

The Buzz

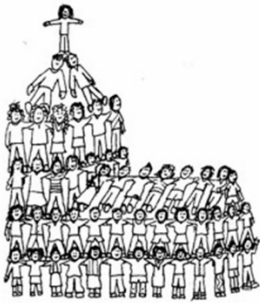


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



July 2025 Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



Why do we come to church?

It's Sunday morning, and like clockwork, millions of people are donning their finest clothes, polishing their shoes, and heading to church.

For many, attending church is as traditional as Sunday School passed down through generations like a family heirloom. Yet, there's often a twist. "Did you know that when grandma went to church, she had to walk five miles in the snow? Uphill! Both ways!" These stories make attending church feel like a rite of passage, with the bonus of airport-style security from the welcomers to ensure all mobile phones are switched off and that last-minute bit of shopping is stored firmly under the pew.

One of the biggest draws to church is that sweet, sweet hospitality. Free tea, coffee and a nice biscuit. Plus, it gives everyone a chance to exercise their "caffeine and sugar-fuelled social skills." And in a world where Wi-Fi is practically sacred, many believers make a pilgrimage to church just to snag that elusive password. "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned... I've been using my neighbour's Wi-Fi." With multiple services available for your browsing pleasure, one can't help but wonder if prayer requests are being replaced with Zoom meetings.

There is of course the holy social calendar. Where else can you trade your mediocre casserole for someone else's mystery dish? Not to mention, you can swap parenting tips while marvelling at that one guy who keeps bringing store-bought cookies but insists, they are "home baked." It's community, it's fellowship, and let's face it, trying not to eat three servings of that "healthier" green bean casserole is a challenge on its own!

The clergy are the original influencers mixing current events with ancient texts and delivering it with enough flair to make even Shakespeare jealous. You think you're going to just hear about faith? Oh no, you're about to experience a talk on ten reasons why your smartphone is the devil! It's like attending a motivational seminar, but with more "Amen's" and less PowerPoint.

In an age of specialization, some people treat the church like a club hunt. "Are you into contemporary worship, or do you prefer more of a Gregorian chant vibe?" Or, "I hear the youth group has the best action song tournaments." Let's not forget those who are only there to scout out potential new friends for trivia night. "Bingo! They love obscure 90s sitcoms too!"

And of course, who can overlook the classic motivation? Many attend church as a form of celestial fire insurance. "If I show up regularly, surely I can avoid any fiery condemnation!" It's like getting a lifetime pass for good behaviour, and hey, maybe they'll even get a VIP upgrade when the next life rolls around.

For some, church is basically a runway show. After all, where else can you sport that new dress or suit and have it be completely acceptable? Plus, it's the perfect opportunity to test out those new shoes. Just pray no one trips during the singing—nobody wants to end up in the "Church Bloopers" reel!

So, there you have it! From free coffee to social events and even a bit of "heavenly" assurance, there are plenty of funny, personal reasons why people flock to church every week. **So why do you come to church?**

Perhaps we need to consider what we have not tried. There is, after all, a plethora of services all designed to bring you closer to God. **Our 9.30 am services** seek to challenge the mind and stir the spirit by taking away the safety blanket. It is a bit like a holy who dun it! You walk in the door and wait to find what can be made with a sheet of paper and some sticky-back plastic. The action song sends you round the church building, up the tower and back again. The sermon means we need to do something other than just listen and you may need to talk to the person in the pew behind. All these things we should not fear, to grow our faith we need to sow our faith. This means being open to new ways to worship.

At 11.00 am we celebrate the Eucharist, a service all those who have been confirmed and committed to our faith should regularly attend. There is a reason Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me'. If we are taking our faith seriously, we need to be seeking the kingdom of God and sending that message out into our community. Christians take Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion, to remember and participate in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It's a symbolic act of remembrance, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment. A means of receiving God's grace, and an act of obedience to Christ. Hymns and worship songs add to our worship ensuring the mix picks up every age group. Believe it or not, we can worship in both traditional and a contemporary manner all at the same time.

So, the next time you find yourself sitting in a pew, don't be surprised if you secretly count the number of biscuits you've consumed while trying to decipher the latest sermon's hidden message. Think about what you have not tried yet or for a while and challenge yourself to try something new.

'Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase'
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fr Dominic
Curate



WELCOME TO ST. MARGARET'S SERVICES

1st Sunday	9.30 am	Sunday Celebration
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	FIISH for Young Families
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Parish Communion
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Family Service
	11.00 am	Parish Communion
5th Sunday	9.30 am	Service Of the Word
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

www.ifieldparish.org

www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield



**St. Margaret's Church,
Ifield Street, Ifield,
Crawley, RH11 0NN.**

Wednesdays

9.30 am

Said Eucharist

PARISH HOUSE GROUPS



Mondays 10.30 am–12 noon at Tree House, Rusper Rd.
Please contact Jill Bell on 521699 for details
New members are always welcome
PLEASE NOTE WE ARE TAKING A BREAK FROM MID-JULY UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30 pm
Venue may vary.
Please contact Jo Strutt jo@bridgeham.com for details
PLEASE NOTE THIS GROUP IS NOT CURRENTLY MEETING

200 CLUB

The latest 200 Club Building Fund draw took place on 11th May. The results are set out below:

1st Kevin Lawler
2nd Kim Davis-Gray
3rd Rita Strutt

The next draw will be on 13th July. Thank you for your valued and continued support - new members are most welcome!

EASTER TEAM FOOD BANK.

Current particular needs are for
Toilet rolls
Cooking oil (small bottles)
Sugar

Please leave items in the basket in church.
Thank you for your continued support.



Barn Dance

Sat 9th August - 7 pm

**Licensed
Bar**

Take your
partner by the
hand and join
the fun



At. St. Margaret's Church, Ifield

Tickets £10 per head

(inc. BBQ & Salad)

Available from Church



This has been another busy period with complex family issues needing intensive input. We have been seeing a lot of families in need of support with children's special educational needs, families finding it extremely hard to access the specialist assessments for child mental health and autistic spectrum disorders from specialist services, even with the necessary educational, health, care plans the

specialist educational facilities are hard to find. Many families are also really struggling with finances and asking for help with basic essentials such as school uniforms. As the summer approaches, we hope that our busy calendar of family activities will help to provide some relief from these daily struggles.



SMILE (St. Margaret's Ifield Ladies Events)

This group is all about friendship, fun, and supporting each other. It's a chance to relax, unwind, and enjoy some great company.

For your diaries:-

- Saturday 23rd August – 5pm Hawth Crawley Amphitheatre. Bring a camping chair or cushion and a picnic.

All are welcome to join us.

For further details contact Clare Wilson email SMILE@ifieldparish.org or 0776 1122 172

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

A new rota for operating the sound and visual system on Sundays is being prepared. To keep this going, we need additional helpers. If you think you can help one Sunday a month, please speak to Chris Bell or Rob Pudney.

Would you like to receive this publication by email?

If so, please send your email address to reader@ifieldparish.org with The Buzz in the subject line.



LITTLE DRAGONS

It's church, it's messy, it's for little ones, their parents and carers!

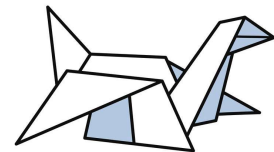
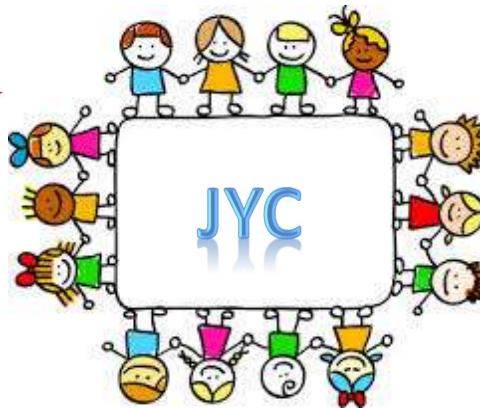
In church, 9 till 10.30am every Monday in term time

For more information, please contact the Rector

OUR YOUTH GROUP

JYC: SUMMER SCHEDULE

25 April, 9 & 23 May, 6 & 20 June, 4 & 18 July



For children from year one.

Fortnightly during term time on Fridays 18.30 – 20.00, St Margaret's Church.

St Margaret's: Loved as you are

For more information, please contact the Rector

WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Rector	Revd Christine Spencer	561283	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd Dominic Desouza-Campbell	01444 247388	curate@ifieldparish.org
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Andy Ironside	07758 168411	andy@ifieldparish.org
	Kevin Lawler	07792 809165	kevin@ifieldparish.org
PCC Secretary	VACANCY		
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
Finance Officer	Jack Woolsey	07709 046017	jackwoolsey@hotmail.com
Safeguarding	Heather Woolsey	07584 010576	safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
DBS Lead Recruiter	Andy Ironside	077581 168411	dbsleadrecruiter@ifieldparish.org

REST DAYS

Please note that Friday is our Rector's rest day
Our Curate is only in the parish on Wednesday mornings (and Sundays)

PLEASE NOTE

St. Margaret's weekly notices can be viewed on the parish website

IFIELD PARISH WEBSITE

www.ifieldparish.org

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to
Carl Peirce carl@ifieldparish.org

Follow us:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmargaretsifield>

Please send any updates for the August issue to Jill Bell
reader@ifieldparish.org **by 14th July**