

# The Buzz



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

June 2024

Monthly information for the  
Parish of Ifield



## Thought for the Month



Living in Britain is about driving a German car, to an Irish pub, for a Belgian beer. Then on the way home picking up a Chinese or Indian Meal. To go home and sit on Swedish furniture and watch American TV shows on a Japanese TV. This array of pleasures which fill our lives can sometimes seem like the be-all and end-all of life itself. Yet we as Christians know there is more.

As I approach my ordination to the priesthood, I have been asking myself, how do we find that 'more' in an ever-busy world where the expectation to serve as

Christians in our community, can be sold out to other pleasures? The answer is that we need to love the church like Christ does. We need to love each other as Christ does. We need to step away from social media and the failures, mistakes, and sins which are daily posted for public exhibition and look at what we are doing. Through a scrutinizing lens, many scowl at the church with suspicion and sheer amazement that anyone would want to be part of such a seemingly dysfunctional family. The church can seem to be anything but beautiful. So why would anyone want to be a priest?

Then I asked myself another question. Does Jesus look at the church with the same scowl? The answer to this question came to me in reading the Song of Solomon 'Ah, you are beautiful, my love; ah, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves (So 1.15).' Interpreting the Song of Solomon as an allegorical portrayal of an exchange between Christ and his bride, the church, we see the words of Christ, commending the beauty of the church, expressing his great affection for her; of her fairness and beauty. Jesus sees his bride through the lens of love, not disdain; beauty, not disgust.

How can beautiful be the adjective Jesus uses to describe the church? After all, she's composed of sinners — forgiven sinners, yet still sinners. She's plagued by division, is besieged with scandal, and sometimes appears to have lost her first love. Even the apostle Paul reminds us that only at the end of the age will she be found "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing" (*Ephesians 5:27*). What does Jesus see in his bride that would cause him to exclaim, "You are beautiful, my love"? Again, why become a priest if beauty is not what we see in Christ?

God's beauty is most radiantly displayed through the biblical concept of glory. Moses experienced this glory when God passed by him, revealing only the afterglow of his splendour (*Exodus 33:12–23*). When God's glory engulfed the temple, the priests were unable to perform their service of worship (*2 Chronicles 5:14*). The prophet Isaiah was prostrate in the dirt when he witnessed God's glory radiating from his eternal throne (*Isaiah 6:1–5*). What we need to do is identify God's beauty as the differentiating feature of God himself: "God is God, and is distinguished from all other beings, and exalted above 'em, chiefly by his divine beauty, which is infinitely diverse from all other beauty" God's beauty isn't derived from external sources but emanates directly from the perfection and holiness of his being.

The supreme expression of God's beauty is his Son, Jesus Christ, who himself is the image and radiance of his Father (*2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3*). The incarnate Christ is how God most vividly expresses his beautiful love to us sinful creatures. The culmination of that love is selecting a bride for Christ that she too might reflect the same beauty. This bride, the church, is the great end of all the great things that have been done from the beginning of the world; it was that the Son of God might obtain his chosen spouse that the world was created . . . and that he came into the world . . . and when this end shall be fully obtained, the world will come to an end. (*Revelation 22:16–17*).

The church is a gift from God to his Son as a beautiful expression of divine love so that the mutual joys between this bride and bridegroom are the end of creation. Therefore, as the Son reflects his Father, the church, as his eternal bride, reflects the Son.

When Christ regards his bride and exclaims that she is beautiful, he beholds the reflection of his Father's everlasting beauty and infinite love, who chose and saves this bride and gives her as a gift to his Son. Since Christ's ascension to the right hand of God, there is now no more brilliant exemplification of God's perfect beauty in the world than his church. This is why one becomes a priest.

Jesus doesn't lament the church he has rescued or look for another to capture his attention. Christ welcomes the church as his beautiful treasure and joy. The church isn't just about organization, leadership, function, and vision. Jesus sees more. His gaze reveals the beauty of our Father, the sufficiency of his cross, and the fulfilment of his mission in the world. He sees sinners being rescued, redeemed, and renewed.

The bride is now waiting and watching for our bridegroom's appearance when he will bid us "Welcome" for all eternity to bask in the glory of his eternal presence (*2 Timothy 4:8*). Until then, Jesus bids us to join him in gazing upon his bride and exclaiming of her, "Behold, you are beautiful!" (*Song of Solomon 1:15*). It is this beauty found deep within the depths of one's heart that says come and serve me. It is this beauty which allows us to consider the mystery of faith. It is being able to say of the church, you are beautiful that allows us to love the church like Christ does and seek him in everything we do. It is this beauty which makes serving Christ in the sacred priesthood so very, very special.

Fr Dominic

## PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF SERVICE TIMES

# SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S DURING TRIAL PERIOD BEGINNING 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	9.30 am Sunday Celebration	11.00 am Parish Communion	2.00 pm Baptisms	3.00 pm Baptisms
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	9.30 am <u>FiiSH</u> Service	11.00 am Parish Communion		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>		11.00am Parish Communion		??? 3.30pm service
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	9.30am Family Service	11.00 am Parish Communion		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	9.30 am Service of the Word	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)		

Wednesdays  
Last Wednesday

9.30 am  
5.00 pm

Said Eucharist  
Family Church

Please send your feedback on the new pattern of services as soon as possible to [focusgroup@ifieldparish.org](mailto:focusgroup@ifieldparish.org)

## AFTERNOON TEA FOLLOWING DOMINIC'S FIRST MASS

If you would like to contribute towards this celebration, please speak to Jill Bell. Offers of help towards the cost of jam, cream, scones etc, would be much appreciated - as would anyone willing to provide home-made scones.



Of your charity, please pray for those to be ordained Priest this Petertide among them:

**Dominic Aiden Desouza-Campbell**

To be ordained priest by

**The Rt Reverend Ruth Bushyager**  
Bishop of Horsham

at  
**St Mary's Church, Horsham**

on  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

at  
**3.00 pm**

*Please also pray for Kaple and for Mthr Christine Spencer and the people of St Margaret's Ifield where Dominic will continue to serve his curacy.*



You are invited to

## **THE FIRST MASS**

of  
**Fr. Dominic Aiden Desouza-Campbell**

at  
**The Parish Church of  
St Margaret of Antioch, Ifield,  
Crawley**

on  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

at  
**3.00 pm**

*Please RSVP to [office@ifieldparish.org](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org) by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June  
Clergy wishing to robe for the service should dress in Alb and Green Stole (Ferial) and be ready to process by 2.45 pm.*

## **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](mailto:jo@bridgeham.com) for details**

**New members are always welcome.**

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BARBECUE**



**Thursday Evening, 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**For details please contact Rob Pudney  
[rob@ifieldparish.org](mailto:rob@ifieldparish.org)**

# **OPEN DOOR**

**St. Margaret's Church  
Ifield**

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month  
10.15am - 12 noon**

**All welcome to come and  
chat  
drink coffee  
make friends**

**NEXT OPEN DOOR – WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

## **SMILE LADIES' SOCIAL EVENTS**

Our **SMILE** group was formed to socialise, provide fellowship and have fun, but it's been ages since we last met up.

If you're interested in getting involved (previous activities have included meals out, drinks, the theatre, film night, bingo, BBQ, afternoon tea, games evenings, etc.) or if you have ideas for an event, please do drop an email

to:- [smile@ifieldparish.org](mailto:smile@ifieldparish.org) All welcome ❤️

## **EASTER TEAM FOODBANK**

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



On Thursday (16th May) Her Majesty the Queen visited Rye and we were honoured to be among the organisations invited to St Mary's Church to meet with her and talk about our work. CEO Martin Auton-Lloyd was in attendance together with two of our local committee members and a parent we have been supporting in Rye, who was able to talk to Her Majesty about how we have helped her. It was a very special occasion for all concerned.

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

The poster for the Cuckmere Path Sponsored Walk features a yellow background with green wavy borders at the top and bottom. In the top left corner is a pink flower. In the top right corner is a circular logo containing a white seashell on a yellow background, with blue raindrops falling from it. The Family Support Work logo is in the upper middle. A yellow banner with the text 'NEW FOR 2024!' is on the left. The title 'CUCKMERE PATH SPONSORED WALK' is in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, text describes the walk route and duration. A calendar icon is next to the date and time. At the bottom, contact information for the fundraising team is provided. A pink flower is in the bottom right corner.

  
THE SUSSEX CHARITY FOR CHILDREN  
SINCE 1890

**NEW FOR 2024!**

# **CUCKMERE PATH SPONSORED WALK**

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THE SOUTH DOWNS, LOW WEALD, AND CUCKMERE VALLEY ON THIS CIRCULAR WALK. JOIN US FOR THE ENTIRE 11 MILES OR AS MUCH OR LITTLE AS YOU LIKE.

 **THURSDAY 30TH MAY AT 8.30AM, ALFRISTON**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE FUNDRAISING TEAM ON 01273 041401 OR [FUNDRAISING@FAMILYSUPPORTWORK.ORG.UK](mailto:FUNDRAISING@FAMILYSUPPORTWORK.ORG.UK)

A team from St. Margaret's plans to take part in this walk. If you would like to support us, please look out for the sponsor form on the table by the north door of the church.

## 200 CLUB

*The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The results are set out below:*

1st    Anonymous  
2<sup>nd</sup>    Ann Utting  
3rd    Chris and Jill Bell

The total prize money distributed this month was £100.

*The next draw will be on 9<sup>th</sup> June*

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



## 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

## OUR YOUTH GROUPS

**Junior Youth Club** - School Years 1-4  
**Above Youth Club** - School Years 5-8

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>
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	<a href="mailto:pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org">pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Safeguarding	Heather Woolsey	07584 010576	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@ifieldparish.org">safeguarding@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>

## 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](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org)

**Please send any updates for the June 2024 issue to Jill Bell**  
[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) **by 24<sup>th</sup> June**



