



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

June – July 2026



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

If June is anything like May, it is going to be busy, but with fewer Bank Holidays! June is the time for most exams at schools and colleges – although our local schools have already completed their SATs. Please remember, and pray for, those working hard, whether it be for GCSEs, AS, A2 or University exams.

June is usually the time in the Church year which is called 'Ordinary'. This period follows the Easter season, which ended with Pentecost (the descent of the Holy Spirit) – 24th May this year. It continues until the first Sunday of Advent (29th November), which marks the beginning of the next Church year. During Ordinary Time, the Church focuses on the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus, including his miracles, parables and interactions with people. In Church decorations, the 'colour' of the season is Green, which represents growth, hope and new life, mirroring the Church's ongoing journey of faith and discipleship.

June is also a time for Fêtes and village events. Wherever you go – Fêtes, BBQs, Street Parties, Picnics and Church Services – please do celebrate our lives as part of communities.

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

Recently I have been helping children at a local primary school prepare for an installation at Winchester Cathedral on the theme of "Refugees". With the help of Paddington Bear and his back story, the children have been preparing luggage labels, writing prayers and researching facts about what it means to be a refugee, displaced from your homeland because of war or environmental disaster, or escaping poverty and seeking better opportunities, a safe life and a hope for the future. In Britain, during the Second World War, when children were evacuated from cities to the countryside, they left home with a few belongings packed in a suitcase. Each child had a luggage label attached, showing their name, school and evacuation authority. My mother-in-law was evacuated to Romsey as a child after the family home in Southampton was bombed. Her dad was a tugboat captain and her mother a cook; they were able to remain together and return to their house in Southampton after the war. However, for many children, separated from family, these luggage labels said something about who they were and where they were from, but of course it did not give the complete picture of their identity. In our increasingly polarised world, it is too easy to put labels on people and places, to believe what we read about and that what we see on the news offers the complete picture. Labels do not speak about humanity, compassion or love, nor have they any understanding of pain, separation or suffering or of what Jesus came to offer us all – the opportunity for a new life in Him, as Citizens of Heaven.

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

Letters from Churchwardens

A few years ago you were very kind to me with both your thanks and generosity when I resigned – and here I am back again as Churchwarden, albeit with a new 'partner in crime'! We plan to work together as a team for the good of St Margaret's and the congregation. In those intervening years we have become a Benefice with five other local churches and with Revd James Pitkin as our Vicar. We are making lots of new friends amongst their congregations. We have also welcomed Sara-Jane as our Associate Priest: what an asset she is to the village and the Benefice! We are also delighted now to have Yin-Yin Bull as our Curate. What a team!

The one fact that has not changed in those years is the need for fundraising to help towards the annual financial commitments that we are required to pay. However, inevitably our congregation is a few years older, some have moved away, or their health or mobility precludes them from being as active as they were. We are always touched by the help that villagers offer and would ask you to continue to support us as much as possible. On that note we have the return of the Pocket Theatre performing their 'puppet' *Mikado* (no strings attached!) on 13th June, a Christening Gown Exhibition in the church from 10th to 13th July as part of the Romsey Festival, and we shall be manning various stalls at the Village Fair on 18th July. Ideas and help will definitely be needed for that. Please put the dates in your diaries. In these difficult and troubling times both for local families struggling to make ends meet and internationally for everyone, please don't forget that the one constant is St Margaret's.

Lesley Mackay, St Margaret's Churchwarden

"Pooh, promise me you won't forget about me ever. Not even when I'm a hundred."

From the last chapter of *The House at Pooh Corner*, at which time A. A. Milne cannot possibly have known that Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends would be very far from forgotten come 2026. Whilst not an overtly religious man, Milne clearly had a Christian faith. His books abound with the sort of gentle guidance and common sense that has led to a new generation discovering his work through 'inspirational' quotes and pictures. Christopher Robin's heartbreaking goodbye to his childhood bear would have been lost on the infant listener, while speaking volumes to the adult reader and reminding us of the carefree joy and unconditional love of a lucky childhood.

You can revisit that childhood by joining us at *One Hundred Years of the Hundred Acre Wood* – the Sherfield English contribution to the Romsey Arts Festival. From 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 4th July, St Leonard's Church will be open and filled with knitted (and crocheted!) displays from your favourite Pooh stories, featuring all the best-loved characters. Join us for 'smackerels', fun and possibly even a game of Poohsticks.

"Wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the top of the forest, a little boy and his Bear will always be playing."

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for June – July 2026

June – July 2026	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Sunday 7th June Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Messy Church, Wellow Village Hall 4.00 – 5.30 p.m	Ann Jarrett (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Rose Forward	Ann Jarrett
14th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Bob Stevens	John Parr
21st Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Sue Amey	Barbara King
28th Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Harder	Paul Newby
5th July Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Tim Jobson	Rose Forward	Tim Jobson
12th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Gael Clemett	Barbara King
19th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Michael Gibb	John Parr
26th July Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby
Open-Air Service, Canada Common, 2.30 p.m. [Guest speaker Bishop Rhiannon] [Also including "Messy Church LITE"]			
2nd August Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Tim Jobson	Carl Donnelly	Tim Jobson

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.

Saturday 13th June, Pocket Theatre returns with Gilbert & Sullivan in the Village Hall: *The Mikado*
(£16 per person includes a 2-course supper: tickets from-Lesley Mackay on 01794 322570)

Friday 10th to Monday 13th July: Christening Gown and Baby Clothes Exhibit in the Church, as part of the Romsey Festival.
If you have anything old and suitable, please offer to Lesley. Church will be manned at all times so garments will be safe.

Saturday 18th July, from 11.00 a.m., Wellow Village Fête on Lower Common Road Recreation Ground.

We have been invited to provide 10 stalls so will need lots of ideas and help, please! [Contact Lesley, Barbara or Sara-Jane]

St Leonard's Services and Events

7th June – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

14th June – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

21st June – Family Service (Revd James Pitkin)

28th June – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

5th July – Holy Communion

12th July – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

19th July – Family Service

26th July – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

2nd August – Holy Communion

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

Saturday 6th June, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Morning

Wednesday 17th June, 7.00 p.m., PCC Meeting

Thursday 18th June, 7.30 p.m., Churchwardens to be inaugurated at Romsey Abbey

Saturday 4th July, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., display of *One Hundred Years of the Hundred Acre Wood*

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
7 June	Trinity 1 (G) Prop 5	Hosea 5.15 - 6.6	Psalms 50.7-15	Romans 4.13-end	Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26
14 June	Trinity 2 (G) Prop 6	Exodus 19.2-8a	Psalms 100	Romans 5.1-8	Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]
21 June	Trinity 3 (G) Prop 7	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Ps 69.8-11 [12-17]18-20*	Romans 6.1b-11	Matthew 10.24-39
28 June	Trinity 4 (G) Prop 8	Jeremiah 28.5-9	Psalms 89.1-4, 15-18*	Romans 6.12-end	Matthew 10.40-end
5 July	Trinity 5 (G) Prop 9	Zechariah 9.9-12	Psalms 145.8-15	Romans 7.15-25a	Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end
12 July	Trinity 6 (G) Prop 10	Isaiah 55.10-13	Psalms 65.[1-7] 8-13*	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
19 July	Trinity 7 (G) Prop 11	Isaiah 44.6-8	Psalms 86.11-17	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
26 July	Trinity 8 (G) Prop 12	1 Kings 3.5-12	Psalms 119.129-136	Romans 8.26-end	Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
2 Aug.	Trinity 9 (G) Prop 13	Isaiah 55.1-5	Psalms 145.8-9, 15-22*	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21

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

Altar Frontal colour: (G) = Green throughout.

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>

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St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

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