

# ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell

**St. Margaret's**  
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**CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday**  
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**FEBRUARY 2024**

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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During January the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Happy birthday, Hannah!

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

To celebrate the birthday of Nicola Jean Corbett, who, at St. Margaret's Church, was christened in May 1955, confirmed on 1st May 1968 and married to Richard on 21st April 1973.

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.

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Funeral/Thanksgiving Services

21st December 2023 Kathleen Elizabeth Chandler

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 June Margaret Linsell

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 Keith Owen Walker

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Darrin Christopher Hall

## SHALL I BOTHER?

It's Sunday morning. Middle of winter. The radio says it's minus something outside. The car will be covered in pure white frost, looking like a large iced cake. And Church beckons!

But shall I bother to go today? The roads will be slippery, there will be route diversions and traffic lights round non-existent roadworks on even the smallest of roads. Will anybody even notice if I'm not there? Plenty of good reasons not to go. I might just creep back to bed for another half hour. If anyone asks, I'll just say that I overslept.

But now wait a minute. Going to Church is not a bother. Surely it's a privilege, an honour and a duty. After all, God has been looking after me for another week, helping me with the myriad worries and problems which affect us all especially in this shivery time of the year. Did He decide not to bother when I asked Him for help with the troubles of the past seven days? No He did not. He showed me where to get that tyre fixed, where I could buy some logs to keep the house warm, and He brought our straying puppy back to us out of the woods. Plenty to be thankful for then and in a hundred other everyday situations. And in return, am I saying that I can't be bothered to get out of bed and go and thank Him for all these countless blessings? Oh dear, I might have to have a rethink here.

Let's think first about all the people who would love to go to Church today, but who cannot for various reasons. They may be unwell, or unsteady on their feet in wintry conditions. They may have caring commitments looking after relatives or friends. They may have transport difficulties. In other parts of the world, they may even be forbidden to worship as they wish. I have no such restrictions - I am fit enough to drive to Church and shuffle up the path, and the freedom to worship there is open to us all.

Then let's think of all the positives of going to St Margaret's on a Sunday morning. The breathtaking beauty of the building itself, the winter lights twinkling their welcome. The friendly familiar people and their cheery good mornings. And have you noticed how lucky we are with all our service and prayer leaders, and our lesson readers? Without exception, they all have superb and expressive voices and put a lot of meaning into the words they are using. We pray for all sorts of worthy things in the hope not only that God is listening but that He can turn back the errors of mankind and lead us slowly back to a better world.

There is magic there too. Many a time I have come to Church feeling low,

depressed, frightened or worried about something or other, only to have my entire mood changed in that wonderful hour. And the change is not of my making - it comes from above and makes me very grateful for it. This holy time gives us a chance to pause and re-evaluate our lives, perhaps sifting out what is important among the million-and-one things which crowd and confuse our minds.

So yes, I will bother to go to Church today. God bothers to look after me and those whom I love, and this morning is just the merest reciprocation for His care. Off with the bedclothes!

Now what did I do with my socks? Help – I'm going to be late now .....

Peter Roberts

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### **Pondering Prayer**

As we enter February so we move toward Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is the religious period each year when many Christians perhaps consider strength and repentance within their faith journey and the reason why Jesus was crucified on that first Good Friday and what it should mean to us. It is an opportunity through our prayers to strengthen and grow our relationship with God, our Father; deepen our commitments to Him in our way of life; an opportunity to reflect on the pattern of our lives, our experiences and any sorrows we may have in what we have failed to do; how we have considered others, within our families and friends as well as how generous or otherwise we were to those in need within our own neighbourhood or elsewhere in the world.

The pillars of Lent are considered to be Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, reflection and service. It is for us as individuals to decide the importance we place on each of these and how we pray to our Heavenly Father about them.

“Father God, make Lent be a time for our inward searching that makes us more able to look with compassion on the needs of those around us, and the world at large. Guide us through the difficult days of Lent encouraging us on the way. We pray, as we move toward the darkest day, that you will not forsake us but remind us of the ultimate gift of our Saviour, your Son Jesus Christ. Amen”.

Br. Christian

## FEBRUARY

The talking point since Christmas has been the weather, the flooding was bad before Christmas but just as bad afterwards. The water changes the whole look of places, going to Wickham Market from the A12 both sides of the road were flooded, the fields just like a river.

So many people have had chest infections. Covid and heavy colds spoiling a lot of peoples' Christmas but if you aren't well you are just glad to be indoors in the warm, away from people.

We were lucky, Bill warded off the start of a chest infection a few days before Christmas so we were able to have a lovely Christmas with our son and family. We never want presents as being with them is a gift, but they never listen. I was pleased as I had a plastic tub of candy floss which I love. As a child I would go to Bert Stocks Fairground and get a lovely big candy floss on a stick. I had to share it with my brother as it was sixpence and classed then as a treat. My plastic box was in three layers but I had a job to get the lid off. I find lids and jar tops. Also bleach bottles are quite a job to open but although it's for child safety – I've found children can open things quicker than me.



Not much has changed in the New Year but bulbs are coming through and I've found a few snowdrops starting to show so once again I thanked God I was here to see them. Nights are starting to pull out giving us something to look forward to. At the moment it's very cold so all we can do is keep warm and count our blessings we are not homeless.

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.

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## OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Our Christmas tree was kindly donated to us by Geoff Platt in memory of Paul Snowden. After Christmas, following a donation to St Elizabeth Hospice, this tree was collected by a team from the hospice for recycling. I did the same with my tree at home and was pleased to read that the chippings from the donated trees were going to the new home of Ewa (the polar bear at Jimmy's Farm and Wildlife Park).



## NEW PLACE TO TAKE YOUR EMPTY PILL BLISTER PACKS

Mr David Jenkins from 8 Uplands Road, Thorpeness (the road to the House in the Clouds) has a black plastic dustbin in his garden ready to receive your blister packs. He is taking them to a recycling depot in Needham Market. If you need any further information you can ring David on 01728 453959 or email him at david1936jenkins@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY TO THE  
PREVIOUS COLLECTION AT ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH –  
PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR PACKS TO CHURCH

## Experiences of Colombia



Having escaped the political turmoil in Panama in which I saw thousands marching right outside my hotel and being tear-gassed, I was pleased to arrive in the grungy but peaceful port city of Cartagena, Colombia. This mirrored earlier in the trip when I was relieved to be out of Cuba and into Mexico. Looking back, I have many fond memories of my time in Cuba, despite all its problems, and I should state that it was not all bad, but the problems can easily get you down. Likewise, I did my best to enjoy Panama, but with businesses shutting at sunset and police ordering people to return to their hotels, flights cancelled, roads blockaded... it was a relief to be somewhere without these concerns.



Colombia has a reputation as being poverty-stricken, ruled by crime gangs, and awash with drugs. This certainly was true in the days of famous drug lord Pablo Escobar. Before that, even, Colombia had been fraught with guerilla armies, and it was common for political candidates to be assassinated and for armed conflicts and attempts at *coups d'état* to occur in the aftermath. Kidnappings for ransom were an everyday event, and so in the 1990s a serious attempt was made to overcome these problems as peace talks were established between competing guerilla armies and crime syndicates, and a new national constitution was drafted. This was extremely successful and popular.

Colombia is unique in my experience in that it is the only country I have been to where the overwhelming majority of people are positive about the direction of the country. Certainly in Mexico many people had felt the benefit of increased standards of living and GDP. Others, however, would say that growth in rural areas is stagnant, where cartels outrank the government, life is dirty and dangerous, and the only way up in society is either through the cartel or by leaving altogether for the USA. The answer rather depends on who you are asking, as it does in Britain, the USA, or anywhere else I've been to.

Colombia is now a comparatively safe country with a healthy economy. It is a major exporter of coffee, petrol and gold. People seem to be optimistic about their opportunities and engaged with politics and economics. This contrasts the West, where cynicism is rampant. It also contrasts the 'get away with what you can' philosophy that is prevalent in Central America. The hard work put in to create peace in the 1990s is paying off, and this safety and upward mobility means that Colombia is beginning to attract investment and tourists, further boosting the economy. The coffee-growing region is especially beautiful, with many colourful towns full of charming architecture, and astounding natural features such as waterfalls and caves.



I had many fantastic experiences exploring the towns and cities of Colombia, visited plantations and hiked through rainforests and hills. I wish I knew why the food was almost universally awful. They grow the same produce as Mexico and Brazil, which are famous for their food, and they presumably have all the same sensory organs. I have been very careful throughout this trip not to make judgmental or sweepingly presumptuous statements. I have maintained an open mind, and



eaten crickets, locusts, intestines, ants and fish heads, drank innumerable odd concoctions, and said not a negative word. So I hope my former restraint will give credence to the one thing I will say I learned definitively, extensively and without equivocation; Colombian food is terrible! You can't even say it's "not to my taste", as this implies that there indeed is *some* taste present. Sadly, Colombians seem ideologically opposed to flavour.

Having reached my final destination caused me to reflect on the incredible variety of countries I had been through. From communist dictatorships to cartel-run 'democracies', from internationally plundered developing nations to farming countries still using horse and cart. Learning about how Colombia rescued itself from constant guerilla uprisings to establish a more peaceful, prosperous country, shows me that it is possible for developing nations to function and hold their own in the modern world. But it is an incredibly delicate balance, and seems to *necessarily* require a few failed attempts before people realise that stability, safety, rule of law, and peace are possible and worth striving towards. I'm grateful to have gotten through the trip without any incidents threatening my safety, and hope that the historic sites, cultures, and natural wonders of *all* the regions I visited will be recognized as being too important to be squandered or destroyed by fighting.

MATTHEW MERRETT

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## VALENTINE BAKE SALE

We shall be holding a Valentine's Bake Sale in the Leiston Co-op on Saturday 10th February from 9am - 1pm. Please let Sandra Harle have your donations in advance - she is happy to collect (tel. 833578) or you can drop them off at her house (4 Lime Tree Avenue) or, if you prefer, you can bring them along on the day. It would be really helpful if your bakes could be packaged ready for sale, i.e. on covered plates or in food bags, and it would great if they could have a Valentine's theme - hearts, flowers, chocolate - but, of course, the most important thing is that they are made with love.

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024, 2 PM

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, LEISTON

The Worship Service shares stories which illuminate the experiences of three Palestinian Christian women, from three different generations, who witness to the power of bearing together in love. As we hear their stories, we are urged to bear with one another in love despite difficulties and differences; to unite in prayer for just and harmonious solutions that would bring an end to human suffering; and to commit ourselves to journey with each other to achieve security and peace for all people around the world.

DO COME TO THE SERVICE AND ENJOY THE NEW CHURCH HEATING

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### BURNS SUPPER



A very enjoyable evening was spent at Leiston Community Centre by thirty-four members of St Margaret's Church community and friends. The tables were beautifully decorated, conversation was busy and the food was well cooked and served by very efficient waiters and waitresses. Matthew carried the haggis around the tables and Morag gave the traditional address. There was a raffle with Scottish prizes and the table quiz, won by Mike, tested our knowledge of all things Scottish. A very happy social occasion which raised £298.25 for church funds.

## ADRIAN KNIGHTS, A LEISTON BOY

*On the morning of Friday 16th February, our church bells will ring out to celebrate the life of Adrian Knights who passed away 16th December, aged 76. A band of ringers, all eight of them having rung more than one hundred peals with Adrian over the years, will ring a peal lasting between three & four hours. A fitting tribute to a fantastic ringer - Leiston born and bred - with connections to the famous Bailey brothers. A second peal will be rung on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March also at St Margaret's. I am indebted to Stephen D Pettman (Ringing Master at Grundisburgh) for this article and the photographs he also provided (Part two will be in the March edition). The photograph in this month's article is exactly how I remember seeing Adrian in Leiston. My late husband Fred learnt to ring church bells at Aldeburgh and also rung handbells at "Noye's Fludde".*

### ADRIAN KNIGHTS – A FORMIDABLE BELLRINGER WITH A LINK TO LEISTON'S FAMOUS PAST!

Adrian was born on 1 June 1947 at Halesworth Hospital, only son to Ada Florence and Frederick Charles Knights who lived at 59 Haylings Road and then 67 Central Avenue, Leiston.

He started work at builders merchants in Leiston with a two digit telephone number something like Leiston one two. Sizewell Power Station was commissioned in 1966, Adrian worked there in the stores.

He moved on to Suffolk County Council in Needham Market, initially in the Work Study (Time & Motion) Department and then the Schools Catering Department where he became office manager until retirement.

Stephen Bedford and I remember Adrian as a somewhat enigmatic character - a devotee of the many drinking establishments in Leiston and very good friends with Dot & Plum at the Volunteer, where he was also known as "Nilly", presumably alliterative. He was immortalised at one Suffolk Guild of Ringers Christmas Socials with his own version of "Silent Night":

Adrian Knights, Nilly Knights  
Bloodshot Eyes, What a Sight  
Sitting there in the Volunteer Inn  
Drinking pints of beer chased with gin  
What's he doing there bor  
Fifteen two fifteen four

This was a lot kinder than some of the other personalised songs!



Adrian and his Reliant 3 wheel Cumber (cucumber) Cart, as he described it was a common sight in Leiston and at churches (and pubs) all over Suffolk. He was always very nattily dressed - waistcoat, collar and tie, and hat. He was much appreciated in ringing circles and persuaded some of us less sartorial ringers to wear suits when we were ringing on Sunday afternoons.

He never seemed to have a girlfriend, so one year most of the ringers bought valentine cards which Stephen Bedford's father, Peter (at one time working in Leiston Co-op), who had a driving job at the time - posted from all over East Anglia.

Adrian was the last person taught ringing by the famous Leiston Bailey brothers - Ernest "Sid" Bailey, who I was lucky enough to meet when ringing my first full peal at Leiston.

Adrian was elected a member of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers in 1960. From then on bellringing was a major part of his life. Adrian was recruited to ring handbells for a performance of Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde" at one of the Aldeburgh Festivals, by Jack Pilgrim, a teacher and ringer at Aldeburgh.

Before moving away from Leiston, Adrian would frequent the Eel's Foot at East Bridge where he learnt many traditional songs - including "The Volunteer Organist" and "The Farmer's Boy". He had his ear pierced and wore an earring for a year winning a bet for a bottle of whisky!

When he started with Suffolk County Council, he lived in a couple of temporary places before taking on a flat in Needham Market with his cat, Gladly. When Gladly died he took on a cockateel, Elvis. During his time in Needham Market he was very involved with the Club and Institute where he helped look after the bar and served on the committee and as chairman for some years. Adrian's interests included reading and horse racing. He loved tennis, looking forward to watching Wimbledon every year. He played snooker and crib at Needham Market club. A very able cook, taking on the role breakfast chef on ringing tours for many years. *(To be continued next month)*

## 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. The church is open for private prayer and quiet reflection during the week from Monday to Saturday, 10am to 3 pm – later in summer. 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](mailto: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](mailto:pm42carter@gmail.com)

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

February'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](mailto: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

Bernard & Patsy Smith Joe Diegnan Pat, Neil, Lucy, Craig & Ryan Carter Daryl, Helen & Chloe Cartley John and Joy Kemp Mary Joel Kate Kersey Donna Button Billy & Margaret Clarke Lesley Martin Julie, Ellie & Charlie Howard Kay, Trevor & Grace Nash Anthony & Sue Hawkes Richard Slaughter Toby, Sharon, Emma & Sophie Slaughter Gill & Rick Harvey Glyn & June Clarke Mary Cornish Trevor Hawkins Kirsty Stowe Helen Thackeray	Adrian & Jackie Shotter Stephanie, Craig, Isla, Edie & Harrison Shotter Kim, Dan, Indi Rose & Florence Nola Keeble Jan Snowden Nicola, Jon, Toby & Robert Kerridge Josie, Steven, Olivia & Maisie Snowden Derek & Barbara Cole Hilda Woodhead Pat & John Swatton Debbie, Samantha & Matthew Vettesse Kay Curtis Colin, Lucy, Freya, Lola & Leeam Curtis Nicola, Matthew, Callum & Jamie Smy David, Lisa, Isle & Neave Curtis Elaine & Jon Ellis Norman Chapman Eamonn, Cathy & Ursula Harvey Jim & Pauline Florance Shirley Newman Matthew, Vanessa, Alex, Kierah & Sasha Newman Kathryn, Mark, Ian & Stuart Langley
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# St. Margaret of Antioch



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

## NOTICE: Items for March's magazine

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

Email: [pm42carter@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stmargaretschurchleiston.onesuffolk.net)

## How to Find Us

