

# WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH Parish Newsletter



## Letter from the Area Dean

### At the heart of Christmas



Luke 2.19

**But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart**

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

This year, of course, I hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and our communities. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

*At the heart of Christmas* is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God’s saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

Across Romsey Deanery, local churches will be welcoming all to treasure the words, and story, of the First Christmas. Please take the opportunity to meet with family, friends and your community by going to Church this Christmas.

*Your Area Dean, James*

Rev James Pitkin – [romseyareadean@gmail.com](mailto:romseyareadean@gmail.com)

## Letters from Churchwardens

### St Leonard’s, Sherfield English

Advent starts our Christian year, and we had a delightful service at St Leonard’s on Advent Sunday with children and adults making their Christingles. Everything was set out individually which fortunately made it much more difficult for the fleet of hand to pilfer their neighbour’s sweets and fruit for the four seasons when they were not looking. I asked the first finished Christingle to be held aloft and Pam Taylor did so with gusto, but reckoned it was only because she was old enough, just, to know what “aloft” meant! My fellow Churchwarden this year found it much more difficult to eat the sweets subtly during the making of the Christingle with her mask on, but she did try!

We continue with our Carol Service on 12th December at 6 p.m. for the traditional lessons and carols. The choir will then pop outside The Hatchet Inn on Monday 13th December at 7.30 p.m. to sing carols and enjoy a Christmas tippie. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us. Our Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve will take place at 8 p.m. (doesn’t everyone’s?!) and we are delighted that Rev. James Pitkin will be taking this service for us as it fits in nicely with his Thorngate duties. On Christmas Day we are having a family service at 11 a.m. and we hope that can form part of the Christmas festivities for many people.

We are not having a Boxing Day service at St Leonard’s so our next service will be in the New Year, on 2nd January. This will be a communion led by James, who will lead our monthly communion on the first Sunday of each month, at least until May. We have a family service on 16th January. On 30th January we are hosting Wellow Wood Methodists, led by Rev. Nick Grew who also led our recent Remembrance Service.

It just leaves me on behalf of St Leonard’s to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Julia Noble, St Leonard’s Churchwarden**

### St Margaret’s, East with West Wellow

2021 will be a year we shall all remember, unfortunately not for good reasons. 2022 can only be better – can’t it? Covid is far from over, so please remember get your vaccinations – but also as far as possible please still think: “space – masks – hands – fresh air”.

Richard and I as your Wardens thank you all for your forbearance as members of the Congregation, as we continue without a Vicar. We thank our wonderful visiting priests and all the members of the St Margaret’s team, whether it’s by music, admin, brewing coffee, moving books, running the new soup kitchen, cleaning the church, grass cutting, providing exquisite flowers or any of the countless other ways you work as a team.

Hopefully in the New Year we will have some clarity about the future of the Parish – at present negotiations with the Bishop are still ongoing. We are still doing our best to ensure that God’s work, through the Church of England, is sustained in this Parish and we really hope we will eventually once again have a priest living in the village and committed to St Margaret’s.

**Roy Perry, St Margaret’s Churchwarden**



**Following the successful Christmas Market on 27th November,  
you may not be too late for the Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of the 10th, 11th and 12th December.  
Please contact Gael (02380 814261) for final details if you would like to provide an exhibit, simple or exotic.  
And please come to the church and see the trees ! Refreshments all day, every day !**

## St Margaret's Services and Events

**St Margaret's Services, Celebrants, Readers and Sidespersons for December 2021 and January 2022 as far as they are known**

**Parishioners should look out for Lesley's e-mail *Bulletins* for up-to-date information and in case of unforeseen change.**

**If you would like to be added to her distribution list, please ask ( [lesley\\_mackay@outlook.com](mailto:lesley_mackay@outlook.com) or 01794322570 )**

December 2021	Celebrant	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
5 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Vanessa Cole	Sue Harder	David Waldron	Margery Thomas
12 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mike Burson-Thomas	John Parr	Sue Forsey	John Parr
19 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. <i>??Carol Service 4.00 p.m. ??</i>	Vanessa Cole <b>NB possible not fixed</b>	Brian Scott Special Service Readers	Sue Amey	Sheila Scott Ann Jarrett
24 Christmas Eve 4.00 p.m. Come to the Manger Service <i>Midnight Mass: Try St Leonard's</i>	Paul Hollingworth <b>Now fixed at 8 p.m. (see below)</b>	<b>The Churchwardens and Clerical Registry are doing their best !</b>	<b>Please look out for Lesley's Bulletins</b>	<b>and Sheila's Rota</b>
25 Christmas Service 9.15 a.m. [Style to be decided]	Mike Burson-Thomas			
26 Mattins 9.15 a.m. followed by said Communion	James Pitkin			

**January 2022** We are planning for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays (2nd/9th/16th /30th January) 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
4th Sunday 23rd January as 8.15 a.m. Holy Communion and 9.15 a.m. Mattins

## St Leonard's Services

5th December – Communion 11.00 a.m. Rev James Pitkin

12th December – Carol Service 6.00 p.m. Julia Noble [also Monday 13th, 7.30 p.m. Carols outside The Hatchet]

19th December – Morning Prayer 11.00 a.m. Clare Durham

24th December (Christmas Eve) – Communion 8.00 p.m. Rev James Pitkin

25th December (Christmas Day) – Family Service 11.00 a.m. Julia Noble and Clare Durham

26th December – No Service

2nd January – Communion 11.00 a.m. Rev James Pitkin

9th January – Morning Prayer 11.00 a.m. Julia Noble

16th January – Family Service 11.00 a.m. Clare Durham

23rd January – Morning Prayer 11.00 a.m. Julia Noble

30th January – Host Wellow Wood 11.00 a.m. Rev Nick Grew

6th February – Communion 11.00 a.m. Rev James Pitkin

## Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalm	New Testament Reading	Gospel Reading
12 Dec	3rd of Advent	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Cant. Isaiah 12.2-6	Philippians 4.4-7	Luke 3.7-18
19 Dec	4th of Advent	Micah 5.2-5a	Psalm 80.1-8	Hebrews 10.5-10	Luke 1.39-45[-55]
24-25 Dec	Christmas	Isaiah 52.7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]	Luke 2.[1-7]8-20 or John 1.1-14
26 Dec	Christmas 1	1 Samuel 2.18-20,26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3.12-17	Luke 2.41-52
2 Jan	Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6	Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12
9 Jan	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43.1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17,21,22
16 Jan	2nd of Epiphany	Isaiah 62.1-5	Psalm 36.5-10	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1-11
23 Jan	3rd of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Luke 4.14-21
30 Jan	Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5	Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
6 Feb	4th before Lent	Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11

**St Margaret's Church, East with West Wellow and St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English**

<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>

<https://www.stmargaretswellow.co.uk/>

**See the NEW WEBSITE !**

### CONTACT DETAILS

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### St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

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