

NOTICES CONTINUED

In church this week –

Monday 27th February	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Little Dragons Compline
Wednesday 1st March	9.30 am 10.30 am	Said Eucharist Service Lent Course
Friday 3rd March	6.30 pm 7.45 pm	JYC AYC
Saturday 4th March	11.00 am	Stations of the Cross

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, chris@ifieldparish.org

For more information on Save West of Ifield please refer to this website:

www.savewestofifield.co.uk

Registered Charity Account no. 1132318

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".

26th February 2023

Lent 1

Services next Sunday: **Said Eucharist Service (8 am)**
Lent 2 **Sung Eucharist Service (11 am)**

For our prayers

The Parish: Shipley Road, Slinfold Walk, Southwater Close and Spartan Way, Short Close, Squirrel Close and St Edmunds Close

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

The Departed: Pam Webster and Anne Reeves

Year's mind: Hilda Friend, William Mayes, Brenda Wilkins, Peter Crowhurst, Frances Bonner, Verity Braham, Ethel Stenning, Norman Wakefield and John Barker

NOTICES

A gold drop down earring was found in church on the 12th of February, it is now in the office for collection.

Lent Lunches. Every Wednesday in March at 12.30 in the Youth Room Soup, roll, cheese and coffee. £5 - in aid of Family Support Work.

Church Cleaning. Volunteers needed. If you can help, please speak to the Churchwardens - Andy Ironside or Chris Bell.

Easter Team Foodbank. This week's donations were most gratefully received as always and I pass on heartfelt thanks from the Easter Team. For next collection - **TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY**, please can you help rectify low stocks of: - UHT milk, Tinned Tomatoes and Tinned Vegetables. Thanks everyone, your generosity really is appreciated 🙏
(sue@ifieldparish.org)

Wednesday Lent Course for 2023. Every Wednesday, we're going to be looking at an aspect of Christian discipleship which can often seem daunting: evangelism – sharing the 'good news' of Christ with those who have yet to receive Jesus into their lives and offering to accompany enquirers as they set out on the journey of faith.

As someone currently exploring a vocation to ordained ministry and required to give my own testimony as part of that process, I've been reflecting on how to develop our ability to speak about the faith that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. I've come to realize just how precious these personal testimonies are, and – no matter how 'ordinary' they might seem to us - how powerful they are in encouraging others to come and see what it *truly* means to follow Jesus.

This Lent course is all about valuing and nurturing our personal faith stories and thinking creatively about how we might share them with others. Combining a mixture of discussion-based activities, meditative scripture-reading and prayer, this course sets out to deepen our understanding of what sustains each of us in our faith, and to embolden us in our shared calling to be evangelists of the gospel.

Lucy

Venue: St Margaret's Church
Day and Time: Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:45 am
Duration: 9 weeks
Course start and end date: 01/02/23 – 29/03/23

Please note: there is no requirement to attend all nine sessions. Feel free to attend as many or as few as suits your diary. All materials will be provided, so just bring yourselves. All are welcome!

More Lent Groups

Mondays 10.30 am - 12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Road, starting on 27th February

Who then is this? Chichester Diocesan Lent Course

With the help of artists, hymn-writers and Christian teachers, we will look back to people and events in the Old Testament to answer the question the disciples asked about Jesus when he calmed the storm.

For more information please contact Jill Bell on 521699 or reader@ifieldparish.org

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm at varying venues, 7th February - 21st March. Finding Jesus in the Psalms, with Barb Roose. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories. For more information, please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com

Crawley CAP Life Skills Course. We are planning to run another Christians Against Poverty Life Skills course at Holy Trinity, Tilgate, starting on Wednesday 22nd February and consecutive Wednesdays for nine weeks, with a break for the school Easter holidays. This course is open to everyone who is struggling with life's challenges, irrespective of their financial situation. We cover topics ranging from coping with high pressure selling, living on a budget, healthy eating and shopping, managing energy bills, promoting good relationships, including forgiveness. We also make sure we have fun! The course will start at 10.15am and finish by 12.00pm. If you are interested or know someone who would be, or want to find out more **please call Graham Piper on 07491 779384.**

Services in Lent

Compline – Monday's at 7.30 pm. Beginning on the 27th of February

Stations of the Cross – Saturday March the 4th and 18th at 11 am

Journey to the Cross Prayer Stations – Saturday 1st April, 10 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm

Telling Our Story – CAP Evangelism Training

Starts: Thursday 2nd March 7:30 pm

Hosted at Elim Church Crawley, The Mardens, Ifield, RH11 0AQ

"The church has the greatest story to tell. But the reality is many Christians say they struggle to tell our story confidently.

In all our work, the heart of CAP is to tell this story and bring hope into the darkness of our lives. As an evangelistic organisation, we want to help local Christians to tell our story, the story of Jesus and how He has given us a new story.

We are hosting our first "telling our story" evangelism training. Over four interactive evenings in March, we will talk through 4 of the storylines in telling our story:

1 His Story – what is the gospel?

2 Story Pictures – gospel images of salvation.

3 My Story – learning to tell my story.

4 Starting A New Story – leading someone to faith in Jesus.

This is open to all Christians from any church. You don't need to have any connection to CAP. Our aim is to equip Christians to share our stories confidently. Knowing it's not just about what we say but how we say it."

To sign up visit: <https://ecc.churchsuite.com/events/006r4tdl>