

The Buzz

December 2022



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As we enter December you may be breathing a sigh of relief that this year is nearly over and looking forward to Christmas with, hopefully, a little more certainty than last year!

It has certainly been a year of ups and downs, feeling at times like a game of Snakes and Ladders. Some form of normality is reached and then – just like with one roll of the dice - we are sliding back down, and we have to start all over again and change plans. All the uncertainty we've had puts a new perspective on the Christmas story itself, because we realise how disrupting the events of the first Christmas were for those involved.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. They no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window! Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census, so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat in their fields just doing their job until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the new-born Jesus. Then there were the wise men, sent on a perilous journey to a far-off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky.

None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came, they went with it and in doing so they met God face to face.

We all approach Christmas with our own set of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through the last few years it may feel that we deserve to be able to celebrate in the ways that we 'usually' do this year.

Whatever happens this Christmas, I hope that it will give us an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turns our lives have taken to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas!

Christine

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



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

	Dec 4th	8am	Said Eucharist
		11am	Eucharist with Toy & Toiletries Collection for FSW
	Dec 11th	9.30am	FIISH Service
		11am	Eucharist
		3pm	Christingle Service
	Dec 18th	9.30am	Family Service
		11am	Eucharist
		6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
	Dec 20th	5pm	Carols Round the Tree (Held Outside*)
	Dec 21st	7.30pm	Carols In The Pub - The Plough Inn, Iffield
	Dec 24th	4pm	Crib Service (Held Outside*)
		11pm	Midnight Mass (By Candle Light)
	Dec 25th	10am	Family Christmas Eucharist
	Jan 1st	8am	Said Eucharist
		11am	Said Eucharist
Jan 8th	11am	Epiphany	

**We Wish you all a Merry
Christmas**

www.iffieldparish.org

*Unfortunately, no seating will be available, Service Sheets available from the website prior to arrival or use the QR Codes on your mobile, please wear appropriate footwear.



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 27th November at 6.00 pm

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 Creeds
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



Sharing the Warmth this winter

This year, our families are more anxious than they have ever been before about affording their fuel bills during the winter months. We know that costs are rising for everybody, but also that many of you may be receiving additional energy support this year that you might not need. If you are able to help our families who do not qualify for the Winter Fuel Allowance by making a donation to our Winter Fuel campaign, you can help to bring heat and hope to families all across Sussex.

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

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a collection of new toys for children and toiletries for their parents at the 11 am service on Sunday 4th December

NEWS FROM THE EASTER TEAM

Current particular needs for the basket in church are for tinned potatoes, tinned meat and tinned fish. Thank you.

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	<u>safeguarding@ifieldparish.org</u>
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	<u>lmhull@virginmedia.com</u>

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 January 2023 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 19th December**