

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



December 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As December unfolds, our focus turns to the flurry of celebrations and the mounting anticipation that fill the calendar—cards to write, gifts to select, and menus for the Christmas feast to plan. The world is alive with activity, with expectation growing with every passing day. Christmas, that cherished celebration, weaves together a tapestry of memories—each year adding a new layer to our traditions, as beloved decorations emerge from their boxes and a few new treasures find their place, casting fresh light and joy upon the familiar.

This December, however, joy feels more tangible, no longer shadowed by sorrow as it has been in recent years. As we sing of Bethlehem, lying in darkness beneath silent stars, our hearts are deeply moved by the news that, at last, peace, albeit a fragile peace has taken hold in Gaza and Palestine. The ancient longing for ransom and release, so beautifully voiced in J. M. Neale's timeless "O come, O come Emmanuel," now resounds as a song of hope fulfilled and wounds beginning to heal. The safety and warmth of our festivities now stand not in contrast, but in harmony, with the renewed hope and relief felt in both Gaza and Israel.

As I write these words in early November, I am hopeful that, as you read them, peace will still be holding—what once seemed impossible has come to pass, and long-unanswered prayers are finding their response. The prophet Isaiah, whose words guide us through Advent, proclaims, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation." This is more than optimism; it is the assurance of God drawing us outward in hope. How precious, then, is the reality of peace in our time, that the arrival of its messenger is truly beautiful, and that we are witnesses to the dawn of renewed reconciliation and joy.

Our Advent readings echo with hope in the seemingly impossible—the assurance that a light shines in the darkness, one that darkness cannot overcome. We return to these words, year after year, as the nights stretch long and candles flicker with promise.

Each Advent, we discover new depths of meaning, new reasons to cling to these promises. Their familiarity comforts us, yet also invites us to consider: Are our eyes fixed on the humble manger, where the infant Jesus will soon rest? Is our heart set on his promised return? Do we remember where our hope is rooted, and whom we are waiting for?

He has come once, and will come again: first, as a child among us, reaching up in trust that loving hands would reach down to him—his love and confidence in our capacity to love transforming and healing all humanity. He will come again to bring all waiting to its fulfilment, to usher in perfect peace and an end to suffering and death. This is the promise of Advent.

But what of the time between that first Christmas and the one still to come—what of the present, with its mingling of joy and sorrow? Now we are called to watch and wait, to open our hearts to the Spirit of Christ, transforming each moment with a love that never tires, that never rests until healing is complete. With that love, we are taught to turn our thoughts, hopes, and actions toward goodness, attending to the world around us and bearing the glad tidings it so desperately needs—for even now, wonder and joy remain, and the light shines undiminished in the darkness.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all an expectant Advent and when it comes a joyful, blessed and peace filled Christmas.

With love and prayers,

Christine

Rector



St Margaret's Church, Ifield
Christmas Services
2025

Carol Service
Sunday 21st December 4.00pm

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th December
9.30 am Holy Communion
4.00 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Thursday 25th December
Parish Communion for Christmas Day

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Pilot launch of the Bishop's Certificate: January 2026

The Diocese is delighted to announce the pilot launch of the Bishop's Certificate, a new 20-week course, beginning in January 2026 across multiple locations.

The course is open to anyone in the diocese with a desire to grow in faith and service. No prior theological training is required — just a willingness to learn and participate. Full details and application forms are available on the [diocesan website](#)



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

A JULIAN MEDITATION SERVICE

Tuesday 16th December at 5.00 pm

This is a new monthly service offering space to pray. Julian of Norwich was a C14th mystic writer who encouraged people to find joy and peace in contemplative prayer.

SERVICE OF PEACE AND CONTEMPLATION

Tuesday 30th December 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

Advent Fayre
Saturday 29th November 11am-3pm
@St. Margarets Church, Ifield RH11 0NN

✧ A Festive Treat for Everyone! ✧
(Free Entry)

Come and explore a magical mix of homemade, homegrown and handcrafted goodies, including:

Jams & Pickles, Honey, Christmas Plants, Fudge & Sweets,
Christmas Decorations
...and plenty more!

🎁 Don't miss a visit to Father Christmas in his grotto!
☕ Warm up with tasty refreshments while your visit.



FAMILY SUPPORT WORK AT CHRISTMAS

Sunday 7th December
9.30 and 11.00 am

Please bring new,
unwrapped toys and
gifts as listed on the
FSW Christmas Wishlist



One of our recent successes was supporting a mum who was living in a damp, mouldy and dark basement flat with her toddler and young baby. There was a small sleeping area with no windows for ventilation which the family had to share. This often resulted in the parent having to sleep on the sofa. There was no heating and no space for a washing machine. The flat above was occupied by an anti-social neighbour who made a great deal of noise during the nights, keeping the family awake and causing distress and anxiety. The partner had to live separately due to the cramped conditions in the flat. We supported the family as they went through the system and now, they are living in a house in a part of their area that they love, with space for the children that is free from the concerns of antisocial behaviour. All that we do FSW is in partnership, firstly there is the link between the family and the practitioner but equally as important is the link between FSW and you. We can only do our work because of the generosity of people across Sussex, so thank you for your ever generous support. Together we can support our families as they make lasting changes to their lives.

FSW CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

For Young People

Board games
Gift vouchers
Science kits
Teen clothing with gift receipts
Arts and craft sets
Roleplay kits
Sensory toys
Lego
Toy cars
Colouring books

For Parents

Toiletry gift sets
Socks etc
Jewellery



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.

- 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

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 16th November. The results are set out below:

1st Bridgeham Pilates
2nd Mike Schultz
3rd Jeselle Lawler

The next draw will be on 14th December. 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

EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK

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

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

Follow us:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield>

Please send any updates for the January issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org **by 29th December**