



September 2026

Monthly information for the Parish
of Ifield

Thought for the Month

September A Season of Change and New Beginnings



September is a fascinating month. The summer holidays begin to fade into memory, school bags reappear, diaries become a little fuller, and many of us start wondering where the sunshine went - usually while searching for a coat that was safely packed away “just in case” several months ago!

There is something about September that feels like a fresh start. It is a time of change and transition, when we move from the relaxed rhythm of summer into the familiar patterns of autumn. Yet through all these changes, we are reminded that God’s presence remains constant.

The seasons themselves speak quietly of God’s faithfulness. As the days shorten and the harvest is gathered in, we are reminded to pause and give thanks for the good things we so often take for granted - the food we share, the beauty of creation, and the people who journey alongside us.

The Bible gently reminds us that “*there is a time for everything*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and September certainly feels like one of those moments. A time to reflect on what has been, and to look ahead with hope to what is to come.

In the life of the Church, this month often feels like a fresh beginning. After the quieter summer weeks, we gather again, reconnect, and step back into the patterns of worship, fellowship, and service. It is a timely reminder that we are held together as a community of faith - sharing life, prayer, and support with one another as we journey onwards together.

As we do so, we also remember that God is already at work in the new things emerging around us. As Isaiah puts it, “*See, I am doing a new thing*” (Isaiah 43:19). Often, these “new things” appear quietly - in a conversation, a welcome, or a small act of kindness that grows into something more.

As Christians, we are blessed with a tradition that holds together prayer, scripture, and community life. Whether we are at the altar, sharing a cup of tea after the service, or simply encouraging one another through the week, we continue to grow together in faith.

So, as we step into this new season, may we do so with thankful hearts and open minds. May our church continue to be a place of welcome, friendship and hope.

And as autumn approaches, may we remember that while the air may grow cooler, (although as I write it is suggested we may have one more heatwave this month) the warmth of Christian fellowship need not diminish.

With my prayers and every blessing,

Revd Christine

Rector



Looking After Our Church Building

A church building is much more than bricks, mortar and roof tiles. It is the place where we gather for worship, where baptisms, weddings and funerals take place, where people come together as a community, and where countless prayers have been offered over the years. Looking after our building is therefore an important part of ensuring that St Margaret's can continue to serve the community for generations to come.

The figures for the past couple of years show just how much work goes into maintaining the church. Alongside smaller items such as our audio-visual installation, electrical work, architectural advice and plumbing and heating, a significant proportion of our expenditure has had to go towards the church roof.

In the figures shown, total maintenance expenditure comes to **£16,546**, of which **£13,904 relates to the roofing work**. That means that around 84% of our maintenance expenditure during this period has been connected with keeping the roof of the church in good order.

This might seem like a large amount of money to spend on something that, most of the time, we barely notice. But that is rather the point of a good roof: when it is doing its job properly, we don't notice it at all!

Making sure that the church is **watertight was essential**. Water getting into an historic church building can cause damage very quickly, affecting ceilings, walls, electrical systems, furnishings and the fabric of the building itself.

What might begin as a small leak can become a much larger and considerably more expensive problem if it is not dealt with promptly.

We were therefore very grateful to receive a **£5,000 grant towards the roof repairs**. This was a tremendous help in meeting the cost of the work and meant that the burden on our own church funds was significantly reduced. Grants such as this are an important reminder that the wider community and charitable organisations recognise the value of caring for our historic church buildings.

Of course, the roof is not the only thing on which we have spent money. We have also had expenditure on electrical work, plumbing and heating, architectural advice and our audio-visual equipment. These may be less visible, but they are all important in keeping the church safe, usable and welcoming.

Our fundraising efforts also continue to make an important contribution. Across the periods shown, our net fundraising receipts totalled **£9,805**, including money raised through the May Fayre and other fundraising activities. Every cake sold, raffle ticket bought, event attended, donation made and hour given by a volunteer helps us to care for this building.

It is easy to think of fundraising simply as money towards the next event or project, but much of what we raise enables us to meet the less glamorous - but absolutely essential - costs of maintaining the church. A watertight roof may not be the most exciting thing to fundraise for, but it is fundamental to everything else we do.

So, as we look at these figures, thank you to everyone who has helped: those who have organised fundraising events, baked cakes, bought tickets, made donations, applied for grants, undertaken practical work and helped to keep an eye on the fabric of our church.

Looking after St Margaret's is something we do together. By investing in the building today, we are helping to ensure that it remains a place of worship, welcome, celebration, comfort and community for many years to come.

And perhaps next time you hear the rain falling outside during a service, you can give a little word of thanks that - thanks to the generosity of our church family and the £5,000 grant we received - the roof is doing exactly what a roof should do: keeping the rain outside!

The roof is not, of course, the only challenge facing us. Having worked hard to ensure that the building is watertight, our thoughts are now inevitably turning to **heating**.

Some of the expenditure shown in the figures relates to maintenance and repairs to our old boiler and heating system. These were necessary attempts to keep the system functioning and to extend its useful life. Sadly, the situation changed last November when **heavy rains and a rising water table caused the boiler room to flood**. The pumps in the boiler room designed to pump out the flood water failed and flooding affected the boiler and, as a result, it has now had to be decommissioned.

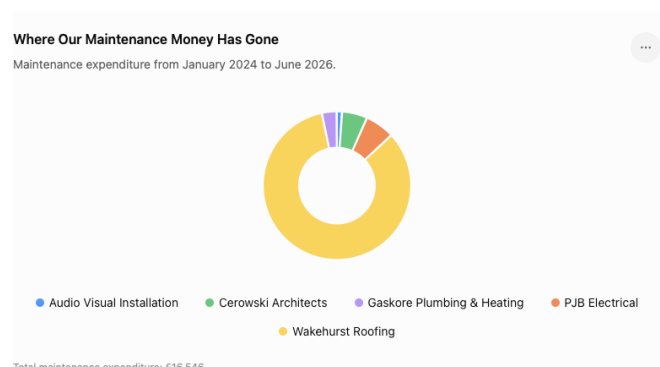
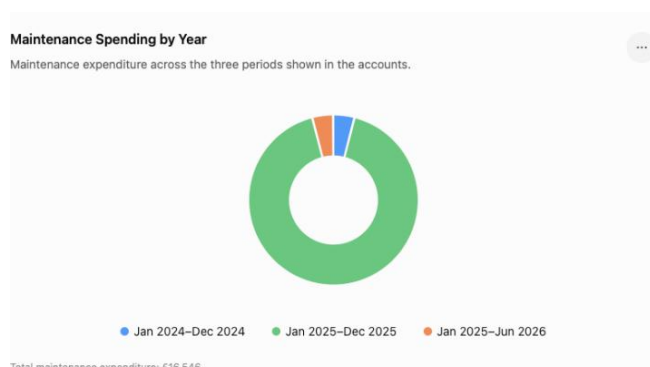
This means that we have now had to look to the future and consider what kind of heating system will best serve St Margaret's for many years to come. This is a significant project and will take considerable time and effort to secure the necessary permissions from the Diocese and, importantly, identify and apply for suitable grant funding.

Our hope is that we can secure the funding we need and get the new heating arrangements in place **as soon as possible**. It is important that our church remains a warm, welcoming and usable place throughout the year, not only for our regular worship but also for baptisms, weddings, funerals, community activities and all the many occasions when people come through our doors.

As with the roof repairs, this is about much more than simply spending money on a building. It is about caring responsibly for the place that has been entrusted to us and ensuring that St Margaret's can continue to serve its community well into the future.

The **£5,000 grant we received towards the roof repairs** was a tremendous help, and we will now need to build on that success as we seek funding for this next major project. There will be a lot of work involved, but with the continued support of our congregation, our wider community and our grant-giving partners, we hope to be able to meet this challenge together.

So, as we give thanks for a watertight roof, we now look ahead to the next chapter: finding a sustainable and reliable way of keeping our church warm. Thank you to everyone who continues to support St Margaret's through giving, fundraising, volunteering and prayer. Every contribution helps us to care for this much-loved building and, most importantly, to ensure that it remains a place of worship, welcome and community for generations to come.



Parish House Group



Mondays 10.30 am - 12 noon. The Parish House Group will be meeting at The Tree House, Rusper Road, Ifield.

Please contact Jill Bell on 01293 521699 or reader@ifieldparish.org for details. New members are always welcome.



SMILE – Ladies Fellowship Events

SMILE, a parish-wide ladies' group, was formed in 2013. We had an extended break following Covid, but in April 2025, six of us got together to regroup and make some plans for future social events. Our focus is primarily friendship, fellowship and offering an opportunity for outreach. For details, or if you would like to join us, please contact Clare Wilson via email: smile@ifieldparish.org



Men's Fellowship

A social group offering fellowship, mutual support and fun for the gentlemen of the Parish. A chance to relax and enjoy some great company.

To be added to the anonymous distribution list for all future events please email rob@ifieldparish.org A great time for fellowship together.



200 Club

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 9th August 2026. The results are as follows:

- 1st Oana Flip
- 2nd Jo & Trevor Strutt
- 3rd Jean Eida

The next draw will be 13th September 2026. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are always most welcome!



Save the Date

Dates for future Church fund raising and social events.

- Saturday 3rd October - Harvest Lunch at the Barn
- Saturday (Date TBC) October - Sing Along the Sound of Music
- Friday 30th October - Community Quiz Night, in Church
- Saturday 21st November - Christmas Fayre in Church

All funds raised (*unless stated otherwise*) will go to the St Margarets church building fund for the upkeep of the church.



Our Youth Group

Our Youth Group is currently on summer holiday and will restart again on Friday 11th September 2026.

The 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.



Easter Team Food Bank

Your recent donations were gladly received last month, as stocks in the warehouse are particularly **low** at the moment – even the rice and pasta mountains have been seriously depleted! So, items most needed for collection are:

Pasta and Rice
Cereal – Family Size
Long Life Milk

All Tins
Tea Bags 40's
Jam and Spreads

And any non-perishable foods or toiletries

Please leave items in the basket in the church. Thank you for your continued support. Your donations are gratefully received.



With In the midst of a heatwave, with drought warnings in place, we're going to ask you to think about the autumn! Whilst our summer activities are still in full swing, we are already planning what comes next.

We hope you have all

enjoyed the summer and, as we move into a new season, we look forward to continuing to work together to support families across Sussex. There is plenty to come over the next few months and, as always, we are so grateful for your continued support of FSW.



As we look ahead to the autumn, we are entering another busy period at FSW. Our Annual Eucharist and AGM will take place on Wednesday 30th September. Please see the details below. Following the AGM, we will be looking ahead to Harvest. We are always very grateful for Harvest donations, which help us to keep our food bank well stocked and provide much-needed food for families across Sussex. After a quieter few months over the summer, we will be especially grateful for your support. Every tin, packet and contribution makes a difference, helping us to support families who may be struggling to make ends meet. Thank you once again for your continued support as we head into the autumn and the final months of 2026.

Get Involved with FSW

There are many ways to support Family Support Work, from donating and volunteering to fundraising. As we prepare for Harvest, we would be very grateful for donations of food, whether given individually or collected through your church.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday 30th September, we will be holding our Annual Eucharist and Annual General Meeting in Rustington. The service at St Peter and St Paul's Church will begin at 11.00am. We are delighted that the Bishop of Horsham will be with us this year, and if you are free, we would love to see you there. For more information about our events, visit: familysupportwork.org/events



Why I Joined Family Support Work...

"I first heard about Family Support Work while working as a Social Worker. I referred a father and his two sons who were struggling to cope, and with the right support, the family was able to move forward. Seeing the lasting difference FSW made to their lives inspired me to join the charity myself. Today, I'm privileged to support families facing challenges of their own, helping them build hope and a brighter future."

- Richard Andrews, Family Support Practitioner for Rotherfield & Uckfield

July's Work in Numbers

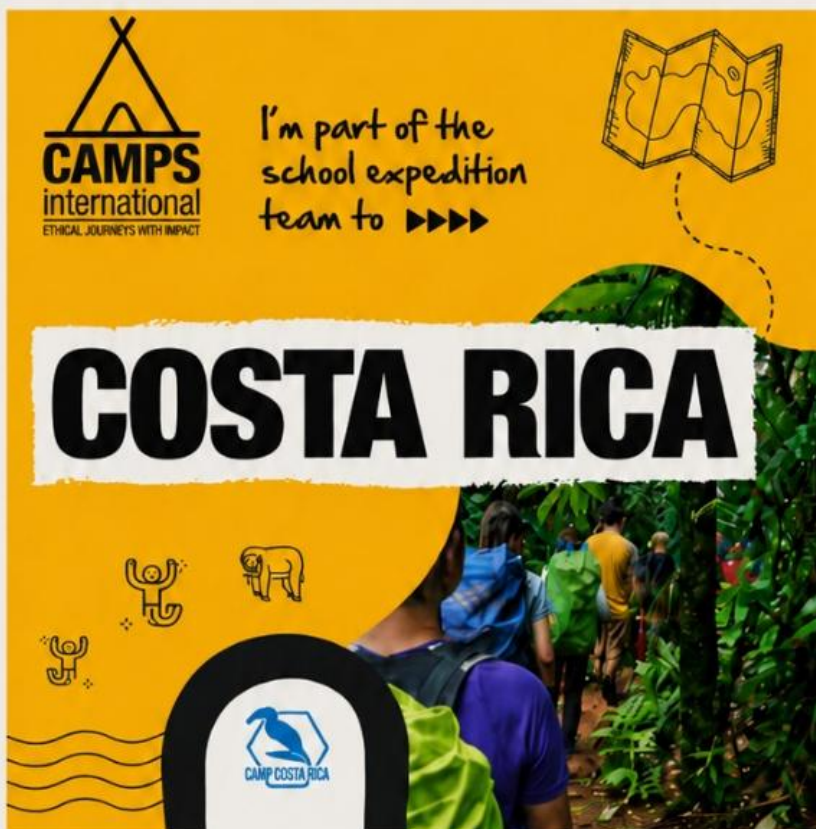
- 18 new families began receiving support
- 169 home visits to families
- 402 phone calls and remote support sessions, supporting 281 adults and 421 children
- 36 supported meetings with partner agencies
- 36 group sessions attended by 484 adults and 619 children
- 89 food deliveries to families in need
- 58 dedicated volunteers gave their time
- 262 volunteer hours were shared with families across our community

Please pray for the children and families we support as many prepare to start at new schools, move into new year groups and settle into a new school term.

✚ ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ✚

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO ANY HOUSEHOLD / GARDEN JOBS

to help me fundraise for an amazing educational trip to **COSTA RICA** 🇸🇨



ABOUT THE TRIP

- ✓ I will be in Costa Rica for 27 nights.
- ✓ During this time, I will be helping build and finish projects that make a real difference to the local community.
- ✓ I will also be helping local people practice their English, while they help me learn Spanish.
- ✓ I will be clearing rainforests, helping to protect the environment and support the community.



WHY I'M DOING THIS

This trip is about more than just travelling - it's about learning, growing, and making a positive impact in another country. I'll gain new skills, build confidence, and experience a new culture while helping those who need it most.



I NEED TO RAISE £6000

I know it's a big goal, but I'm determined to make it happen! I have a big sponsored walk planned for 2027 to help reach my target.



IF YOU HAVE ANY JOBS
PLEASE MESSAGE:



Finnley Woolsey



07534 847868

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!



EVERY LITTLE JOB HELPS ME GET ONE STEP
CLOSER TO MY GOAL - THANK YOU!

Coming Soon



Who's Who in Ifield Parish

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	01293 561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Fr Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	curate@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	01293 521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Kevin Lawler	07792 809165	kevinlawler55@gmail.com
	Trevor Strutt	07958 322621	trevor@bridgeham.com
PCC Secretary	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	01293 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	dbseadrecruiter@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 October issue of The Buzz to:

Kim Davis kim@paradiseblue.co.uk

No later than 22nd September 2026



Welcome to St Margaret's Services

1st Sunday 11:00am Parish Communion

**2nd Sunday 09:30am FIISH for Young Families
11:00am Parish Communion**

3rd Sunday 11:00am Parish Communion

**4th Sunday 09:30am Family Service
11:00am Parish Communion**

**5th Sunday 09:30am Service of the World
11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

Every Wednesday 9.30am Said Eucharist



St Margaret's Church
Ifield Street
Ifield
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 0NN