



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

March 2023



Letter from the Area Dean

The Season of Lent covers all of March this year (it started on Ash Wednesday – 22nd February) and Easter Day is 9th April. Lent is a time for reflection and spiritual renewal in preparation for Good Friday and Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent lasts 40 days, a significant number in the Bible:

- In Genesis, rain fell for 40 days and nights in the great flood;
- The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before entering the promised land;
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments;
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness before starting his ministry.

In February, I attended the General Synod of the Church of England in London – you may have seen the media coverage of the debates! Many of the debates centred on the outcomes of 'Living in Love and Faith' (a 5-year project for the Church to think about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage). The end result was to welcome proposals which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership, to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing. The Cost of Living Crisis was also discussed and decisions were made as to how people could be helped.

Your Area Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

Letters from Churchwardens

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

It is said that March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb. We shall see if March weather lives up to that reputation – unlike February, which this year was definitely not "February fill dyke".

Whatever the weather, March will be a busy month for St Margaret's. As well as a PCC meeting we have the Cabaret Evening in the Village Hall on 4th March, a Lent Soup Lunch in the Church Rooms on 11th March in aid of UNICEF's appeal. A party of American nursing students are coming to visit Florence Nightingale's grave on 9th March. Two hundred children from Wellow School will be coming for a special service at the end of the month, maybe hoping for early Easter eggs.

St Margaret's will of course see all our regular services as well as the weekly Tuesday Lunches and Thursday Coffee Mornings.

After their meeting on 22nd March we should also learn what decision the Church Commissioners have made for the future of our Parish. I hope the Commissioners may see from just that March schedule that we remain an active church community that would really like to have a Vicar.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

Message from Peter Castle [Methodist Local Pastor, Landford, Wellow and Canada Road area]

The Church that was the **Methodist Chapel at Canada Common, West Wellow (SO51 6DH)** is emerging into its future. **Starting on 30th March**, there will be a mid-week service **at 1.00 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month.**

These will be reflective services (including Communion for at least the first three) on a variety of topics, the first being "Reflections on the Cross". We will welcome folk from any denomination, or none, who wish to seek our Lord. Refreshments will be provided after the service. (pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk for further info)

St Leonard's, Sherfield English

At our Coffee Morning on 4th March, our Bell Captain, Martin Daniels, will be offering a tour of the ringing chamber to see how the new bell simulator works. Particularly useful for novices as the software package plays the note without the bell sounding outside for the village to hear; and more groups can use our bells for training in the future. Coffee and a cake is only £2 so do come along. Charity Unity spoke to us last month and bell experience this month, what a variety St Leonard's Coffee Mornings offer!

Also St Leonard's bells will be chiming for charity to celebrate International Women's Day, as Bell Vice-Captain Wendy Nash writes: *"The number of bell ringers at St Leonard's has been increasing over the past two years, and we are now in the fortunate position of having 16 ringers for our 8 bells. This is a significant achievement, as there are a dwindling number of bell-ringers: England has 38 000 bells, but only 30 000 ringers. Probably for the first time in Sherfield English we have more female ringers than bells. Eight of our ladies will ring to celebrate this on International Women's Day, March 8th, and will make a donation to a women's charity. Bell-ringing is all about working together as a team, and our ladies will be challenging themselves and supporting each other, in the spirit of International Women's Day."*

It is not just bell-ringers at St Leonard's who enjoy working as a team; we are joining our neighbouring Benefice of Thorngate's Lent charity project in hosting a soup lunch on Saturday 18th March, 12 noon to 2 p.m. There is no charge for the lunch, but the diners' donations will be given to UNICEF for their projects throughout the world, and very much needed they are at the moment too. If you think you would like to support this event, and know ahead of time, then do contact myself or Clare to assist our catering – there will be four different types of soup on offer to suit most palates.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for March 2023

March 2023	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
5th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas
12th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Debbie Waldron	John Parr
19th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Brian Scott	Ann Jarrett	Sheila Scott
26th Holy Communion (said) 8.15 a.m. Mattins 9.15 a.m.	Steve Shrimpton	Naomi Shrimpton	Steve Shrimpton
April 2nd Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	[Palm Sunday]	To be arranged	To be arranged

Saturday 4th March: Pocket Theatre Cabaret returns to Wellow Village Hall (Pick'n'Mix Part 4). Doors open 7 p.m., for 7.30. Tickets £12.50 (to include buffet supper) from Margery Thomas, 01794 322794. [Bring your own drinks and glasses.]

Saturday 11th March: Lent Lunch in the Church Rooms, 12 noon to 2 p.m.
No set charge but all donations can attract Gift Aid and all goes to UNICEF. [Contact: Roy Perry, 01794 322472]

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

St Leonard's Services and Events

5th March – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) 19th March (Mothering Sunday) – Family Service (Revd James Pitkin)
12th March – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble) 26th March – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)
2nd April (Palm Sunday) – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

All services are in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m.

All of the following events also take place in St Leonard's Church:

Saturday 4th March, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon – Coffee Morning
Saturday 18th March, 12 noon to 2 p.m. – Lent Lunch in aid of UNICEF
Wednesday 22nd March, 7.00 p.m. – PCC Meeting
Saturday 1st April, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon – Coffee Morning
Wednesday 19th April, 7.00 p.m. – PCC AGM

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel Reading
5 Mar	2nd in Lent (P)	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalms 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 OR Matthew 17:1-9
12 Mar	3rd in Lent (P)	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
19 Mar	4th in Lent (P)	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
26 Mar	5th in Lent (P)	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalms 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
2 Apr	Palm Sunday (R)	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11

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/>

CONTACT DETAILS

St Margaret's PCC Secretary: Mrs Lesley Mackay lesley_mackay@outlook.com 01794 322570

Parish Newsletter Compiler: Mr Paul Newby paul.r.t.newby@btinternet.com 01794 322993

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwardens

Mr Roy Perry: roy.perry123@btinternet.com 07551 152761 – Mr Richard May: richardnmay@msn.com 07427 199935

St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

Miss Julia Noble: julia@manorfarmpark.co.uk 01794 322497 Mrs Clare Durham: sherfieldclare@gmail.com 01794 524484