

# The Chronicle

For West Hoathly, Sharpthorne & Highbrook. April/May 2024. £7 for six issues or £1.50 each.



## Letter to Parishioners

### Easter Joy

This year the beginning of April coincides with the beginning of the Easter Season. 50 days of celebration, counteracting the mere 40 days of Lenten fast. It is the most important feast for Christians: a celebration that marks how Jesus rose from the dead, and in doing so brings us all to eternal life. An Easter Egg is then not just for Easter Sunday – the celebration will continue, this year, until 19<sup>th</sup> May. Maybe, in this secular age, manufacturers and salespeople are missing out on an opportunity to sell Easter branded chocolate items for longer!

Of course, true joy is more than just chocolate. We value well-being, contentment and a sense of being secure. Modern culture echoes these desires, and striving to have them for ourselves is not new or original. It is right that we should want this. It is also right that we should demand this for others. Jesus says, 'do to others as you would have them do to you' (Matthew 7:12). Joy and contentment are good, and we are called to share them. I wonder what brings you joy. What makes your eyes sparkle? What makes you heart leap? What makes you smile or laugh out loud?

A few weeks ago, I decided our garden needed a few more bird feeders. Having come from a place where the garden was very small, and the busyness of life didn't allow for the serious contemplation of nature, I am overwhelmed by the beauty of God's creation that is so easy to see in this community. I find myself sifting through the memories of 'bird identification books' that I had as a child, seeking to recognise the wonderful creatures that come to feed here. I don't think I'd ever seen a Great Spotted Woodpecker 'in the flesh' until the other day. That was a real moment of joy. And it strikes me that joy can be very subjective. For one person, such a sighting could be ordinary and mundane. For another, it is new and to be celebrated.

Joy is, of course, complex. Light, joyful moments are different from the deep joy of more permanent contentment. We might find joy in being part of a family, close relatives or part of the wider family in community. We find joy in celebrating special occasions; our own and those close to us, or national occasions, like the King's coronation last year. Christians find joy in faith: that 'blessed assurance' that God loves and cares for us. And over the centuries God's people have found ways to express joy in worship and song. Psalm 100 is a short, but wonderful call to worship:

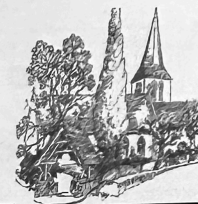
*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

I hope that these words bring you joy, and in this Easter season, you may become conscious of the things that make your eyes sparkle and your hearts leap!

Rev'd Heather



## CHURCH NEWS ST. MARGARET'S, WEST HOATHLY & ALL SAINTS', Highbrook



A list of general church services for April & May 2024 can be found on page 31

### Other Church Notices

**1) Sunday Club at St. Margaret's Church:** Every Sunday except for the first Sunday of the month. Young people from the age of 2 - 14 meet in the vestry to study God's word and learn about Jesus. We are very Blessed at the moment to have between 4 - 6 families attending Church weekly which equates to 5 - 10 young people. Together we read the Bible, act out, discuss, craft & pray. We then come back into Church to receive God's Blessing at the communion rail and give a brief account of what we have learnt to the congregation. Church worship is for everyone on a Sunday and we take great care to include young people so that they feel important, cherished and loved. Please pray for the young people of our Parish.

**2) Funding St. Margaret's Church.** It will cost around £75,000 to run the Church in 2024 which is £1450 per week. A "Big Thank You " to all those who have given to the life of our Village Church in 2023, together we were able to meet our budget and pay the bills. The figure has now increased for this year due to an increase in our Parish Share, (money that has to be paid to the Diocese for clergy wages, pension provision, training, support & administration). Please consider giving regularly to St. Margaret's Church so that we can continue to provide all the services, ministries and vibrant Church life, as well as maintaining this special grade 1 listed Building and Churchyard, at the heart of our community. Do contact Heather our Vicar or Church Wardens for more information.

**3) Churchyard working parties:** These are held on the first Monday of each month from 2 - 4.00 p.m., the next two are **2nd April and 7th May**. Jobs include: weeding, raking, pruning, sweeping, tidying, cleaning & brushing. Together we keep the Churchyard tidy, do jobs that wouldn't normally get done and develop new ideas and projects. Currently 7 - 10 people attend, it would be lovely to double that number. please contact Derek Shurvell for further details.

**4) Emmaus Youth Club:** for youngsters aged Year 6 - Year 9 inclusive, (roughly 10 - 14 year-olds). We meet weekly during term times on Friday evening 6.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Subs are £2.50 per session to cover refreshments, hall hire and other activity "ingredients". The Club meets in WH Village Hall, Sharpthorne Hall and outside depending on the activity.

Evenings consist of games, activities and hanging about together. It is managed, overseen & safeguarded by St. Margaret's Church, all youngsters of the right age are most welcome. The Summer term will start on **Friday 19th April**. All the Summer evenings are outside: enjoying the countryside, lighting camp fires eating sausages, stream walking, games in the woods and swimming. Please visit the Church website for the full programme in due course.

All meetings are from 6.30p.m. - 8.00p.m. in West Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Further information from Derek on 01342 810780

### 5) Dates for your Diary

- a) Decorating St. Margaret's Church for Easter Sunday, **Saturday 30th March 2.00 p.m.**
- b) Spring Fair: **Saturday 18th May 10.00 a.m. - 12 Noon** @ St. Margaret's Church. Please see poster in the Chronicle. To book a table please contact [derekshurvell@gmail.com](mailto:derekshurvell@gmail.com)
- c) Big Picnic, **Sunday 14th July 12 Noon - 3.00 p.m.** at Finche Field. Brass Band, Children's entertainer, bring your own picnic, rugs & chairs, free admission.
- d) Autumn Fair: **Saturday 21st September 10.00 a.m. - 12 Noon.**
- e) Lantern Making date to be confirmed.



**St Margaret's Church invite you to join with us to support CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (Sunday 12th May – Saturday 18th May 2024)**



**A message from Christian Aid**

... With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions. Seven days, so many ways to fund lasting change. Push back against the inhumanity of poverty this Christian Aid Week.



**Aline's Story\*** In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water. For Aline, life was a constant struggle. Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence.

Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi. No home. No healthcare. No security. But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid.

**The difference with Christian Aid:** Aline's long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty began with a little support, knowledge, and faith from Christian Aid supporters like you. *'When we see Christian Aid, we feel comforted; we feel we are not alone. You helped us to change our poor living conditions. I really thank you from the very bottom of my heart.'* - *Aline.*

No one should have to live on the brink of survival. During Christian Aid Week 2023, you raised £5 million to help transform lives just like Aline's.

This year, you can help us support even more people living in poverty. With 7 days and so many ways to raise funds for our Christian Aid Week appeal, what will you pick? Bake, run, swim, walk or simply financially give what you can?

**What a difference Christian Aid supporters can make...** With your support, more families can build reliable and diverse incomes that bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience, and hope. For example: £5 could buy the savings book that will help someone set up the small business that enables them to escape the inhumanity of poverty. £27 could buy the lockable safe that protects a community's savings, hopes and dreams. £100 could provide ten people with the training that supports their families to set up small businesses, such as selling home-grown vegetables.

**A message from us at St Margaret's Church...** We invite you, if you can, to support the '7 days, so many ways Christian Aid Week Appeal'. However, this year, Christian Aid envelopes will NOT be coming through your doors. Instead, please may we ask that whatever funds you would like to donate are either donated directly to them online by following the link here to the Christian Aid website: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503>

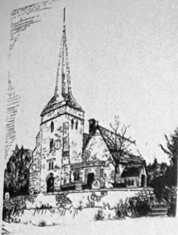
Or if you prefer, please put your donation in an envelope labelled '**Christian Aid Week Appeal**' and pass it on to St Margaret's Church in one of the following ways.

1. Please return your labelled envelope to Rev'd Heather Wilkin, The Vicarage, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QF or to Bev Mager at The Rowan, 4 Lydd Cottages, Top Road, Sharpthorne, RH19 4PH.
2. Bring your labelled envelope along to the St Margaret's Church Spring Fair, on Saturday 18th May (10am -12noon). We'd love to see you there!
3. Bring your labelled envelope along to the 10.30am service at St Margaret's Church, on Sunday 19th May. We will ensure all donations received in any of these ways are sent on to Christian Aid. Please donate in cash only (but no foreign currency thanks!) whatever you feel you can. Every donation makes a difference and will support the work of Christian Aid.

Thank you so much!

\*To read more about how Christian Aid helped Aline transform her life and climb out of extreme poverty follow the link here: [https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key\\_appeals/christian-aid-week/alines-story](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key_appeals/christian-aid-week/alines-story)





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



### Every week:

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 9:30am – St Margaret's Holy Communion  
(On the first Wednesday of the month Rev'd Heather has another commitment, so Holy Communion on that week will be at 9:30am on Thursday)

Fridays at 5.30pm – St Margaret's Evening Prayer (BCP)

### Sundays:

#### 1st Sunday of the month

10.30am	St Margaret's	All Age Eucharist
4.00pm ( <i>winter</i> ) / 6pm ( <i>summer</i> )	All Saints	Evensong (BCP)

#### 2nd Sunday of the month

9.00am	All Saints	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	St Margaret's	Eucharist

#### 3rd Sunday of the month

9.00am	All Saints	Mattins (BCP)
10.30am	St Margaret's	Eucharist

#### 4th Sunday of the month

9.00am	All Saints	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	St Margaret's	Eucharist

#### 5th Sunday of the month (*where appropriate*)

One morning service takes place at either St Margaret's or All Saints. Please see our website for details.

*Services at All Saints use the Book of Common Prayer (1662).*

*For additional special services please see the website or social media.*

