

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



June 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month

What is Lay Ministry?



Reader? ALM? Lay Minister? What do all these terms mean? What do these people actually do? And could **you** be one of them? There's a multiplicity of lay ministries in the Church of England, and some understandable confusion as to what these roles are all about. I will try, in this article, to make sense of them all. Who knows? Maybe one of you reading this will be inspired to find out more – even to start exploring your own vocation.

The words “inspiration” and “vocation” are, perhaps, in need of explanation. Inspiration relates to a gentle nudging by the Holy Spirit. Often it's something that won't go away – almost amounting to a nagging: “Why don't you ...?” Vocation simply means a calling. The call may be a form of inspiration – the Holy Spirit speaking directly to you – or the call may come through someone else, a friend, a fellow church member or a member of the clergy team. Someone may have noticed something in you that they feel might be a gift that could be used to further God's kingdom. If this applies to you, or to someone you know, then please read on.

There are some variations – particularly in titles – between the different dioceses in the Church of England, but I will concentrate here on our Diocese of Chichester.

Lay Ministers of Communion are the people who assist the priest with the administration of Holy Communion. You'll have seen someone come up to the front of the church each week, receive the sacrament and then take the chalice of wine to offer to the congregation. There is a short course, followed by the issue of a certificate. Please ask one of the clergy if you wish to know more.

Authorised Lay Ministers have the Bishop's authority to carry out certain roles within their parish following a period of training. The first part of this training is done as a group, after which candidates are given the choice of several electives - such as Pastoral Care, Mission, Chaplaincy, Worship & Liturgy, Preaching, Care of Creation and Eco Church, Rural Ministry, Small Group Leader and Youth & Children. After a further six months they become ALMs, able to carry out a ministry in whichever specialised area they have chosen. If you think this might be for you, the clergy can tell you more.

All ALMs and Readers are required to be DBS checked and to complete Safeguarding training to the appropriate level. Unsurprisingly, in the light of recent history, this is of paramount importance.

Readers hold the Bishop's licence to lead worship, preach and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work, having first undertaken a two year training in theology with a practical placement in a parish different from their own. With the appropriate additional training, Readers may also exercise a funeral ministry, and this I have found to be particularly rewarding. Reader selection is a rigorous full-day series of interviews and exercises. Potential Readers are usually identified by their clergy, but if this interests you I would be very happy to talk with you.

Being a Reader has been, and continues to be, an enormous privilege. I have served under three Rectors – Leonard, Simon and Christine – each of whom has brought their different giftings to our church community, and with each of whom it has been a joy to minister. Over the last eighteen years, I have found this to be a very fulfilling yet challenging ministry, and it would be lovely to see someone take up the mantle at St. Margaret's.

Jill Bell

More detailed information about all these ministries is available on the diocesan website: www.chichester.anglican.org and I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

PARISH HOUSE GROUPS



Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Rd.
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details
New members are always welcome

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm
Venue may vary.
Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details
(PLEASE NOTE THIS GROUP IS NOT CURRENTLY MEETING)

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 11th May. The results are set out below:

1st Michael Briggs
2nd Ann Utting
3rd Jill Bell

The next draw will be on 8th June. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!



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

EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK:

Current particular needs are for
Toilet rolls
Cooking oil (small bottles)
Sugar

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



The weekend at Dalesdown for families from across Sussex was greatly appreciated by the families who went. The theme this year was “Festival” creating the sense of being at a music festival with activities including making instruments, hair decorating, face painting, singing round the campfire, toasting marshmallows. As one of our mums said *“It was our first family holiday, and it was lovely to go somewhere*

together. My daughter enjoyed playing with other children, making new friends. The access was good, the activities excellent, everyone was lovely”. We are back at the Dalesdown centre in September, if you would like to support this activity as a volunteer or sponsor do get in touch.

We continue to see the demand for our work grow and the waiting lists that we hold are getting longer. At this time with many children being supported having educational needs we are only too aware of the anxiety that is created around exams. We are helping some of our families deal with the additional pressures this brings to their lives.

SMILE – ST. MARGARET’S LADIES’ GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 29th May at 7.30pm at the Pelham Buckle. All ladies are welcome.

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

A new rota for operating the sound and visual system on Sundays is being prepared. To keep this going, we need additional helpers. If you think you can help one Sunday a month, please speak to Chris Bell or Rob Pudney.

Would you like to receive this publication by email?

If so, please send your email address to reader@ifieldparish.org with The Buzz in the subject line.



LITTLE DRAGONS

It's church, it's messy, it's for little ones, their parents and carers!

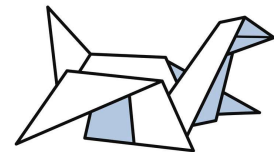
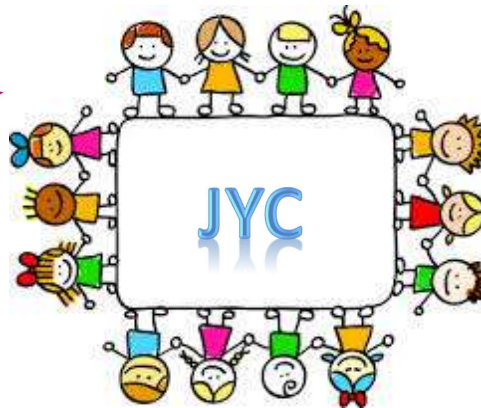
In church, 9 till 10.30am every Monday in term time

For more information, please contact the Rector

OUR YOUTH GROUP

JYC: SUMMER SCHEDULE

25 April, 9 & 23 May, 6 & 20 June, 4 & 18 July



For children from year one.

Fortnightly during term time on Fridays 18.30 – 20.00, St Margaret's Church.

St Margaret's: Loved as you are

For more information, please contact the Rector

The Story of Jesus, Brought to Life



17th – 21st June, Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Surrey, GU5 0LR

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk>

Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools.

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Rector | Revd Christine Spencer | 561283 | rector@ifieldparish.org |
| Curate | Revd 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 |
| | VACANCY | | |
| PCC Secretary | James May | 529146 | treasurer@ifieldparish.org |
| PCC Treasurer | Jack Woolsey | 07709 046017 | jackwoolsey@hotmail.com |
| Finance Officer | | | |
| 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 Wednesday mornings (and Sundays)

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 July issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org **by 23rd June**