

# The Buzz

March 2023

Monthly information for the Parish  
of Ifield



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## Thought for the Month



The pace of life in much of England has taken over everything. Mobile phones mean that no-one is ever far away from being interrupted. Meals are taken at the same frenetic speed and there is almost no time to contemplate where life is leading us or what this pace is doing to us.

Lent is a time of reflection – it comes early in the year deliberately so that we can consider our standing before God and each other. It is not just about saying sorry for the wrong we do but about building a healthy spiritual as well as physical lifestyle.

Temptations to hurry come in all forms – to take short-cuts when lengthier and more considered options may be better. We do not have to do everything now. Lent reflects Jesus' temptation in the desert before the start of his ministry. For Jesus it meant following the way to the cross.

In the last days of Lent before Easter the Christian church remembers the events of that first Good Friday. It recalls not only the events, but also the meaning behind those events. It celebrates a man who did not call on a vast army of angels to get him out of a certain and excruciating death, in a 'quick fix', but someone who went to the Cross to show an alternative way of living to the human one of aggression and self-seeking. If it were only a heroic act, we wouldn't remember it, let alone worship this man Jesus. He would be a great teacher, but little more.

But that first Easter Day saw a unique event – one that the Bible writers and millions of Christians since testify to – that this man crucified and dead did not stay dead but was alive again and could be our friend, and Saviour. God raised his Son from the dead so that the hope of resurrection for all, and reconciliation with God, is possible through Jesus Christ. This is the why? of the events we remember, celebrate and are awed by.

Awe is always an optional extra in life, but one that is all too easy to miss out on in a busy lifestyle. But it is one I hope you do not miss out on because Easter brings hope and new life in Christ to a hopeless world and peace where there is often little

to celebrate. As for the emerging beauty of spring and summer do let yourself be awed. Change your lifestyle for the better.

In this vein there are services and Lent courses as a chance to take stock and to get right with God as Easter approaches, and get life back into a right perspective.

Yours in Christ,

*Christine*

## SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

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

Sunday School on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

## Services in Lent

### Compline

**Mondays at 7:30pm** Beginning 27<sup>th</sup>  
February

### Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 11am

### Journey to the Cross

#### Prayer Stations

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm



# WEDNESDAY LENT COURSE FOR 2023



Every Wednesday, we're going to be looking at an aspect of Christian discipleship which can often seem daunting: evangelism – sharing the 'good news' of Christ with those who have yet to receive Jesus into their lives and offering to accompany enquirers as they set out on the journey of faith.

As someone currently exploring a vocation to ordained ministry and required to give my own testimony as part of that process, I've been reflecting on how to develop our ability to speak about the faith that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. I've come to realize just how precious these personal testimonies are, and – no matter how 'ordinary' they might seem to us - how powerful they are in encouraging others to come and see what it *truly* means to follow Jesus.

This Lent course is all about valuing and nurturing our personal faith stories and thinking creatively about how we might share them with others. Combining a mixture of discussion-based activities, meditative scripture-reading and prayer, this course sets out to deepen our understanding of what sustains each of us in our faith, and to embolden us in our shared calling to be evangelists of the gospel.

If you're free on Wednesday mornings, please do come along and join in. I look forward to welcoming you to the course and setting out on this Lenten journey together.

*Lucy*

<b>Venue:</b>	St Margaret's Church
<b>Day and Time:</b>	Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:45 am
<b>Duration:</b>	9 weeks
<b>Course start and end date:</b>	01/02/23 – 29/03/23

Please note: there is no requirement to attend all nine sessions. Feel free to attend as many or as few as suits your diary. All materials will be provided, so just bring yourselves. All are welcome!



# PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Road  
Current Study Course: The Bible

**Lent Course (from 27<sup>th</sup> February): Who then is this?  
Chichester Diocesan Lent Course 2023 (see below)**

Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

**Lent Course (from 7<sup>th</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> March): Finding  
Jesus in the Psalms (see below)**

Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt [jo@bridgeham.com](mailto:jo@bridgeham.com) for details

**PLEASE NOTE:** You don't have to commit to being a regular house group member in order to join a group during Lent. Please come along. If you choose to stay on you will be very welcome.

## FINDING JESUS IN THE PSALMS

**A meaningful encounter with Jesus and the Psalms through the season of Lent with Barb Roose.**

Barb Roose guides the reader through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

“The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus’s own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us.” *Barb Roose*

## WHO THEN IS THIS?

*A welcome from the Bishop of Chichester:*

The title of the course, ‘Who than is this?’ invites us to answer the question that the disciples asked about Jesus when he calmed the storm (Mark 4:41). Just when they thought they were getting to understand him, some astonishing thing happened that made them think again.

We look back to people and events in the Old Testament to help us answer this question with the exploration of our minds and with the devotion of our hearts.

Artists, hymn-writers and Christian teachers have searched the Old Testament for stories that indicate how God's mysterious presence is evident in Jesus in a new and compelling way.

In this Lent Course we shall use their work to explore how accounts of a miraculous birth, a hidden identity, and the capacity to speak the truth wisely and with authority all point to Jesus, who is fully human and fully divine.



**Lent Lunches**  
**Every Wednesday in**  
**March at 12:30**

**Soup, roll, cheese**  
**and coffee**

**£5 in aid of FSW**



Financial worries and parenting problems continue to be the main areas of concern for our families. Our support through the Winter Fuel fund has been very much appreciated. Referrals to our service are increasing weekly as more families become unable to cope on their own.

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

# 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



JYC and Helpers Enjoying an Evening of Golf

# EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Particularly needed at the moment are tinned potatoes, fruit and vegetables, custard and rice pudding.

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

## WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@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>
	Chris Bell	521699	<a href="mailto:chris@ifieldparish.org">chris@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>
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	<a href="mailto:lmhull@virginmedia.com">lmhull@virginmedia.com</a>

## REST DAY

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day

## 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 April 2023 issue to Jill Bell  
[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) by 15<sup>th</sup> March