

The Buzz

January 2023



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



“Arise, shine, for your light has come”. These words from Isaiah open the Old Testament reading for Sunday 8th January, in what the Diocese of Chichester has named ‘The Year of the Old Testament’. The prophet’s words were addressed to the Israelites as they returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon some five hundred years before Christ, but they speak to us, today, too. They remind us that, only a short while ago, we celebrated light coming into the world. The idea of light is very apt at this time of year when the mornings seem to be even darker than they were in late December.

In the church’s season of Epiphany, so much is brought into the light, or revealed. We read of the wise men following a star which stops over the place of Jesus’ birth, of John the Baptist revealing Jesus’ identity to Andrew and Simon, and of Jesus returning to Galilee and fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy: “the people who walked in darkness have been a great light”. All this leads up to the presentation of the baby Jesus in the temple, with Simeon hailing him as “a light to lighten the Gentiles”.

But Isaiah doesn’t just tell us that “our light has come”. He calls us to “Arise, shine”. In the readings for the fifth Sunday of Epiphany, there’s a change of emphasis which reflects this. From seeing Jesus as the light of the world, we read of him telling his disciples: “*You* are the light of the world”. This is a call to each one of us! As Jesus’ modern-day disciples, we are called to be that light in 21st Century Ifield.

At the beginning of the Eucharistic prayer each week, we are urged to “lift up your hearts”. This, too, is an invitation to raise our attention from earthly concerns to heavenly ones – a call to look upwards and outwards. In these times of darkness conflict, unrest and financial hardship may we, as Christians, both *follow* the light and *be* the light for which the world is crying out.

I wish you all a very happy, and light-filled, New Year.

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

Sunday School on 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays

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



PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

Mondays 10.30 am Tree House, Rusper Road
Study Course: The Creed
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm from 8th Nov – 13th Dec.
Study Course: The Reason for God. Venue may vary.
Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details

THANKSGIVING

As part of our Christmas celebrations, when we remember the birth of our Saviour, we give and receive gifts. At Epiphany we remember the wise men bringing their gifts to the Christ Child. As Christians each Sunday we celebrate the greatest gift of our Saviour who gave his life and rose from the dead to save us from our sins.

So where in all these celebrations do we fit in and what gifts do we bring to our Lord?

As Paul wrote, we all have many and various gifts, and these can benefit our secular lives as well as in the church where we call them talents. Being on the coffee rota, cleaning the church, washing the linen, arranging the flowers, maintaining the churchyard, doing general repairs, being a sidesperson etc. are all vital to maintaining and running a vibrant church.

Talents alone will not sustain the church which needs major maintenance, heating, lighting, water, the parish office and of course our clergy - all of which cost money. This is where regular giving becomes so important for budgeting and paying our regular bills.

Thankfully there is now a very effective and simple way in which anyone with a bank account can give regularly. This is the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which was set up some years ago by the Church of England. It has the advantage that our church receives income monthly thereby avoiding the 'feast and famine' syndrome. Furthermore, if you are a taxpayer the PGS scheme obtains any Gift Aid due on a monthly basis. This is then passed onto the church with the relevant donations. At this point it is worth mentioning that there are very few people who do not pay any tax. Although you may think you do not pay tax that is because it has in most cases been deducted from your income at source such as your salary, investments or pension. Therefore, everyone who is eligible should 'Gift Aid' their donations as the government increase the value of your donation by 25p for every pound you donate.

Donating through the PGS simply involves filling in a form or applying online at www.parishgiving.org.uk. If you would like a form and information pack, please speak to our Rector, Christine, or one of the Parish Wardens.

Last year it cost more to run our church than we received from all sources. Past generations provided the whole community with the church we love. It is therefore essential that we all donate a realistic amount on a regular basis to maintain this church now and for future generations.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me confidentially.

Chris Bell
Churchwarden
01293 521699
chris@ifieldparish.org



A quote from a parent we supported throughout 2022:
"This year has been so, so hard for me but you have always been there, even when I didn't think I wanted to talk to you. Without your advice and the little extras you have done for me, I would not be even a little bit happy about

Christmas. But now my children are excited to open their presents from you, and we will have plenty of food to enjoy on the day. Thank you so much for everything."

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

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	rector@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 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

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 January 2023 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 23rd January