



The Buzz

August 2022



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



A couple of weeks ago, the fields beyond Ifield Brook were golden with ripened barley. Then along came the harvester, the baler, the fork-lift tractor and trailer. Now the grain has been carried off for storage, and the barns by Pound Cottages are filled with straw ready for the winter. Soon the stubble will be ploughed into the ground in preparation for sowing the seeds which will sprout next spring. How fortunate we are to live and worship in a place where we can feel close to nature and witness the farming seasons unfolding.

At this time of year, I'm always reminded of the Old Testament story of Ruth who, having lost her husband, loyally followed her mother-in-law, Naomi, to make a new life for herself in a foreign land. Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest, and provided for herself and Naomi by gleaning in the fields. This story resonates particularly in this year in which women and children have been uprooted from their homeland in Ukraine and found themselves having to make a life among foreigners in unfamiliar surroundings.

The cycles of the farming year form the backdrop to the Gospels, too, as we read of Jesus and his disciples making their way through the Galilean countryside and up to Jerusalem. Vines, wheat, barns full of grain, sowing, reaping and harvesting all feature in the stories Jesus told to illustrate his teaching.

Harvest can take many forms – not just gathering in God's gifts of grain, fruit and vegetables but also offering back to God in other ways. As we enter the harvest season and look forward to celebrating the Harvest Festival and our Harvest Supper, this can be an opportune time to offer God the fruits of the skills and talents he has given us. Elsewhere in these pages you will find an invitation to join in an Auction of Promises – goods and services which we can share with members of our community to raise funds as part of our harvest thanksgiving.

In the story of Ruth, Boaz was generous in allowing her to glean behind the reapers. Both were rewarded by finding love and growing a family. Our generosity, in fulfilling and accepting promises, will not only benefit the recipients of the funds raised but also bring us closer together as a church family as we get to know one another better.

May we all enjoy a fruitful harvest.

Jill

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

1 st Sunday	8.00 am 11.00 am	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist
2 nd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	FIISH for young families Sung Eucharist
3 rd Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
4 th & 5 th Sundays	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist
Wednesdays	9.30 am	Said Eucharist

HARVEST FAMILY SUPPER

Saturday 24th September, 6pm

Please join us for this family event. The meal will be home cooked cottage pie (with vegetarian/vegan and gluten free options) followed by dessert. There will also be a quiz for the whole family and a silent auction*. Tickets are now available - adults £5, children under 11 £3 - from the Parish Office or Chris and Jill Bell. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

**In a silent auction, bids are submitted on paper rather than in person. The highest bid for each lot is announced on the night.*

Please think about what you can offer, e.g. baby-sitting, a cake, ironing, afternoon tea, gardening, decorating, a meal, nails, a week in Bermuda ! etc. Then please provide the following information:

Your name, telephone number, email, promise offered, reserve price (if any) and either give it to Chris Bell, or place it in the 'Bids for the Silent Auction' box near the north door. Alternatively you can email your promise to jcbell@mac.com with the subject line "Auction Promise".

Please submit your promises no later than Saturday 17th September so they can be included on the bid sheet.



PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

House groups are currently taking a summer break, but will be back in September. Please look out for details in next month's Buzz.

CHURCH FAMILY FUN

Members of St. Margaret's congregation enjoying an afternoon of Poems and Puds



There has been a real increase in need for our work recently, and most of our practitioners have full caseloads as well as full waiting lists. We are finding more frequently that parents are struggling to support their children within the education system, particularly if their child has additional needs. This week we received a wonderful email from a family we have been supporting for quite some time and who have finally been able to get the help they need for their child:

"I'm writing to say a big thank you for all your work with us - I can honestly say it changed our lives. You gave me the confidence to advocate for my children's needs in a desperate time when no one would listen. You gave me the parenting approach that we needed to heal our broken relationships. What would have happened to us without you!? In the words of Anne Frank:

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

You have really helped to improve our world and I'm sure many other families too. So thank you for being so incredibly kind and patient with us."

For more information, or to donate, please visit: familysupportwork.org

AMBERLEY-ARUNDEL SPONSORED WALK

Jill Bell is planning to take part in this 8.7 mile circular walk to raise funds for FSW, on Thursday 11th August. She would love to hear from anyone who would like to join her. A sponsorship form can be found on the table in church and any donations you feel able to give will be much appreciated.

NEWS FROM THE EASTER TEAM

Current needs for the basket in church are for soups (especially cuppa soups), tinned meat and fish, and sanitary towels.

Our next collection on the shopping parades will be on Saturday 20th August.

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Lizzi Green	07565 126233	curatelizzie@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Andy Ironside	07758 168411	andy@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	Amy Wilson	07701 098350	safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	lmhull@virginmedia.com

REST DAYS

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day and our Curate's rest day is Monday

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 September 2022 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 22nd August