

**April 2026**

Monthly information for the Parish  
of Ifield

Thought for the Month

## April: The Easter Garden



I have always found it deeply moving that the story of Easter morning begins in a garden. Early that morning, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb where she had seen the body of Jesus laid on Good Friday. She is still carrying the shock and grief of those events, and when she discovers that the tomb is empty, her first thought is that someone has taken His body away.

In her distress, Mary runs to find Peter and another disciple and tells them what she has seen. They hurry to the tomb, see that it is empty, and then return home. Mary, however, remains. She stands alone beside the tomb, weeping, unable to leave the place where she last knew Jesus.

It is there, in her grief and confusion, that everything changes. As Mary looks into the tomb again, she sees two angels who ask her why she is crying. Then she turns around and sees Jesus standing there, though she does not recognise Him at first and assumes He is the gardener. But when Jesus speaks her name, her sorrow is transformed into joy. In that deeply personal moment, Mary realises the wonderful truth: Jesus is alive. This moment of resurrection hope takes place in the quiet setting of a garden.

As I reflect on this, I am struck by how often gardens appear in the story of our faith. The Bible begins in the Garden of Eden - a place of beauty, harmony, and close relationship with God. That harmony is broken when Adam and Eve choose to go their own way rather than trust God, and the effects of that choice ripple through the whole of human history.

The journey towards healing begins in another garden, the Garden of Gethsemane. Here, Jesus faces His own moment of decision. He brings His fear and anguish before God, yet chooses obedience and trust, even though it leads Him to suffering and the cross. Where Adam and Eve turned away, Jesus turns towards God.

The victory of that obedience is finally revealed in the Easter garden. In the resurrection, we see that love is stronger than death and that darkness does not have the final word. What was broken in the first garden is restored in this one.

I also find the image of a garden helpful as I think about my own spiritual life. Gardens do not grow by accident; they need care, patience, and attention. Weeds must be removed, and space made for new life to grow. In much the same way, I am reminded that I need to tend the garden of my own heart, making time for prayer, reflection, and listening to God. I take comfort in the promise of Scripture: "*You shall be like a watered garden*" (Isaiah 58:11).

The Easter Garden was a place of encounter, where Mary heard Jesus call her by name and her life was changed forever. My prayer this Easter is that our hearts, too, may become places of encounter - places where we hear God call us by name and where we are renewed by the joy of the resurrection and the continuing presence of Christ with us.

Happy Easter!

Every blessing,

Revd Christine  
Rector

## Parish House Group



Mondays 10.30 am - 12 noon. From January - mid-April, this group will be meeting at 21 Ellis Walk, RH11 0GF

Please contact Mary Pedlow on 01293 305107 for details.  
New members are always welcome.



## Lent Group: Journeying with *The Shack*

To conclude the Lent Group journey, the whole film of *The Shack* will be shown on **Low Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> April)**, to which **everyone in the parish is warmly invited**, whether or not they have taken part in the Lent group.

This shared viewing offers a gentle opportunity to reflect together on the themes of Easter-wounds that remain, faith that hesitates, and love that brings new life.

All are welcome to come and journey together from sorrow toward healing, and from brokenness toward hope.



- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March** - 7pm Compline with reflection.
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - 7pm Service of Wholeness and Healing with the opportunity for laying on of hands and anointing and a reflection.
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** - 7pm Tenebrae – a service of shadows with increasing darkness and meditation as we move towards Christ's death on the cross.
- Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - 7pm Eucharist with foot washing and watch.
- Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - 1:30pm Good Friday Service.
- Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April** - 7pm From the Cross to the Tomb – a quiet service of Taizé, prayers and reflections telling the story of Jesus from Good Friday to His burial, held in stillness and hope.
- Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April** - 9:20am Easter vigil with lighting of the new fire, and the Paschal Candle.  
10:00am Parish Communion with the Easter Garden.



## **EASTER FLOWERS**

As we look forward to the joy and celebration of Easter, our church will once again be filled with beautiful lily arrangements, bringing a sense of hope, renewal, and new life to our worship.

These lilies have been lovingly sponsored by the families and friends of those we love and miss yet continue to hold dear in our hearts. They will serve as a poignant tribute to their lives and a reminder of the enduring love that remains with us.

In this special season, the lilies will reflect the message of Easter - the promise of resurrection, light over darkness, and life beyond death. We give thanks for the lives remembered in this way, and for the kindness and generosity of those who have contributed towards the cost of these arrangements.

We look forward to sharing in this time of reflection and celebration together, surrounded by these meaningful and beautiful symbols of Easter.



## SMILE (St. Margaret's Ifield Ladies Events)

A social group offering fellowship, mutual support and fun! It's a chance to relax, unwind, and enjoy some great company. Events we currently have planned are:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April afternoon - Magic Faraway Tree at Cineworld Crawley  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Lion, Witch and Wardrobe @ Ifield Barn Theatre.

All are very welcome. If you'd like to join us, contact Clare Wilson email [SMILE@ifieldparish.org](mailto:SMILE@ifieldparish.org) or 0776 1122 172

## 200 Club

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The results are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Ann Utting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jezelle Lawler  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kim Davis

The next draw will be on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are always most welcome!



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026, we held a joint fundraising event between the Church and St Margaret's School. The evening was a great success, and we hope to repeat a similar event in the future.

Together, through ticket and raffle sales, we raised a total of £181.60, which has been shared equally between the Church and the School.

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the event, to all who attended, and a special thank you to Kevin Lawler for providing such an entertaining set of quiz questions.

## Our Youth Group

Our 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

# Save the Date

Dates for future Church fund raising and social events.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - May Fayre

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August - Extra Sing Along Children's Movie

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Harvest Lunch at the Barn

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Sing Along Movie

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Community Quiz Night, in Church

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Christmas Fayre in Church

## Easter Team Food Bank

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

## 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 helps our 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 Parochial Church Council (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 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 12:30 pm.

## APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year's APCM will be held after the 11am Parish Communion at 12:30 on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Reports for this must be received by 13<sup>th</sup> March to allow time for them to be added to the booklet and be printed.



Despite recent staffing changes due to funding challenges, we are doing the very best we can to support families across Sussex. With funding under pressure, attending our upcoming spring and summer fundraising events is more important than ever. Every ticket, donation, and show of support helps us continue providing essential services to local families who need it most. We would be thrilled to see as many supporters and friends as possible at these events, so together

we can make a real difference.

A family of three - mum, dad, and their seven-year-old daughter - are living in a small one-bedroom flat. Mum has Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy and other long-term health conditions, leaving her in chronic pain and with mobility challenges. Their worn-out mattress had deteriorated so badly that she was forced to sleep on the sofa.

Dad, who lives with Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD, is her primary carer and does all he can to support his family despite the strain of their cramped living conditions. Their daughter has also been affected. With little space of her own and disrupted sleep, she has sometimes fallen asleep at school and has recently been recognised as a young carer, carrying responsibilities beyond her years. Our practitioner was able to step in and provide a new mattress, offering immediate comfort and relief for Mum at a particularly difficult time.

In addition, our practitioner is actively advocating for the family to be rehoused in more suitable accommodation and is working closely with the relevant agencies to pursue a move to a two-bedroom property. In the meantime, Family Support Work continues to support the family with their immediate needs, giving them the chance to rest and recover.

We would be so grateful for donations of Easter Eggs to help bring a little extra joy to the children and families we support. Easter can be a challenging time for some, especially when children are home from school.

If you're able to help, please send Easter Eggs to us by the end of March. You can email [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk) or call 01273 832963 to arrange a drop-off or collection.

### **Upcoming events!**

Eastbourne Gala Dinner on 11 April at 7pm, and Open Garden at The Old Rectory on 23 April from 10:30 am–4:30 pm. Visit: [www.familysupportwork.org/eventss/](http://www.familysupportwork.org/eventss/)

**Looking further ahead**, join us at the Arlington Bluebell Walk on 17 April from 10am-5pm, and enjoy a series of Open Gardens throughout spring and summer – please see the poster online for full details.

### **February's work in numbers**

- 195 visits to families
- 503 phone calls/remote support to 253 parents and 188 children
- 54 supported meetings with other agencies
- 36 group sessions, 440 adults and 377 children supported
- 79 food deliveries made
- 77 volunteers volunteered
- 548.75 total number of volunteer hours

### **Prayer:**

Please pray for FSW fundraising events to be well attended and for our practitioners and the families they support.



## 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](http://www.ifieldparish.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield)



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

**Wednesdays 9.30 am Said Eucharist**

## Who's Who in Ifield Parish

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	01293 561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@ifieldparish.org</a>
Curate	Fr Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	<a href="mailto:curate@ifieldparish.org">curate@ifieldparish.org</a>
Reader	Jill Bell	01293 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	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	01293 529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Finance Officer	Jack Woolsey	07709 046017	<a href="mailto:jackwoolsey@hotmail.com">jackwoolsey@hotmail.com</a>
Safeguarding	Heather Woolsey	07584 010576	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@ifieldparish.org">safeguarding@ifieldparish.org</a>
DBS Lead Recruiter	Andy Ironside	077581 168411	<a href="mailto:dbsledrecruiter@ifieldparish.org">dbsledrecruiter@ifieldparish.org</a>

## 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](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>

Please send any updates for the April issue to Kim Davis  
[kim@paradiseblue.co.uk](mailto:kim@paradiseblue.co.uk) by 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

