

The Benefice of All Saints', Highbrook
& St Margaret of Antioch, West Hoathly

Benefice Notices for the 2nd Sunday before Advent -
Sunday 19th November 2023

Worship & upcoming services

Friday 24th November 5.30pm, St Margaret's - Evening Prayer (BCP)

Next Sunday (26th November)

Christ The King

9am Holy Communion (BCP)

All Saints', Highbrook

10.30am Eucharist

St Margaret's, West Hoathly

Parish Christmas cards: The parish Christmas cards will be available in the coming days. Please be ready to help us to spread the invitation to every house in the Benefice by offering to deliver the cards to a road or two. The cards will be at the back of each church, and in St Margaret's will be divided into roads or areas. Thank you!

Mission – joining in with God's work of love in the world.

Gifts for FSW at Christmas: Gifts for families primarily in Cuckfield Deanery, but also throughout Sussex, would be very much appreciated. They may be brought to the **All-Age Eucharist at St Margaret's, West Hoathly at 10.30am on Sunday 3rd December.**



Our local practitioner, Alison Green, would like to give each child under her care a book, so *book (or cash) donations* would be helpful. NB: The children are mainly 5-15 years old. Also *gifts for the children to give to their parents* at Christmas would be appreciated. *Food donations* for their Christmas Party would be welcome too, as would all the food items listed on the poster here.

Please leave the gifts unwrapped. If you are not able to donate on Sunday 3rd December, items may also be left in my porch at Luctons, but please may I have these by the evening of Saturday 2nd December.

Thank you so much for your continuing support of FSW.

Food items for **Crawley Open House and the East Grinstead Foodbank** may be left in the Church Porch or the porch at Luctons too. It would be helpful if you could mark gifts specifically for them, and please leave them by Monday 4th December.

Many thanks for your generosity in these difficult times.

Ingrid (ingrid@sethis.co.uk 01342 810085)



Stewardship - generous giving to and through God

All Saints' Church cleaning: Next one will be on Thursday 30th November from 11am - 1pm. Please bring dusters, cobweb brushes, gloves etc.

Be an angel! Kind folk needed to greet visitors to All Saints' during the Angel festival. Please email Heather Chapman at Heather.chapman99@googlemail.com

Churchyard Working Party at St Margaret's: The next one will be on Monday 4th December from 2-4pm. Please just come along.

Our Advent and Christmas preparations: We will need help in various ways in the run up to Christmas. **Please can you help?**

- ***Our Christmas Star:*** We would like to project a star on the St Margaret's tower this Christmas, as we have done in the past. The cost of this will be £150. Would you be willing to help sponsor it?
- ***Carols in the Square on Sunday 10th December at 6pm:*** Volunteers are needed to help with marshalling and manning the road closure barriers (from 5.30 p.m. - 7.15 p.m.) to shake collection buckets at the end of the singing, to tidy up etc. Could you spare some time to lend a hand?
- ***Refreshments after the Carols in the Square*** – We plan to provide mulled wine and mince pies. Please could you let us know if you can help with serving the refreshments or if you are able to provide some mince pies.

Please speak with Reverend Heather, Derek or the churchwardens if you can help in any of these ways. Your support, in any way you can, will be truly appreciated. Thank you so much.

Events – growing together as a community.



Sat. 2nd December from 10am until 3pm

Festival of Angels at All Saints' Church, Highbrook, and also a *Christmas Market* in the Highbrook Village Hall. At 3.30pm there will be readings and carols in All Saints'.

Sat. 9th December from 11am until 2pm

Christmas Fair at West Hoathly School.

Sun. 10th December at 6pm

Carols in the Square, Queen's Square, West Hoathly. (Preceded by the *Lantern Procession* which will begin at 5.40pm from Finche Field.)

Studying – Understanding God.



The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2023 is – **Follow the Star: Join the Song**. It highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

"The shepherds were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise. And before long they were singing, too ... Centuries later, singing is still central to how many of us celebrate Christmas. "We invite you this Christmas to follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song and come into the presence of Jesus Christ."

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

We are invited to connect with this year's call to '*Join the Song*' by signing up to the Church of England's Advent and Christmas reflection emails here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/connect-years-call-join-song> and receive daily messages straight to your inbox to help us connect with this year's call to '*Join the Song*'.

Prayer - spending time with God.



Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.30pm in St Margaret's: You are invited to leave your prayers on the prayer cross (and they can be anonymous if you wish). All prayers left each week are offered up to God at Evening Prayer.

Prayer for the week: *Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in 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: Clive, Mary Cocking, Barrie, Jenny Page, Bea Smith.

Those preparing for Baptism.

Those preparing for Marriage: Sally and Karl, Lucy and Aidan, Georgie and Ollie, Summer and Matt, Kate and Mike.

The recently departed, for Felicity Lidderdale and Barry Stonley, and for those whose anniversary of death falls this week, for Pamela Willie, and all who are grieving for them.

If you would like to add someone's name to the prayer list, please contact Karen Blackman at brkb410@gmail.com If you are asking for someone else, please make sure you have their permission to have their name added publicly.

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 & www.westhoathly.org.uk

And social media:

Facebook - [@stmargaretswesthoathlyallsaintshighbrook](https://www.facebook.com/@stmargaretswesthoathlyallsaintshighbrook)

Twitter - [@StMargarets_WH](https://twitter.com/@StMargarets_WH)

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: The Reverend Heather Wilkin

Email: heather.wilkin78@gmail.com Telephone: 01342 529047

Heather's rest day is usually Monday.

Churchwardens of St Margaret's:

Ann Hutchings (churchwardenstmargarets@outlook.com or 01342 810 742) or

Tim Baker (churchwardenstmargarets@outlook.com)

Churchwardens of All Saints':

Adam Hackett (adamjhackett@outlook.com) or

Tony Osborn (tonyosborn191@gmail.com) (01444 892 191)