

The Buzz



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

February 2025
Monthly information for the
Parish of Ifield



Thought for the Month



The Christmas decorations are down, and the world is quiet and darker – except that the days are getting longer as we can now look forward to spring.

This month we celebrate Candlemas. We remember the time when Jesus was presented in the Temple and His mother Mary attended a service of purification, following His birth. A very significant moment for them both and for the whole family and community.

Nowadays we continue to remind ourselves in this service, seemingly so long after Christmas, that Jesus is the light of the world, and He came to bring God's light to the world – especially the places and areas of lives that had become dark and/or shadowy. Many churches light a lot of candles for the main service on the day that the feast of the presentation is celebrated. It becomes a 'candle-mass' - remembering the event of His presentation and also what He means to us now.

Jesus was born, Jesus was presented and then Jesus was nurtured, to grow into what He became for each of us: a light to fill our darkness. So, if you are watching bulbs grow or planting seeds ready to nurture, take a moment to remember the Christ child – His birth, the early days of His life, the presentation and subsequent nurture, as you do so. This month we do also have Valentine's Day of course and being aware of love also reminds us of nurturing – after all, love is all about nurturing. Love itself has to be nurtured, but to love someone is to nurture, as well as enjoy their presence in your life.

Jesus himself was nurtured, then He nurtured us and, (if we let Him) still does, so as we are reminded too of St Valentine, let's not forget how important 'nurture' is. If you feel unloved or not nurtured, have a quiet word with Jesus and tell Him. Come into Church for a peaceful time with Him, and on a Sunday, before or after the service, visit the candle stand and light a candle asking him to shed His light into a shadow in your life. Through a period of prayer invite Him to be the 'light of the world' and to nurture God's love in you.

May I wish you all a lot of love and nurture this month!

Revd Christine

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

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

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

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 12th January. The results are set out below:

1st Michael Briggs
2nd Janet Bradstreet
3rd Clare Wilson

The next draw will be on 9th February.

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Another effortless way to help raise money for St. Margaret's is to join easy fundraising. easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands, who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra but the church will benefit every time you order goods. To find out more, go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretsifield>, or scan the QR code below.



MAMA MIA!



On Saturday 18th January some forty people gathered in church for a special fund-raising event. The sing-along version of Mama Mia, accompanied by popcorn, wine and soft drinks, and with hot dogs served in the interval, provided great entertainment on a cold winter's afternoon. There were prizes for the dancing queen (both adults and children), the best costume, and a raffle. In total £553 was raised for church funds. Look out for the sequel later in the year!



The Christmas festivities seem a long time away, as life for our families has settled back to their ongoing struggles. Despite our help with extra food and presents at Christmas, many families experienced a particularly difficult time with energy costs in the cold weather, so it was a real relief for them to have access to our winter fuel fund which is so generously supported by many individuals.

The continued rise in general prices across food, energy and petrol is of great concern still, and practitioners are spending a lot of time helping families with budgeting and accessing other sources of support and advice. We are very fortunate to have very close links with CAP, Citizens' Advice Bureau and other more local groups which can give families specialised advice.

The Crawley Support Group, of which both Revd. Christine and Jill Bell are members, met on 21st January with the CEO, Martin Auton-Lloyd, and Becky Long, our local practitioner, to hear more about the work of this very worthwhile charity and to find out what we can do to help. Our Christmas collection of toys and toiletries was much appreciated. There will be opportunities to participate in, and/or support, sponsored events later in the year.

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

EASTER TEAM FOODBANK

Current particular needs are for

Tinned potatoes

Tinned veg

Toilet rolls

Nappies (sizes 4, 5 & 6 only).

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