

ST MARGARET'S

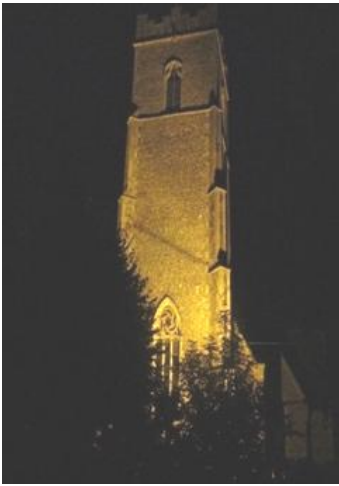
Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizevell



The Rector and the Archdeacon

APRIL 2024

£1 50



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During March the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

Sunday 3rd – Remembering Philip Harle on his birthday, with love from all his family.

Thursday 7th – In loving memory of Paul Snowden, with love from Jan, Steven, Nicola and family.

Wednesday 20th – In memory of June Geater, dearly loved wife, mother, grandma and great grandma, laid to rest today.

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.

Services of Celebration and Thanksgiving

20th March 2024

June Margaret Geater

22nd March 2024

David Alexander Shade

CRAFT FAIR, SATURDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

The Craft Fair was very successful, the church was full of beautiful items for tempt all visitors. The refreshments team did very well, as usual. After taking into consideration the cost of the heating the day raised £531.33, an excellent result. Thank you everyone!

Changing Times

I was asked the other day, by a newcomer to Leiston, if I had witnessed many changes in the town. Beginning to look back and recount growing up in the town and the history that unravels it makes you realise just how much our hometown has indeed changed. Shops come and go, buildings not only change use but some disappear altogether and something else rises in its place.



People come and go, some moving to pastures new, some passing on when their life here draws to its close. New faces arrive through birth to existing families or those moving into the town for work or housing.

Is there anything that remains constant in this changing town we call home? Yes, of course, the Church. Not only the building, although that has evolved over the years both inside and out; God's presence in this place is constant. Priests and congregations also come and go but the never-ending word and love of God is always there.



Things change and we must come to accept and live with that. God made the seasons to come and go too. We notice the physical signs of the seasons around us, the chilly weather of winter and dormancy of wildlife, the beautiful early signs of spring we are experiencing now, the warmth of summer and all the fun and happiness that brings and the abundance of harvest in autumn and the slowing down of mother nature as she prepares again for winter. The seasons of the church change too, now as we approach the end of the season of Lent, we look forward to celebrate Easter and the joy of the risen Lord. Many things change, sometimes not always for the better but we must always hold fast to the constant in our town and our lives and that is GOD.

Richard Ellis.

Pondering Prayer

Spring has arrived. Now is the time to think of renewal. Looking out to the garden I see new growth. The trees and hedgerows are now beginning to look green as this year's budding leaves begin to open and primroses, crocus, and violets among other flowers are coming into bloom. Nature is reborn and we look forward to more sunshine and warmth.

It is also the time of the year when we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus as he shows himself first to Mary Magdalene in the garden having risen from his tomb on that first Easter morning. New life in that way was the last thing Mary had expected but once the reality sunk in she was overjoyed. Then at Jesus command she ran back to the house where the disciples were staying and excitedly running inside shouting "I have seen the Lord, I have seen the Lord."

Easter should be a time of excitement for us too as we contemplate the miracle of the resurrection. Not only should we be elated that Jesus lived but that He continues to live with us and for us. A gift from God.

Jesus went through the ignominy and intense pain of crucifixion for us, taking upon himself the punishment for our sins so that we might receive a redemption which will allow us new life with Him, not only in this life but also in the life to come. Through Him and his undying love we are continually renewed and forgiven in this life when we acknowledge and are truly sorry for the things we have done and should, or for things we have not done but should have.

Pray not only for renewal in our own lives that we may receive the true spirit of Jesus Christ in all we do but also that those who reject or do not accept Jesus in their lives at this time may actually find Jesus and realise the difference He does make when we open ourselves to him. Pray for love and understanding between all peoples and countries that the love and peace of God be with us all.

Br. Christian

NEW PLACE TO TAKE YOUR EMPTY PILL BLISTER PACKS

Mr David Jenkins, 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. If you need any further information you can ring David on 01728 453959 or email him at david1936jenkins@gmail.com

APRIL

When you read this it will be Easter and hopefully it's nice warm weather to spend time with friends and family or just on your own relaxing.

When we were younger Easter was a nice long weekend, the shops didn't open Good Friday, Sunday and Monday. The busy day to shop was the Saturday. I can remember my Mum saying it was hard as the men didn't get paid the Good Friday and Easter Monday so that made it a bit of a squeeze to make the money go round. She did manage and I still remember those lovely hot cross buns from Westbrooks shop, hot with butter or cold - they had such a lovely taste.



Easter eggs – we were lucky; we had grandparents, several aunts and uncles. There were poorer people up the road so we would share the eggs or chocolate so their children didn't miss out. People helped each other out more in those days, now it's such a greedy world. There are still a lot of good people who do help others, but there's a very large amount who don't.

There is a good programme on TV at the moment about the Lifeboats and volunteers who help and go to sea to save lives. Firemen are amongst the many who save lives. At one time in Leiston a siren went off if there was a fire and a man called Harry Balls came through the street on his bike followed by the rest of the men, people would stop to watch. Within minutes the fire engine and the men were rushing to the fire. So many people like these people who help run things care for others are the unknown heroes, they don't want to be knighted; their reward is looking after others and helping everyone.

Keep well, Happy Easter to you all!

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.

CHRISTIAN AID 2024

This year a collection in aid of this very worthwhile charity will take place on Saturday 18th May from 9 am to 3 pm at Leiston Co-operative Store. If you are able to offer help with this collection please contact Pat Carter, tel: 01728 831852, pm42carter@gmail.com.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges families face, and now malnourishment and poverty affects more than 70% of the population, putting them on the edge of survival.

Please help if you can!

Antioch Gatherings

Antioch Gatherings began with a Dreamcatcher Worship season throughout July 2023. Each Sunday evening a time of worship focused on mission took place. We tied our prayers, thoughts and dreams for our local community to a net and offered them to God. We wondered on how God might be calling us to share His love both within and beyond the walls of the church building.



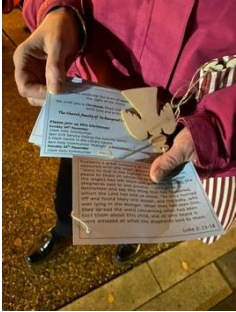
Following our season of focused worship and prayer, a group of us gathered to pray, drink tea & coffee, eat chocolate biscuits and share ideas...we continue to gather, to pray, drink tea & coffee, eat chocolate biscuits and bring dreams into reality.

This is the journey so far...

In September 2023, a group of us delivered spider plants with prayer sticks and welcome from the church family of St Margaret of Antioch to the new residents on the Buckton estate. We had some wonderful conversations and people delighted in their gift and welcome visit!



In November, we prepared to support Project40Seven with their plans for a Leiston Christmas Extravaganza. We created a St Margaret's Angel trail around the High Street, sang a marathon of carols and gave away over 80 wooden angels carrying the Christmas story with a message of love from our church family. We also gifted these to all the shops and businesses who kindly hosted a St Margaret Angel. Joy and delight abounded.



During February and March, we have been organising a St Margaret's Easter Sheep trail in readiness for the High Street.



The trail will start on

Saturday 23rd March and be available to complete until lunchtime on Saturday 30th March. Twenty- four shops and businesses have agreed to host a St Margaret's sheep...it caused much smiling every time we asked if a sheep might graze in their window for a week! Trail sheets will be sent out through our local school and will also be available in some of the shops and

businesses. A copy can also be emailed to you, please contact Rev Richard: vicarleiston@gmail.com .

On Saturday 30th March a group of us will be in Church Square (next to the Co Op car park, behind Project40Seven) to provide prizes for completed trail sheets. Our shepherdess Jean has very kindly knitted a flock of 20 sheep as prizes for the first 20 completed trail sheets. Chocolate then awaits all other completed trail sheets. We will also be gifting wooden Easter Eggs with the Easter Message attached and inviting people to tie a prayer ribbon or thread a daffodil onto a wooden cross. All are welcome to join us.



Those who gather to pray, drink coffee and tea, eat chocolate biscuits and make dreams come to reality are now holding 'Dragonfest' as our next adventure...our patronal festival, St Margaret of Antioch...legend has it she was swallowed whole by a dragon!

We invite you to pray for all that God is doing in our local community and how we might join in with the abundance of His mission.

All are welcome to join our Antioch Gatherings.

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

The service this year was prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, the land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, where Christian faith began and is rooted. The service was written over two years ago, long in advance and ahead of the outbreak of the current war. During the service a prayer written very recently was read. Each year the churches in Leiston get together and arrange to hold the service in one of the town's churches. This year it was held at

St Margaret's on Friday 1st March at 2 pm. Members of all the churches were present. World Day of Prayer is a global coming



together in a wave of prayer. The photograph shows the display on the altar and the noticeboard containing pictures of Palestine. We were fortunately to be given some olive branches by Sue Lees, a member of the Baptist church. Other items in the display are oranges, limes, satsumas, olive oil, Peace Lilies, cacti and poppies. In the centre is a Bible open at Ephesians 4:1-7 and at centre front is the WDP candle which is lit at the start of each year's service. During the service a collection for WDP was taken. It amounted to £167.

At the end of the service I was able to share with everyone the reason Jean Franklin goes to WDP every year. Fifty years ago on the first Friday in March Jean was in labour. Her friends, during their service, prayed for her and the expected baby. All was well and Emma was born on that day.

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RETURN OF DAMAGED SILVERWARE



The silverware which was damaged in the church break-in has been repaired and returned to the church. It looks magnificent. It is wonderful to have it back and to be able to use it again. At the service on 17th March Richard blessed it for continuing use.

FROM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE TO RECTOR

When Richard joined us in 2018 he was licensed as Priest-in-charge. Bishop Martin has now changed his license to be a Rector in our benefice. On 17th March 2024 a Celebration of Ministry with the Institution, Induction and Installation of Richard as Rector of the benefice of Leiston with Sizewell by The Ven Richard Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk.

During the service Richard was presented to the Archdeacon and after Richard stating he was called by God to work in Leiston and Sizewell the congregation were asked to affirm that they would support him in this work. The symbols of Ministry were brought forward one at a time. First water was brought forward and Richard was asked to baptise as Jesus had commanded. Then a Bible was brought forward, given to Richard with an instruction to proclaim the Good News and he placed it on the lectern. The elements of communion, bread and wine, were brought forward, Richard asked to celebrate the Eucharist and the bread and wine placed on the altar. Finally the oils were brought forward and Richard was asked to use them to tend his people.

The required Declaration and Oaths had been made before the service. The Archdeacon read the Deed of Institution, blessed Richard now inducted into the benefice. The Archdeacon presented Richard with the key to the church and led him to his seat. Richard was then presented to the congregation who gave a round of applause. The service then carried on with the peace and the Eucharist.



Although Richard's 'title' is Rector, he has said he is happy to be called 'Vicar'. After the service tea and coffee was offered with delicious cake!

'Easter Flowers'

Many flowers which appear in late March and early April have become known through the centuries as 'Easter Flowers', and associated with the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

The Passion flower, for instance, has always been known as 'Easter's own flower', for in it can be seen the crown of thorns, the scourge, the five wounds (the five stamens) and the petals dyed with blood. The Arum lily, the Wood Sorrel and the Wild Orchid, according to tradition, grew near the Cross. Their petals were spotted with drops of blood, and these drops have ever since remained dried on them.

Originally, we are told, the drooping Violets were upright white flowers, growing around Jerusalem, but when the Virgin Mary passed by them, weeping, on that fateful Good Friday, they bowed their heads in sorrow; their white petals changed to purple, and ever since they have worn their Royal mourning, their heads still bowed in remembrance of the crucified Christ.

The Shamrock, with its threefold leaves and flowers, was regarded as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, and was supposed to bring great good fortune to those who were lucky enough to find one.

The Marigold was named after the Virgin Mary, and the Lady's Slipper and Lady's Smock are also named after her. The ordinary field Daisy was said to be God's gift from Heaven to the earth He loved.

Cowslips were known to our ancestors as 'Heaven's Keys' because of the belief that St. Peter was told that people were trying to enter heaven by a back way. The news so agitated him that he dropped his keys to earth, and forthwith a bunch of cowslips sprang up marking the place where they fell.

The Purple Anemone has been known as the 'Pasque flower' for centuries. It was said to have grown at the foot of the Cross, and closed its eyes in grief and awe, opening them again on Easter morning.

Submitted by Sandra Harle.

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 4 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 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: Matthew Merrett

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

April'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 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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St. Margaret of Antioch



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NOTICE: Items for May's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Pat Carter by **18th April** for inclusion in the May 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

