



# The Buzz

December 2023

Monthly information for the Parish  
of Ifield



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## Thought for the Month



Christmas this year will be quite different as I factor into my gift buying and wrapping, cards and postage, the question of 'is this recyclable?'. I understand that labels on envelopes (guilty as charged in the past) renders the envelopes non-recyclable. Anything foil or plastic will need to be deeply considered as I try to lead by example. Also, the contents of a gift – will it damage the ocean or planet in any way? A good way to question ourselves is to ask, before we buy it, 'how will this be disposed of?'. The same thoughts are applied to the food and its packaging that I will buy. I know I will likely fail, but at least I will do my best and try hard.

So, it will no doubt be a different Christmas – but am I being a killjoy? Will it be less enjoyable? Will it be lacking in fun? Will it mean no laughter or celebration?

No of course not! We will still sing carols. We will still celebrate.

We will still celebrate – the birth of a child whose arrival was absolutely eco-friendly because Jesus' arrival had no gift wrapping, no plastic, no foil, no sticky labels. A child born without any false packaging or even extra packaging to make it look bigger, better or grander than it was. I do understand that many of our planet pollutants hadn't been invented 2000 years ago but even so the event was very simple:

A child. In a stable. An unmarried mother.

Recognised for who He was by both lowly shepherds and majestic magi. Feared by King Herod - and not through any fancy or glitzy planet damaging 'stuff'. It makes sense then, that we also remember and celebrate without adding to the message. God was born among us; to be one of us; to help us understand His message of love to each of us; that He values us and ultimately promises eternal life to us. The God who created this planet for us to enjoy, who gave us His son, used all the fancy packaging that was needed..... the world and a baby.

Let us all keep the packaging simple this year, and maintain the message as central whilst we celebrate and sing the simple fact:

Unto us a boy is born. Love came down at Christmas.  
Hark the herald Angels sing. Away in a Manger.  
Silent night, Holy night. O, Come all ye faithful...

Please see the posters for the many services we have at St Margaret's during December to celebrate through Advent and Christmas, at which we hope you always receive a very warm welcome as we come together.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Every blessing,

*Christine*

## **SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S**

Following an open meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November, at which two alternative patterns of worship were discussed, a decision was made to trial the preferred option for a six-month period.

A Focus Group was set up to receive feed-back from the congregation and report back to the PCC. Members of this group were chosen to represent the whole church community. They are:

Andy Ironside  
Nicky Wood  
Veryan Nicholls  
Rita Strutt  
Rob Pudney  
Heather Woolsey  
Chris Bell

Feedback can be sent to [focusgroup@ifieldparish.org](mailto:focusgroup@ifieldparish.org) or given to any of the above-named.

# SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

## DURING TRIAL PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 2023 TO MARCH 2024

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

Wednesdays                                      9.30 am                                      Said Eucharist

Last Wednesday                                      5.00 pm                                      Family Church

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

At St. Margaret's Church, Ifield.

<b>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30am	Parish Communion	<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Parish Communion
	11am	Sunday Celebration		4pm	Crib Service
	6pm	Advent Carol Service		11pm	Midnight Mass
<b>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Parish Communion	<b>Dec 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Christmas Day Service
	11am	FIISH Service	<b>Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Parish Communion		11am	Service of the Word
	11am	All Age Eucharist	<b>Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Parish Communion
	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols		11am	Sunday Celebration for Epiphany
<b>Dec 19<sup>th</sup></b>	5pm	Carols Round the Tree			

We wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.

[www.ifieldparish.org](http://www.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](mailto:jo@bridgeham.com) for details

New members are always welcome

## OPEN DOOR

**St. Margaret's Church  
Ifield**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 5th November. The results are set out below:

1st Prize	Patricia Horsman	£45.00
2nd Prize	Bridgeham Pilates	£27.00
3rd Prize	Ann Utting	£18.00

The next draw will be on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

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



Our practitioners are still all maintaining full caseloads, and nearly all of them also still have waiting lists. With new referrals also coming in steadily, there is a great deal of work all across Sussex. The main reasons requiring support from our practitioners are currently educational support for children with additional needs, financial hardship and mental health concerns. As specialist services are still oversubscribed with very lengthy waiting lists, our long-term support is proving crucial at the moment to keep families' situations from deteriorating further.

**A quote from one of the children we support:**

***"Thank you for everything you do for us and mostly for mum. She really needed someone like you"***

For more information, or to donate, please visit: [familysupportwork.org](http://familysupportwork.org)



## TOYS AND TOILETRIES FOR FSW

As usual, we will be collecting new toys for the children supported by FSW, and toiletries for them to give to their parents. They have children of all ages on their caseload, but mainly between the ages of 7 and 13.

Thanks to all those who brought gifts to church on 19<sup>th</sup> November. There is another chance to contribute on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## 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 CLUBS

**Junior Youth Club** - School Years 1-4

**Above Youth Club** - School Years 5-8

**Beyond Youth Club** - School Years 9 and above

For more information, please contact Naomi Gater, Youth and Children's Officer

## EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

The next collection will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Christmas items will be much appreciated along with anything and everything else that is longlife/non-perishable and doesn't contain alcohol.

Please leave items in the basket in church or contact [sue@ifieldparish.org](mailto:sue@ifieldparish.org) for collection.

The next collection on the parades will be on Saturday 9th December.



# WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@ifieldparish.org</a>
Curate	Revd. Dominic Desouza-Campbell		<a href="mailto:curate@ifieldparish.org">curate@ifieldparish.org</a>
Reader	Jill Bell	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	Clare Wilson	416438	<a href="mailto:pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org">pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Safeguarding	Amy Wilson	07701 098350	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@ifieldparish.org">safeguarding@ifieldparish.org</a>
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	<a href="mailto:ycofficer@ifieldparish.org">ycofficer@ifieldparish.org</a>

## 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](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>

## 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](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org)

Please send any updates for the January 2024 issue to Jill Bell  
[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) by 15<sup>th</sup> December