

# The Buzz

April 2023

Monthly information for the Parish  
of Ifield



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## Thought for the Month



In Lent, as I said in February, it's traditional to give up something that we do a lot and that we find pleasure in. This 'giving up' is done as a discipline, as a reminder of Christ's sufferings and what our true pleasures are as followers of Christ, and as an act of sorrow over our sin. Sometimes we don't notice how certain things we do have gained power over us and dictate our everyday actions. In Lent, we discover these things and give them up so that God can be in charge. Franciscans use the term 'detachment': the less that stuff preoccupies your life, the more room there is for God!

During my curacy I helped out around the Deanery as there was a large number of vacancies. One church I helped at had an odd set of Easter services. They would have the Palm Sunday service with its celebration of Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey, a sign of kingly peace, and then the next service would be on Easter Sunday – the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ: Two Sundays; two celebratory services. But they would have no service in between. Lent too was hardly mentioned. The upshot was a feeling that the real point of Easter was rather muted. If you haven't considered the depths, then there is little to be thankful for in the heights.

Today many people ignore Lent, and the events of Holy week. We live in a society that hides away illness and death to an alarming degree, and in which getting a 'sorry' out of someone can be almost impossible. We absolve ourselves with alarming ease yet castigate others to an equally alarming extent! In Lent though, we recognise liability for our sinful acts and thoughts, and treat them as the killers they can be. It is the opening up, the turning over to God, the repenting of sins, the turning away from that 'which does not please God' that benefits us most.

Most of what can be learned in Lent and Holy Week is true for the rest of the year. It is too long to be short-term, but too short to be a substitute for year-round Christian reflection. A short burst, such as forty days, can go a long way, but only for those who make some hard decisions and turn to God to ask for the strength to change. How is that possible?

Only because through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross all that separates from God, that we uncover in Lent, can be forgiven. Christ has taken that burden, and you don't have to carry it anymore. Atonement has been made for us. We are at-one with God through his Son. That's Good News!

Finally, in the Bible the Resurrection on that first Easter Day shows us because of the risen Christ that a life beyond death and indeed one that transcends death is possible – the kingdom finally come. God ultimately offers healing to His people, but, in the meantime, life can still hold its share of suffering and tribulation for some. Prayer itself then becomes the means of asking, but the message is still one of hope – that the reality of what Jesus offers us will come to pass soon. I hope some of you will join me at our Easter and Eastertide services so that together we can really celebrate this new life that Jesus gives.

A thoughtful Holy Week and then a blessed Easter to you all.

Yours in Christ,

*Christine*

## **SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	8.00 am 11.00 am	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	FIISH for young families Sung Eucharist
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.30 am 11.00 am	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist
Wednesdays	9.30 am	Said Eucharist

Sunday School on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

## **JOURNEY TO THE CROSS**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April between 10.00am and 12 noon, and between 2.00 and 4.00 pm, there will be a series of prayer stations set up in church. You are invited to come and meet some of the characters Jesus encountered on Good Friday, to experience this interactive journey at your own pace at a time to suit you, and to spend as long as you wish. Each station will contain a picture, a Bible reading, an object on which to focus and some questions to ponder.

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

## Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (said)  
10.45am Palm Procession & Communion Service

## Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30pm Compline

## Tue 4<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Service of Wholeness & Healing

## Wed 5<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Tenebrae – A Service of Shadows

## Thu 6<sup>th</sup> April MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Holy Communion with foot washing and the Watch

## Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April GOOD FRIDAY

1.30pm Good Friday Service

## Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April HOLY SATURDAY

8.30pm Easter Vigil with Lighting of New Fire

## Sun 9<sup>th</sup> April EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am FiiSH Service (with Easter Egg Hunt)  
11.00am Holy Communion

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30 pm in church



## PARISH HOUSE GROUPS

Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Road  
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt [jo@bridgeham.com](mailto:jo@bridgeham.com) for details



Nearly all our 20 practitioners now have full caseloads, and referrals continue to arrive almost daily to the office. We are seeing more complex family situations with multiple challenging problems, which mean our long-term support is crucial. The lack of access to specialist support

services (such as child mental health support) is a big worry, with some of our family members being told about waiting lists of 3 years just for initial assessments. The number of supported meetings we are attending with families has increased significantly as families are having to fight harder to get the help they need.

For more information, or to donate, please visit: [familysupportwork.org](http://familysupportwork.org)

## 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



## OUR YOUTH CLUBS

**Junior Youth Club** - School Years 1-4

**Above Youth Club** - School Years 5-8

**Beyond Youth Club** - School Years 9 and above

For more information, please contact Naomi Gater, Youth and Children's Officer

# EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Current needs are for anything and everything (except pasta!) but particularly shampoo, shower gel and cereal.

Please leave items in the basket in church or contact [sue@ifieldparish.org](mailto:sue@ifieldparish.org) for collection.

## WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	561283	<a href="mailto:rector@ifieldparish.org">rector@ifieldparish.org</a>
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	<a href="mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org">reader@ifieldparish.org</a>
Parish Wardens	Andy Ironside	07758 168411	<a href="mailto:andy@ifieldparish.org">andy@ifieldparish.org</a>
	Chris Bell	521699	<a href="mailto:chris@ifieldparish.org">chris@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	<a href="mailto:pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org">pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org</a>
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ifieldparish.org">treasurer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Safeguarding	Amy Wilson	07701 098350	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@ifieldparish.org">safeguarding@ifieldparish.org</a>
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	<a href="mailto:ycofficer@ifieldparish.org">ycofficer@ifieldparish.org</a>
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	<a href="mailto:lmhull@virginmedia.com">lmhull@virginmedia.com</a>

## 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](http://www.ifieldparish.org)

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to  
Carl Peirce [carl@ifieldparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org)

**Please send any updates for the May 2023 issue to Jill Bell**  
[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) by 24<sup>th</sup> April