater, Youth and Children's Officer

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Items currently most needed are:

baby food (not milk), nappies sizes 2 & 5, pasta sauce, toilet rolls, tinned vegetables, rice pudding, custard, toiletries

Please leave items in the basket in church or contact sue@ifieldparish.org for collection.

The next collection on the parades will be on Saturday 18th November.

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Dominic Desouza-Campbell		curate@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Andy Ironside	07758 168411	andy@ifieldparish.org
	Kevin Lawler	07792 809165	kevin@ifieldparish.org
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
Safeguarding	Amy Wilson	07701 098350	safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org

REST DAYS

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day
Our Curate's rest day is Saturday

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 December 2023 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 20th November