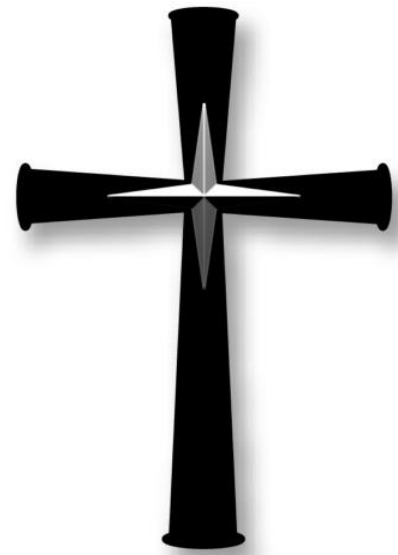


Proclamation

April 2026



St Margaret's Church



**Serving the Communities of Streatley,
Warden Hill and Bramingham Park / Barton Hills**

stmargaretschurchstreatley.org.uk

50p

Parish Announcements

Update

Church Service at Streatley - Sunday at 9.30 am

Church Service at Parish Centre - Sunday at 11.15 am

Parish Centre Service - Wednesday 10.15 am

Private prayer - by arrangement only

After many years of sponsoring the Christmas tree, the current donor has decided to step back. Anyone interested in taking this over please speak to Julia or Wendy.

Dear Friends

April 2026

By the time you read this, the build-up to Easter will nearly be over, with Easter Sunday taking place on the 5th April. Lent is a time of spiritual reflection, repentance, and renewal of faith - symbolising Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and his temptation - traditionally a time of sacrifice, prayer and fasting, to draw us closer to God.

At the Ash Wednesday Service Rev. Canon Liz Hughes spoke not just about what we were planning to give up but also what we were going to do more of to grow our faith during Lent. In my case, this has meant investing more time through daily reflections on the Church of England Everyday Faith App, attending more services, hearing different clergy preach and joining the Compline group for the first time. Each gave me something new but in different ways, a different perspective, time to listen, time to reflect and time to grow in Faith. During Holy Week I plan to listen to the podcast - 'Walking the way of the Cross' - exploring the 15 biblical stations of the cross. It is all too easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life; there can always be something more urgent or more important to do. Lent (and an unfortunate ankle injury) has given me time to refocus on what is important, spending time with family and friends, providing support to the local community which has nurtured me over nearly 50 years and which in turn supports me to become a better Christian, a better person.

I now look forward to Eastertide or 'the Great fifty days', combining the 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension, then culminating in Pentecost on the 50th day - celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. The church will be filled with our Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones who have passed, joyful Alleluia music to lift the rafters and if previous years are anything to go by, plenty of chocolate eggs - another sign of new life and renewal. I, for one, can't wait.

This is a season of great joy, a reflection of the promise of eternal life, a renewal of faith and commitment to living according to Christian teachings.

Wishing you and your families a joyous Eastertide.

Julia

St Margaret's Church, Streatley



From the Registers

Interment of Ashes

6th March Internment of Ashes - Alexander Reid and Christopher Reid (Father and son)

Funeral

3rd March Jean Flower - funeral in church

Tower Light Sponsorship

To celebrate or commemorate a special occasion, please contact Pam Hooker by 1st of the previous month, via email Pam.norm1@gmail.com Sponsorship £5 per week.

Altar Sponsorship

Would you like to sponsor flowers for the Altar pedestal to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or any other celebration or may be in memory of a loved one? There is a record of sponsorship in a book on the chest in the Cross Aisle in Church and as a token of thanks you will receive a commemorative card with a photograph. If you are interested, please contact Brenda on 01582 575 620 who will be happy to discuss your needs.



CHURCH CALENDAR

April

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		10:15 Morning Service 12 Talking Elephants. Parish Centre. 2:30 Barton Lodge	10 Coffee morning Centre 7 pm Maundy Thursday Church Service	GOOD FRIDAY 2 pm Parish Church		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EASTER SUNDAY Communion Services 9:30 Church 11:15 Centre	2 - 4 Keech Buddies, Parish Centre	10:15 Morning Service 11:30 Disharmony Choir, Parish Centre	10 Coffee morning Centre. 2:30 Ladies Guild, Centre 3 Star Coaches presentation	2:30 Choir Practice in Church		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Service of the Word 9:30 Parish Church 11:15 Parish Centre	2 - 4 Warblers & Wobblers, Parish Centre	10:15 Morning Service 11:30 Disharmony Choir, Parish Centre	10 Coffee morning Centre. 2:30 Choir Practice in Church			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Communion Services 9:30 Parish Church 11:15 Parish Centre		10:15 Morning Service 11:30 Disharmony Choir, Parish Centre	10 Coffee morning Parish Centre.	2:30 Choir Practice in Church		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9:30 Parish Church Service 11:15 Parish Centre Service		10:15 Morning Service 11:30 Disharmony Choir, Parish Centre	10 Coffee morning, Parish Centre. 2-4 Food Bank, Parish Centre			

The Services at St Margaret's – Are you on Duty?

5th April	09.30	Parish Communion
Easter Sunday	Reader	Judy Seymour
	Sidesperson	Richard Daniells
	Intercessions	Teresa Dales
	Cleaning	Carol Hodges, Wendy Dyer, Ray Harrison
12th April	09.30	Service of the Word
Easter 1	Reader	John Farrent
	Sidesperson	Neil Grainger
	Intercessions	Julia Godino
	Coffee	Val Blewitt, Linda Stephenson
19th April	09.30	Parish Communion
Easter 2	Reader	Ray Harrison
	Sidesperson	Carol Hodges
	Intercessions	Linda Stephenson
	Coffee	Janet Giles, Beryl Gold
26th April	09.30	Morning Service
Easter 3	Reader	Jan Williams
	Sidesperson	Tony Baines
	Intercession	Paul Ingram
	Coffee	Jean Kain, Pat Wren
	Cleaning	Jan & Alan Williams
	Laundry	Judy Seymour

St Margaret's Church Streatley



REMEMBERING LOVED
ONES AT EASTER



2026

Church Flower Decoration

EASTER 2026

Easter Lilies this year will be £3 each.

Please write the name/s of those loved ones you wish to remember in the book and place the money for the lilies in the Flower Box, both of which will be on the chest in the Cross Aisle in the weeks prior to Easter

Thank you.

Contact 01582 575620



With Jesus Beside Me
I am Never Alone

A collection of spiritual poetry and prayers

First "A Little Bit O'This..." then "And A Little Bit More"; and now a collection of thoughts entirely of a spiritual theme - Just "Him and Me.." is now available!

All books can be ordered on Amazon!

Alternatively, contact AngieD (text on 07882 123 993) who may have copies of all three for sale! (Price - £7 each).

Hymn of the Month: April

“To be a pilgrim”

The Tinker of Bedford (1628)

John Bunyan lived in turbulent times, times of great religious unrest. When he served in Cromwell’s army in the English Civil War, a dramatic incident led to his realisation of the brevity of life and the importance of salvation.

Life during the reign of King Charles was intolerable for those who were not part of the “established Church”. Living as a Christian was not easy for John Bunyan and he suffered greatly for his convictions. Such “dissenters” had no license to preach and many were imprisoned.

John Bunyan was arrested in Harlington in 1660 and spent 12 years in Bedford prison. These years turned out to be the most fruitful of his life. By his pen, he influenced more people than if he’d had the freedom to preach.

During his lifetime he wrote 60 books.

“The Pilgrim’s Progress” tells the story of “Christian’s” journey through life to Heaven. This hymn is born out of Bunyan’s own trials and struggles to be a pilgrim. “God’s ways are not our ways” and this is clearly demonstrated in the life of John Bunyan.

The tune “Monks Gate” is named after the village where Ralph Vaughan Williams first heard the melody and arranged it for these words from Pilgrim’s Progress.

Barbara Donaldson.



Allotments Streatley

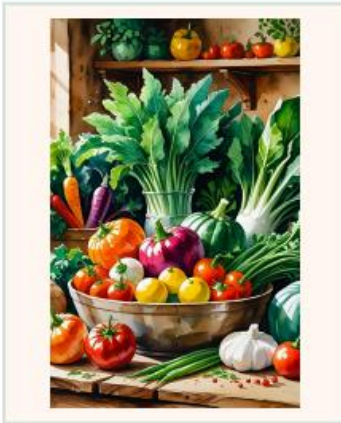


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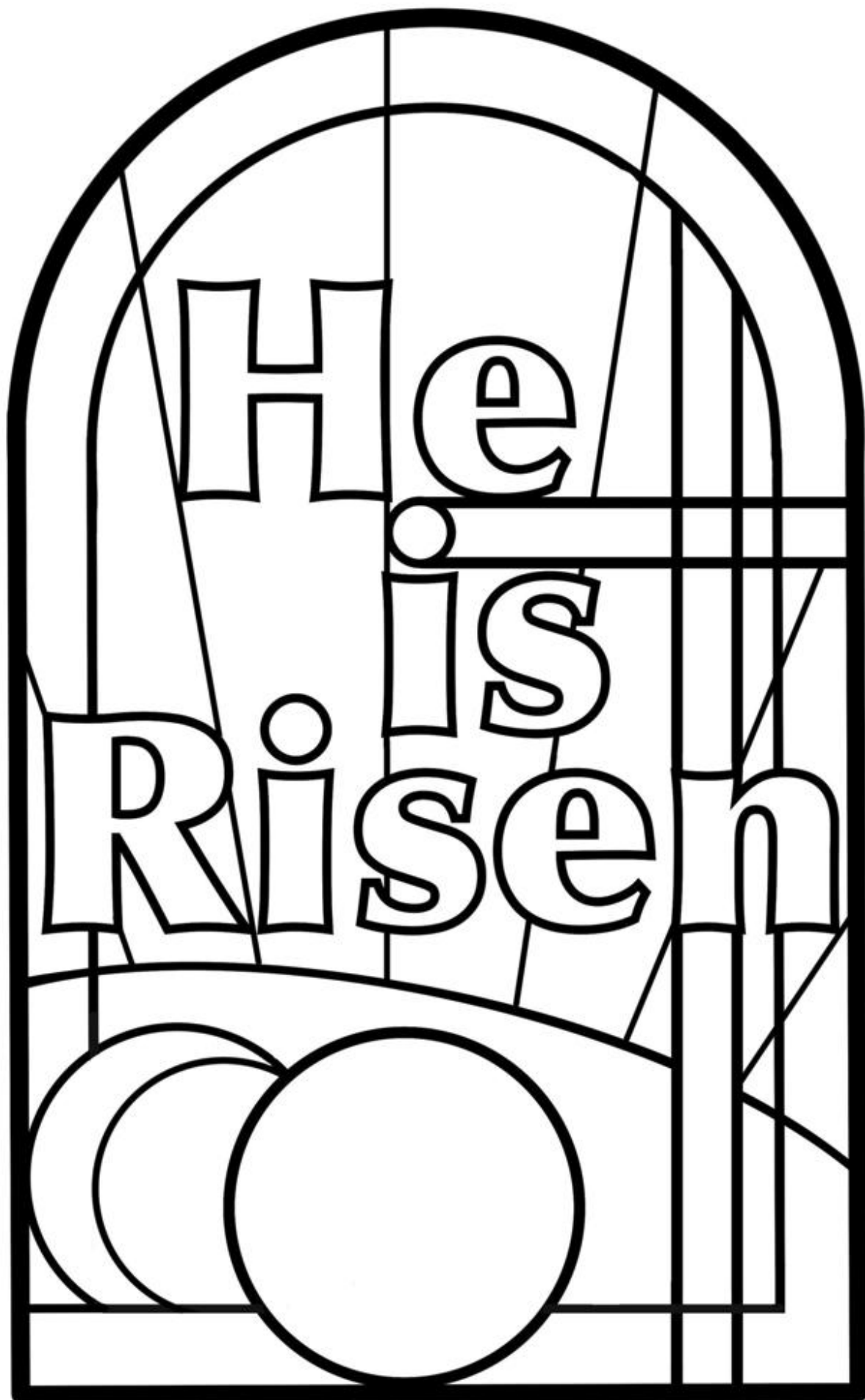


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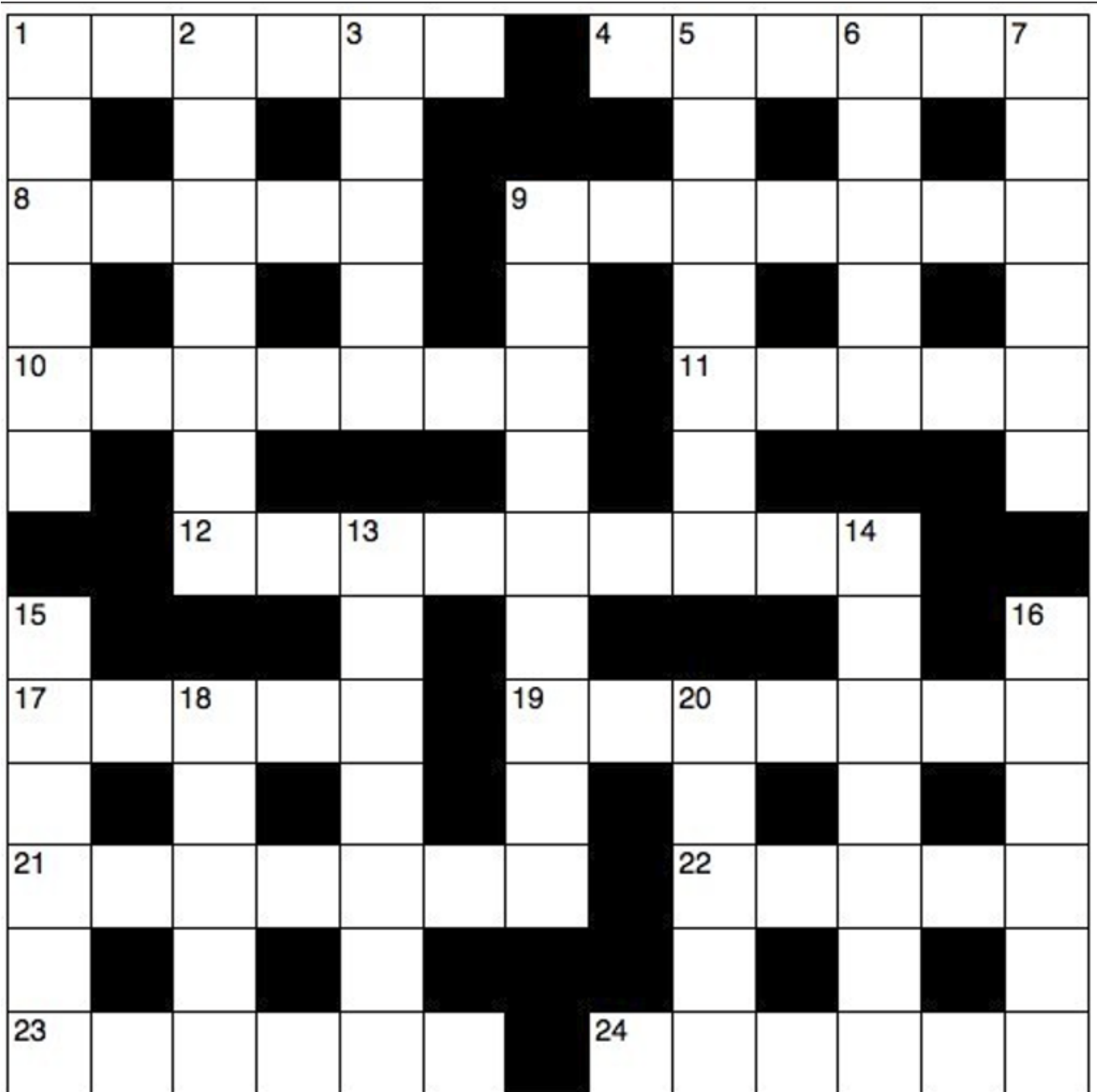
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CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

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12 April	and	24 May	Val Blewitt Linda Stephenson Jan Williams
19 April	and	31 May	Janet Giles Beryl Gold
28 April	and	7 June	Jean Kain Pat Wren
3 May	and	14 June	Brenda Daniells Jan Williams

No coffee

Mothering Sunday - 15 March 2026

Easter Sunday - 5 April 2026



Church Coffee Charity - April to June 2026

Sightsavers Charity is geared towards a world where avoidable blindness is eliminated, and everyone has equal opportunities to learn, earn and be happy.

92% of donations, including donated supplies, go to our vital charity work, and 8% help us grow our awareness and funding.

Registered Charity in England and Wales: No1058704

Since Sightsavers was founded, we've carried out 9.76 million cataract operations.

We've trained almost 381,000 people with disabilities to help them earn a living.

We've distributed 1.85 billion treatments to prevent debilitating diseases.

Worldwide, 1.1 billion people have a visual impairment that could be treated or prevented. Unless eye health services improve around the world, 61 million people could be blind by 2050 because of global population growth and ageing.

The impact of visual impairment can be devastating. It can stop children going to school. It can prevent people finding a job. It can force people into a spiral of poverty. The knock-on effects can harm families and entire communities.

At Sightsavers, we believe nobody should be blind from avoidable causes, and we want everybody to be able to get eye treatment when they need it. A pair of glasses or an operation to remove cataracts can transform people's lives

At Sightsavers, we start with sight, but we don't stop there. We work with governments and local, national and international partners to carry out eye operations and distribute treatments where they're needed.

We help to improve health services so they are sustainable and make education more inclusive for children with disabilities. We also advocate for the rights of women, girls and people with disabilities.

We treat eye conditions by supporting eye care staff to tackle eye conditions including cataracts and trachoma, and we help to eliminate diseases that affect sight.

We train eye surgeons. Our work relies on thousands of skilled staff. Since 1950, we've trained more than 1,000 local cataract surgeons.

Sightsavers works with partners to distribute millions of donated treatments to prevent eye diseases in more than 30 countries. We use local volunteers who work in their local communities and are trained to check symptoms, give out medicine and refer patients for treatment. We carry out research and our in-house experts conduct extensive research to ensure Sightsavers' eye health work is robust, efficient and effective.

We have more than 75 years of experience, and we're proud to be a leader in our field. Our programmes consistently achieve high performance ratings from the UK' Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Thank you for caring and for your support

CHURCHWARDENS' NEWS

The farewell party for Nigel was a big success and a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards a great evening. Nigel and his family have now moved and we are busy finding out what he did and trying not to let things fall through the cracks. A lot of time is being spent trying to find ministers to cover services. We are very lucky to have Teresa and Paul who have agreed to officiate at some for us, as well as Steve and Roger Wood. In May and June we have Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook and Bishop of Bedford helping out.

Angie, Dorothy, and Kimberly are keeping the Wednesday mornings services at the Parish Centre active. Their help is very much appreciated while the search is still on to try and find a minister to take the service or at the very least, one a month.

Three quotes have been received for the Quinquennial Inspection repair work and the lowest will be presented to the PCC for approval at a cost of £27,105 which includes a £2,500 contingency.

We have received the Letter of Authorisation from the Diocese and we shall be looking and applying for any and all grants possible. The VAT refund programme the Government provided by DCMS has been closed already which is earlier than expected.

Some signed allotment leases have been returned and now that clarification has been made on the questions asked, we are waiting for the rest of the documents to be returned. We have been investigating installing a defibrillator in the porch at the church but at present the programme run by the British Heart Foundation is closed until June. We shall apply for a defibrillator at that time.

The vacancy timetable has been approved by the PCC. It is very tight but we wanted to try and get a new minister settled before the summer break. After the 12th March vacancy meeting, the Parish Profile has to be with the Diocese by 23rd April. Interviews are then scheduled to take place 30th June.

Julia and Wendy

PARISH OF

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
We (<i>insert names</i>)		
of (<i>insert addresses</i>)		
being members of the electoral roll of this parish, hereby nominate		
of (<i>insert address</i>)		
as a candidate for election to the parochial church council at the annual meeting on _____		
	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
Signed		
I declare that I am communicant of 16 years or over and not disqualified, and that if elected, I consent to serve.		
Signed: <i>Nominee</i>		

Nominees must be:

- at least sixteen years of age;
- actual communicants;
- on the Electoral Roll of this Parish for at least six months

Proposers and seconds must be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish

No person shall be nominated unless they have signified their consent to serve, or there is in the opinion of the meeting sufficient evidence thereof. No person shall be nominated if they are disqualified from serving by the Church Representation Rules. (See right for details)

DISQUALIFICATION (Church Representation Rule 68 in Part 7)

A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if the person:

3 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).

(2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

(3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

(4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.

(5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

Note

In order to confirm that you are eligible to act as a charity trustee, all newly elected PCC members will be required to sign a declaration confirming their eligibility to hold office as a charity trustee eligibility (i.e. non-disqualification under charity law) and will be asked to sign a Fit and Proper Person declaration. A copy of these declarations can be found at

www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/. By confirming that you are eligible for election, you are confirming that you are able to sign these declarations.

PARISH OF

NOMINATION FOR CHURCHWARDEN

We the undersigned, being either

- members of the church electoral roll of this parish or
 - members of the local government register of electors by virtue of residence in this parish
- hereby nominate

for election to the office of churchwarden in this parish.

Signed

Proposer

Seconder

I, *(insert name)* _____,

the above-named nominee, hereby certify that

- I am eligible for election to the office of churchwarden in this parish
- I am not disqualified from holding that office, and
- I am willing to hold that office.

Signed

Nominee

This form must be handed to the minister who is to conduct the meeting for the election of churchwardens at any time before the start of that meeting. When there is no minister, this form must be handed to the churchwarden who signed the notice convening the meeting. No person chosen for the office of churchwarden shall become churchwarden until they shall have been admitted to the office by the bishop or his substitute duly appointed; however all persons elected shall become ex-officio members of the parochial church council from the time of their election.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS MEASURE 2001:

The churchwardens of every parish shall be chosen from persons who have been baptised and —

- a) whose names are on the church electoral roll of the parish;
- b) who are actual communicants;
- c) who are twenty-one years of age or upwards; and
- d) who are not disqualified as laid out below.

No person shall be chosen as churchwarden of a parish for any period of office unless they —

- a) have signified consent to serve as such; and
- b) have not signified consent to serve as such for the same period of office in any other parish (not being a related parish) or, if such consent has been signified and the meeting of the parishioners to elect churchwardens of that other parish has been held, was not chosen as churchwarden of that other parish.

Disqualifications

A person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden if:

- the person is disqualified from being a charity trustee under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 and the disqualification is not for the time being subject to a waiver by the Charity Commission.
- the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006)
- the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (unless the person's disqualification under this sub-section has been waived in writing by the bishop of the diocese in question.)
- the person has been so disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure [1977]

Without prejudice to the above, a person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden when that person has served as a churchwarden of the same parish for six successive periods of office until the annual meeting of the parishioners to elect churchwardens in the next year but one following the date on which that person vacated office at the end of the last such period: Provided that a meeting of the parishioners may by resolution decide that this section shall not apply in relation to the parish concerned.

Note

- In order to confirm that you are eligible to act as a charity trustee, all newly elected Church Wardens will be required to sign two declarations, being: (i) confirmation of trustee eligibility (i.e. non-disqualification under charity law); and (ii) a Fit and Proper Person declaration, copies of which can be found at www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/. By confirming that you are eligible for election, you are confirming that you will be able to sign these declarations.

**Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Luton & Dunstable Foundation Trust**

Lewsey Road
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU4 0DZ

Tel: 01582 491 166



13th February 2026

Dear Brenda,

Thank you for your kind donation of **£102.16** which was received via cheque recently, this donation was raised from proceeds of coffee sales following your Sunday Communion Services between October and December 2025. Please do pass on our thanks to everyone who made this donation possible.

As requested this donation will support the work of the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital. Over 900 premature and sick babies were treated in NICU last year alone and donations such as yours enable us to buy much needed equipment that helps to improve the NICU facilities and to ensure that both babies and parents are treated in the best possible environment.

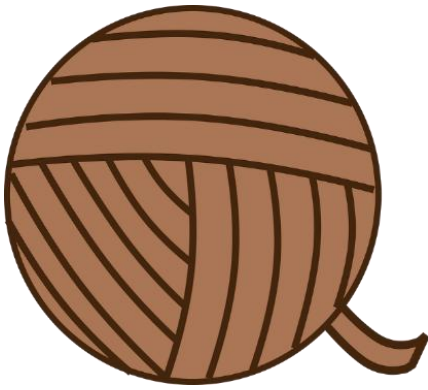
This letter acts as a receipt of your donation, and confirmation of our sincere appreciation.

Receipt of Donation

- *Received from:* Brenda Collins – St Margaret's Church, Streatley
- *In benefit of:* NICU LDF1
- *Date received:* 11/02/2026
- *Amount Received:* £102.16

Note from Editor

Hope this legible after it has been reduced. In case not, thanks from the LND for a donation of £102.16 for the benefit of the NICU LDF1.



If anyone has spare wool which might be used by the blanket knitters, can you please pass it to

Val Blewitt
01582 662544

Thanks

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ST MARGARET'S LADIES' GUILD PROGRAMME

2026

9 th April	Isabelle Dudley - Three Star Coaches
14 th May	AGM from 3 pm Armchair exercises with Hannah
11 th June	Howard Chandler - Legrave
9 th July	Afternoon tea, followed by quilting demonstration
13 th August	Bill Hamilton - good news/bad news
10 th September	Awaiting confirmation
8 th October	Julia Godino - Vietnam Visit
12 th November	Awaiting confirmation
10 th December	Christmas Meal

New members always welcome please contact Judy on 01582 883308 or any Committee member - Maureen Ingram, Kathy Rutherford, Barbara Pattenden, Pat Wren or Anne Beard

The LADIES GUILD meet from 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. on 2nd Thursday in the month at The Parish Centre, Lucas Gardens

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DEADLINE FOR MAY 2026 PROCLAMATION

Tuesday **2** April
but earlier if possible, please.

Please send usual/potential contributions to

magazine.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com.

I would be grateful to receive contributions, where possible, in Word.

Thanks, Cathy Aizlewood



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our Church

Thursday Coffee Morning

You are invited to come along to

The Parish Centre for coffee or tea on
a
Thursday morning

10 am to 11 am

We could also use some help on a once a
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar – We are in a vacancy			
Reader	Teresa Dales		
Officers			
Lay Vice Chair PCC	J Godino		01582 883896
Church Wardens	W Dyer		01582 536589
	J Godino		01582 883896
Secretary	K McGuinness	secretary.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com	
Treasurer	C Hunt	treasurer.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com	07880 361103
Sacristan			
Verger			
Chairs of Committees			
CARE Committee		care.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com	
Parish Centre			
Treasurer (Parish Centre)		stmpctreasurer@outlook.com	
Fund Raising			
Pastoral Team			
Safeguarding Officer	C Moody	carolmoody1961@hotmail.co.uk	07927 651615
Leaders of Organisations			
Choir	B Donaldson		01525 877790
Ladies Guild	J Seymour		01582 883308
Youth Club			
Cleaning	C Hodges		01582 659798
Flowers	B Daniells		01582 575620
Laundry	J Seymour		01582 883308
Tower Lighting (Sponsorship)	P Hooker	Pam.norm1@gmail.com	
Magazine (Treasurer)	P Ingram		01582 508273
Magazine (Ads/Editor)		magazine.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com	
Website		stmargaretschurchstreatley.org.uk	
Deanery Synod Representatives			
	Brenda Daniells		01582 575620
	Richard Daniells		01582 575620
The Friends of Streatley Church			
Chair	Julia Godino		01582 883896
Secretary	Paul Ingram		01582 508273
Treasurer	Maureen Ingram		01582 508273
Parish Centre Booking			07500 537758