



# WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

## Parish Newsletter

### September 2026



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

September brings a season of fresh starts across our community. While we may still catch glimmers of summer weather, this month marks a time of significant change. Many of our neighbours are returning to classrooms, starting at college or university, or starting new jobs. Please join us in keeping all students, teachers, and school staff in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate these new beginnings.

As the academic year kicks off, across Romsey Deanery we enter our vibrant Harvest Season (Creationtide). Over the coming weeks, churches across the Deanery will host traditional celebrations to give thanks for the land and the hands that work it.

There will be special times of worship, prayer, and thanksgiving. There will be Harvest Suppers: community gatherings to share food, laughter, and fellowship. Every congregation in our deanery offers a unique personality and style of worship. Whether you prefer traditional choral services, quiet contemplation, or modern family worship, there is a space here for you. Do explore different churches this month until you find the community that feels like home.

*Your Rural Dean, James*      **Revd James Pitkin**  
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#### "Taking the time to smell the roses"

Our long hot summer has confined dog walking to early morning or late evenings, either before the heat of the day has warmed the ground or when the temperature has dropped enough so that the sun's blazing heat is no longer a close mantle. On these walks, I always find it a joy to admire front gardens and how people have managed to keep their plants and flowers beautiful despite the heat. I love to pause every now and again, to smell the variety of roses, lemony, Turkish delight, all heady notes wafting their welcoming scent.

I was recently reading a small book, *Domestic Monastery* by Ronald Rolheiser. In Chapter 9, the author reflects on "the sacredness of time". Brother David Steindl-Rast once said, "leisure is not the privilege of those who have time, but rather the virtue of those who give to each instant of life the time it deserves". This is wisdom worth considering, especially as September can bring such a change of pace, with schools returning, traffic building and perhaps even a new business to run. We may need to remember to take time in our day to smell the roses.

**Revd Yin-Yin Bull, Asst. Curate**    [yin-yin@tandbchurches.org.uk](mailto:yin-yin@tandbchurches.org.uk)

#### Letters from Churchwardens

As we head into September and away from a summer that has been glorious but not without its challenges, thoughts are firmly on harvest, and on planning ahead for (whisper it!) Christmas. Our Harvest Festival takes place on 20th September and will be followed by a Ploughman's Lunch at £5 a head. Believe me, with generous portions of bread, two types of cheese and the village's own watercress, you won't get a better value meal anywhere else!

Foraging crops excepted, the harvest is pretty much over already in Sherfield, but drilling has started for winter and next year's crops, so there is still plenty to celebrate and pray for. Working in the extreme heat, we're very grateful to young Ben, who is helping us in the churchyard as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He's the type who gives teenagers a good name, and he's done sterling work in clearing vegetation away from some of the old graves. Thank you, Ben!

**Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden**

On a cold dark January morning, shall we be looking back with longing on these summer days when most of us have said "It's too hot!" and "Will my grass ever be green again"? After these extremes we expect a wet and windy Autumn! The weather and its consequences have meant that climate change and the resulting effects form quite an important part of daily conversations. For the sake of ourselves and future generations we can only hope and pray that the world takes note and does something about it before it is too late. The wet spring and dry summer have led to a forecast of food shortages, but we shall be giving thanks for what we do have and celebrating Harvest with a Supper in the Village Hall on 3rd October, followed by the Harvest Festival service, always a highlight of St Margaret's calendar, on the 4th.

As usual in August we have not held our regular Tuesday lunches and Thursday coffee mornings. This year we have taken advantage of the break to have the Church Rooms kitchen enlarged and new units and white goods fitted.

It is hoped that this will encourage people to book the rooms for their small celebrations and events, thus bringing more funds into the church coffers. The work is going well but we are not sure when it will be finished, so we cannot yet give a restarting date for lunches and coffee. We shall endeavour to let all concerned know in plenty of time. We are looking for someone to cut the ribbon to declare it officially open!

Thanks to Mel's efforts the St Margaret's wall paintings are to receive some overdue conservation attention. It is planned to start the work at the end of October and to have it finished by Christmas or soon after. This will involve the erection of scaffolding and at some stage it will be necessary to keep the church closed for a period but again we shall keep you up to date.

Messy Church will resume in the Village Hall on 6th September after the summer break and, alongside St Margaret's, will welcome back its refreshed congregation.

**Lesley Mackay, St Margaret's Churchwarden**

## St Margaret's Services and Events

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

| September 2026 |                                                                                                       | Reader 1                          | Reader 2      | Sidesperson  |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sunday 6th     | Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.<br>Messy Church, Wellow Village Hall 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.                        | John Parr<br>(Sara-Jane Stevens)  | Sue Harder    | John Parr    |
| 13th           | Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.                                                                              | Ann Jarrett                       | Gael Clemett  | Ann Jarrett  |
| 20th           | Sung Eucharist 9.15 a.m.                                                                              | Mel King                          | Michael Gibb  | Barbara King |
| 27th           | Holy Communion 8.15 a.m.<br>Matins 9.15 a.m.<br>Choral Evensong 3.00 p.m. (followed by tea and cakes) | Paul Newby<br>(Yin-Yin Bull)      | Sue Forsey    | Paul Newby   |
| 4th October    | Harvest Eucharist 9.15 a.m.<br>Messy Church, Wellow Village Hall 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.                     | Tim Jobson<br>(Sara-Jane Stevens) | Carl Donnelly | Tim Jobson   |

**Tuesday Lunch and Thursday Coffee will resume as soon as the building works in the Church Rooms are complete.  
Please check with Ann (01794 322469), Lesley (322570) OR Gael (02380 814261).**

**Fortnightly Home Group:** Sara-Jane hopes to start a new Group on Thursday 17th September (01794 765762 for details).

**NB Extra service: Choral Evensong in St Margaret's, followed by tea and cakes, at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 27th September.**

**St M's Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 3rd October in the Village Hall. Contact: Ann Jarrett 01794 322469.**

## St Leonard's Services and Events

6th September – Family Communion (including Baptism) (Revd James Pitkin)

13th September – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

20th September – Harvest Festival (Family Service followed by Ploughman's Lunch) (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens)

27th September – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

4th October – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

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

Saturdays 5th September and 3rd October, 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            |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Sep  | Trinity 14 (G)<br>Proper 18 | Ezekiel 33.7-11        | Psalm 119.33-40       | Romans 13.8-end      | Matthew 18.15-20  |
| 13 Sep | Trinity 15 (G)<br>Proper 19 | Genesis 50.15-21       | Psalm 103.[1-7] 8-13* | Romans 14.1-12       | Matthew 18.21-35  |
| 20 Sep | Trinity 16 (G)<br>Proper 20 | Jonah 3.10 - end of 4  | Psalm 145.1-8         | Philippians 1.21-end | Matthew 20.1-16   |
| 27 Sep | Trinity 17 (G)<br>Proper 21 | Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end | Psalm 25.1-8          | Philippians 2.1-13   | Matthew 21.23-32  |
| 4 Oct  | Trinity 18 (G)<br>Proper 22 | Isaiah 5.1-7           | Psalm 80.9-17         | Philippians 3.4b-14  | Matthew 21.33-end |

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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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

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### 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

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