



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH Parish Newsletter December 2022 – January 2023



Letters from the Area Dean

Following a series of difficult Christmases, I am hoping that December 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that haven't been possible recently. The services and events will be specific to your community and will, no doubt, be built on years of local tradition.

With the World Cup final taking place on the last Sunday before Christmas and the change in traditions of families since the pandemic, having a more 'normal' Christmas will still mean we do some things differently. This year the Church is having a focus on The Great Invitation – encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours – especially after two years when this has been impossible for many. Please take the opportunity to meet with family, friends and your community by going to Church this Christmas.

Your Area Dean, James

The Public Consultation for the creation of the new Thorngate & Blackwater Benefice ended on 3rd October 2022. Although no PCCs, or the Deanery, were against the scheme, there were concerns from all. However, there were three individual objectors to the scheme. The Church Commissioners want the chance to properly consider those objections and so their consideration will take a lot longer than if there had been no objections. The new timescale is that the Church Commissioners will consider the objections (and the Diocese's responses) in January or March next year. Allowing for appeals against the Commissioners' decision the Scheme cannot be in place before 1st May 2023. This also means that we cannot start recruiting the priest who will live in Wellow before then. Sherfield English and Wellow will continue in vacancy. Please do support the churchwardens (Julia, Clare, Roy and Richard) practically and in prayer through the extended busy time!

Rev'd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

Letters from Churchwardens

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

Richard and I would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful – and, particularly this year – a Warm and Cosy Christmas. Happy indeed are those of you with log burners or open fires!

We live in hope that some time in the New Year a priest will once again be resident in the vicarage and acting as a curate with care for the souls of this parish – but all due bureaucratic procedures need to be followed. Perhaps our prayers will be answered – even in a bureaucratic process – possibly by Easter, although I recognise it will probably be later in the year. I sincerely hope Wellow's time without a committed priest will not stretch to two years.

For my part I shall be in Florida from Christmas until Epiphany, but thinking of Wellow as I rest by the swimming pool, happy to be with my American Family!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

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You are all warmly invited to the **Wellow Ecumenical Community Carol Service** at Wellow Village Hall on Sunday 11th December at 2.30 p.m.

Rev'd Gareth Hill will give a talk/story, the Romsey Drama Group will perform a Christmas Tale and of course there are Carols to be sung.

St. Margaret's team will serve refreshments and a table/floor area will be available for youngsters.

A retiring collection will be taken, proceeds after minor expenses going to the Romsey Foodbank.

Peter Castle, Local Pastor, Methodist Church

St Leonard's, Sherfield English

The church year moves on apace as we approach the end of 2022 and head into the busy Christmas season. Thanks are due both to the Reverend Nick Grew for taking this year's Remembrance Service, and to Eric Hounslow for his usual excellent decoration of the church.

Those decorations have already made way for Christmas; after 10th December keep an eye out for your favourite carols immortalised in each of the windows!

The Christmas season will continue with our evening Carol Service at 6 p.m. on 11th December. A reminder that our 'Midnight' Communion service is at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and our service at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day will be family-friendly and (hopefully!) fun-packed. After the special Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 3rd, we're pleased to welcome local author, Claire Gradidge for a short talk and signing of her latest book on Saturday 10th December. Claire has family ties to Sherfield English and will be talking about her murder mystery novels set in and around Romsey during the 1940s. On the evening of Monday 12th the choir will be leading carol singing at the Hatchet Inn from 7.30 p.m. We are delighted to have been invited back by new landlord, Tom Moody, and hope you will join us for this rousing tradition!

In the run-up to Christmas we are continuing with our Parish Pantry scheme, providing small food parcels to any resident of the village who might be struggling with the recent rise in prices. Parcels can be collected anonymously from the church porch at any time. Thank you to those who have provided donations to keep the scheme going. Take-up has so far been slow, and should we find there is not a need for the scheme within the village (something for which we will be extremely thankful) then donations will be passed on to Romsey Foodbank or to the Parish Pantry scheme in West Tytherley.

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for December 2022 and January 2023

December 2022	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
4th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Sue Amey	Sheila Scott
11th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas
18th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Nine Lessons and Carols 6.00 p.m.	John Parr Special Service	Debbie Waldron Readers	John Parr Roy Perry
24th Come to the Manger 4.00 p.m.	(Children's Service)		To be arranged
25th Family Communion 9.15 a.m.	Sue Harder	Naomi Shrimpton	Steve Shrimpton
January 2023 1st Holy Communion 9.15	John Parr	Lesley Mackay	John Parr
8th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas
15th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Sue Amey	Ann Jarrett	Sheila Scott
22nd Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Naomi Shrimpton	David Waldron	Steve Shrimpton
29th Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby

16th, 17th and 18th December: Christmas Tree and Crib Festival, 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. [Details from Gael, 02380 814261]

Meanwhile, every week in the Church Rooms : (Transport can be arranged if needed)

Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon; Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.

St Leonard's Services and Events

December 2022

4th Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)
11th Carol Service (6.00 p.m.)
18th Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)
18th Wellow Wood Methodist Carol Service (6.00 p.m.)
24th Holy Communion (8.00 p.m., Revd James Pitkin)
25th Christmas Day Family Service (Julia Noble)

January 2023

1st Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)
8th Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)
15th Epiphany Family Service (Revd James Pitkin)
22nd Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)
29th hosting Wellow Wood (11.00 a.m., Revd Nick Grew)

All services are in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. – EXCEPT as noted above

Saturday 3rd December, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon – Christmas Coffee Morning with additional stalls and a harpist (Julia Noble)

Saturday 10th, 5.30 p.m., Talk and Book Signing (Claire Gradidge) Monday 12th, 7.30 p.m., Carol singing at Hatchet Inn

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel Reading
4 Dec	2nd of Advent (P)	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11 Dec	3rd of Advent (P)	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 OR Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
18 Dec	4th of Advent (P)	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
24 Dec	Christmas Eve (W)	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
25 Dec	Christmas (W)	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7]8-20
1 Jan	New Year's Day (W)	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalm 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
8 Jan	Epiphany (W)	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
15 Jan	2nd After Epiphany (W)	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
22 Jan	3rd After Epiphany (W)	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
29 Jan	4th After Epiphany (W)	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
5 Feb	Candlemas (W)	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84 or 24:7-10	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40

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/>

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