

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



September 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month

Embracing New Beginnings and Missed Opportunities



September has always felt to me like a subtle turning of the year—a quiet invitation to begin anew. Perhaps it's a throwback to childhood routines: the first days of school, uniform a bit too big “so you can grow into it,” stiff new shoes not yet broken in, and a pristine pencil case packed with freshly sharpened pencils. There is excitement in the air, tinged with a touch of apprehension—the gentle ending of summer's seemingly endless days, and the hopeful promise of something yet to come.

This isn't a new year in the way Advent is, with its dark, penitential mystery and silent waiting. Nor is it like the Gregorian calendar's 1st January, marked by fireworks, popping corks, and general jollity.

Instead, autumn offers a quieter, more reflective kind of renewal, as the world lets go of the fizz of spring and the abundance of summer. Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, once described this early autumn season in a poem written during a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela:

*The earth has relinquished the fizz of spring
and the fecund abundance of summer...
There are still leaves on the tree, but they are on the ground as well.
Fruits are ripe for picking: fig, walnut, lime.
Fruiting and falling. Both.*

It's a good time to take stock. Perhaps you've come back from holiday, feeling rested and refreshed. Or maybe the lighter pace of summer—quieter streets, fewer emails and phone calls—has brought its own kind of rest. As life's rhythms quicken again, there's wisdom in pausing to reflect on the past year, considering both what has been and what might lie ahead.

For many, this season aligns with the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, which falls in September or October. This is a sober and reflective two-day period, marked by traditions such as Tashlich, where people cast breadcrumbs or pieces of bread—symbolising their sins—into flowing water. It's a time to look back over the year's successes and failures and to make amends for hurts and mistakes. Yet, Rosh Hashanah is also a surprising opportunity to reflect on missed chances—to ask oneself where one might have been more proactive or adventurous, where fruit might have come from a fall, or a fall might have led to fruit.

Fruiting and falling. Falling and fruiting.

This reflection isn't exclusive to any one tradition. For Christians, too, it can be a season for honest self-examination. Have there been moments in the past year when we hesitated, when we drew back from the water's edge, missing opportunities to be bold or to welcome the unexpected? Did we fail to recognise the chance to "entertain angels unaware" (Hebrews 13:2)? The missed opportunities, failures, or regrets may fall away, carried by the stream, but through prayerful and honest reflection, these moments can become the fertile ground for new beginnings—lessons learned, courage renewed.

The Bible is rich with stories of simple encounters that shaped lives and history, often hinging on moments that might easily have been missed: Elisha being found by Elijah behind the plough and receiving the prophetic mantle (1 Kings 19:16). The curiosity of Pharaoh's daughter by the river, where she discovered the baby Moses (Exodus 1:5). Simon and Andrew's first encounter with Jesus on the lakeshore (Mark 1:16-17). Mary's humble acceptance of the angel's message: "*let it be with me according to thy word*" (Luke 1:38). Philip's meeting with the Ethiopian treasurer and sharing the gospel (Acts 8:26-31).

As this gentle new year unfolds, it is a fitting moment to resolve to greet each day with expectation—that divine opportunities might invite us to step somewhere new, to form unexpected relationships, or to be inspired in surprising ways. Let us pray for open hearts, ready for God's purpose, and for the courage not to let those moments slip by.

Falling and fruiting. Fruiting and falling.

Each September, as the earth lets go and bears fruit in equal measure, we too are called to let go, to reflect, and to look forward—ready for the adventures and opportunities that await.

With love and prayers

Christine

Rector



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

SERVICE OF PEACE AND CONTEMPLATION

Tuesday 23rd September at 7.00 pm

PARISH HOUSE GROUP

Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Rd.
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details
New members are always welcome



COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER

On Saturday 13th September, from 2.0 – 5.00, we are inviting local organisations within the parish, including other churches/faiths and local councillors, to join us.

There will be help needed on the day, so we will be asking. There will be games for the children, a quiz and a chance to network. We will provide tea, coffee and cakes.

Please see the flyer below.

Community Get Together

Let's connect! A gathering for local groups and organisations in Ifield Parish

- Join us for a friendly meet-up. Come along, say hello and explore how we can support one another in our work and community life. All welcome.
- Saturday 13th September 2 'til 5 @ St Margaret's Church (*hopefully outside*)
- Games, quiz, refreshments, networking - **save the date!**
- Email: communications@ifieldparish.org to sign up





EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK

The next collection will be on Tuesday 2nd September. Please leave items in the basket in church. Thank you for your continued support.



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

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 10th August. The results are set out below:

1st Joan Lloyd
2nd Sarah Ward
3rd Michael Briggs

The next draw will be on 14th September. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!



As the summer holidays are almost over, we are in the throws of family fun days that give our families a chance to forget about their cares for a day and just have fun. At the very start of the holidays, we headed to Warnham Park in Horsham with 160 people for a very relaxed day. There was a teddy bear hunt, swimming in the open-air pool and a BBQ to keep everyone's strength up, not to mention sandwiches, cakes and jellies before everyone headed

home. The following week saw us with 60 people at St Michaels and All Angels Berwick, for a fantastic day of arts and crafts provided by the Berwick Church volunteers. In August we were at Agmerhurst House in Ashburnham for another fund day for 68 people, this time with archery trampolining and yet another BBQ!

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.

OUR YOUTH GROUP

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

For more information, please contact the Rector

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.

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 October issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 22nd September