



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

August 2026



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

August is, for many, a month for holidays. I am hoping to take time off – we all need rest and refreshment.

If you go away, why not pop into a church? And if you don't go away, pop into a local church. They are usually places of coolness and calm, definitely needed in our busy lives. Living in the Test Valley means that there are plenty of different and interesting churches to explore; most of them are open during the day.

Enjoy the Summer!

Your Rural Dean, James **Revd James Pitkin**
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August is here, although if one were to examine the weather, it would seem as though August has been here for the past six weeks! I hope you are managing OK in the heat? Please do reach out to neighbours or friends, or to us here at St Margaret's, or to members of the Help Group or other local organisations, if things get difficult or dangerous for you in the soaring temperatures. We will get through this together.

We can support each other through all sorts of difficulties, being good neighbours – 'strength in numbers', I think the saying goes? Jesus said in Matthew 22, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind ... [and] love your neighbour as much as you love yourself." When we try to love God first and then love others as we are supposed to love ourselves, life in community will be more comfortable, easier, more joyful. God bless!

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

Letters from Churchwardens

In July our Bible readings have covered Jesus's parables with mention of sowing and seeds being very appropriate as we look around us at fields of golden corn being harvested. We sit in the shade of our gardens as the huge machines gobble up the crop hungrily. This year farmers are working through the night when it is cooler, as it has often been too hot for the crops or the machines during the day. Everyone is working, harvesting the fruits of their toil to feed us.

So in August our family service celebrates the summer and the hard work of harvesting as we share "Hymns and Pimm's" together. People have chosen their favourite hymns, some old and some new, some less familiar than others but all with great meaning and sung with such gusto by all.

The world around us spins, often quite out of control, but as we enter our church a familiar pattern comforts us, we know what to expect, and yes, once a year, that is a Pimm's!

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

Winchester Samaritans 50th Anniversary Appeal

Winchester & District Samaritans are marking their 50th anniversary with a fund-raising campaign to raise £50 000. While part of the national Samaritans charity, Winchester Branch is funded independently, and seeks to provide emotional support to anyone experiencing distress, despair or suicidal thoughts. The aims are to improve mental well-being and to help to reduce the incidence of suicide. If you feel able to donate to the Appeal, please consider doing this now, via <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/Winchestersamaritans>, quoting "Wellow & Sherfield Newsletter" as a reference. Many thanks for your valued support.

John Parr

Schools have now broken up, marking the start of the annual holiday exodus for many families. This can cause local disruption and affect the availability of usual services. The church is no exception: lunches and coffee mornings will not take place during August. However, refreshments will still be available at the back of the church after the Sunday service. During this summer recess, extensive refurbishment will be carried out to the kitchen and toilet facilities in the Church Rooms, which will provide additional opportunities when complete.

I would also like to give a catch-up on the events mentioned in Lesley's note in the June/July *Newsletter*. This is mainly for those who were unable to attend them, or a refresher for those who did. The Pocket Theatre Company's interpretation of *The Mikado* was very well received and enjoyed by all. They never let us down with their original style of presentation and we are already looking forward to next year.

Our contribution to the Romsey Festival was a display of Christening gowns, ranging from Victorian examples to the present day. Many visitors commented positively during the display period and added entries to our Visitors' Book. Thank you to Gael and Lesley for curating the event and to the volunteers who helped with refreshments and welcoming visitors.

This year's Wellow Village Fête was held in partnership with the civil Parish Council on the Lower Common Road Recreation Ground, rather than as a specifically St Margaret's event. It was a resounding success and helped strengthen our engagement with the whole local community. Many thanks to Sara-Jane for her work on the organising committee and for her ongoing efforts to bring the church into the centre of village life.

A warm thank-you to all volunteers for all those events and the many others throughout the year. Without you it would be impossible to hold them.

Mel King, St Margaret's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespeople for August 2026, with the start of September

August 2026		Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Sunday 2nd No Messy Church	Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Tim Jobson	Carl Donnelly	Tim Jobson
9th	Sung Eucharist 9.15a.m.	Mel King	Lesley Mackay	Barbara King
16th	Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Bob Stevens	Ann Jarrett
23rd	Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Amey	Paul Newby
30th August United Benefice Eucharist, East Tytherley 10.30 a.m.				
6th September	Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m. Messy Church, Wellow Village Hall 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.	Tim Jobson (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Sue Harder	Tim Jobson

During August, no Tuesday Lunch nor Thursday Coffee.

The volunteers will take a well-earned rest and it is hoped that building work will take place in the Church Rooms.

Some of the same volunteers and many others will be resting and regaining their strength after the Wellow Village Fête.

The usual teams will still clean St Margaret's weekly in August and open and close the Church daily.

New recruits to these teams of volunteers are always welcome – and needed – please consider whether you could help.

Contact Susan Newby (cleaning rota: 01794 322993) or Ann Jarrett (open/close rota: 01794 322469).

Advance notice for the next big event: Harvest festivities are scheduled for 3rd and 4th October.

St Leonard's Services and Events

2nd August – Holy Communion

9th August – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

16th August – "Hymns and Pimm's"

23rd August – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

30th August (10.30 a.m.) – United Benefice Eucharist at East Tytherley

6th September – Holy Communion

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

Saturdays 1st August and 5th September, 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
2 Aug	Trinity 9 (G) Proper 13	Isaiah 55.1-5	Psalm 145.8-9, 15-22*	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21
9 Aug	Trinity 10 (G) Proper 14	1 Kings 19.9-18	Psalm 85.8-13	Romans 10.5-15	Matthew 14.22-33
16 Aug	Trinity 11 (G) Proper 15	Isaiah 56.1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15.[10-20] 21-28
23 Aug	Trinity 12 (G) Proper 16	Isaiah 51.1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 12.1-8	Matthew 16.13-20
30 Aug	Trinity 13 (G) Proper 17	Jeremiah 15.15-21	Psalm 26.1-8	Romans 12.9-end	Matthew 16.21-end
6 Sep	Trinity 14 (G) Proper 18	Ezekiel 33.7-11	Psalm 119.33-40	Romans 13.8-end	Matthew 18.15-20

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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