



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter



Letter from the Area Dean

Dear all

Last month I introduced myself and told you something of my story. This time, I can offer an update on the progress towards the new Thorngate and Blackwater Benefice made up of the parishes of East Dean, East Tytherley, Lockerley, Sherfield English, Wellow and West Tytherley. The Diocese has confirmed that they will fund a priest to live in Wellow Vicarage and hope to have him or her in place before the new School Year in 2022. Work is progressing on describing what our communities and churches are like, as part of the recruitment process.

It is wonderful to see what goes on and the large number of volunteers who continue to run and support the churches. Bishop Debbie is set to meet Wellow and Sherfield English Parochial Church Councils in person on 2nd November to explain the process and the timetable, but also, most importantly, to hear any concerns there might be, before launching the formal paperwork.

If you have any questions for me then please contact me: jamespitkin@priest.com or 01794 340635

James Pitkin, Area Dean of Romsey

Letters from Churchwardens

St Leonard's, Sherfield English

"Normality is a paved road: it's comfortable to walk but no flowers grow."

It's reasonable to assume that when Vincent van Gogh said that, he had not been left in charge of a village church without a Vicar as Christmastide drew near and a worldwide pandemic (hopefully!) began to settle. Which of us could say what normal is any more, nor if we would return to it exactly as we have previously understood it to be? In hindsight, life pre-Covid certainly appeared to be a comfortable walk, and yet the past two years have taught us so much about how to adapt both within the church and out of it. As we enter our second month in vacancy we are again learning to adapt. We are grateful to the Reverend James Pitkin for agreeing to take our monthly Holy Communion service (on the first Sunday of each month) until the end of the year (and – we hope – beyond). This has helped us to maintain our current pattern of weekly services at 11 a.m. and to continue to provide the traditional seasonal services, which this month will include Remembrance at 10.45 a.m. on Sunday 14th (taken by the Reverend Nick Grew), and Christingle on 28th November. On Saturday 13th November we are hosting a coffee morning with a knitted display to commemorate the Second World War and Remembrance – this was postponed from VE Day 2020 but good things come to those who wait! Saturday 27th November sees our Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning from 10.30 a.m.

Meanwhile, we continue with our plans to unite with the existing benefice of Thorngate and to appoint a new assistant priest in Wellow Vicarage. This does represent a big change for the parish, placing us with five other churches in an extended benefice, and undoubtedly there are challenges. But flowers have already grown from the rocky road we have walked since the spring of 2020 and we are confident that embracing the "new normal" of a united benefice will bring shared experience and resources to help us flourish further.

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

Dear Friends

October saw us bury a dear friend and wonderfully upbeat Christian presence in our community, Peter Clemett. It is impossible to add to the wonderful and stirring eulogies paid to him here, just to say Peter will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with Gael and the family.

The PCC are meeting with Bishop Debbie on Tuesday 2nd November followed by a PCC meeting on the 3rd. After these meetings, the Wardens and PCC will share everything which has happened, is happening and the possibilities of moving forward in terms of our vacancy and possible benefice merger.

As winter approaches, especially with the clocks going back on 31st October and with GMT right through until 26th March 2022, it is time to wrap up warm, get ready for "Stir-Up Sunday" on 21st November, and to become excited at the approach of the festive time of year, so important to Christians around the world.

Clyde Watson sums November up in one of my favourite poems:

"November comes and November goes,
With the last red berries and the first white snows.
With night coming early and dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket and frost by the gate.
The fires burn and the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest until next spring."

November is that month of reflection as we head towards the end of the year, with the Services for All Souls and for Remembrance Sunday and our shared praise of the heroes from all conflicts, as our whole community joins with their families in remembering their sacrifice. Please also note the Christmas Market on Saturday 27th and the start of Advent on Sunday 28th November.

It is the month of anticipation too, celebrations, lots of food and drink but most importantly heading towards Christmas.

Keep warm, keep happy – and see you in church!

Richard May (with Roy Perry), St Margaret's Churchwardens

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Celebrants, Readers and Sidespersons for November 2021, with the start of December

| November | Celebrant | Reader 1 | Reader 2 | Sidesperson |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 7 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Mike Burson-Thomas | John Parr | Sue Forsey | John Parr |
| 14 Remembrance 10.45 a.m. | Vanessa Cole | Special Service Readers | | Ann Jarrett |
| 21 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Oliver Bayley | Sue Amey | Carl Donnelly | Sheila Scott |
| 28 Holy Communion (said) 8.15 | Peter Steele | | | |
| 28 Mattins 9.15 a.m. | Peter Steele | Paul Newby | David Rowe | Paul Newby |
| December | | | | |
| 5 Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Vanessa Cole | Sue Harder | David Waldron | Margery Thomas |

Lesley Mackay writes:

A reminder that there will be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

beginning at 10.50 a.m. on 11th November, followed by coffee in the Village Hall for those who wish to join us.

The next church event is the **Christmas Market on Saturday 27th November.**

This is followed by a **Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of the 10th, 11th and 12th December.**

Please get your creative thinking caps on to design an exhibit, simple or exotic.

Details of size etc. can be obtained from Gael (02380 814261).

St Leonard's Services and Events

7th November – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.

14th November – Remembrance Service 10.45 a.m.

21st November – Modern Morning Prayer 11.00 a.m.

28th November (Advent Sunday) – Christingle Family Service 11.00 a.m.

5th December – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 13th November – **Remembrance Coffee Morning** from 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 27th November – **Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning** from 10.30 a.m.

[St Leonard's Coffee Mornings take place in the church]

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

| Date | Sunday | Old Testament Reading | Psalm | New Testament Reading | Gospel Reading |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 7 Nov | 3rd Before Advent | Jonah 3.1-5,10 | Psalm 62.5-12 | Hebrews 9.24-28 | Mark 1.14-20 |
| 14 Nov | Remembrance | Daniel 12.1-3 | Psalm 16 | Hebrews 10.11-25 | Mark 13.1-8 |
| 21 Nov | Christ the King | Daniel 7.9-10,13,14 | Psalm 93 | Revelation 1.4b-8 | John 18.33-37 |
| 28 Nov | Advent Sunday | Jeremiah 33.14-16 | Psalm 25.1-9 | 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 | Luke 21.25-36 |
| 5 Dec | 2nd of Advent | Malachi 3.1-4 | Canticle: Benedictus | Philippians 1.3-11 | Luke 3.1-6 |

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

<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>

<https://www.stmargaretswellow.co.uk/>

NEW WEBSITE ! Take a look !

CONTACT DETAILS

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St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

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