

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell



**WISHING YOU HAPPINESS, JOY AND GOOD
HEALTH IN 2023**

JANUARY 2023

£1 25

St Margaret's Worship

Places of Worship can be used for services carefully following all the government rules, including; social distancing, wearing face coverings, hand hygiene etc. At St Margaret's we continue to offer a service of Holy Communion in church at 10am each Sunday.

There is a short service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30am; this is held by telephone conference call. A service of Evening Prayer is held on Wednesdays at the Vicarage at 5pm. The church is open for private prayer and quiet reflection from 10 am to 3 pm, Monday to Saturday.

Our Good Morning news sheet, readings and other resource material and information are shared by email every Saturday.

If you wish to join our mailing list or the Tuesday Morning Prayer please contact me (email: vicarleiston@gmail.com or telephone: 01728 830421). Richard Finch

CONTACT US

Priest in Charge: Reverend Richard Finch: T.830421
The Vicarage, Church Road, Leiston E.vicarleiston@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Reverend Morag Finch

Reader: Mr Bernard Smith: 3 Daneway Gardens, Leiston T.830105

Lay Elders:

Mrs Pat Carter, 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

Church Wardens:

Two Vacancies

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

PCC Secretary: Mrs Emma Jameson, 4 Woodlands, Leiston T.832166

Organist & Choir Master: Mr Matthew Merrett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Vaughan Windle, 21 Eastward Ho T. 833988

One Vacancy

Resident Retired Priest:

Reverend Richard Ellis: 9 Kings Road, Leiston T.832168

Website Editor: Mrs Maureen Fox T.830929

Magazine Editor: Mrs Pat Carter T.831852 **Email:** pm42carter@gmail.com

ANOTHER PAGE

And so the calendar turns over into another New Year. The joy and importance of the Christmas season is over, and we now look forward with happy anticipation / serious concern (delete as applicable) to another year which will no doubt turn out to be just as eventful as the one we have left behind.

But first of all, what kind of Christmas did you have? Was it jolly, noisy and eventful, packed with friends and relatives, fuelled by good food and drink? Or was it quiet and reflective, spent peacefully and perhaps remembering livelier Christmases in years gone by? Now that both of Jenefer's sons are living in faraway countries, our Christmas was spent huddled round the logburner with our two beloved Welsh Collies, pretty much like every other winter weekend.

And did you take part in a Carol Service over the festive season? I have to admit that I didn't. I don't cope very well with crowds these days, and the old familiar carols that we have all sung a thousand times at these services have largely lost their lustre for me. It would be a different matter if they featured my favourite carol - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear - but it hardly ever appears on the songsheet these days. I don't know whether it affects you the same, but I can hardly hear, say, sing or even think about the wonderful words of that Christmas hymn without tears coming to my eyes. It is so appropriate for these troubled times.

On a happier and nostalgic note, I can clearly remember taking part in many a Midnight Mass at my local Church when I lived in Essex and then tumbling out of Church and straight into the pub for another lively session. (Is this right? Was the pub really open at that time of night? Or is this just wishful thinking?). Oh well, it's a nice memory even if it didn't quite happen that way.

These days, instead of joining the crowds, I go out into the garden late on Christmas Eve, look up at the stars in the silent sky, and feel that same sense of wonderment and insignificance which always comes over me when I think about the great creations of God which we are lucky enough to share. I say a few prayers of praise and gratitude, and I mutter to myself the words of Oh Little Town of Bethlehem - never been there, but the words conjure up such a beautiful image of the First Christmas that I shall always tell everyone that I was there when it happened.

And I think of you all - my fellow worshippers at St Margaret's in Leiston. I've probably never told you this, but you are all very important to me. I look for

you every time I am in Church, and if you are not there I hope you are away doing something restful or exciting, and I am quietly delighted when you reappear next time. I think also about two very good people who we shall not see in our Church again - Philip Harle, who in addition to his quiet friendly presence and support of Leiston FC kept the electrics of our Church in order; and Canon John Tipping, who took some wonderful services for us during the interregnum a few years back. Thanks to them, and thanks to you as well - just for being you.

But what awaits us all in 2023? It seems that everyone is on strike, nobody has enough money, we are all cold but daren't turn the heating up - and to cap it all, we are now in a minority, with fewer than 50% of the country's population claiming to be Christian. Now this does worry me - not for you and me, for we are still under the protection of the Almighty, but for those who do not share our beliefs. How do they get by? What gives them the strength to go on? We can comfort ourselves with the thought that God is working out his purpose here below, but what of those who have no God to believe in? I so wish we could get the word to them, so that they too could believe that God sees it all and will do what is right for them. But we can only do our best.

So come on 2023 - the Mighty Minority is ready for you. And if we continue to be lucky, our faith will carry us through.

Happy New Year to everybody!

Peter Roberts

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Pondering Prayer

At this time of year - Christmas and New Year – what is it that people that people see? Late night shopping, crowded streets, toys in windows, turkey, Christmas puddings and parcels under the tree. This is all very well but let us also remember, as we see the sparkle of the lights, the tinsel and the trimmings that it is Christ Mass and the birth of the baby Jesus, a little child who came into the world and into our lives to shed his light, love and truth with us all. Not just at Christmas but for all time.

He was not born in a royal palace; this Prince of Peace who was born to save the world, was born in a draughty stable, wrapped in strips of cloths and placed in an animal manger. If that was not discomfort enough soon after his birth his Mother Mary and father Joseph were forced to become refugees in Egypt in order to escape from the cruel King Herod whose intention was to

have the child killed. We should think on these things at this time of year and in our in our prayers remember to pray for all refugees throughout the world as they are fleeing from oppression, injustice and general unrest.

A prayer for Christmas:

Father God, the people who walked in darkness saw a great light, Today and every day as we walk in the shadows we ask that you spread the light of Jesus your Son upon us. As we celebrate His birth we pray that we will remain mindful of the reason for his coming. Amen

Br. Christian

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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023

Many thanks to everyone who bought the Parish Magazine during 2022; we are most grateful for your support of St. Margaret's and its outreach work both in our local community and further afield.

If you would like to continue subscribing to the St. Margaret's Church Magazine, we are now collecting this year's subscriptions by means of a payment envelope supplied with this magazine. Please enclose your £15 annual subscription in the envelope provided and then return it either to the person who delivers your magazine or directly to Sandra Harle, church treasurer, at 4 Lime Tree Avenue. Cash or cheques (made out to 'Leiston PCC') are both welcome.

To help our editor, Pat Carter, with the task of producing another year of informative and interesting magazines, please submit articles, photos, etc., to her as soon as possible each month but at the latest by the 18th. This can be either by hand to 42 Haylings Road or by email at pm42carter@gmail.com

And, finally, a big 'Thank You' to everyone who helps to distribute the magazine throughout the town each month. If you know of anyone who would like to have the magazine delivered, please let me know and we can add them to one of our delivery rounds.

Sandra Harle

EMPTY BLISTER PACKS

Please remember to keep your EMPTY blister packs and bring them to church so that they can be sent for recycling. The cardboard boxes and information leaflets can be recycled in your household recycling wheelie bin. Please DO NOT include plastic bottle lids – include them in your household recycling wheelie bin.

JANUARY

I think most people will be saying where did last year go? Sometimes a day can seem never ending as is waiting for a phone call. Time is a funny thing, then before you realise it a week has gone, or a new month started.

Looking back over the last year we were still wearing masks and Covid was still affecting a lot of people. There were lots of health problems affecting so many people. We had a spell of health problems but luckily got over them.

We had the lovely summer weather for the Queen's Jubilee and what a nice weekend that was – especially the afternoon tea for the older people. There was something for all ages.



The weather was too hot for many people, but you could plan ahead for barbeques and get-togethers knowing it would be fine. People sat indoors during the day and outside in the evenings. Sizewell beach was crowded as in the evenings the sandbanks were out so far people were walking their dogs out right near to the iron girders. There was sadness with the Queen's funeral and families trying to survive relying on food parcels – a very strange world now.

As I'm writing this we are still getting ready for Christmas so I hope you have a happy time with family and friends. It will be a sad time for many people, but I hope memories of happy times will get them through.

We hope and pray for a Happy Healthy New Year and for things to improve for many people.

Margaret Clarke

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ALPHABET QUIZ (submitted by Jean Franklin)

1	Vegetable	P
2	A bird	J
3	A sheep	U
4	Seen at a bus stop	Q
5	Insect	B
6	Previous boy/girl friend	X
7	Question	Y
8	Large expanse of water	C
9	Part of body	I
10	River	D
11	Type of bed	Z
12	American saying	G
13	Explanation	O
14	Two sheep	W
15	Girl's name	K
16	Pirate might say	R

Answers to Snow and Ice Quiz (December magazine)

1 Raymond Briggs 2 Ray Romano 3 Chasing Cars 4 Ray
Quinn 5 Rimsky-Korsakov 6 Ice-T 7 Cousins 8 Game of
Thrones 9 Sugarsnap peas 10 Status Quo 11 Frozen
12 Sarajevo (1984) 13 Paul Gallico 14 Under Pressure (by
Queen and David Bowie) 15 Yeti 16 Alistair MacLean 17 Russ
Conway 18 Ben and Jerry's 19 Sussex 20 Ernest Hemingway

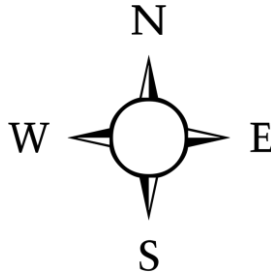
SUFFOLK PLACES

1 Which town created by Royal Charter from King John in 1200, is the County Town of Suffolk?

2 Name the Suffolk seaside town where Adnams Ale is brewed.

3 Mary Tudor was staying in Suffolk when she received news that her brother had died and it was from this place that she set out for London to claim the throne as Queen Mary 1. Which Suffolk fortification was briefly Mary's home?

4 The most easterly point in England is in Suffolk, but in which town?



5 Freston Tower, which was built in the sixteenth century, stands on the south bank of which Suffolk river?

6 The National Horseracing Museum is located in which Suffolk town?

7 In the 1930s, a 1300 year old ship-burial of a Saxon warrior king was found in a field in Suffolk. Where?

8 Where would you find the Abbey Gardens and the smallest pub in Britain? And the name of the pub?



9 Which artist was born in the village of East Bergholt in 1776, and is best known for painting the landscape of the Stour Valley along the Suffolk/Essex border?

10 Maggi Hambling's scallop sculpture sits on the beach near Aldeburgh as a tribute to which British Composer?

Monday 16th January 2023
2 30pm

History of Dunwich Heath



This will be our fourth "hybrid" talk — so over Zoom AND physical — at our new venue, Saxmundham's Fromus Centre, behind the Library. Attendees over Zoom can book in the normal way after the December talk has taken place but please before 5:00pm on Friday, 13th January, free to Members and at £3.00 for visitors — acknowledgement comprises outline instructions, with detailed information following soon before the talk. In-person attendees can just turn up — at £1.00 for Members, £3.00 for visitors, and with free tea/biscuits.

Further Programme:

7th January Drop-in advice and personal research session – Council Office,
Main St (opposite Long Shop Museum)

20th February 2 30 pm Saxmundham Fromus Centre Debbie Bradley - Migration

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BAND LEISTON PLAYING
ON TOP OF THE CHURCH TOWER



We usually see the Royal British Legion Band members **inside** the church, playing in concerts or at the Remembrance Sunday service. This photograph (taken in July 1976) shows them playing their instruments **on top** of the church tower. They are (left to right) Michael Chapman, John Glennon, Richard Laws-Smith, John Alderton and Philip Glennon. The Glennon brothers and Richard are still active members of the Band.

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LINK TO HOPE – FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this year's Shoebox Appeal, either by filling boxes or by donating items and/or cash to help with shipping costs. Church members and friends generously filled a total of 37shoebboxes this year. During our morning service on Sunday 30th October the boxes were blessed by Revd. Richard Finch. They were then dropped off at one of our nearest collection points, in Bungay, for onward transportation.

Link to Hope's aim is to combat poverty and give humanitarian aid to the most disadvantaged living in Eastern Europe. These include the poorest, especially those struggling to survive in villages that lack basic amenities, the most vulnerable, especially children and the most marginalised, and the most exploited, the families



and individuals who are at the mercy of authorities and circumstances. More information on the charity's work, including heartfelt pictures of people who have received boxes in the past, can be found on the charity's website www.linktohope.co.uk

PS: If you, or anyone you know, purchases footwear this year, could you please let us have the box? We have now exhausted our stock of donated shoeboxes, and will need more for the 2023 Appeal which will start in September. In the meantime, boxes can be given to either Pat Carter or Sandra Harle for safe keeping.

With thanks again for your generosity and support.

Sandra Harle



CONGRATULATIONS AND A WARM
WELCOME
FROM ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TO
DULCIE ELIZABETH TILBROOK

Daughter for Hannah and Stuart,
sister to Teddy
and granddaughter to
Sheena and Simon Merrett.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP



During December the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

Sunday 25th December
For Betty, Happy Christmas memories
Love Margaret, Bill and Brenda

Monday 26th December – Sunday 1st
January 2023

Wishing everyone at St Margaret's a very
Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Claire & Steven Miles

If you would like to mark a special occasion by sponsoring the lighting of the Church Tower for a minimum donation of £7 50p per day, please contact Sandra direct (contact details page 2)

FROM THE REGISTERS

SERVICES OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING/FUNERALS

7th December 2022 Philip Ernest Harle

15th December 2022 Brian "Sam" Balls

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CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who donated goods to the raffle, sold tickets in the Co-op and to those who bought tickets. Thank you too to the Leiston Co-op for facilitating the raffle. The sum of £215 was raised for much needed funds for St Margaret's Church.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH AT HAWORTH

Worship on the site of the present day church dates back to at least the 1200s and probably earlier. The oldest surviving part of this church, the base of the tower, dates to 1488. The church has been altered, extended and rebuilt several times since then. Patrick Bronte was appointed as Perpetual Curate in 1820.

We visited the church after looking round the Bronte Parsonage Museum. As we entered the church, we were greeted by Christmas carols being played on the church organ. The organ was built by JJ Binns of Bramley, Leeds, originally hand-pumped with a console located behind the choir. In 1975 the organ was completely renovated and the console moved to its present location in 1991, and restored again in 2013.



The font, made from alabaster with marble columns, was given by a local mill owner's wife. The pulpit and Chancel screen are made of alabaster; the figures on the pulpit are Jesus and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The choir stalls are carved from solid oak. The reredos was made from Derbyshire alabaster and is based on Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

The Bronte Chapel, in the south east corner of the church, has become one of the country's most visited places of literary pilgrimage. A memorial on the side wall records Patrick's wife and his six children and his own name was recorded at the bottom after his death in 1861. While we were looking at the chapel, the organist played *Shine, Jesus, Shine*. When he had finished

playing I went over to thank him and explained that daughter Helen had included the hymn in her marriage service. He asked where we lived and then asked if he could play me a request. So I asked him to play *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* which he did very expertly.

Next month – The worth Valley Railway

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ST. MARGARET’S CHURCH

Dear Friends

January’s magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time, with the St Margaret’s Church family group for this month as shown below. There are three family groups with each one appearing in the magazine every three months. However, you remain in our thoughts and prayers always.

If you would like to be included in our family monthly prayers, or have any queries please email stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com. If you feel you would prefer to be remembered in a particular month then please let us know. Also, if you have a specific need for additional prayer time then please let us know and we will add you to our ‘special prayers’ section.

In our Church Family Prayers

Richard & Sandra Ellis	Mary, Simon, Archie & Edward
Kevin, Jess, Oliver & Matilda Ellis	Reading
Christopher, Anna, Ada & Stanley	Maurice Allchin
Ellis	Charlmaine, Lee, Luke & Liam
Michael, Anika, Darcey & Jack Ellis	Wright
James & Olivia Ellis	Vaughan Windle
Chris & Elspeth Gonin	Liz Mills
Basil & Jean Jenkyns	Colin & Penny Tipple
Jill Mower	Tom & Nona Wadsell-Campbell
Sue Watt	Stephen & Claire Miles
June Geater	Eileen Griffiths
Sue Geater	David & Lynn Bailey
Ron & Diana Geater	Kirsty, Shane, Ceylon, AJ & Logan
Sandra, Ellie & Laura Harle	Stone
Emily, Rob & Joel Oxborrow	Kathryn, Grace & Eve Phillips-Last
Terri Roper	Ann Woods
Graham, Sylvia, Linda & Susan	Pam Bloomfield
Hawes	

St. Margaret of Antioch



Parish Church of Leiston-cum-Sizewell
Church Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HG

NOTICE: Items for February's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Pat Carter by **18th January** for inclusion in the February Magazine. Thank you.

Email: pm42carter@gmail.com

The Parish Magazine is available from St Margaret's Church. Delivery can be arranged.

Keep up to date with all Church Events
By visiting our own website

www.stmargaretschurchleiston.onesuffolk.net

How to Find Us

