



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Buzz

March 2024

Monthly information for the
Parish of Ifield



Thought for the Month



Although as I write this we are still only in Lent, Easter is approaching; the commercial bandwagon has been trundling forward since just after Christmas with Easter eggs in the shops, but that is what commercialism does. It persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is to spend vast amounts of money joining an ever-increasing secular trend, which very few can actually afford.

As Christians, however, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally that glorious Easter Day. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it's almost beyond our comprehension that Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary so that we can come forgiven into the presence of God. As we come before the cross on Good Friday with hindsight, we know the resurrection is only three days away. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future; at the crucifixion their world fell apart. For them Jesus was dead and all hope for the future was gone.

Just imagine Mary's delight when she realized that the gardener she was talking to was actually the risen Lord Jesus. And the joy of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them over the next 40 days. They suddenly had a new perspective on life; from deep despair they now had hope. The promises Jesus had given them during his earthly ministry were now unfolding and their excitement was plain to see, although until Pentecost the fruits of that excitement would be tempered with their human limitations.

Easter is a special time to reflect on the love of God for His people but what is even more wonderful is that his love is personalized, his love is for you and that is something to really get excited about. After Jesus was crucified his disciples felt lost, without a purpose in life and so many people today feel like that as well. Only through the resurrection power of Jesus did the disciples find hope for the future and that same resurrection power is available to us all today. There are so many people who are living in fear and oppression without experiencing the love of another human being. Jesus brings hope into lives full of despair, he renews damaged relationships, and he heals broken hearts and he usually does it through the love and obedience of people like you and me, who are his followers.

Please remember this Easter those who are in desperate need of the love of Jesus. Please pray that they will find his love and compassion in whatever situation they are in and that as we pray, God will reveal to us how we can help those who are suffering and in need.

May God bless you all and every good wish for a joyful and blessed Easter,

Yours in Christ

Christine

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

DURING TRIAL PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 2023 TO MARCH 2024

1st Sunday	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am Sunday Celebration	(2.00 pm Baptisms)	(3.00 pm Baptisms)
2nd Sunday	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am FIISH Service		
3rd Sunday	9.30 am Parish Communion	11.00 am All Age Eucharist		3.30 pm Choral Evensong (in new year)
4th Sunday		11.00 am Parish Communion		
5th Sunday	9.30 am (BCP) Holy Communion	11.00 am Service of the Word		3.30 pm Vision Service (in new year)

Wednesdays
Last Wednesday

9.30 am
5.00 pm

Said Eucharist
Family Church

Please send your feedback on the new pattern of services to
focusgroup@ifieldparish.org

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Saturday 16 th March	11.00 am	Stations of the Cross
Sunday 24 th March	11.0 am	Palm Sunday Service
Monday 25 th March	7.00 pm	Compline
Tuesday 26 th March	7.00 pm	Compline
Wednesday 27 th March	7.00 pm	Compline
Thursday 28 th March	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service and Watch
Friday 29 th March	2.00 pm	Good Friday Service

EASTER DAY SERVICES

Sunday 31 st March	9.20 am	Easter Vigil
	10.00 am	Parish Communion with the Blessing of the Easter Garden followed by refreshments

LENT COURSE

Biblical Reflections for Lent - a series of reflections and meditations based on readings from the Psalms, Epistles and Gospels, in the Youth Room at the back of the church on Wednesdays from 10.15 to 11.45 am, on 21st & 28th February, and 13th & 20th March.

For more information, please contact Jill Bell on 01293 521699 or by email at reader@ifieldparish.org

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

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Have you been worshipping regularly at St Margaret's Church for six months or more? Are you baptised and aged over 15? If so, you are invited to complete a Parish Electoral Roll form. Being on the Roll does not entail you taking on any additional commitments, however it does help the church show its strength. Representation on the governing bodies of the church depends on the number on our electoral roll, and is mandatory if you wish to stand for election to the PCC. Joining the roll gives you the right to attend and vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church meeting) which will take place in church on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7pm.

Electoral roll forms are available via our church website <https://www.ifieldparish.org/electoralroll> or in church, and the deadline for returned forms prior to the APCM is **13th March 2024**, although you can apply at any time throughout the year. Please scan and return them by email to Clare Wilson (PCC Secretary and Parish Electoral Roll Officer) pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org, put them in the box in church, or by post / hand to Ifield Parish Office. NOTE: If you have already joined the Roll at St Margaret's in the last five years, then you don't need to reapply. If you are not sure if you are on the electoral roll, Clare is happy to advise.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM

All are welcome to attend our APCM as we review the life of our church over the past year, our mission and our plans for the future. Revd. Christine Spencer is Chair of the meeting. During the evening, we will elect the Parish Wardens and 12 PCC representatives (four new).

This is an open, public meeting, but if you wish to vote at the meeting you will need to be on our Church Electoral Roll.

Please contact Clare Wilson, PCC Secretary and Parish Electoral Roll Officer for additional information. Email pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

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

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**

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 11th February. The results are set out below:

1st Michael Briggs
2nd Jeselle Lawler
3rd Kevin Lawler

The next draw will be on 10th March

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



Already Easter is approaching, and the first part of the year has gone by so quickly. With all our practitioners at capacity, and the longest waiting list we have ever seen, it is a sad reflection of our times and the struggles that so many families are facing. It also highlights just how crucial it is that we are maintaining our service in all areas, as there seems to be nowhere else for families to turn.

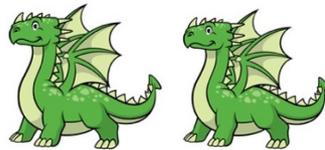
The biggest issues by far that we are dealing with are financial problems, support for children with SEN and mental health difficulties, all of which require intensive long-term help which is keeping our practitioners extremely busy. We are on course by the end of March to have supported over 650 families in the year. We so value all the support we receive from you in so many ways. One of our biggest needs at the moment is for more volunteers in all areas to help practitioners run group sessions as well as support for individual families.

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

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 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	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		

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 April 2024 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 25th March