

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



March 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As we enter into the season of Lent, we begin to fix our eyes on Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ. Journeying with his passion from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday morning is a way of renewing and deepening our hope in all that God can do as we are drawn into the mystery of Jesus.

One of the difficulties with Lent is the great array of temptations it brings to give up something and thereby we become conscious of, and focused on, the possibility of failure. Indeed, we sometimes see the whole purpose of Lent as a sort of test of our resolve to stick to it. We sometimes seem to enter Lent as if it were no more than a six-week obstacle course of spiritual and physical challenges to be mastered or endured, so that we may prove to ourselves, to others and to God how good we are at overcoming challenges, coming through the ordeal unscathed by failure, triumphantly having resisted the temptation to give in!

But if we see Lent as a sort of challenge then success in Lent becomes an achievement, something we have done rather than something done in us. It becomes a celebration of our ability and strength rather than anything about the working of God's grace in us, renewing us and helping us to write a new history as we journey on in life.

In the gospels (Matthew 4.1-11; Luke 4.1-13) we see that the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness were not about whether he would achieve personal triumph through them; the Devil was testing the Sonship of Jesus, he was testing whether Jesus was truly an agent or servant of God. And what we see in Jesus resisting the devil is not about Jesus or His personal glory. We see the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth Grace and Humility working through Him.

So therefore, the focus of Lent is not about the test, and challenges that we overcome but on using the time to allow God to use the test and challenges as a way of renewing us. It is about taking time to remember that we are not alone the Holy Spirit is with us to renew us and help us to play a part in writing a new history.

Our season of Lent invites each of us to take stock and prayerfully consider our life and calling, and how we use our gifts and talents, both as individuals and as a whole Church, and to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in us and in the world around us.

Whether we have given up something for Lent or have started to do something new, in *A Season for the Spirit*, Martin Smith writes:

'Lent is about freedom which is gained only through exposure to the truth.... Truth is not a thing; it is rather an event. Truth happens to us when the coverings of illusion are stripped away and what is real emerges into the open...The Spirit promises to bring us into truth by stripping away some more of the insulation and barriers which have separated us from living contact with reality, the reality of God, of God's world and our true self.'

At the heart of the Christian story is the belief that God made the world and everything in it out of love. Jesus came to live and die for us so that we can understand God's words to him as being meant for us, too: We are beloved by God, created in God's image and we are to live our lives in that knowledge.

As we look ahead let us strip away the frills and assess our true nature, our true selves in discovering what we are put on earth to do for the remainder of our lives. Let us look to meeting Jesus anew as the disciples did on the road to Emmaus.

Yours in Christ,
Revd Christine



There will be a said service of Holy Communion at 9.30am on Ash Wednesday (5th March) with the opportunity for the Imposition of Ashes.

For those unable to attend the 9.30am service, the church will be open from 7pm to 8pm, offering an opportunity for silent prayer and the Imposition of Ashes.



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

LENT COURSE

This year's Diocesan Lent Course focuses on the Nicene Creed – the one we say together every Sunday. Each session will include a Bible reading, a reflection, questions for discussion and a podcast of Bishop Martin in conversation.

We will be running the course at St. Margaret's on five Wednesday mornings from 10.30 – 12.00 noon, beginning on Wednesday 12th March.

If you would like to take part, please let Jill Bell know.

PARISH HOUSE GROUPS



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

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Venue may vary.

Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details

New members are always welcome

BE PART OF OUR FUTURE: 2025 ELECTORAL ROLL RENEWAL

2025 is a church electoral roll renewal year! Every six years, we update our roll, and we invite you to be a part of this important process. If you've been baptized and are 16 or older, we'd love for you to join us.

What does it mean to be on the roll?

Joining the electoral roll is a wonderful way to support our church. While it doesn't require any additional commitments, it strengthens our representation in church governance. It's also a requirement if you're interested in standing for election to the PCC or other synodical councils (Deanery, Diocesan, or General Synod). Most importantly, it gives you a voice at our APCM, where you can vote and help shape the future of our church by choosing its leaders.

Ready to register?

Application forms are available in the church or for download from our website – www.ifieldparish.org

Please return your completed form by Monday, 31st March 2025, to Clare Wilson (PCC Secretary and Parish Electoral Roll Officer) by email at pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org, or you can hand it in at church to Clare or Rev. Christine Spencer.



EASTER EGG COLLECTION

Becky, our local Family Support Work practitioner, would be delighted to receive Easter eggs to pass on to the families she's working with. Please bring your contributions (eggs of any size) to church and give them to Jill Bell, no later than Sunday 23rd March.

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

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 9th February. The results are set out below:

- 1st Sarah Ward
- 2nd Jo Strutt
- 3rd Kim Davis-Gray

The next draw will be on 9th March.

Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!

For those of you who are not familiar with the 200 Club, it's a monthly lottery whose proceeds go towards the maintenance and preservation of our Grade One listed church, and to ensuring that St. Margaret's can continue to serve the Ifield community for years to come.

A lengthier explanation of the scheme, and the necessary forms, are available on the parish website or from the table to your left as you enter the church. For just £10 a month you can be entered into a draw which takes place at the end of the 11.00 am service on the second Sunday of each month, when 50% of the money raised is distributed in prizes amongst three lucky winners.

You don't have to be a regular churchgoer to take part.



Our day-to-day work is continuing to involve many complicated cases as families are facing multiple challenges. All of our practitioners are still holding full caseloads, and whilst we have managed to reduce waiting lists in some areas there are still a lot of families needing our help. One of the things we like most about our work is the chance to spend time with our families and not be pressurised into solving things

quickly - the relationship that we can develop this way is crucial in supporting parents to make changes.

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

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Current particular needs are for

household cleaners
soap powder
washing up liquid

Please leave items in the basket in church or contact sue@ifieldparish.org for collection.



LITTLE DRAGONS

It's church, it's messy, it's for little ones, their parents and carers!

In church, 9 till 10.30am every Monday in term time

OUR YOUTH GROUP

For more information, please contact the Rector

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd 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	Clare Wilson	416438	pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
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 Wednesday mornings (and Sundays)

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 April issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 17th March