



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

November 2025



Letter from our Vicar, Rector and Rural Dean – and a poem from our Curate

Churches were beautifully decorated for **Harvest Celebrations** – I hope that you managed to see them! Lots of food was taken to Romsey Foodbank – thank you.

November is a time for remembering ... some of our Churches have an 'All Souls' Service at the beginning of November at which we remember those who have died, particularly those who have died recently. For **Remembrance Sunday** (9th November), there will be a wide selection of events to help us remember. Around the World there are many things and people to remember. There are eight 'major' wars ongoing – the war in Ukraine has been going for more than 1300 days with no signs of ending; and there has been war in Gaza for more than two years.

In **Advent** (a church season which starts on Sunday 30th November and ends on Christmas Day) we prepare for Christmas; remembering the coming of God to earth, as a vulnerable child. The fragility of life hasn't changed. The Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine all serve to emphasise that. Next month our magazines and newsletters will be full of details for Advent and Christmas events and services. I hope that you will find time, and make time, in November, to remember and to prepare.

Your Rural Dean, James **Revd James Pitkin**

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Sweet Bright Dahlia Field

Swathes of multi-coloured Dahlias,
seated in neat rows, their brightly bobbing heads
dancing like Mexican hand-waves in the autumnal breeze.

An origami-concertina dance of perfect petal shapes,
delighting us like an assorted chocolate box.
What colour music would the sweet dahlias play if only
they could sound themselves aloud?

They would trumpet their bright songs so excitedly with
such radiant joy,
celebrating their sisters and brothers beside them, all
colours and shapes and sizes.

The burnt orange and red Bishop of Llandaff, Yellow
Happiness and White Star, the near Black Narcissus, and
maroon Arabian Night or the deep red and brown, Burnt
Sugar ... there are simply too many to name!

All colours of the rainbow, shining brightly under the
autumnal sunshine and the rain.

God's marvellous creation we celebrate with awe, the
sweet bright Dahlia Field.

Revd Yin-Yin Bull, Curate

Letters from Churchwardens

My month's break in Florida is over, but whilst there I had constant reminders that the year was marching on, with so many houses decorated for Hallowe'en: pumpkins, skeletons, ghosts. My questioning of my grandchildren and their friends who came to a pumpkin carving party, as to why Hallowe'en was so called and what it meant, drew very blank faces. Time for "Grumpy" (as they call me) to explain All Saints and All Souls. Why is it, I wonder, that the secular world can make so much of Hallowe'en whilst All Saints is allowed to pass almost unnoticed? For me, this year All Souls will be especially poignant, as it is for so many.

And so the year passes on, with Remembrance Sunday on 9th November, this year with a Remembrance Service in Wellow Village Hall, but not in St Margaret's for the first time in decades. Please do check the details in the listing of Services on the next page. Also preparations start for Christmas, not least our Christmas Market on 29th November and Advent Sunday on the 30th. Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel!

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

November is always a month for reflection and remembrance, and this year it is strong with memories following the passing of both Teresa Petty and Arthur Smythe-Wright. Teresa sang in the church choir for a number of years, and was well known in Sherfield for her time spent working at the old village shop. Arthur was a long-standing member of our congregation, a former chairman of the Parish Council, and husband to our PCC Secretary, Denise. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with their families at this difficult time. They, and others we mourn for, can be remembered at our All Souls' evening on Saturday 1st November. The church will be open for an hour from 4.30 p.m. for anyone to come in, sit a while and reflect or light a candle for a loved one. Anyone unable to attend who would like somebody remembered, please contact me with a name and we will ensure a candle is lit in their memory. Details can also be left at our regular coffee morning, which takes place the same day at 10.30 a.m.

Our Remembrance service is on 9th November at 10.45 a.m. and will include a display of poppies, which our local knitters have been working hard on all year. If you would like to see the display but can't make the service, please contact one of the churchwardens for other times when the church can be opened.

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for November 2025

November 2025	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
2nd November All Saints' Communion 9.15 a.m. All Souls Service to Remember, time for quiet reflection 4.00 p.m. No Messy Church ['Light Party Tent' on Hallowe'en instead (31st October)] see below]	Mel King (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Sue Amey	Barbara King
9th November Holy Communion (said) 8.15 a.m. Remembrance Service, Wellow Village Hall 10.00 a.m. then Parade at War Memorial for 2 minute silence at 11.00 a.m.	Special Service	Readers	John Parr
16th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. 23rd Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Jonathan Cooper	Ann Jarrett
30th November (Advent Sunday) Benefice Eucharist 10.30 a.m. 7th December Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Carol Service, Canada Common 2.30 p.m. Messy Church [Christingle] 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Harder	Paul Newby
	To be arranged		

Every week in St Margaret's Church Rooms (Transport can be arranged if needed)
 Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.

All Hallows' Eve, Friday 31st October, 4.30 to 8.00 p.m., Messy Church will host a 'Light Party Tent' at Wellow Vicarage for all Trick or Treaters. Crafts and fun to help us thank God for loved ones and good people who have died. Yes, and treats!

29th November, St Margaret's Christmas Market in Wellow Village Hall, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Stall holders will need your donations please! More details from, or offers to, Lesley (322570).

Sue Harder (322874) writes: Items would be gladly appreciated for the St Margaret's Gift Stall – Christmas items and gifts, decorations, candles, toiletries, good bric-a-brac that will make gifts or be useful for Christmas, anything not too large that we can sell on the Gift Stall. Sue also appeals for a new person OR team to volunteer to take over from her next year.

Susan Newby (322993) asks for cakes for the Cake Stall, please. Thanks as ever from both of us, for your help and support.

St Leonard's Services and Events

Saturday 1st November, 4.30 p.m. – All Souls Contemplation Hour (drop-in)

2nd November – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) 9th November – Service of Remembrance (10.45 a.m.)

16th November – Family Service 23rd November – Morning Prayer

30th November (Advent Sunday) – Benefice Eucharist (10.30 a.m. at West Tytherley)

[Services in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturday 1st November, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Morning in St Leonard's

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
2 November	All Saints (a.m.) All Souls (p.m.)	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18. Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33	Psalm 149 Psalm 23 OR 27:1-6, 16-17	Ephesians 1.11-23 Romans 5.5-11 OR 1 Peter 1.3-9	Luke 6:20-31 John 5:19-25 OR John 6:37-40
9 November	Remembrance	Job 19.23-27a	Psalm 17.1-9*	2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
16 November	2 nd before Advent	Malachi 4.1-2a	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3.6-13	Luke 21:5-19
23 November	Christ the King	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Psalm 46	Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23:33-43
30 November	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
7 December	2 nd of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12

In case of ambiguity, Readers should not hesitate to consult the Celebrant to check which variant is required.

At St Margaret's Matins, Second Reading is the Gospel. Altar Frontal Red until Advent, then Purple.

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

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

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