



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

<https://sites.google.com/a/stmargaretswellow.org/st-margaret-s-church-wellow/>
<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>



Farewell letter from The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

It is strange to be writing this letter conscious that my thirty-one years of full-time ordained ministry are nearly complete and that, three weeks from this day, I expect to have arrived in Winchester to begin a new kind of life and ministry. If you read the *Romsey Advertiser* you will see that I reflect on this in my "Christian Comment" on 3rd September. I begin with the words attributed to Woody Allen "Make God laugh, tell him what your plans are!", and then explain how the ideas I had for the future less than three years ago have changed considerably.

Obviously at that time I included my wife Chris in future plans, and as you know, sadly, this was not to be. Although the loss of Chris has dominated the past eighteen months, and half of 2016 when she had her first diagnosis and operation, it's not right that it should define the nine-and-a-half years that I have spent with you as your Vicar and Rector. The experiences of those times revealed your great kindness and sympathy, first to us both and then to me. I am deeply grateful to you all for your compassion.

I am also most thankful to have had great support from the Churchwardens, church officers and PCCs who have served St Margaret's and St Leonard's over the past ten years. Overall my memories of meetings are of commitment to the work in hand – and laughter! You have been sympathetic to my suggestions of occasional new services and even hymn books! The Organists and Choirs of both churches have been a joy to work with. There have been some very special social

events, which have contributed both to the funds of the churches and also to the life of the community. Whether it be a James Bond night, a Caribbean evening, the wonderful "Woolly Woods" or First World War concert, *Elvis* (at both churches!), the many Quizzes, Barn Dances, Harvest Suppers, Christmas Markets and Summer Fêtes; all have contributed to the vibrant life in our churches, and I will miss them all.

The role of the Church of England in occasional offices, baptisms, marriages and funerals has given me the great privilege of contact with many families, often at pivotal times of their lives. (I have asked to return to conduct a final All Souls' service at St Margaret's on 31st October at 4 p.m.) It has been lovely to welcome many schools and adult groups who visit St Margaret's to discover more about Florence Nightingale. One piece of "unfinished business" is her twice-postponed bicentenary celebration, which we hope will now take place on Sunday 15th May 2022, with our usual Commemoration Service followed by a special event and lunch at Embley, concluding with the dedication of the "Calling Window" at Romsey Abbey.

My last Sunday services will be on 19th September 2021, and these will be Harvest Thanksgivings, which does seem appropriate.

So thank you for all you have given to me and God bless you all,

Chris

Letters from Churchwardens

September has crept up on us and we say "Thank You" to our Rector for the past 9 years, Chris Pettet, at our Harvest Festival on 19th September at 11 a.m. We hope he has enjoyed his time at St Leonard's; I am sure he would say it has never been dull, or as he said this last Sunday, after the piece of music played through our brilliant Denon lectern, "only in St Leonard's"! We look forward to celebrating his time here and wishing him well for the future as he retires and moves to Winchester Cathedral Close.

We are at St Margaret's for the Joint Benefice service on 5th September, then we have an 11 a.m. service each Sunday in September, but no Holy Communion. Rev James Pitkin from Lockerley will lead us in Holy Communion on 3rd October.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

As Churchwardens for St Margaret's we wish to place on record the congregation's thanks and appreciation to Chris for his service to the Parish as our Vicar, continuing a long line of Vicars in our Parish going back to the 13th century. We also remember the contribution of his late wife Christine, and especially her role in the Choir. We wish Chris well in his retirement, as we plan for a new chapter in St Margaret's eight centuries of Christian witness and worship.

Roy Perry and Richard May

More details of planned services, with readings for September, follow over the page.

CONTACT DETAILS

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St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwardens

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St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

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Both PCCs hope and intend that during the forthcoming Vacancy the regular pattern of services will continue at both churches.

St Margaret's: 9.15 a.m. Communion Service each week, except Mattins (Book of Common Prayer) on the 4th Sunday in the month.

It is not currently intended to return to holding Church of England Communion services at Wellow Methodist Church.

St Leonard's: an 11 a.m. service each Sunday, details yet to be determined!

Sidesmen and Readers should already know who they are, but may be glad of the following information on most of the **readings for the month of September:**

Sunday 5th 1st reading Isaiah 35: 4-7a; 2nd reading James 2: 1-10, 14-17;

Sunday 12th 1st reading Isaiah 50: 4-9a; 2nd reading James 3: 1-12;

Sunday 19th Harvest Festival and Chris's final service, readings will be decided and notified later;

Sunday 26th 1st reading Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29; 2nd reading James 5: 13-20.

**There are still vacancies in St Margaret's cleaning rota!
If you would like to join our team for this not-too-onerous role, please contact Susan Newby (01794 322993)**

St Margaret's Church, East with WestWellow and St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English