

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



October 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As I write these words in early September, I notice the shops already brimming with Christmas cakes and mince pies, yet alongside these festive treats, shelves are filling up with Halloween paraphernalia. When I was growing up, Halloween received little attention—trick-or-treating was something we thought only Americans did. Our focus lay on Guy Fawkes Night, with its dazzling fireworks, lively gatherings and a big bonfire.

Today, Halloween has been woven into our cultural fabric, often conjuring images of spooks, ghouls, witches, and things that go bump in the night. Yet at its core, Halloween is rooted in a Christian tradition: All Hallows' Eve, the original name for what we now call Halloween.

The word 'hallowed' comes from Old English, meaning holy or consecrated. Within the Christian calendar, the day was marked by preparation and fasting ahead of the celebration of All Saints' Day. Rather than being a night of mischief and monsters, it was a time to ready our hearts and minds for remembering the saints and all Christians who had departed this life and joined the Communion of Saints. This festival was intentionally placed to offer hope and faith in the face of superstitions tied to the old Celtic festival of Samhain—the end of summer and beginning of winter. Over time, All Souls' Day followed All Saints', giving us an opportunity to recall and give thanks for the lives of loved ones who have passed away. For Christians, it is a time to rejoice, knowing those who have died in faith are now at peace with God.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

In recent liturgical thought, this season now marks the beginning of the Kingdom season—a time to reflect on what it means to be citizens of heaven. The notion that strikes me most, however, is the call to fasting and prayer—a spiritual practice that, in our time, has often been diluted or misconstrued as simply abstaining from food, thanks in part to the influence of popular diet fads. But true fasting is so much more than going without; it is about taking something on—making space in our lives for God to speak and shape us. It is not about public displays of spiritual discipline, for as Jesus taught, fasting is a quiet, private act.

Biblically, fasting is inseparable from action. It is a time to draw nearer to God while also looking outward in love and service to others. In Scripture, fasting always has a higher purpose, extending beyond the self for the good of our neighbours. The mission of the Church is to serve those around us, reaching out with God's love to the world. Through God's eyes, fasting is not mere abstinence, but a calling to mission and compassionate action.

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, ..." Isaiah 58:6-7

As the crisp days of October usher in autumn and the nights grow longer, may we remember to pray, to give thanks for the loved ones we see no longer, and to honour our calling to serve our communities in love and hope.

With love and prayers,

Christine

Rector



**Produce stall
available – any
home-grown
donations
greatly
appreciated**

Harvest Lunch Invitation
Saturday 4th October 2025 @ 12:30

**Come and celebrate the harvest with a Ploughman's Lunch
and fruit crumble**

Location: Ifield Barn Theatre

Tickets: £8 for adults, £4 for children available from church

**Join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship. All are
welcome!**

(please advise any dietary requirements)



WELCOME TO ST. MARGARET'S SERVICES

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

www.ifieldparish.org

www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield



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

Wednesdays

9.30 am

Said Eucharist

SERVICE OF PEACE AND CONTEMPLATION

Tuesday 28th October at 7.00 pm

PARISH HOUSE GROUP

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



EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK

Please leave items in the basket in church. Thank you for your continued support.

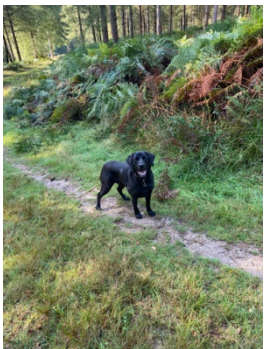


SMILE (St. Margaret's Ifield Ladies Events)

This group is all about friendship, fun, and supporting each other. It's a chance to relax, unwind, and enjoy some great company.

- Wednesday 8th October 2025 – 6.30 pm – Bengal Spices Curry night in Three Bridges
- Tuesday 2nd December 2025 – 7pm Movie night (?Downton Abbey) and mince pies at Mary Pedlow's

For further details, please contact Clare Wilson email SMILE@lfieldparish.org or 0776 1122 172



The Walk that Nearly Never Was

In late July, it seemed to a good idea to join in the Family Support Work Sponsored Walk. Many willing sponsors signed up on the list in church, and we started making plans.

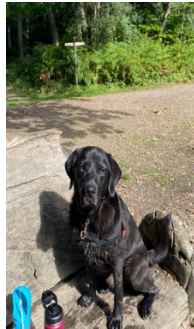
This year's walk was over a different route than before, much of it on narrow roads and tracks around Midhurst. Given the long drive to get there, and the inclement weather, we decided to revert to the old Amberley-Arundel walk (easily accessible by rail) on a day of our choosing.

However, as the day approached Jane no longer felt up to committing to the 9.0 miles due to a medical issue, so Jill wracked her brains to think of anyone she knew who would be able to walk that far and keep her company. The answer was Christine and her labrador, Quinn. A few days later, Jill came down with an infection which laid her so low that she could barely walk a hundred yards.

The appointed day arrived, and the route changed once more. Rather than driving to Amberley, Christine and Quinn walked the distance through a local forest - and took photographs to prove it.

Thank you, Christine and Quinn for fulfilling our obligations for us, and thanks to all in the congregation of St. Margaret's who so generously sponsored "the walk".

Jill and Jane



PS While I am happy to liaise with FSW over next year's walk, it's clearly time Jane and I hung up our walking boots. I would love to hear from anyone willing to take up the challenge in support of this very worthwhile cause. Jill



As the children head back to school we start to think about Autumn and Harvest. September marks the beginning of a hectic three months for us at FSW, with an increase in referrals expected as children return to school. This is coupled with the many changes children face at this time of year – moving from primary to secondary, meeting new classmates, or adjusting to a new teacher in primary school.

For some of the children we work with, change can be unsettling, and the need to support both child and parent/carer increases. This is a well-worn path for our Practitioners, and it is a testament to them that they rise to meet the challenge head on.

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 14th September. The results are set out below:

1st Sarah Ward
2nd Ann Utting
3rd Susan King

The next draw will be on 12th October. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!

OUR YOUTH GROUP

Meets fortnightly on Friday evenings during term-time from 6.30 – 8.00 pm

For more information, please contact the Rector

Would you like to receive this publication by email?

If so, please send your email address to reader@ifieldparish.org with The Buzz in the subject line.

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Fr Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	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	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	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	dbsleadrecruiter@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

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Please send any updates for the November issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org **by 20th October**