

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



August 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



History, with all its complexity and resonance, continues to shape our present in ways both subtle and profound. Consider, for example, the fact that this August marks 91 years since President Hindenburg's death and Adolf Hitler's rise to power—an event that unravelled into the tragedy of the Second World War. Seventy-one years ago, Alexander Fleming was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of Penicillin, revolutionising medicine and saving countless lives. And 51 years ago, in August 1974, Richard Nixon resigned the presidency after the Watergate scandal, reshaping the American political landscape. While we might relegate these events to the pages of history books, their influence lingers in the fabric of our everyday lives.

Yet history is more than dates and names, despite what it might seem like to school children knee-deep in Tudor facts. Works like '1066 and All That' and the television phenomenon 'Horrible Histories' remind us that history can be witty, irreverent, and immensely memorable when presented with a fresh perspective. Historians, too, differ in their approach—some strive for neutrality, while others freely acknowledge the political currents that shape their narratives.

When we turn to Scripture, it's vital to recognise that the Bible, much like historical writing, is crafted with intention. The Old Testament is a tapestry woven by many authors, who viewed events through lenses of faith, spirituality, and politics. Books like Kings and Chronicles are less about cold, clinical record-keeping and more about revealing God's engagement with humanity. Remarkably, biblical accounts sometimes dovetail with archaeological evidence, yet even then, the telling is shaped by faith, not by the strict standards of modern historical fact. The Bible's true purpose is to recount the story of salvation—a history told through the relationship between people and God.

I have always been captivated by history, convinced that looking back with a discerning eye enables us to chart a wiser course into the future. To truly grasp where we are and where we are headed, we must first understand where we have been. The writer of Hebrews embraced this philosophy, recounting the saga of salvation and God's faithfulness to inspire the early church:

“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (Hebrews 11:32-40)

History, then, is never a neutral chronicle. Future generations will undoubtedly reinterpret our present—be it child poverty, escalating knife crimes, the ongoing war in Ukraine, or conflicts in the Middle East—through the prism of their own experiences and values.

As Christians, our anchor is the cross—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are called to interpret our times not with detachment, but through the lens of faith. Jesus once rebuked the religious leaders of his day for being able to predict the weather yet failing to perceive the spiritual realities unfolding around them:

“He replied, ‘When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” (Matthew 16:2-3)

So, whether history is your passion or your mind is set on the future, strive to discern and interpret the times—rooted in faith and guided by understanding.

With love and prayers,

Christine

Rector

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE RECTORY

You are warmly invited to enjoy afternoon tea at the Rectory on Saturday, 30th August, from 2pm to 5pm. To help with catering, a sign-up sheet will be available in the coming weeks.





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

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

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE TAKING A BREAK FROM MID-JULY UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details

PLEASE NOTE THIS GROUP IS ALSO TAKING A BREAK

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 13th July. The results are set out below:

- 1st Margaret Shaw
- 2nd Chris and Jill Bell
- 3rd Mike Schultz

The next draw will be on 10th August. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!

EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK:

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



The practitioners continue to be very busy. There's a constant stream of referrals coming in and the general trend continues to be referrals for families with children with special educational needs, who are struggling to get the best support for their children.

Practitioners have been supporting children through the exam period at school. Some of our older children have reached the end of secondary school and

have attended school proms, and year 6 children are preparing to move up to secondary school. But for several of the children with special educational needs we support, the next stage of schooling is not so straightforward, and places are not readily available. Our practitioners are busy liaising with schools to find out what is going to happen in September.

After much perseverance from one of our practitioners, we've recently heard that one child, who was without a placement for many months has now been granted their place to start in September. Now, as the summer holidays are approaching, we are preparing to provide a range of activities for the children and families we support across the diocese: teddy bear picnics, cricket and multi sports, beach days, activity days, arts and crafts days, and much more.



Barn Dance

Sat 9th August - 7 pm

**Licensed
Bar**

Take your
partner by the
hand and join
the fun



At. St. Margaret's Church, Ifield

Tickets £10 per head

(inc. BBQ & Salad)

Available from Church



SMILE (St. Margaret's Ifield Ladies Events)

This group is all about friendship, fun, and supporting each other. It's a chance to relax, unwind, and enjoy some great company.

For your diaries:-

- Saturday 23rd August – 5pm Hawth Crawley Amphitheatre. Bring a camping chair or cushion and a picnic.

All are welcome to join us.

For further details contact Clare Wilson email SMILE@ifieldparish.org or 0776 1122 172

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

Meets fortnightly on Friday evenings during term-time from 6.30 – 8.00 pm

For more information, please contact the Rector

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Fr 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
PCC Secretary	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	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	dbsleadrecruiter@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 September issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 25th August