

NOTICES CONTINUED

In church this week –

Monday 9th January **9.00 am Little Dragons**

Wednesday 11th January **9.30 am Said Eucharist Service**

Friday 13th January **1.00 pm Funeral**
6.30 pm JYC
7.45 pm AYC

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
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WELCOME TO ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, IFIELD



[Please join us](#)

Here at St. Margaret's we are delighted to open our church again daily from 8:30 am till 4 pm to enable people to use this building individually for private prayer.

Please do look at our website

www.ifieldparish.org

or our group

[St Margaret's Church, Ifield](#)

for more details of our online services, how to join them, and discover how the church is active and at work proclaiming in this community, that in Jesus you are "Loved as you are".

8th January 2023

The Epiphany

Services next Sunday: Family Service (9.30 am)
Epiphany 2 **Sung Eucharist Service (11 am)**

For our prayers

The Parish: Drummond Road, Duncton Close, Elsted Close and Excalibur Close, Crossway, Denchers Plat, Dobson Road and Dove Close

The Sick: Patients of Langley Green Hospital and Richard Aldridge, Paula Holt, Arthur and Doris Pattenden, Lydia, David Baker, Maureen Clifford, Charlotte Bacon, Daphne Goodwin, Doris Staniford, Sally Windsor, Ray Budd, Tina Fell, Sue King, Katie and family, Madeline, Ray Buck, Mary and Andrew Eastman

The Departed: Hilda Wise and Jean Birchall

Year's mind: Barbara Afford, Angela Vallance, Eva Jenna, Olwen Knox-Crawford, Rose Ransom, Sylvia Morant, Ada Rogers, Lilian Johnson, Harriet Johnson, Charles Sharmer, Eileen Hubbard, Reynold Jones and Brian Smith

NOTICES

Easter Team Foodbank. Thank you everyone for your New Year generosity. The foodbank team were grateful as always and as busy as ever when I delivered this week.

Biggest spaces on the shelves were:

Rice pudding
Custard
Tinned fruit
Potatoes (see below)

Easter Team are moving to instant mash so clients only need to boil a kettle. With fuel costs soaring the cost of cooking a meal becomes critical so foods that can be cheaply reheated in a microwave are key, standard ovens are too expensive to run for most.

NEXT DELIVERY TUESDAY 17th JAN

Leave in church or for collections contact sue@ifieldparish.org

To give you an idea of the extent to which food banks have become life savers:

- in the week running up to Christmas, Easter Team delivered 306 Christmas parcels, sadly, the highest ever.
- in 2022 they provided 4947 food parcels (up 300 from 2021, over 3000 more than 2019 and equivalent to over 64 tons of food).
- equating to 1264 separate households (50% more than 2021) comprising 2652 individuals
- in the last year 693 new households asked for help and although many have full time employment, their wages are insufficient to make ends meet - seriously demoralising for people who have always managed in the past.

As this New Year gets underway, let's pray that we will be able to continue our support of Easter Team and that the individuals who rely on us will keep hold of hope for a brighter future 🙏

Can You Share The Warmth? Many of the families helped by Family Support Work live in fuel poverty. Please would you consider donating your winter fuel allowance, either online via www.justgiving.com/campaign/stw22 or by cheque payable to FSW at Family Support Work, Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton, BN1 6AA.

Burial of Ashes Area. As we have a new team of Crawley Council workers looking after the churchyard we need to make sure we follow our churchyard regulations. This means that there can be no ornaments of any kind, planted flowers or plants, artificial foliage or flowers and nothing covered in plastic. Fresh cut flowers placed on the tablet are allowed, anything not permitted will be removed. If you would like a copy of the updated Churchyard Regulations Booklet please find copies in the bookshelf near the side door in church.

Easy Fundraising. The parish has set up a fundraising account with Easy Fundraising: If you load the App on your smartphone and computer then online purchases from a huge range of suppliers (eg. Amazon, eBay, Tesco, Iceland, Argos, Decathlon, M&S, John Lewis, WHSmith Curry's, AO, apple, Booking.com etc) will result in automatic donations being made to St. Margaret's Church, Ifield. As we now buy so much online this is an easy way to help us at no additional cost - a win-win solution. Alternatively you can use the link below which takes you direct to our page.
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretsifield/?q=St%20Margarets%20-%20Ifield&cat=cause-autosuggest>

For more information on Save West of Ifield please refer to this website:
www.savewestofield.co.uk

I would like to invite everyone in the diocese to keep 2023 as a year of the Old Testament. Next year is the first of two special years [2024 will be the Year of the New Testament] leading up to the 2025 which we will keep as a special Year of Faith.

2025 celebrates 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea which gave us what became the Nicene Creed. It also marks 950 years of Christian mission in a diocese based in Chichester. Hence why the three-year programme is known as Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith.

The Year of the Old Testament will reflect on the Hebrew Scriptures. We will seek to understand the Law, the Prophets and the Writings in their original context, and see more clearly how they point us towards Jesus Christ and the gospel, and to our own knowledge of him in the history of his body, the Church.

The Old Testament speaks repeatedly of God as One and as Holy. So we hope that this Year will help us to understand how the Old Testament guides the Church to be 'one' and 'holy': the first two of the 'marks of the Church' and part of our diocesan strategy.

+ Martin

