

**The Benefice of All Saints, Highbrook  
& St Margaret of Antioch, West Hoathly**  
**Benefice Notices for Christ the King**

**Worship & Upcoming Services**

**This week**

**Tuesday 23rd November (St Clement):**

*10.00am* - Holy Communion, St Margaret's (*please note the change in time this week*)

**Friday 12th November:**

*5.30pm* - Evening Prayer (BCP), St Margaret's

**Next Sunday (28th November)**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) *All Saints, Highbrook*

10.30am Eucharist *St Margaret's, West Hoathly*

**Coming up**

**Lantern making workshop**

Saturday 27th November, Sharpthorne Hall 2.30 - 5 pm.

Come along and make a willow lantern ready for the Lantern procession on Sunday 12th December before Carols in the Square. Donations to Church funds.

**Holy Communion:** The Church of England has, since its inception, placed great importance on receiving Holy Communion in both kinds. From Advent Sunday (and subject to availability of Lay Ministers of Communion) the chalice will be available at the 10.30am service at St Margaret's. Following guidance from the Church of England and the Diocese, for hygiene reasons intinction will not be allowed. If you choose to receive only in one kind, the bread, you still receive the Sacrament in full. The choice is entirely yours, and there is no pressure to receive from the Chalice.



**Stewardship - giving to and through God**

**St Margaret's Churchyard working party**

Churchyard working parties, on the first Monday of the month from 2 - 4 pm. Jobs will include weeding, raking, pruning, sweeping, tidying and also cleaning headstones, so not just gardening. If you would like to get involved please just come along. likewise if you would like to know more please contact Derek Shurvell [derekshurvell@gmail.com](mailto:derekshurvell@gmail.com) 01342 810780. Next date 6th December.

## **Flower arranging at St. Margaret's.**

Do you enjoy flower arranging or decorating in general? How about getting involved with the flower arranging ministry at St. Margaret's? There are various ways to get involved. On Festival days (Easter & harvest) we decorate the whole Church, Sunday by Sunday pedestal arrangement and posy making for Mothering Sunday. Why not have a go? Do chat to Derek Shurvell who can explain further. (You can also sponsor a week of flowers in memory of a loved one. Please speak to Mthr Nicol.)

## **Easyfundraising**

Please remember to use #easyfundraising when you do your Christmas shopping.

Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to St Margaret's Church - West Hoathly at no extra cost to you - so you can raise donations when you buy gifts, decorations, your festive food or anything else. #ThisMeansMore than gifts for loved ones, it means donations that help make a difference!

Plus, for a limited time only, every time a new supporter joins and raises their first £15, your church will receive a £15 bonus donation!

Please sign up and help us raise more at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretswesthoathly/?](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretswesthoathly/?utm_campaign=raise-)

[utm\\_campaign=raise-](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretswesthoathly/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=rm-ctms21-f1)

## **All Saints churchyard: tree update**

The remedial work to the Maple and Sweet Chestnut which face onto the carpark and smokery has been booked in with the tree surgeon.

Fundraising for the church during lockdown has been tough, and this tree work was not budgeted for and will need to be funded separately. We have already received a couple of donations and pledges which is wonderful. If anyone would like to make a contribution to this work (total cost of approx £3000) or to sponsor one of the trees (and keep the firewood) we would be really grateful. Please speak to Simon Witheridge for further details.

## **Thank you - St. Margaret's pre-Christmas clean**

What a wonderful team of "Holy Dusters" who tirelessly swept through St Margaret's, with sheer determination tackling the lofty rafters, and the many "nooks and crannies" last weekend.

It is strange, but satisfying, to see the past years cobwebs and dust being dislodged. We could smell the polish as we left....thank you all so, so much for all your hard work. Same time next year ???

## **Mission - joining in with God's work of love in the world**

### **Mission Action Plans (MAPs)**

Thank you to everyone who over the last year has submitted feedback, returned questionnaires or attended planning meetings. We have spent a lot of time in reflecting on how our two churches can respond to God's call to ministry and mission in our communities. The following 3 year MAPs have been submitted to the Diocese. The full plans are available at the back of the respective churches, and you are invited to read through the plans. If you feel called to be a part of or to lead an element of the MAP, please do speak to a churchwarden.

### **All Saints - "know, love and follow Jesus"**

**MORE OPEN:** *How will our church provide worship and sustain faith?*

- Grow in confidence and knowledge of our BCP heritage

**MORE CONVERTED TO CHRIST:** *How will our church nurture and grow the faith of our church community?*

Build engagement and interaction within church members

**MORE GENEROUS:** *How will our church pursue a radical, generous response to the self-giving of Jesus Christ to resource and sustain the church's work?*

- Strengthen stewardship

**MORE ENGAGED:** *How will our church care for, and impact upon, the wider community?*

- Increase communication, interaction and invitation to the wider community.

### **St Margaret's - "to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God"**

**MORE OPEN:** *How will our church provide worship and sustain faith?*

- Grow general congregation involvement and leaders
- Increase discipleship opportunities

**MORE CONVERTED TO CHRIST:** *How will our church nurture and grow the faith of our church community?*

- Explore opportunities for a men's group
- Develop children's work (possibly starting in Sharpthorne Hall)

**MORE GENEROUS:** *How will our church pursue a radical, generous response to the self-giving of Jesus Christ to resource and sustain the church's work?*

- Fund-raise for Facilities Project and Parish Ministry Cost
- Revitalise hospitality (post-Covid)

**MORE ENGAGED:** *How will our church care for, and impact upon, the wider community?*

- Complete Facilities Project to increase worship, event and community opportunities
- Increase links with community

These MAPs will be reviewed regularly, and progress fed back to the church family.

## ***Acts of Random Kindness***

1 John 3:18: *“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”*

At the end of the Sunday service, go out into the world and be ready to serve God by showing Christ’s love to others. We are attempting to be intentional in this ministry by doing small Acts of Random Kindness. Don’t forget to pick up the ARK stickers to use.



- Consider making a donation to help provide a Christmas meal at a homeless shelter. ‘Crisis at Christmas’ and our mission partner Crawley Open House would be grateful for your support.
- Make a reverse Advent calendar basket for FSW or the Food Bank. Put one item into a bag every day throughout December, and then donate it to a charity.

## **Blessing of Toys for FSW**

On 5th December our All Age Eucharist will include the giving and blessing of toys for Family Support Work (FSW). If you would like to donate a gift to the children and families supported by FSW, please bring it, unwrapped, to that service.

Suggested items include:

- New toys and books (suitable for all ages)
- Vouchers for teenagers, eg Primark and Superdrug
- Mobile phone top up cards
- Non perishable festive food for hampers (see under Basket of Blessings)
- Gifts for the parents which the children choose from and wrap themselves.

## **Refugees Welcome - Men’s Clothes and Shoes Donations**

Thank you so much for all the clothes and shoes donations in the church porch over the past few weeks.

✓ We welcome men’s pre-loved, casual clean clothes and shoes, especially:  
MEN’S JOGGING BOTTOMS, JACKETS, FLEECES, HOODIES,  
JUMPERS, T SHIRTS AND TRAINERS

X We DON’T NEED ANY WOMEN’S OR CHILDREN’S CLOTHES at present (we have enough!)

We can’t take any formal wear, bedding or underwear, and anything that is stained or torn has to go for rag recycling.

Thank you so much for making a difference! Refugees Welcome Crawley  
[www.refugeeswelcomecrawley.co.uk](http://www.refugeeswelcomecrawley.co.uk) Reg. Charity no. 1186127

## **Basket of Blessings - Christmas appeal:**

Please remember it's easy to keep supporting those in need by placing a few items in the Basket of Blessing. Items can be dropped off in the basket in St Margaret's church porch or in the basket at the Vicarage, on North Lane (very helpful for large numbers of items).

### **East Grinstead Food Bank**

- Larger tinned ham
- Surface cleaner spray, bleach & toilet cleaner
- Tubs of chocolates (Quality Street, Heroes, etc)
- Christmas biscuits
- Christmas cake slices
- MEDIUM Christmas puddings
- The Food Bank have requested: Please NO home-made or perishable foods,

### **Family Support Work**

- Christmas foods, e.g., stuffing, bread sauce mix, mince pies, cranberry sauce, gravy granules, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding
- Boxes to share (rather than individual) sweets, biscuits, chocolates or savoury snacks
- Staples (e.g. tinned meats, new potatoes, salmon, coffee or hot chocolate, custard)
- Specific request: NO RICE, PASTA or SOFT TOYS PLEASE

#### **In October's FSW's work in numbers:**

- 177 visits and 177 phone calls made by practitioners
- 27 grandparents, 263 parents and 303 children supported
- 21 supported meetings attended with other agencies
- 37 group sessions held
- 118 food deliveries made

## **Events - coming together as a community**

Keep an eye out for the parish Christmas cards, and if you can help deliver to a road or two, please volunteer. These cards share a joyful message to everyone in the Benefice, and is our invitation to all our services from Carols in the Square to Christingle!

## *Study - deepening our understanding of God*

### **The Bible - a guided read**

Reading the Bible is a very important part of Christian discipleship, and this guide provides you with a little background information and a goal for the week. You can use any translation of the Bible, a book or online.

Set a little time aside each day to read through the passage, and let the passage sit with you throughout the day.

Having finished Acts with Paul imprisoned in Rome, let's pick up with one of his letters : **Philippians**

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Written around 61 AD, when he was clearly in prison.

**Purpose:** A thank you letter - the Philippians, hearing of Paul's imprisonment, have sent him a gift.

**What does Paul want us to learn?** Don't give up, the race is not yet over.

**The week's plan:**

Monday: Chapter 1.1-11 - Paul and Timothy greet the church, who were working together when they founded the church in Philippi (Acts 16, around AD 50). We can see how close the church is to Paul's heart.

Tuesday: Chapter 1.12-30 - The journey to Rome has been difficult, and Paul is unsure of the future. He is clearly content to die for Christ, but he can also see how much more there is to do.

Wednesday: Chapter 2.1-18 - Paul focuses on the themes of unity and humility . He urges people not to use his imprisonment for their own ends, but to live out the Christian life with 'fear and trembling'. In 2.6-11 he also gives us one of the earliest statements from the Church about Christ: his divine origin, sacrifice on earth and eternal reign with God the Father.

Thursday: Chapter 2.19-30 - Epaphroditus was the person who brought the gift to Paul in Rome, and it is this friend who will return to his home church with the letter from Paul.

Friday: Chapter 3-4.1 - Paul now reaches the core of his letter, and it's a warning. Again the issue is about the circumcision of Gentile Christians. Paul uses stronger language than elsewhere, possible to stress the point - Christ is all that he wants, and that is the goal towards which he is running.

Saturday: Chapter 4.2-23 - Paul ends with another thank you. He knows that the gift would have been sacrificial for the church to send him, and he acknowledges that he has been blessed by their love.

## Prayer - spending time with God

### Prayer for the week:

*STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen*



### For our Prayers

Please remember to pray for yourself, for our communities, for our nation, and for the whole world.

The sick and housebound or in need of especial guidance: Michael Mays, Carole Oddy, Peter Brewster, Graham Norris, David, and John Trueman.

The recently departed, especially Ann Potter, and those whose anniversary of death falls this week, including Janet Styles and Pamela Willie, and all who are grieving for them.

Those preparing for Marriage: Sam & Jocelyn, Jemima & Arthur, Jennifer & Stephen, Lara & William, Henry & Gemma, Jack & Amy, Paul & Lauren, Izzy & Angus, Stephanie & Tom, Megan & Adam, Nathan & Lucinda, Jenny & Myles, Kerry & Charlie, and Eddie & Annabell.

*If you would like to add someone's name to the prayer list, please contact Mthr Nicol. If you are asking for someone else, please make sure you have their permission to have their name added publicly.*

THE BENEFICE OF ALL SAINTS, Highbrook  
& St Margaret's, West Hoathly

# The



# Antiphons

Advent - a time of active waiting  
& eager anticipation for the coming of Christ

Four peaceful and reflective services of readings and music  
followed by Compline (Night Prayer),  
& an accompanying Zoom discussion group

## SERVICES

Wednesday at 7pm

1st December at St Margaret's

*O Sapientia (Wisdom)*

8th December at All Saints'

*O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)*

15th December, at St Margaret's

*O Oriens (Morning Star)*

22nd December at All Saints

*O Emmanuel (God with us)*

## ZOOM GROUP

Saturday 10-11am

*Please ask for Zoom link*

4th December

*O Adonai (Lord)*

11th December

*O Clavis David (Key of David)*

18th December

*O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)*

All welcome



**For details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life, and for updates, please check our website:**

[www.allsaints-highbrook.org.uk](http://www.allsaints-highbrook.org.uk) & [www.westhoathly.org.uk](http://www.westhoathly.org.uk)

**And social media:**

Facebook - @stmargaretswesthoathlyallsaintshighbrook

Twitter - @StMargarets\_WH

YouTube - search for 'St Margarets West Hoathly All Saints Highbrook'

**Contact details**

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Mthr Nicol's rest day is Monday.