



August 2026

Monthly information for the Parish
of Ifield

Thought for the Month

August Reflections August Days and God's Goodness



August has a way of making us slow down - although I'm not entirely convinced that applies to everyone! Some of us are looking forward to holidays, some are looking after grandchildren, and some are trying to keep the garden under control.

Whatever August looks like for you, it is a good reminder that God is present in every season of life - including the ones where our plans do not quite go as expected. As the Psalmist reminds us, "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" (Psalm 46:10)

The summer months give us a wonderful opportunity to pause and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. The longer evenings, the flowers in bloom, the sound of birdsong (and perhaps the occasional neighbour's lawnmower!) all point us towards the generosity and creativity of our Creator.

For many of us, August can feel like a quieter month in the life of the church, with people coming and going, enjoying time away, or catching up with family and friends. Yet even when our routines change, our church family remains connected. Prayer continues, worship continues, and God's love continues - whether we are sitting in a church pew, walking in the countryside, or enjoying a well-earned cup of tea in the garden.

As Jesus reminds us, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28)

As Christians, we know the importance of gathering together: sharing in worship, celebrating the Eucharist, supporting one another, and offering a welcome to all who come through our doors.

The church is not just a building - it is the people who make up the body of Christ. Each person brings their own gifts, stories and experiences, and together we become a stronger reflection of God's love.

August also invites us to look ahead. As the summer season begins to turn towards autumn, we prepare for the next chapters of our church year. There will be opportunities to serve, to learn, to pray, and to invite others to share in the life of our church community.

So, wherever this August finds you - whether relaxing, travelling, working, gardening, or simply trying to remember where you put your sunglasses - may you know God's blessing and peace.

May we be a church that is faithful in prayer, generous in kindness, and joyful in fellowship.

With my prayers and every blessing,

Rev'd 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 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



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 A great time for fellowship together.



200 Club

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 12th July 2026. The results are as follows:

- 1st Peter Temple-Smithson
- 2nd Jeselle Lawler
- 3rd Sarah Ward

The next draw will be 9th August 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 3rd October - Harvest Lunch at the Barn
- Saturday 10th October - Sing Along The Sound of Music
- Friday 30th October - Community Quiz Night, in Church
- Saturday 21st 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 is currently on summer holiday and will restart again on Friday 11th September 2026.

The 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.



With summer in full swing, our Summer Newsletter 2026 is now available to read online. Inside you'll find family stories from summer trips, a volunteer Q&A, updates from CEO – Martin Auton-Lloyd and Chairman – Richard Bickersteth, and the latest news from Family Support Work. If you haven't received a copy, please visit our website to read online or contact us for a printed version.

Get Involved with FSW:

There are many ways to support Family Support Work, from donating and volunteering to fundraising. Long-time supporter Peter Gayler is continuing his Cathedral, Abbey and Church (CAC) Pilgrimage across England, Wales and Scotland, attending services and exploring the history of each location. So far, Peter has raised an incredible £8,415 and hopes to complete his challenge in April 2027.

If you would like to support him or see his regular updates please visit this link: justgiving.com/page/cacpilgrimage

Summer Food Donations:

For 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:

The Pulborough Circular – Sponsored Walk, 28th July.

Open Gardens Kitchenham Farm, 8th August.

Waldron Classic Car & Bike Show 2026, 9th August.

Open Gardens: Butler's Farmhouse, 22nd & 23rd August.

For more information about each of these events, please visit: familysupportwork.org/events

A Family Outing That Changed Everything

One of our practitioners supported a mum and her two sons on a day out to Bodiam Castle. After experiencing domestic abuse, she had lost the confidence to take her children anywhere unfamiliar. With support by her side, the family spent the day laughing, exploring, sharing a picnic and simply enjoying being together. The mum later said she felt safe, less alone, and able to face new experiences again. To everyone else, they looked like friends enjoying a day out but for this family, it was a vital step towards rebuilding confidence, creating happy memories and moving forward. Your support makes moments and days out like these possible.

June's Work in Numbers

- 205 home visits to families
- 507 phone calls/remote support to 234 parents and 179 children
- 56 supported meetings with other agencies
- 44 group sessions, 520 adults and 256 children supported
- 75 food deliveries made
- 57 number of volunteers who gave their time
- 636.5 total number of volunteer hours

Please pray for families during the summer holidays.

For many, the long break brings added pressures. Without free school meals, some parents struggle to keep food on the table, while the cost of entertaining children can leave families feeling isolated as others enjoy days out and holidays. Please pray for strength, provision and hope for those facing these challenges.



There is Still Time to Enter

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 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!



Keeping St Margaret's Warm:

Caring for Our Church Today and Tomorrow

You will have noticed that our heating situation at St Margaret's has become increasingly challenging. Behind the scenes, the PCC has been working hard to understand the problems, seek professional advice and explore the best way forward for our church building.

The reality is that our existing heating system has reached the end of its useful life. The gas boiler, which has served us for many years, is no longer operational following significant water ingress into the underground boiler room where it was housed.

Sadly, the issue is not simply one of replacing an old boiler. When the flooding occurred, concerns were also raised about the condition of the underground structure itself. A section of the brick wall has shown signs of movement, with visible bowing, creating concerns about the long-term safety and stability of the boiler room.

The PCC acted quickly and contacted a building company to assess the situation. They have inspected the structure and advised us on the work needed to make the boiler room safe. They have also provided a quotation for the necessary structural works and the safe decommissioning of the existing boiler installation.

Having discovered that we need to address both the failed heating system and the significant works required to make the boiler room safe, the PCC has taken the opportunity to look carefully at what will best serve St Margaret's in the years ahead. Rather than simply investing substantial resources in restoring our previous system, we have asked what solution will provide the best long-term future for our church building, our mission and our responsibility to care for God's creation.

Looking to the Future

The PCC has carefully considered the future of heating at St Margaret's. We recognise how important it is that our church remains a warm, welcoming and comfortable place for worship, prayer and community activities, but we also need to think carefully about the right solution for the future.

Four possible options have been explored.

- Do nothing - but this would leave us without a reliable heating system and would not provide the long-term solution that our church community needs.
- Replace the existing gas boiler - whilst this would restore our previous heating system, it would not have been a simple replacement of the boiler alone. The damage caused by the flooding means that significant works would still have been required to repair and make safe the underground boiler room before a new boiler could be installed. This would have represented a substantial additional cost, while also committing us to continuing our reliance on fossil fuels for many years to come.
- Consider other sources of heating, including technologies such as heat pumps and other low-carbon alternatives. These options have many benefits, but after careful investigation it became clear that the practical challenges of installing such systems within our historic church building mean that they are not currently the most suitable solution for St Margaret's.
- The installation of chandelier-style infrared heating units with integrated LED lighting. After careful consideration, the PCC believes that this provides the best overall solution, addressing both our heating and lighting needs in a way that is sympathetic to our historic building and supports our commitment to a more sustainable future.

As a church, we have a responsibility to care for God's creation and to play our part in reducing our carbon footprint. The Church of England has set a clear ambition to reach Net Zero Carbon by 2030 for its own operations, and we want St Margaret's to be part of that journey.

Chandelier-style infrared heating systems have been specially designed for churches and offer a number of important benefits:

- They move us away from fossil fuel heating;
- They provide efficient, targeted warmth when the church is in use, rather than needing to heat the whole building continuously;
- They avoid the need for intrusive radiators and pipework, helping to preserve the character of our historic church;
- They combine heating and lighting in an attractive and sympathetic way; and
- They should provide a more sustainable, reliable and lower-maintenance solution for many years to come.

This decision has not been made without careful consideration. The PCC has obtained four quotations - three from specialist infrared heating companies and one for a replacement gas boiler - and has considered the cost, environmental impact, maintenance requirements and suitability for our historic building.

Our Inspecting Architect, Jonathan Cerowski, has also been consulted and is supportive in principle of this approach, subject to the usual Faculty process.

Although the new heating system will provide the long-term solution for St Margaret's, there is still important work to be undertaken in relation to the existing boiler and boiler room. The old boiler will need to be safely decommissioned and removed, and the boiler room made secure. This will ensure that we deal responsibly with the issues caused by the flooding, including the risk of water contamination within a conservation area and the potential impact on the surrounding ground conditions.

We are committed to ensuring that this work is carried out carefully and appropriately, protecting both the church building and the wider environment.

Learning from Other Churches

Before reaching this point, we have also taken time to learn from churches that have already made this change. As part of the process, I and a PCC member visited churches where chandelier-style infrared heating systems have been installed and saw them operating within the life of a church building.

These visits were extremely helpful. They enabled us to experience the warmth provided, understand how the systems work in practice and speak directly with those who use them regularly. We were able to hear about both the advantages of the system and the practical considerations involved in introducing this type of heating.

This first-hand experience has helped give the PCC confidence that this is not simply a theoretical solution, but one that is already working well in other churches and could provide a sustainable and effective way forward for St Margaret's.

The Next Step: Finding the Resources to Make This Possible

The next step is finding the resources needed to make this vision a reality. This will involve exploring grants, fundraising opportunities and the practical support needed to bring this project to completion.

Replacing our heating system and carrying out the necessary works to safely decommission the old boiler and make the boiler room secure will require a significant financial commitment. This is not something that can be achieved through our normal annual income alone, and we will need to explore a range of ways of making this important project possible.

One important part of this will be exploring the grants and funding opportunities that may be available to us. Initial enquiries have begun, but this is an area where we need members of the PCC to come forward and champion this work - helping to identify potential grant opportunities, support applications and ensure that we make the most of every possibility available to us.

Alongside seeking external funding, our future fundraising events will support the provision of the heating and lighting solution that St Margaret's needs. These events will continue to be opportunities for our church family and wider community to come together, celebrate, have fun and support the future of our church at the same time.

As a church family, we have always risen to challenges together. We have cared for this building, not simply as bricks and mortar, but as a place where people encounter God, celebrate life's milestones, find comfort in difficult times and experience the welcome of Christ.

St Margaret's is not just a building we inherit from the past; it is a gift we hold in trust for the future.

We know this is an important undertaking, but we also know the generosity, creativity and commitment of the St Margaret's community. Together, through prayer, grant applications, practical support and fundraising, we can help ensure that our church remains a warm, welcoming and sustainable place for worship, prayer and community life for generations to come.

Please pray for wisdom for the PCC as we continue this work, for those helping us with the technical and practical challenges, and for the success of our efforts to secure the future of St Margaret's.

With your support, we can help St Margaret's move into the future with confidence and hope.

A New Way of Keeping St Margaret's Warm

Exploring chandelier-style heating



As part of our journey towards finding a sustainable and effective way of heating St Margaret's, members of the PCC have been visiting churches that have installed chandelier-style infrared heaters.

These innovative systems provide warmth directly to the people using the building, while preserving the character and beauty of our historic church interior.

How the Heaters Look in Other Churches



Installed in a historic church setting, suspended discreetly from the ceiling rafters
Showing how the heaters can blend with and complement existing architecture.



Providing warmth without the need for intrusive radiators or extensive pipework.

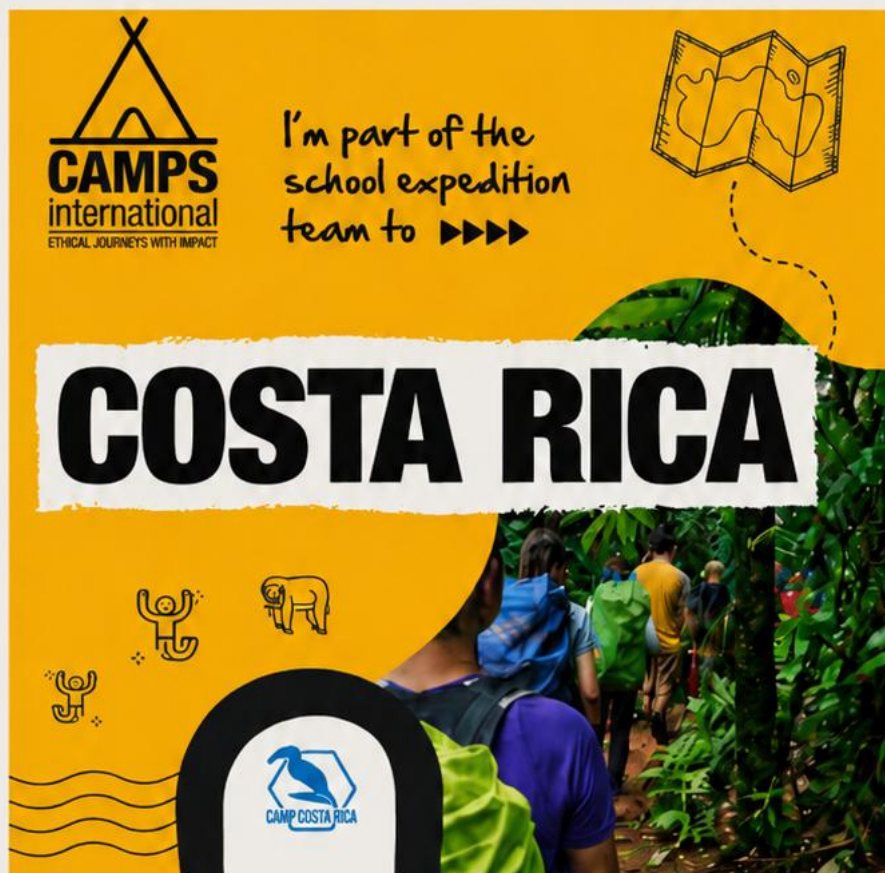


Designed to complement the building. Providing warmth where it is needed.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO ANY HOUSEHOLD / GARDEN JOBS

to help me fundraise for an amazing educational trip to **COSTA RICA**



ABOUT THE TRIP

- ✓ I will be in Costa Rica for 27 nights.
- ✓ During this time, I will be helping build and finish projects that make a real difference to the local community.
- ✓ I will also be helping local people practice their English, while they help me learn Spanish.
- ✓ I will be clearing rainforests, helping to protect the environment and support the community.



WHY I'M DOING THIS

This trip is about more than just travelling – it's about learning, growing, and making a positive impact in another country. I'll gain new skills, build confidence, and experience a new culture while helping those who need it most.



I NEED TO RAISE £6000

I know it's a big goal, but I'm determined to make it happen! I have a big sponsored walk planned for 2027 to help reach my target.



IF YOU HAVE ANY JOBS
PLEASE MESSAGE:

Finnley Woolsey
07534 847868



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!



EVERY LITTLE JOB HELPS ME GET ONE STEP
CLOSER TO MY GOAL - THANK YOU!

Coming Soon



Who's Who in Ifield Parish

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

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

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>

Please send any updates for the September issue of The Buzz to Kim Davis
kim@paradiseblue.co.uk by 26th August 2026



Welcome to St Margaret's Services

1st Sunday 11:00am Parish Communion

2nd Sunday 09:30am FIISH for Young Families
11:00am Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 09:30am Parish Communion

4th Sunday 09:30am Family Service
11:00am Parish Communion

5th 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