

WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH
Parish Newsletter
November 2026



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

Churches were beautifully decorated for **Harvest Celebrations** – I hope that you managed to see them! Lots of food was taken to Romsey Foodbank – thank you.

November is a time for remembering… Some of our Churches have an 'All Souls' Service at the beginning of November at which we remember those who have died, particularly those who have died recently. For **Remembrance Sunday** (8th November), there will be a wide selection of events to help us remember. Around the World there are many things and people to remember.

There are 14 to 20 'major' wars ongoing – the war in Ukraine has been going for more than 1700 days with no signs of ending; and there has been war in Gaza for more than 3 years.

In **Advent** (the church season which in 2026 starts on Sunday 29th November and ends on Christmas Day) we prepare for Christmas; remembering the coming of God to Earth, as a vulnerable child. The fragility of life hasn't changed. The Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine all serve to emphasise that. Next month our magazines and newsletters will be full of details for Advent and Christmas events and services. I hope that you will find time, and make time, in November, to remember and to prepare.

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

November brings with it darker evenings, but also cosy fires, toasted chestnuts and the smoky scent of bonfires. 22nd November is 'Stir-up Sunday', traditionally the day when we make our Christmas pudding. It is also the 'Festival of Christ the King' when we think about Jesus's heavenly Kingship, present in every corner of the world, from East to West and from South to North.

The following prayer can be recited as the pudding is stirred from East to West, as we remember the journey of the Magi from the East, as they journeyed to meet Jesus.

"Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

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

Letters from Churchwardens

After that wonderful summer, Autumn has arrived and with it our successful Harvest Supper. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us, as well as to those who provided the feast. The proceeds from the evening meant that we were able to donate around £750 to the Disasters Emergency Committee, which we hope you will feel is a very worthy cause. The colder, darker days, when those of us who are fortunate enough turn the heating up, make us think of those who may have to choose between food and heating. With the shops also reminding us that Christmas is getting closer, perhaps we can make a donation to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Thinking of Christmas, our Christmas Market will take place on 28th November from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. As usual we shall be asking for donations to the various stalls and help on the day, along with your presence and your money!

Our first Village Hall Family Service was held on 18th October; Sara-Jane and Mel were delighted that 19 people attended. The next one is on 15th November: do come along!

Finally, a reminder that the Remembrance Service will again this year be held in the Village Hall, at 10.00 a.m. on 8th November, followed by a short service and march-past at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m., and there will be a loudspeaker system enabling everyone to hear! There will also be a short Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on 11th November at 11.00 a.m.

Lesley Mackay, St Margaret's Churchwarden

Sue Harder (01794 322874) appeals for donations for the Gift Stall: Christmas items, gifts, toiletries, candles, small bric-a-brac, jig-saw puzzles, children's small toys and games. All the usual stall holders will be equally grateful for suitable offerings.

What can I say? The Archdeacon's Parochial Visitation was a lot of preparation and photocopying. We had two inspectors – Martin, a fellow churchwarden who had completed many such visits, was training the new Archdeacon, Gemma Foster, in the differences in Winchester Diocese compared with her previous Guildford Diocese. The afternoon went well, a cheery affair with no hiccups, mainly I think because we provided Cadbury's Chocolate Fingers with the tea (other biscuits are available)!

Now we can move on and in November we turn reflective with All Souls' Day followed by Remembrance Sunday, two very poignant occasions. We remember our friend Greta Thew especially, at this year's All Souls Service, as we sit quietly with background music – which is so appropriate because Greta loved her music. She was also very dedicated as a sidesperson and in providing flowers for the church. Her smile will be missed, but happy memories remain.

For a rural church, Remembrance Sunday brings a village together, as we honour the fallen respectfully and are thankful to those who have served or are still serving our country. We should also give some thought to young people who are beginning a career in the military, not an easy job, but a necessary one for the safety of us all. We thank you all that we are here today, living life to the full in a lovely village like Sherfield English.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for November 2026 and the start of December			
November 2026	**Reader 1 etc.**	**Reader 2**	**Sidesperson**
1st November All Saints Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. **NB No Messy Church**	Ann Jarrett	Rose Forward	Ann Jarrett
Monday 2nd November All Souls Service 7.00 p.m.	See October *Newsletter*	(Mel King)	
8th Holy Communion (modern, said) 8.15 a.m. **Remembrance, Village Hall 10.00 a.m., then War Memorial**	Special Service Readers		
15th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. **Family Service, Wellow Village Hall, 4.00 – 4.45 p.m.**	John Parr (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens	Gael Clemett and Mel King)	John Parr
22nd Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby
29th (Advent) Benefice Eucharist (St Margaret's) 10.30 a.m.	Special Service Readers		Barbara King
6th December Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. **Christingle Messy Church, Village Hall 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.**	Tim Jobson (Sara-Jane Stevens)	Michael Gibb	Tim Jobson

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

The new Wellow Home Group continues on 12th and 26th November (2nd and 4th Thursdays each month), at Wellow Vicarage from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m., starting with refreshments, then 'The Chosen', Bible passages and prayers. Questions, doubts and frustrations are very welcome!
Please check details with Sara-Jane Stevens on 07786 851565 or by writing to her at revsj@btinternet.com .

Saturday 28th November, St Margaret's Christmas Market in Wellow Village Hall, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Stall holders will need your donations please! More details from, or offers to, Lesley Mackay (322570).

St Leonard's Services and Events

1st November – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) (4.00 – 5.00 p.m.) – All Souls: quiet reflection (Clare Durham)
8th November (10.45 a.m.) – Remembrance Sunday Service (Clare Durham and Revd Yin-Yin Bull)
15th November – Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens) 22nd Nov. – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble, Revd Bruce Kington)
29th November (Advent – 10.30 a.m.) – Benefice Eucharist at St Margaret's, Wellow (Revds James Pitkin & Yin-Yin Bull)
[All services are in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturday 7th November, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Morning in St Leonard's
Saturday 5th December, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Christmas Coffee morning with carols played on hand bells

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
1 Nov	All Saints' Day (R)	Revelation 7.9-end	Psalm 34.1-10	1 John 3.1-3	Matthew 5.1-12
1/2 Nov	All Souls' Day (R)	Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33ORWisdom 3.1-9	Psalm 23 OR 27.1-6, 16-17	Romans 5.5-11 OR 1 Peter 1.3-9	John 5.19-25 OR John 6.37-40
8 Nov (R)	Remembrance Sun.	Amos 5.18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4.13-18	Matthew 25.1-13
15 Nov	2nd Bef. Advent (R)	Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end	Psalm 90.1-8 [9-11] 12*	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	Matthew 25.14-30
22 Nov	Christ the King Next before Advent (R)	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24	Psalm 95.1-7	Ephesians 1.15-end	Matthew 25.31-end
29 Nov	Advent Sunday (P)	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
6 Dec	2nd of Advent (P)	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8

In case of ambiguity, Readers should not hesitate to consult the Celebrant to check which variant is required.
Altar Frontal colours: (R) = Red, (P) = Purple. 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
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