



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

May 2026



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

In this year's Church Calendar most of May is 'Easter' (which ends at Pentecost on 24th May). Churches are bright, cheerful and beautiful – often filled with flowers.

In May many Churches will be joining in with 'Thy Kingdom Come', a focus on prayer which runs for 10 days from Ascension Day (Thursday 14th May) to Pentecost (Sunday 24th). Planned events and resources are at www.winchesterdiocese.org/church-year/thy-kingdom-come/.

There is an event on Saturday 16th May at 6.30 p.m. in Winchester Cathedral called 'The Upper Room'. Everyone in our Diocese is invited. The service will focus on prayer for the renewing of the Holy Spirit for ourselves and our churches, and for others to come to faith in Christ. There will be a worship band, prayer spaces and Taizé worship.

Before that there is a Deanery Contemporary Worship in All Saints' Church, Awbridge (Church Lane SO51 0HN) at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 3rd May.

May is a good time to visit a church (or cathedral) for the first time (or for a long-delayed return). I hope that you will get a warm welcome!

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

romseyareadean@gmail.com

jamespitkin@priest.com

'May' is a lovely month that proves we have passed from winter and holds the promise of summer. 'May' is also such a strange and uneasy word in some uses: 'I may get around to it' and 'I'm not sure, I may come over to visit'. A little word that carries a lot of painful uncertainty!

As Christians, we are given many assurances by God, including "We will never be alone or forsaken" (Deuteronomy 33.8) and "We will be forgiven when we honestly repent" (1 John 1.9).

God does not say that we may find forgiveness if we do prescribed prayers or restorative actions. We are not told that we may be acceptable if we live good lives. Our place, as children of God our King, is assured when we trust in the God who never breaks a promise. If you want to find out more about these glorious promises, please collect a Bible from St Margaret's Church, our gift to you. Ten have already been taken, some even said 'Thank You' in the Visitor's Book. There is Good News, this May.

Revd Sara-Jane Stevens, Associate Priest
revsj@btinternet.com

Letters from Churchwardens

May is here, we've seen the bluebells, and summer is fast approaching. Following our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April we note some changes. Roy Perry announced in last month's *Newsletter* that he would step down as Churchwarden, so Lesley Mackay was elected to take his place. Thank you to Roy for all his excellent work during both his terms as Churchwarden at St Margaret's. He will continue to be fully involved as a valued member of our PCC; we are grateful. Lesley has relinquished her role as PCC Secretary, and Barbara King was elected to replace her. At the APCM, I outlined an ambitious programme of improvements for both the Church and the Church Rooms. More information will be shared in future *Newsletters*.

On 26th April we held our annual church spring clean. Thank you to all who joined in, especially Sara-Jane who not only worked very hard but also provided a selection of doughnuts during the coffee break! Thanks also to Jonathan for consistently maintaining the churchyard to such a high standard throughout the year. His efforts really are appreciated.

On 10th May we will hold the annual service to honour the birth of Florence Nightingale, a cherished and esteemed resident of our churchyard. Nightingale Nurses, Army medical staff and numerous related organisations will be present at the Commemoration Service which is open to anyone wishing to attend. After the service, lunch will be provided at the Village Hall for those who have bought tickets.

Finally, we look forward to our contribution to the Romsey Festival in July. In addition to our usual Florence Nightingale and Church information, there will be an exhibition of christening gowns. If you have a gown that is available for display between 10th and 18th July we would appreciate the loan. Please contact either Lesley Mackay or Gael Clemett for more details. Each church in our Benefice will be participating in the Festival.

Mel King, St Margaret's Churchwarden

What a difference the warmer weather makes! It's been a joy watching the churchyard change over the past couple of months, with snowdrops giving way to crow garlic, then the wild daffodils, and now the primroses are taking over as the bluebells already start to fade. Plans are hotting up for our "Hundred Years of the Hundred Acre Wood" exhibition on 4th July, part of the wider contribution our benefice is making towards the Romsey Arts Festival that month. Do keep an eye out for events throughout the local villages.

This month we are delighted to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Knit and Natter group, which was formed in 2016 for the first "Woollen Woods" event. This fabulous team of knitters (with a few new recruits over the years) has provided us with a number of displays year on year, including celebrations of the old Queen's Jubilee and then the Coronation of King Charles III. They have brought a great deal of joy to visitors to the church (both regular and occasional) and inspired more than one other church to attempt similar projects – a remarkable achievement. We look forward to celebrating with them.

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

Naomi Shrimpton has found her missing keys. This gives us an opportunity to thank her for her very many years of service of various kinds in support of St Margaret's Church Rooms. PN

St Margaret's Services and Events

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

May 2026		Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Sunday 3rd	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
10th	Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service 10.30 a.m.	Special Service	Readers	Tim Jobson
17th	Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Michael Gibb	Barbara King
24th (Pentecost)	Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby
31st May	United Benefice Communion, East Dean 10.30 a.m.			
7th June	Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m. Messy Church, Wellow Village Hall 4.00 p.m.	Ann Jarrett (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Rose Forward	Ann Jarrett

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.

Sunday 10th May (after Nightingale Commemoration Service): Buffet Lunch (by ticket only), 12.15 p.m. in Wellow Village Hall

Advance notice: There will be no St Margaret's Church Fête this June, but the Church will be represented at the new
Wellow Village Fête on Saturday 18th July on Lower Common Road Recreation Ground.
Please support this event. More details will emerge!

St Leonard's Services and Events

3rd May – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) 10th May – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)
17th May – Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens) 24th May – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)
31st May (10.30 a.m.) – United Benefice Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at East Dean
[Services in St Leonard's are at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturday 6th June, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
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
10 May	6th of Easter (W)	Genesis 8.20 - 9.17 OR Acts 17.22-31#	Psalm 66.7-18	1 Peter 3.13-end OR Acts 17.22-31#	John 14.15-21
17 May	7th of Easter (W)	Ezekiel 36.24-28 OR Acts 1.6-14#	Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35*	1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 OR Acts 1.6-14#	John 17.1-11
24 May	Pentecost (R)	Numbers 11.24-30 OR Acts 2.1-21#	Psalm 104.26-36, 37b*	1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 OR Acts 2.1-21#	John 20.19-23 OR John 7.37-39
31 May	Trinity Sunday (W)	Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13.11-end	Matthew 28.16-20
7 Jun	Trinity 1 (G)	Hosea 5.15 - 6.6	Psalm 50.7-15	Romans 4.13-end	Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

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

St Margaret's PCC Secretary : Mrs Barbara King barking1402@gmail.com 01794 519433

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

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwardens

Mr Mel King : melk48@hotmail.com 01794 519433 Mrs Lesley Mackay lesley_mackay@outlook.com 01794 322570

St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

Miss Julia Noble: julia@manorfarmpark.co.uk 01794 322497 Mrs Clare Durham: sherfieldclare@gmail.com 07980 314838