



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Buzz

September 2024
Monthly information for the
Parish of Ifield



Thought for the Month

This month's lead article is written by James May, our Treasurer.



Some of you will be aware we have recently had our 2024 APCM and presented our Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2023. Those Financial Statements show that whilst our charity has sufficient cash reserves to meet the recommended reserves policy as set out by the Charity Commission, we only do so because we continue to fail to pay our full Parish share to the Diocese. This notice sets out some key points that the congregation should know.

Firstly, let me set out what our Parish share is. As a charity our rector and curate are not our employees- whilst the parish incurs some living expenses (council tax, water, etc) we do not pay for housing, stipend, training etc. These costs are borne by the Diocese (for all parishes) and each parish is asked to contribute toward these. Last year this ask was for c.£80,000.

Secondly let me set out what we paid and why. We paid just £19,000, down from £22,000 the year before, and significantly down from the £63,000 IPCC paid in 2018. The reason we paid just £19,000 was because that was the number the church considered it could afford to pay before it ran a deficit for the year. Whilst we actually reported a £7,000 surplus on a cash basis for the year, the balance sheet shows we owed £7,000 in items which did not leave the bank by 31 December- so in real terms we did just break even. For clarity, what we do not pay in one year is not payable in the future- we do not have a cumulated deficit.

Thirdly let me set out the main financial reasons why we can only afford to pay £19,000 down from £63,000 just 5 years before. Over that period: our regular giving receipts have halved; our rental income has only gone up 1.2% a year on average; and our costs have increased due to high inflation as well as taking on a Youth Worker (who we did not have on our books in 2018 nor in 2024 but did in the intervening years). The reasons for these trends are objective (Covid, high inflation) and subjective (why we have not increased rents, why we have lost half our donations). This notice does not seek to review past performance as, the next point will show, all efforts must now look forward.

Fourthly let me set out what our financial position means today. We have not paid our full parish share since 2018 and it has decreased each year since. Whilst the Deanery has sometimes asked us about our plans, on the whole we have not been approached directly about matters by the Diocese nor been given consequences - before this quarter. Earlier this year the Archdeacon came to our parish and was given a potted history of the last six years and the challenges we faced (some unique such as losing our rector and curate at the same time and some common such as Covid). From this meeting there was a clear message to the church - we are not viable in our current form. No specific actions were given nor timelines- however we did ask for help and I hope this will be forthcoming in the second half of this year. The help we've asked for is namely some good examples of where churches are financially stable, and examples of how churches have turned their financial position around.

So, to summarise this notice, our church is currently short of c.£60,000 a year from fulfilling its full obligations (including the £80,000 parish share). The charity has sufficient reserves to continue for c. 9 months should the full parish share be called upon (there is no indication the full parish share will be called upon- this sentence is to illustrate our stable cash position). Over the coming months we expect to engage with the Diocese to come up with a plan of what our church may look like going forward, as it cannot continue operating as it has done the last five years. This notice will not speculate on what that may look like as this engagement is yet to begin in earnest.

One thing we can all do, right now, is to review our own giving. Is it regular, or do we only give when we come to church? Are we on the Parish Giving Scheme? Let's each review and consider whether our giving reflects what we ought to be contributing. How many cups of Starbucks' coffee do we give per week as a reflection of our gratitude for our Lord's goodness? The Church of England recommends tithing five per cent of our income after tax.

James

Revd. Christine writes:

I am very grateful to James for all he does to help this parish.

I thought I should share with you that I have had several conversations recently with the Diocese about our finances and the amount of parish share we are paying, and there are future meetings planned to discuss this further.

It has been discussed with me that taking into consideration the current parish finances and that this year's Parish Pledge towards Parish Ministry Costs stands at about £23,500, which equates to less than 30% of what is needed to support full-time ministry, the expectation of the Diocese would be for us to look critically at all of our expenditure.

Since I have been here, I have pared down on all ministry costs and there is no extra money that can be saved. However, the Diocese, facing a £2 million deficit this year, has made it clear that it can no longer support this parish to the tune of £60,000+/year.

We need to show that we are trying to get nearer the 45% of full-time costs to maintain our viability as a parish. Next year ministry costs will increase to about £83,500/year.

As you can see there will be lots to consider during the next few months. The budget, finance and costs will be a significant agenda item at the next PCC meeting later in the month, but I would ask you all to pray about this situation.

Christine

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The following has been adapted from a quote from Dr. Sam Wells, Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, London.

If you don't give because no-one's ever asked you, I'm asking you now.

If you don't give regularly because you've never got round to it, I'm saying today's the day.

If you don't give much because you think St. Margaret's doesn't need it, I'm telling you that it does.

If you don't give a lot because you don't have a lot, I'm saying your giving something is an example to everyone else.

If you don't give more because no-one's ever said thank you, I'm thanking you right now.

If you already give until the pips squeak, I'm saying that's wonderful, and nudge the person next to you to do the same.

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

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.

ST MARGARET'S REGISTERS

Baptisms – *we welcome into the Lord's family.....* Nyla Siatous and Winnie Eager

Funerals – *we commend to God's nearer keeping.....* Angela Wilkinson

Interment of ashes only... Peter and May Crowhurst

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

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



With the summer coming to an end, it has been another few weeks full of activity here. Our annual Warnham Park visit, as well as another trip to Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, took place in glorious sunshine, and the many trips to beaches, parks and nature reserves have kept all of our families occupied. Behind the scenes, we have been using this slightly quieter time of year to welcome our new Trustees and Chair, and start to make important plans for next year.

We know that activity will really ramp up in September when children return to school, and we expect to be adding even more families to our existing waiting lists. It is a sad reflection of the times that so many families are finding that we are their only source of potential support, and are desperate for us to work with them.

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

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 11th August. The results are set out below:

1st Sarah Ward
2nd Jo Strutt
3rd Ann Utting

The next draw will be on 8th September

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



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	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>

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 October 2024 issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org by 23rd September

