

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



July 2024
Monthly information for the
Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



As I sat down to write this article, I found my thoughts drifting to the end of the summer and I started to think about harvest, and how to juggle the school visits, the Scouts service and whatever we might do. Harvest is one of the moveable festivals in the Church of England and I was thinking about what we could do that might be different this year. Do we really celebrate and give thanks for the harvest and all the good things God gives to us or do we just pay lip service to that?

This pondering led me to the famous verse from Matthew's gospel "*the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few*" (Matthew 9.37).

In the passage from Matthew (chapters 9.35–10:23) we see Jesus commissioning the apostles to share the work of his mission, to be labourers with him in the harvest. But Jesus's words weren't just for the apostles, they also speak to us, in our church today. And this is a good time for us all to reflect on Jesus's words. Over the next few months, we will begin thinking again about our mission here, and trying to update our plan, and form a framework and focus for our ministry – what is called the Mission Action Plan. What do we need to achieve, how are we going to do it, what can we build on?

Jesus's mission was to proclaim the good news – '*the kingdom of heaven has come near*' – and he proclaimed it in word and action, teaching and healing. And things were urgent. When he sees the crowds, Jesus feels compassion, that gut reaction when we're faced with suffering and injustice; they were like sheep without a shepherd, harassed and torn apart; or in another image, he sees a plentiful harvest, but too few labourers. So, Jesus tells the disciples to beg for labourers to be sent out.

Such a plentiful harvest, so many people looking for the way – but so few labourers to spread the message, to show them the way. And isn't it the same today – so many people around us, harassed and torn apart, looking for a way. And so few of us ... so the first question for us is this:

How urgently are we begging and praying for the work of mission to grow, or are we just trying to carry on as usual?

The labourers are needed urgently – so Jesus calls together the apostles and sets them to take up the task, giving them his own power and authority. So, praying, however earnestly, isn't the whole answer, if we then just sit back and wait for help. The church won't magically fill up with new members, or labourers appear to do it for us. And mission isn't just the job of the clergy, churchwardens, or any other 'special' people - there was nothing very special about the apostles. Mission is the calling of the whole church, and Jesus summons us too as labourers, all of us – all of us can pray, can talk about our faith, can love others. And what else? What more could we be doing, as a church or individuals, to proclaim and share the good news?

What have we got to offer – what life experience, knowledge, talents, relationships, time – and are we willing to use them, to be 'sent out'?

Jesus tells the apostles to go only to the house of Israel, which may seem wrong to us now. But his first priority was to bring the good news to the people of Israel – because God had called them to be a 'priestly kingdom'. If they would only recognize Jesus and accept him, the rest of the world would be drawn in too. It didn't work out, and Jesus took the way of the cross – but there is a message here for us. We see so many things we could do, but we'll need to choose rather than try to do everything.

What and who should be our priorities in this time and place?

Jesus also tells the apostles to take no provisions of any kind – money, food, clothing – just go as they are, depending entirely on the hospitality of strangers. Though it seems hard, that removes any obstructions from their mission – not burdened with lots of things to carry, concerned about thieves, or delayed by over-careful preparations. And it reminds those sent that the focus is on God and his mission, not on them – it's not their own abilities which will carry them through, but their trust in God. So we ask:

What stands in the way of us sharing the good news, what are the obstacles or anxieties, how strong is our trust?

The final section of this passage seems to look ahead at what will happen to the early church. It paints a picture of the difficulties of sharing the good news, of rejection from outsiders and divisions within. It isn't always going to be easy, as we labour for the harvest. There will be rejection, and not everything we do will succeed. There will be difficult decisions to be made, and maybe disagreement about them.

What changes might we need to make, what could we find difficult?

We hope to be starting the process of discussion, consultation and planning fairly soon, but in the meantime please do reflect on the five questions above, and how we can share in Jesus's mission here in Ifield and Langley Green?

I hope and pray we can move forward, together, growing the mission of this parish and do this in a spirit of love and prayer for all.

Yours in Christ

Christine
Rector

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S
DURING TRIAL PERIOD BEGINNING 7TH JUNE 2024**

1st Sunday	9.30 am Sunday Celebration	11.00 am Parish Communion	2.00 pm Baptisms	3.00 pm Baptisms
2nd Sunday	9.30 am <u>FiiSH</u> Service	11.00 am Parish Communion		
3rd Sunday		11.00am Parish Communion		??? 3.30pm service
4th Sunday	9.30am Family Service	11.00 am Parish Communion		
5th Sunday	9.30 am Service of the Word	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)		

Wednesdays
Last Wednesday

9.30 am
5.00 pm

Said Eucharist
Family Church

Please send your feedback on the new pattern of services as soon as possible to focusgroup@ifieldparish.org

ST MARGARET'S REGISTERS

Baptisms – *we welcome into the Lord's family* **Georgina Morris**

Weddings – *to love and to cherish....*

Funerals – *we commend to God's nearer keeping* **Eileen Walton**

Interment of ashes only - **Ann Swaine and Kim Cheesman**

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 for details

New members are always welcome.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL BARBECUE SUNDAY 21ST JULY

Following the 11.00 am Service, there will be a Parish Barbecue, hopefully in the Lychgate garden. Tickets will be available from Chris and Jill Bell, or from Mave in the Parish Office, at £3 a head. Numbers will be limited to 40, and the closing date for purchasing tickets is Sunday 14th July.

If you are willing to volunteer to provide salads and/or desserts, or to help on the day, please sign up on the sheet in church.

SMILE LADIES' SOCIAL EVENTS

Our **SMILE** group was formed to socialise, provide fellowship and have fun, but it's been ages since we last met up.

If you're interested in getting involved (previous activities have included meals out, drinks, the theatre, film night, bingo, BBQ, afternoon tea, games evenings, etc.) or if you have ideas for an event, please do drop an email

to:- smile@ifieldparish.org All welcome ❤️



The summer is drawing ever closer, and with it a break which for many of our families is something to dread as opposed to something to look forward to. With financial constraints still a huge issue for the majority of our caseloads, it is hard to fill the long summer break with activities that keep children occupied without adding additional stress to already complex family situations. As a

result, we try to organise as many local and charity-wide events and activities that we can that will give parents a break and give children the opportunity to try new experiences.

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

200 CLUB

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

1st Jean Eida
2nd Angela Brooks-Usher
3rd Jeselle Lawler

The total prize money distributed this month was £110.

The next draw will be on 14th July

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

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

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 GROUPS

Junior Youth Club - School Years 1-4

Above Youth Club - School Years 5-8

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	07758 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>

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

**Please send any updates for the August 2024 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 15th July**

