

***ST MARGARET'S CHURCH,  
WEST HOATHLY***

***An Architecture of Prayer***



***“To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our  
God.”***

*(Micah 6: 8)*

*This prayer card was composed and created in 2021  
by Reverend Nicol Kinrade (Priest-in-Charge from 2018- 2022) and members of the St Margaret's Church Family.*

***“Truly, the Lord is in this place...” Genesis 28:16***

Our church building, which dates back to 1090, has witnessed the lives of countless generations from this parish and has proclaimed the Christian faith through joy and sorrow, hardship and prosperity. This building is therefore a place saturated by over a thousand years of prayer.

What follows here are a few suggestions for how the architecture, symbols of this place, and also the beauty of the church grounds might invite you into deeper prayer. By encouraging you to enjoy the tranquility to be found here, to take your time and to rest for a while in the presence of God, we hope that in this place you will find the spirit of the Lord to guide you on your journey.





**THE FONT** *“There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all ...”* Ephesians 4:5-6

The font is used at a baptism which is the start of an amazing journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. You may have been baptised when you were a baby, but if not, you are never too old to take this step and being baptised as an adult is a wonderful experience.

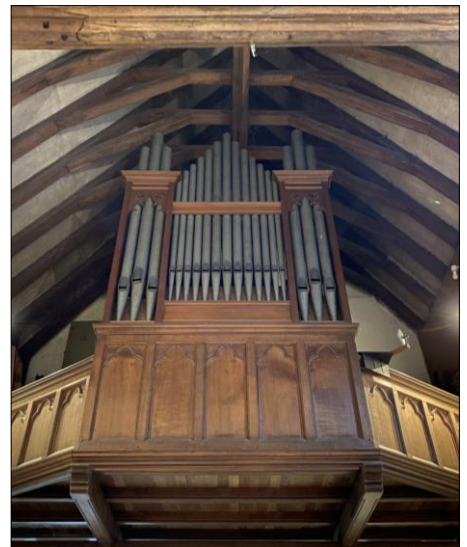
*Ask God to be close to those beginning a faith journey in baptism, to those exploring their faith and also to those who have yet to discover God’s loving presence in their lives.*

**THE ORGAN** *“Sing to the Lord a new song!”* Psalm 96:1

Even when silent, the organ invites us to pray through song. “He who sings,” said St. Augustine, “prays twice.”

*What does the melody of your day sound like? Where do you need harmony to rise out of dissonance?*

*Offer a hymn of thanksgiving or sorrow, in your hearts or out loud, of praise or intercession to God.*



**THE FLOOR** *“My foot is set on the right path, I bless you, Lord...”* Psalm 26:12

The floor is made of varying sizes of flagstone tiles, each with a different shade and tone of colour. These create a pattern that draws us into the space and leads us to the altar. Allow yourself to be drawn into God’s presence as the patterns bid you further into the church.

*Ask to know God more deeply and pray that you will walk in the way of the Lord.*

*Always be mindful of God’s unending love for you and that you are precious to Him.*



***THE ALTAR*** “*My prayers rise like incense...*” *Psalm 141:2*

The altar in the chancel is the focal point of the church, and the beauty of the East window behind directs our gaze and focus to it.

*Imagine placing your concerns, hopes, or joys on the altar and offering them to God. Leave the worries and stresses of life here, offering them to God in prayer.*



***THE EAST WINDOW*** “*Seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated, at the right hand of God...*” *Colossians 3:1*

Central to the design of the East Window depicts Christ in Majesty with Heaven and angels above, and the Earth beneath his feet. The rays of the sun and stars surround Him. Christ carries an orb with a cross and raises his hand in blessing.

*How do you point to Christ in your life? Where is Christ present for you in times of sorrow, in the hospitality of others, and in times of great joy and success? Pray for Christ to rule in your heart, and the humility and grace to respond to His call.*



***THE ROOF AND PILLARS*** “*Set yourself close to him so that you too... may be living stones making a spiritual house...*” *1 Peter 2:5*

The roof with its wooden beams and the round stone pillars and the arches of sandstone are an impressive feat of architecture, bearing the forces of the building's structure, and reminding us that we can turn our eyes heavenward.

*Meditate on what holds your life together. Turn to God for your support and strength. Consider how you support those who depend on you and pray for strength to carry on. Give thanks to God for the life and encouragement of all those who support you.*



## ***THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR IN THE SIDE CHAPEL***

***“O Lord, you yourself are my lamp, my God lights up my darkness...” Psalm 18:28***

***“I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark; he will have the light of life...”***

*John 8:12*

Meditate on the burning candles in the photo and then the image of Christ in Majesty in the stained-glass window to the left of the south door.

*Consider how Christ brings light into your darkness and how you can invite Christ deeper into those places of fear and distress.*

*Pray for all who live in the shadow of fear.*

*Pray for strength and courage to shine the light of Christ for those who sit in darkness and without hope - that your own life and witness will help others to know God’s light, life and love.*



***THE WINDOWS “The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven...” Daniel 12:3***

The windows depict some of the great company of heaven – some of the Saints such as St Peter and St Catherine; the authors of the four Gospels (in the form of traditional emblems); depictions of some of Jesus’ parables; the Baptism of Christ with St John the Baptist and Christ in Majesty with two saints kneeling before Him, to name but a few.



*Pray for the wisdom and perseverance in the faith shown by previous generations. Pray for those you love who have died.*

## ***THE CHURCHYARD AND MEMORIALS***

No visit to St Margaret's is complete without visiting the churchyard, which surely contains one of the finest views across the Weald to the South Downs – walk past the porch door, turn right and proceed to the viewpoint. The church stands on a ridge 600 feet up, from which the spire dominates the landscape around.

*As you make your way through the churchyard along the paths to admire the view, pray for all those people, both past and present, who have guided you in your life, those helping you to have a sense of direction and those keeping you on the right path through the challenges of life.*

Perhaps at the viewpoint say the following prayer:

*“Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory. Amen”.*



## **The Lord's Prayer**

is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples,  
when they asked him how they should pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

## **Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester**

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.*





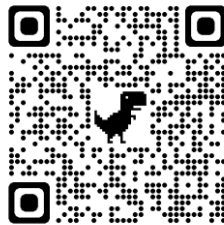
*St Margaret of Antioch*  
from: <https://smparish.com/>

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*For more information about the life of St Margaret's Church,*  
*see <http://westhoathly.org.uk/>*



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*With gratitude to Sophie Hill for many of the photographs used in this prayer card and to Keble College Chapel, Oxford for the inspiration. Information about the stained-glass windows came from the booklet entitled 'The Stained-Glass Windows of St Margaret's, West Hoathly – a brief guide', and more information about the Churchyard can be found in the booklet entitled 'The Churchyard and Memorials' both of which are available to purchase from the back of the church.*

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