



# WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

## Parish Newsletter

### April 2026



#### Letters from our Vicar, Rector and Rural Dean – and from our Curate

This year, Easter falls at the beginning of April (Easter Day – 5th April). The month will have the contrast of the solemnity of Holy Week with the ‘party’ that is Easter.

By the time you read this there will be dates set for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings when a new selection of people will be elected to serve as Churchwardens and to be on our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). There is also the opportunity for people to be voted in as Diocesan Synod Representatives (with a place on Deanery Synod and the PCC).

In Romsey Deanery, there is a wide range of ways in which Easter is celebrated – services at all times of the day; some in traditional language, some in modern; some indoors, some outdoors; some with chocolate, some without! Wherever and however you choose to celebrate Easter – do have a great time.

*Your Rural Dean, James* **Revd James Pitkin**  
romseyareadean@gmail.com jamespitkin@priest.com

#### Notice to St Margaret’s congregation:

Each year the Diocese requires us to update our Church Electoral Roll records. Most readers of this *Newsletter* can ignore this event. But, **IF** you are not currently on the electoral roll and want to be, **OR** you are on it and want to come off it, then please contact **Richard Amey** by 7th April at latest. Also please let him know if your contact details have changed in the past year. **01794 322782 dickamey@compuserve.com**  
**(Doubtless the same applies to St Leonards: contact Clare or Julia)**

**Naomi Shrimpton has mislaid a set of church rooms keys** (3 keys, one St Margaret’s fob) some time ago. If anybody has come across, come by or knows the whereabouts of an apparently spare set, please report to her. **( 01794 322562 OR stephenshrimpton109@gmail.com )**

April brings us through a journey during Holy Week from the grief and devastation of Good Friday with Jesus’ death, to the wonder of the empty tomb on Saturday and the Celebration of our risen Christ on Sunday. Our journeys are often from one physical place to another, but what about the journey of discovering and rediscovering, the journey that gently unfolds after listening to a beautiful song?

Songs and their memory often echo deeply, in the depths of the belly of our soul. They hold deep and pregnant resonance which words simply cannot contain. The birth of creating something from nothing is God’s Kingdom. However we, being created in God’s image, also carry the memory and longing for creativity, with its many different guises and expressions.

These past months I have been journeying with the Exultet (or Easter Proclamation). This is a song which tells a story, God’s people escaping from Egypt, and their rescue. The Exodus motif is remembered, until we meet Christ, his life, his death, and the exuberance of encounter with the risen Christ. A gentle joyful unfolding of God’s ancient story meeting with us, like the dawn sunrise, its progressing hue, bringing more light, as the bird chorus announces on Easter Dawn. Alleluia, the risen Christ is here, earth and heaven are reconciled forevermore. Amen.

**Revd Yin-Yin Bull, Assistant Curate**  
yin-yin@tandbchurches.org.uk

#### Letters from Churchwardens

This will be my last letter as Churchwarden as I intend to stand down at the Church Annual Meeting on 16th April.

I am just one month younger than Joe Biden and he, I fear, demonstrated too well the perils of staying on when too old. Octogenarians need to recognise our limitations.

I have tried to do my best in the role and have been fortunate to have had very effective fellow Wardens; namely Mike Stevens in my first stint, Richard May initially in this second term particularly during the interregnum, and latterly Mel King. All of these have been excellent.

When Veronica died, nearly a year ago now, I observed that she brought a love of France and all things Equine to our marriage, whilst I brought an addiction to politics and an adherence to the Church of England. That commitment started as a choirboy back in the 1950s, then as an altar server including at my university chapel, rising to the dizzy heights of a member of the PCC in Wellow nearly 50 years ago.

I am sure we will find a successor, and I wish whoever takes on the role well. I just hope an independent Parish that has existed here in Wellow for nine centuries of change can continue.

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

It seems a long time since the Ash Wednesday service at East Dean, we have journeyed reflectively through Lent and we now approach Easter. When the world is chaotic around us it is comforting to know that our lives are tethered to church events, anchoring us firmly in a sea of change. The dates may change for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter but one will always follow the other, unambiguous, reliable and with definitely no U-turns!

Britain is built on traditions. Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance” might not have worked for any other country, especially as it was the first music ever recorded at Abbey Road Studios and I think you know who also recorded there, yes, you are right Stormzy!

Holy Week and the Easter Sunday services bring us all together, we consider what has been done for us so that we may journey through life showing what we can do for others. Happy Easter!

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

## St Margaret's Services and Events

**St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespeople for the Easter season and April 2026 with the start of May**

April 2026	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Good Friday 3rd April Vigil at East Dean 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.	Cross of Christ at Lockerley 6.00 p.m.		
<b>Easter Sunday 5th April</b> Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Jonathan Cooper	John Parr	John Parr
Monday 6th Messy Church "Easter Trail" 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. This is an all-weather event. Everyone welcome.	at St Margaret's: Easter Eggs, story and puzzle.		
Sunday 12th Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Sue Amey	Ann Jarrett
19th Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Tim Jobson	Lesley Mackay	Tim Jobson
26th Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Sue Harder	Barbara King
3rd May Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m. Messy Church returns to Wellow Village Hall 4.00 p.m.	Gael Clemett (Sara-Jane Stevens)	John Parr	John Parr
<b>10th Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service 10.30 a.m.</b>	To be arranged		

Every week in St Margaret's Church Rooms (Transport can be arranged if needed: Roy Perry 07551 152761)  
Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.

St Margaret's PCC AGM (all are welcome) Thursday 16th April, 6.30 p.m. in the Church Rooms.

Friends of St Margaret's Church Wellow AGM (everyone again welcome) Monday 20th April, 7.30 p.m. in Church Rooms.

**Sunday 10th May (after the Nightingale Commemoration service): Buffet Lunch at 12.15 p.m. in Wellow Village Hall  
By ticket only: £18 per person from Barbara King ( 01794 519433, barking1402@gmail.com )**

## St Leonard's Services and Events

Good Friday 3rd April Vigil at East Dean 12 noon to 3.00 p.m., Cross of Christ at Lockerley, 6.00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday 5th April – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)**

12th April – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

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

26th April – Morning Prayer (Revd Yin-Yin Bull)

3rd May – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

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

Saturdays 4th April and 2nd May, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's

Wednesday 29th April, 7.00 p.m., PCC AGM

## Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
5 April	Easter Day (W)	Jeremiah 31.1-6 OR Acts 10.34-43#	Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24*	Colossians 3.1-4 OR Acts 10.34-43#	John 20.1-18 OR Matthew 28.1-10
12 April	2nd of Easter (W)	Exodus 14.10-end; 15.20, 21 OR Acts 2.14a,22-32#	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1.3-9 OR Acts 2.14a, 22-32#	John 20.19-end
19 April	3rd of Easter (W)	Zephaniah 3.14-end OR Acts 2.14a,36-41#	Psalm 116.1-3, 10- end*	1 Peter 1.17-23 OR Acts 2.14a,36-41#	Luke 24.13-35
26 April	4th of Easter (W)	Genesis 7 OR Acts 2.42-end#	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2.19-end OR Acts 2.42-end#	John 10.1-10
3 May	5th of Easter (W)	Genesis 8.1-19 OR Acts 7.55-end#	Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16*	1 Peter 2.2-10 OR Acts 7.55-end#	John 14.1-14

(W) White/Gold; # Acts must be one of the readings for the day (replacing Old or New Testament Reading)

At St Margaret's Matins, Second Reading is the Gospel.

**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>

Rector/Vicar : Revd James Pitkin rector@tandbchurches.org.uk 01794 340635

Associate Priest : Revd Sara-Jane Stevens revsj@btinternet.com 01794 765762

Curate : Revd Yin-Yin Bull yin-yin@tandbchurches.org.uk 07726 692452

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

**St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwardens**

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Mr Mel King : melk48@hotmail.com 01794 519433

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

Miss Julia Noble: julia@manorfarmpark.co.uk 01794 322497

Mrs Clare Durham: sherfieldclare@gmail.com 07980 314838