



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

October 2025



Letters from our Vicar, Rector and Rural Dean and from our Associate Priest

This is the time of year when we celebrate Harvest with Lunches, Suppers and special Services. At Harvest we also try to give some food to needy people. This year, again, parishes are supporting the Romsey Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust (www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk). In the past year, 627 families received 7-day supplies of food and necessities – over 6000 meals. In the cost-of-living crisis there will be even more families in need.

Many churches are collecting food all year round, not just at Harvest (including St Margaret's, Wellow and St John's, Lockerley).

There are drop-off points too in Romsey Abbey, Waitrose, Botley Road Co-op, Abbotswood Co-op, The Hundred Co-op, Ganger Farm, Henshaw Fox and Romsey Library. The current Shopping List includes: Cup-a-Soup; Tinned Potatoes; Rice; Microwave Rice; Desserts; Biscuit Bars; Crisps; Chocolate; Sweets; and Peanut Butter. If you can afford to do so, please give generously.

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

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It has been an absolute joy to watch Scarecrows popping up all over Wellow over the last two weeks of September. This new village initiative was suggested by a new Parish Councillor and has really taken off. I hope you managed to see the group of scarecrows at St Margaret's church. A motley crew indeed, but made with love and a fair representation of the church's involvement in the local community! Sherfield English have been a few paces ahead, in my humble opinion, in the crafting department with their glorious home-made church decorations, but I think the parishes are neck-and-neck now.

We celebrate our Creator God in this Harvest Season, as we have our Harvest Festival services. The fruits of the natural world, and products made from them by the creativity of humankind, are blessings to us all. We have

creator-DNA from our Heavenly Father, and we can use that gift to bring joy and nourishment to others. But we must remember to share widely. If we raise our gaze we can see further, and we will notice so many more people in our neighbourhood, as well as abroad, who are in desperate need.

So, remembering how much we are loved by our Creator, please give generously to the Harvest Collections of food and money, at all our Benefice churches over the next few weeks. We can bring both joy and practical help to lift others this month.

Revd Sara-Jane Stevens, Associate Priest

Wellow Churches Together: On Saturday 18th October at 2.30 p.m., the Revd Dr David Hull, the "M.E.T:Revive

NB Cancellation: the Prayer Meeting at Wellow Vicarage on the first Wednesday of each month at 9.00 a.m. has stopped owing to lack of attendance.

Ambassador" will once again be speaking at Canada Common Methodist Church. [For details: pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk]

Letters from Churchwardens

Autumn is upon us with its kaleidoscope of colour which comes with this season. We celebrate this with our annual Harvest Supper on 4th October in Wellow Village Hall. Tickets (£10 per person) are still available from Lesley Mackay (01794 322570) so please do join us. This is followed on Sunday 5th October by our Harvest Festival service at which donations of food will be gratefully received. Donations will be given to that much valued local resource, the Romsey Foodbank. Please give as generously as you can to this very worthy cause.

Reflecting on our Rewilding project which we started in the spring, I am very grateful for all the support given to this project in caring for God's creation. We engaged the help of the Wellow Cubs for the provision of a superb Bug Hotel, which reminds me, I need to check the reservations book for the coming winter! I am hoping to enlist other youth groups next year to assist with enhancing the biodiversity of "God's acre", for this is the heritage for future generations.

With the changing of the clocks at the end of October we prepare for the winter season and look out for future events and services to note into your diaries.

Mel King, St Margaret's Churchwarden

Late September heralds Harvest Festivals and Michaelmas – a celebration of the end of the farming year (traditionally, at least) and the onset of autumn and winter. At our Harvest Festival on 21st September, we were delighted to celebrate the success of Sunbeam Watercress (harvested just a stone's throw from St Leonard's), who had hit the headlines by supplying the King's banquet for Donald Trump earlier that week. In a year that has seen droughts affecting livestock as well as arable farms, it's vital we support our local producers, and we at St Leonard's are very grateful to Rod Noble and family for regularly providing watercress to be sold at our monthly coffee morning. If you've never tried it, now's your chance!

September often being a month of new beginnings, we were also delighted to welcome Ceri Hampton into the fold as a new organist. Since the retirement of Margaret Hart, we have been reliant on our audio lectern, which has been a godsend. But recorded music is not the same as hearing our wonderful organ being played by someone with Ceri's talent, and we are very grateful to her for helping to keep music alive in a church that loves it so much. It also means the choir can revisit a few old favourites that we have been unable to find accompaniments for – you have been warned!

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for October 2025 and early warning for changes in November

October 2025		Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Sunday 5th October	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Carl Donnelly	Ann Jarrett
Messy Church [Our 1st birthday: Pizza and Praise] 4.00 to 5.00 p.m.				
12th	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Lesley Mackay	John Parr	John Parr
19th	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Tim Jobson	Rose Forward	Tim Jobson
26th October	Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby
2nd November	All Saints' Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mel King (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Sue Amey	Barbara King
All Souls' Service to Remember, time for quiet reflection 4.00 p.m.				
No Messy Church	['Light Party Tent' on Halloween instead – see below]			
9th November	Holy Communion (said) 8.15 a.m.	Special Service Readers		John Parr
Remembrance Service, Wellow Village Hall 10.00 a.m.				
then Parade at War Memorial for 2 minute silence at 11.00 a.m.				

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.

Saturday 4th October – St Margaret's Harvest Supper, 7.00 p.m. in Wellow Village Hall.

Tickets £10 from Lesley Mackay, 322570. Volunteers to help with cooking please contact Lesley or Ann Jarrett (322469)

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! Sue Harder (Gift Stall – 322874 or bring to church – small items only please owing to lack of space) also appeals for a new person OR team to volunteer to take over from her next year.

Susan Newby (322993) asks for cakes as ever. More details from, or offers to, Lesley (322570 as above).

St Leonard's Services and Events

5th October – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

12th October – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

19th October – Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens)

26th October – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

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.)

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

Saturdays 4th October and 1st November, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's

Other Benefice and Diocesan Notices in brief

Diocesan Vocations Morning, Saturday 18th October, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. St Boniface Church, Chandler's Ford SO53 2FT

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of your next step?

For more information and to book, please contact Tracey Nicholls tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 710983

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
5 October	Trinity 16 (Prop 22)	Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4	Psalm 37.1-9	2 Timothy 1.1-14	Luke 17.5-10
12 October	Trinity 17 (Prop 23)	2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c	Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2.8-15	Luke 17.11-19
19 October	Trinity 18 (Prop 24)	Genesis 32.22-31	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5	Luke 18.1-8
26 October	Last after Trinity (Prop 25)	Ecclesiastes 35.12-17 OR Jeremiah 14.7-10, 19-22	Psalm 84.1-7	2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18	Luke 18.9-14
2 November	All Saints	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18	Psalm 149	Ephesians 1.11-23	Luke 6:20-31
	All Souls	Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33	Psalm 23 OR 27:1-6, 16-17	Romans 5.5-11 OR 1 Peter 1.3-9	John 5:19-25 OR John 6:37-40

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 Green through October, Red beginning at All Saints.

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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