



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter



Letter from the Area Dean

Well, we are now firmly in 2022 and the year has got to be better than 2021!

This year, Lent does not start until March (Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March) so you have plenty of time to prepare. How do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what should happen during Lent? Prayer, fasting and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within, so that I can practise with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside? There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas is not the problem. But we don't want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it's a good thing. It's good to have a plan for doing. It's also good to have a plan for being.

How do I want to be during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God's desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate towards my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

Ask God, every day, "What does my soul need?" Just ask, and wait quietly.

Ask God, every day, "What about my life makes you happy?" Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God's heart.

Tell God, and yourself, every day, "I want to be open to the good things of Lent." Maybe you're not open right now, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be.

Your Area Dean, James

Confirmations

I have been asked to arrange a Confirmation Service, and have done so. It will be led by Bishop Debbie in **St Leonard's, Sherfield English at 4pm on Sunday 10th April.**

As there are quite a few people wanting to be confirmed there will be several options for the preparation. The age range for the current candidates covers some 60 years; so, young or not so young, you are welcome to join in.

If you are interested in Confirmation, please contact me.

Revd James Pitkin, jamespitkin@priest.com 01794 340635

Letters from Churchwardens

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

February can seem the dreariest month of the year with Christmas long past and Spring yet to come. But "global warming" brings not only snowdrops but also early daffodils to show Spring is just around the corner; and Easter will surely follow Lent.

In St Margaret's we are thankful to the wonderful priests from the Diocesan Registry who faithfully find their way along the muddy Hackley's Lane to sustain our pattern of worship. We continue with weekly Coffee Mornings (Thursdays) and our "Soup Kitchen" (Tuesdays), with the company far more important than the coffee or soup. Our thanks to all who help. Please ask for details.

The PCC has written a clear letter to the Diocese requesting a formal meeting, in order to ask them to reconsider our request that we remain an independent Parish with a Priest for Duty in Wellow Vicarage regularly taking weekly services in St Margaret's. Who knows? They may listen this time.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

St Leonard's, Sherfield English

May I wish you all a happy New Year and let us hope for a better one!

We had a plethora of activity over our Christmas season, everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves, which, with the mad world around us, is a definite positive. But now the ornaments are popped back behind the organ and at least our woollen nativity scene characters, made by those very talented knit-and-natterers, will not get into harm's way.

We have enjoyed Epiphany in January, light and wise men abound and in the Family Service we all made a pop-up Epiphany star, ably instructed by Clare, and the Light of the World shone around us. The Revd Nick Grew, who led us for our Remembrance Service, is back by popular demand at the end of the month as we host Wellow Wood Methodists and we share Candlemas and the Presentation of Christ to the Temple together.

We return to the normal schedule of services in February, with the Family Service being themed on "Saints". I shall miss the Revd Chris because I always borrowed his book on lesser-known saints for information on this subject. Perhaps I shall just have to stick to a certain local football team. Too emotive?! We are delighted that our monthly Coffee Mornings are back on the first Saturday of the month (10.30 a.m. – 12 noon). On 10th April we are hosting a Confirmation service with the acting Bishop of Winchester, Debbie Sellin, and the Revd James Pitkin leading our candidates from the area to their next step in Christian life. It will be nice to experience the Bishop leading a service rather than at benefice meetings, and we are delighted that St Leonard's can be part of such an important step in life for those being Confirmed.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Celebrants, Readers and Sidespersons for February 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 or 01794322570)

| February 2022 | Celebrant | Reader 1 | Reader 2 | Sidesperson |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Peter Steele | Sue Harder | David Waldron | Margery Thomas |
| 13 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Mike Burson-Thomas | John Parr | David Rowe | John Parr |
| 20 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Oliver Bayley | Ann Jarrett | Sue Amey | Sheila Scott |
| 27 Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m. | Oliver Bayley | Naomi Shrimpton | Sue Forsey | Steve Shrimpton |
| March 2022 | | | | |
| 6 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | To be arranged | Ann Jarrett | Debbie Waldron | Ann Jarrett |

Lesley Mackay writes: Now to the all-important **proposed Fundraising Activities.**

There will be a **"40's Night" in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 19th February** with **fish and chips** (ask about alternatives if you are not a fishy type), plus **entertainment from Retro Rita**. There's still time to search the charity shops for something to wear. Tickets are limited so to avoid disappointment don't leave it too late to buy yours! [From Lesley Mackay, Ann Jarrett, Gael Clemmett or Margery Thomas.]

Then there is **Gael's Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday, 1st March, at Silver Birches**. No tickets – simply come!

Next will be **St Margaret's Annual Lecture in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th March** to be given by Professor Margaret Cox. Her subject is *The Lost Soldiers of Fromelle 1916, Finding and Naming the Dead*. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

The **Annual Nightingale Service is planned for 15th May** (Sermon by the Bishop of Southampton). Full details of the day later.

There are plans for a **Bingo Night, Quizzes, a Flower Festival and an Open Gardens Weekend**. We shall keep you posted.

**Meanwhile, every week in the Church Rooms : (Transport can be arranged if needed)
Soup Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon; Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.**

St Leonard's Services and Events

5th February – Coffee Morning – 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon
6th February – Holy Communion – 11.00 a.m. Revd James Pitkin
13th February – Morning Prayer – 11.00 a.m. Clare Durham
20th February – Family Service – "Saints" – 11 a.m. Julia Noble
23rd February – PCC Meeting at St Leonard's – 7.00 p.m.
27th February – Morning Prayer 11.00 a.m. Clare Durham
5th March – Coffee Morning – 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon
6th March – Holy Communion – 11.00 a.m. Revd James Pitkin

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

| Date | Sunday | Old Testament Reading | Psalms | New Testament Reading | Gospel Reading |
|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 Feb | 4th before Lent | Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13] | Psalms 138 | 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 | Luke 5.1-11 |
| 13 Feb | 3rd before Lent | Jeremiah 17.5-10 | Psalms 1 | 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 | Luke 6.17-26 |
| 20 Feb | 2nd before Lent | Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25 | Psalms 65 | Revelation 4 | Luke 8.22-25 |
| 27 Feb | Next before Lent | Exodus 34.29-35 | Psalms 99 | 2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2 | Luke 9.28-36[37-43a] |
| 2 Mar | Ash Wednesday | Joel 2.1-2,12-17 OR Isaiah 58.1-12 | Psalms 51.1-18 | 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10 | Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 OR John 8.1-11 |
| 6 Mar | Lent 1 | Deuteronomy 26.1-11 | Psalms 91.1-2,9-16 | Romans 10.8b-13 | Luke 4.1-13 |

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/>

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