

The Buzz

September 2021



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



Through Lockdown and on...

'And remember', Jesus tells us, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 29:20). What words could be better, more needed and more relevant for today than those? During this extended time of lockdown many people have been feeling more isolated and cut off from their own communities, including church communities. People have felt perhaps as if they were alone, as if Jesus was not with them, as if they have been forgotten. Although many churches are now open much is being written about how we should do this to continue to keep people safe, and there are many questions on whether we can ever 'return to normal'. I think we can most probably never 'return to the old normal' because so much has changed, and we have to adjust to new restrictions and new demands in order to keep ourselves and others safe.

Last year I read that the Bishop of Norwich had commented that: 'During lockdown I sense that Church of England communities have asked less 'Will you come to this?' 'Will you buy that?', and more 'How can we help?' 'What do you need?' 'Can we pray for you?' And goes on to add that 'Far from being absent we have been more present serving our neighbours'.

We have needed and continue to need to make a much more conscious effort to keep in touch with each other. We have encouraged and supported one another through this last eighteen months. And perhaps therefore the balance of being part of the church community has changed – and I hope it has and that it will remain like this. Finances and keeping the church building open is vitally important, don't get me wrong, but being a caring church family is, I think, as much so.

Jesus promises to be with us always. That's not necessarily a promise that we will always be doing what we want. Sometimes we need to make a move to something new and different. This is the time now; this is the Church's time. This is your time and my time, to look towards something new and different, collecting and taking with us the best of the past traditions, and adding innovations.

A Jewish friend of mine once told me that in his tradition there is a collection of ethical teachings, Pirkei Avot (Sayings of the Fathers) and that there is one in which the rabbi says: 'It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to desist from it'. (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

I had those words in mind as the ending to this, almost before I began it!

I hear those words almost as an invitation to honesty, integrity, truthfulness, authenticity, and creativity. They hold a version of our work before us. I trust those words will lead us, and worship in its 'new' form, to a life worthy of Jesus.

With every blessing, Revd Christine

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

1 st Sunday	8.00 am 11.00 am	Said Eucharist Non-Eucharistic Service
2 nd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	FIISH for young families Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	All-Age Worship Sung Eucharist
4 th & 5 th Sundays	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist

Current guidelines are that masks must be worn in church.

Harvest Songs of Praise

Saturday 18th September at 7.00 pm



St. Margaret's Vision Day

Saturday
2nd October
9.30am – 1.30pm
St. Margaret's
Church

SAVE THE DATE!

YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

Everyone Invited!

Are you interested in how the Parish
moves forward?

We want to hear from you!

LUNCH PROVIDED



easyfundraising
feel good shopping

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Margaret's Church - Ifield with easyfundraising?

Over 4,000 shops and sites already donate – including Tesco, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

Go to the APP store or <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretsifield/> and join for free.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Margaret's Church - Ifield at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Margaret's Church - Ifield will be grateful for your donations.

NEWS FROM FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Many thanks to all who supported our team taking part in the Amberley-Arundel sponsored walk on 12th August. It was a lovely day, and together we raised £263 for this valuable work.

NEWS FROM THE EASTER TEAM

Items currently most needed are

Tinned Meatballs/stew etc
Pasta sauce
Tinned fruit

Tinned fish
Custard/rice pudding
Biscuits

Larger size nappies

Please leave your donations in the basket in church or email sue@ifieldparish.org to arrange collection/delivery.

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Jamie Gater	852763	curate@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Rob Pudney	437038	rob@ifieldparish.org
	Chris Bell	521699	chris@ifieldparish.org
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
Safeguarding	Andy Cottee	202167	safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	lmhull@virginmedia.com

OUR RECTOR'S REST DAY

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day

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 October 2021 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 25th September