

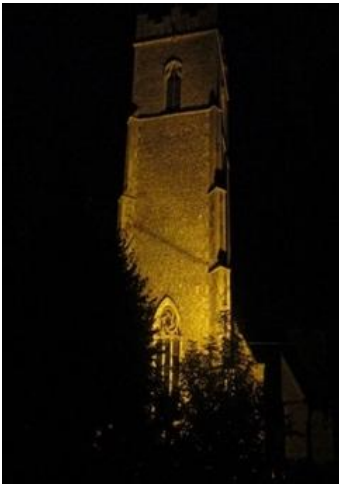
ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizevell



JANUARY 2024

£1 50



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During December the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

Tuesday 19th December

In memory of our mum Daphne Roper.
With love from all the family

Monday 25th December

Memories of Betty at Christmas,
Dear friend of Margaret, Bill and Brenda

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 add the details in the diary in church and use one of the envelopes provided to make your donation.

If you have left your request rather late, please contact Sandra direct (contact details page 13) to ensure the tower is lit for your special day.

Funeral

15th December 2023 Rosemary (Rosie) Leah Kemp

20th December 2023 John Allan Curtis

Cleaning up and clearing out ...

Have you made any new year resolutions? In some parts of Scotland and probably other parts of the world, as part of the preparations for the new year, there may be several traditions that are carried out, such as cleaning the house and sweeping out of the fireplace. There is also the attempt to clear all your debts before midnight on December 31, to symbolise a clean start in the new year.

We sometimes feel the need for a fresh start, not just at new year. A way of approaching things afresh, looking with a new perspective. We shouldn't do this if we think we are going to brush away the past. We are the things we have learnt, the experiences (both good and bad), the changes we have made but, using what we have learnt, we can sometimes start something afresh.

We learn through the Bible that God did not wipe away the time before Jesus Christ, all the history and knowledge but brought something new. In Jesus God showed us that at the heart of everything is the love of God. It is God who wipes away the tear, God who cares about the detail, God that acknowledges the pain and brings new hope. At Christmas we celebrated a new birth of the one who would change the world. At Easter we retell the account of the pain and hurt of the Cross and the incredible new life that resulted.

If, like me, you are not good at new year resolutions (by now I should be the fittest person ever) you should hold on to the fact that God encourages us try, especially those things that enhances our society, compassion, reconciliation, peace. Sometimes we need to declutter our emotional lives or stand back to see where mistakes were made and then let the love of God support us as we make a fresh start.

Wishing you many blessings for 2024.

Rev Richard Finch

THE NEW YEAR

While I was typing Margaret's letter for the magazine it reminded me of Jenny's husband Peter and the fact that he was indeed a Scot. In Scotland the coming of a new year is celebrated as Hogmanay. At the time of the Reformation when any Christian festivals, other than Sunday observances, were stopped the Scots transferred their celebrations from Christmas to New Year and called this celebration Hogmanay. The best known ceremony of this is called 'first-footing'. As the clock strikes midnight the first-footer knocks on the door of a neighbour's home. The rules say that the first-footer must be male, dark-haired and not flat-footed or cross-eyed. He carries with him a lump of coal, a sprig of mistletoe, some salt, some money and in some places near the coast a herring. These gifts are symbols of heat, health, wealth and food, all of which are wished for the family for the coming year. The ceremony is a celebration of friendship and neighbourliness.

In Canada some people enjoy progressive suppers on New Year's Eve. The first course is eaten at one house, and then everyone moves on to the next house for the second course and so on. I can remember a group of our church group, the Pathfinders, coming with Betty to our home and Fred and I serving them soup. I think it was called a Safari Supper.

The fixing of New Year's Day has had quite a chequered in the western world and has at different times been on 1 March; 25 March; 25 December; and 1 January. The Gregorian Calendar established in 1582 set 1 January as New Year's Day and this was immediately adopted by Roman Catholic countries. New Year is traditionally a time for reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the year to come. It is a good opportunity for letting go of resentments or sadness, for being thankful for good things past and putting into God's hands the coming year.

A prayer for the new year

Thank you, Lord, for your new beginnings and unwavering provision. I trust that your peace will watch over me as I step into a new beginning. This year, I will rely on the riches of your love and grace to provide for my physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

JANUARY

We start another year, where did the last one go? When you read this Christmas will be over so I hope you were able to enjoy it with family and friends. Once again Leiston and the shops all made an effort and the town looked very Christmassy. Many houses and windows are decorated up. It's lovely for the young children as everything is magical for them.

Looking back as you do as you get older we remember the lovely times, New Year's Eve parties at the Constitutional Club where family and friends would meet up, being on the dance floor all night, plenty of energy then. Also lovely evenings at the late Jenny Coull's house, her husband being Scottish gave it an extra meaning.



We met up with Betty, Barbara and Freddie Moss, also meeting up with Hugh Connell, friend of the family and also a school teacher at Leiston Modern School. It took us quite a while to call him 'Hugh'. We addressed him as Sir; he would say call me 'Hugh', I haven't been knighted yet. Life was so normal then.

I just hope the New Year will be more peaceful, with good health, so much sadness before Christmas. I hope we can keep the good friendship of people, so many good and kind people – we want a few more in the world.

Happy New Year, Margaret Clarke

Generous giving

The church of St Margaret's Leiston relies on the financial giving from fundraising and by personal contributions to maintain the work of the church and the church building.

We encourage you to give what you can and as generously as you can. There are several different ways that you can use.

Planned giving (monthly or weekly): Using the Parish Giving Scheme, the envelope scheme or by standing order. Contact our Treasurer, Sandra Harle, if you would like to get details of how to join these schemes.

One-off donations: Either by a cash donation in church (on Sunday there is a giving plate on the table near the main entrance), or by using the card machine, or via your smartphone just scan this QR code and follow the guidance.



Online: there is a link to the giving page on our church website.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK tax-payer then you can declare your wish for gift aid to be reclaimed by the church.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

Many thanks to everyone who bought the Parish Magazine during 2023; we are most grateful for your support of St. Margaret's and its outreach work both in our local community and further afield.

During the last year our printing costs have risen considerably. This means that, with regret, we will have to increase the magazine price to £1.50, making 2024's yearly subscription £18 instead of £15. We hope you will agree that the magazine is an interesting and informative read, and well worth the extra cost!

If you would like to continue subscribing to the St. Margaret's Church Magazine, please enclose your **£18 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

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CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



Our annual Hamper Raffle was held in the Co-op store on Friday 8th December, and raised £221.50 for church funds.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this by either donating items for the hampers, buying tickets or by manning the table.

Special thanks to Linda who organised the game 'Guess where Teddy fell off Santa's sleigh', and congratulations to all our winners - Margi, Doris, Sue, Gill and Jo.

Also Debbie, who correctly guessed Teddy had landed in Daisy Drive!

Sandra Harle

A CONTRIBUTION BY A READER

Thank you, Brian Smith, for this contribution to the magazine:-

In her memoirs *Shakespeare: The man who pays the rent*, Judi Dent recounts that stage actors like to address their performances to individual members of the audience. When she was appearing in *Macbeth* with Ian McKellen, she said to him before one performance: "I know who I'm doing it for tonight. I'm going to pretend that God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost have bought 3 seats in the stalls" and Ian said: "Yes, that's fine, Jude, but they'll only need one ticket." !

LADIES WHO LUNCH



On Wednesday 13th December St Margaret's Ladies Group was invited to the home of Jean and Brian to enjoy a delicious lunch. There were Christmas decorations and lights all around the room and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.



We were richly entertained by an old friend, Rika Shortland, who told a story written by herself. Rika, you may remember, was the lady who taught us about origami and helped us to make paper birds. After we had enjoyed our meal Rika played the piano to entertain us, with both classic and modern tunes.

Finally a few carols and the opportunity for everyone to join in the singing. The above photograph shows some of the guests enjoying themselves. The music rounded off what had been a most enjoyable afternoon.



O CHRISTMAS TREE, O CHRISTMAS TREE!

Once again, St Margaret's is blessed with a beautiful Christmas tree, kindly donated to us by Geoff Platt. Thank you for this very generous gift which I am sure will be enjoyed by all visitors to the church over the Christmas period, especially children coming to the Crib service on Christmas Eve.



Another contribution from Brian:-

In his inspiring book *Standing on the shoulders*, Dan Walker writes that, as Christians, forgiveness is a fundamental part of our relationship with God. He then lists the following benefits of forgiveness:

- Healthier relationships
- Improved mental health
- Less anxiety, stress and hostility
- Lower blood pressure
- Fewer symptoms of depression
- A stronger immune system
- Improved heart health
- Improved self esteem

He has great admiration for people who are able to forgive others. They are the sort of people who show us all that forgiveness is not a theory, it is something you have to practise. So, over to you!

WERE YOU THERE?

It was only last month. Sunday 3 December to be exact. The first Sunday of Advent, a time of preparation not only for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day but also for the Second Coming at a date in the future which has not been revealed to us.



So it was with a heightened sense of solemnity that I approached the steps of St Margaret's that morning, soon to be assailed by a feeling that something was not quite right. The silence - that's what it was! There was no music to greet me as I opened the door. It is true that we do not have the mighty organ bellowing out its welcome every Sunday at the present time, but there is usually a magic box playing something tuneful and jolly to carry us in. But not today. And more surprises - there was no Richard, no Morag, no Richard Ellis. Had I come to the right Church? Would there be a service? And if so, who would lead it?

Several of the usual familiar faces were not present. This was quite understandable - it was a dark, cold and windy morning and the recent icy period had left the roads and pavements slippery. But there were enough good people in the Church to tell me what had happened as they raced about pulling everything together ready for what turned out

to be a rather wonderful morning.

Quite simply, the organ had broken down, probably in protest against the freezing weather. As a bonus, the microphones weren't working either. On the other hand, the Church was full of the red glow of our brand new overhead heaters which were making their debut on this cold, cold Sunday. Very nice they looked too, but the heat they were throwing down did not seem to quite reach us on the ground. (I have put a note in the suggestions box asking that the floor of the Church be raised by ten feet or so, which should make everything all right by next Sunday).

It soon became clear that everything was under control. Jean welcomed us all and put everyone at their ease, Brian found the music box and lined up the hymn tunes, and the service was beautifully led by Christine and Bernard, whose strong voices made us wonder why we had ever needed microphones in the first place.

At the end of the service, Lesley and Mike set up coffee tables in a (relatively) warm spot and there was a strong and special feeling of adversity overcome. And I have noticed this before about St Margaret's. When things go wrong, the congregation pulls together to put them right and there is a great feeling of family about the place. Although I had done nothing except stand around looking bemused, I felt proud to have been in Church on this wintry morning. If you were there, I hope you enjoyed it too.

And so I looked forward to more adventures as I set off for Church on the following Sunday. But this time I would not even reach the warmth(?) and jollity of St Margaret's. The overnight winds had brought down a tree in our lane and the car could not get through. Could I manage a five mile walk in ten minutes? Sadly, no. But I'll get there again somehow before Christmas!

A Happy New Year to all our St Margaret's family.

Peter Roberts

LIFE DRAWING

Theberton Village Hall

Monday 22nd January 2024 10.30-12.30

Phone Vaughan 01728 833988 for details

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The appeal went very well. I found new sites to place boxes and new helpers to collect and received an offer of help with administration work. The Army Cadet force and the RAF Air Training Cadets once again gave excellent service with the appeal and at the Festival of Remembrance. My thanks to the RBL Leiston Band, Leiston Town Council, Leiston Co-operative Store and the Funeral Service (use of their large display area) for their support.

Payments to the Appeal are made in three ways - cash and cheques paid into the bank from collection boxes. This year that amount was £6,193.92. This includes donations at the Co-op, House to House collections, wreaths, St Margaret's Church Remembrance Sunday service, Sizewell Sports & Social Club coffee morning, raffle at the Festival of Remembrance and boxes in schools, pubs, clubs, shops and businesses.

The second way payments were made was via the contactless machine at the Co-op. This total was £368.00.

Payments could also be by the BACS system. Confirmed payments via that system amounted to £95.00. This gives a total of £6,656.92. However, there are further payments made via the BACS system awaiting confirmation totalling £1,006.00. Once these receive confirmation the total for the Appeal this year should be £7,662.92. This is a magnificent amount and I thank all the generous contributors, all the volunteers and everyone who has helped in any way, large or small. Hopefully we will do as well next year.

Pat Carter, Leiston and Sizewell Poppy Appeal Organiser.

WORSHIP AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

At St Margaret's we offer a service of Holy Communion, 10am each Sunday in church.

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 in church at 5pm. Because internal repairs are being carried out the church is unfortunately not open for private prayer and quiet reflection during the week from Monday to Saturday. It is open during the Sunday morning service.

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

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: Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representatives:

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

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

Resident Retired Priests:

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

Reverend Christine Redgrave

Website Editor: Mrs Maureen Fox T.830929

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

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

