



# WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

## Parish Newsletter

### April 2023



#### Letter from the Area Dean

On Palm Sunday (2nd April) — the Sunday before Easter — we hear the story of how Jesus came into Jerusalem a few days before his death, riding a donkey. The crowds waved palms and cheered him as a king. Some churches get a real live donkey for this service, and everyone gets palm branches or a cross made out of palms to hold and take home.

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died, in roughly 30 AD. The holiday concludes the “Passion of Christ”, a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent — a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice — and ends with **Holy Week**, which includes Holy Thursday

(the celebration of Jesus’ Last Supper with his twelve Apostles, also known as “Maundy Thursday”), Good Friday (on which Jesus’ crucifixion is observed) and Easter Sunday. Although a holiday of high religious significance in the Christian faith, many traditions associated with Easter date back to pre-Christian, pagan times.

In Romsey Deanery, there is a wide range of ways in which Easter is celebrated — services at all times of the day; some in traditional language, some in modern; some indoors, some outdoors; some with chocolate, some without! Wherever and however you choose to celebrate Easter — do have a great time.

*Your Area Dean, James*

Revd James Pitkin - [romseyareadean@gmail.com](mailto:romseyareadean@gmail.com)

#### Letters from Churchwardens

##### St Margaret’s, East with West Wellow

A Happy Easter to you all.

We have now heard informally that the Pastoral Committee of the Church Commissioners, as expected, have endorsed the proposal by the Diocese to merge our Parish and Benefice with the Thorngate Benefice. This is not what we asked for, but we will do our best to make it work.

We will need to study the details with care when we receive them, but presumably they will confirm that we remain an independent PCC and that in due course a House for Duty Priest will be appointed to live in Wellow Vicarage. That appointment will undoubtedly be many months off, but may be possible by the autumn.

In the meantime our regular Sunday services continue, thanks to our caring visiting priests.

I should also like to put on record our appreciation to Richard May for all his hard work and enthusiasm as my fellow Churchwarden and to wish him well in his new home away from Wellow.

**Roy Perry, St Margaret’s Churchwarden**

##### Message from Peter Castle [Methodist Local Pastor, Landford, Wellow and Canada Road area]

As announced last month, there will now be a mid-week service at the **Methodist Chapel at Canada Common, West Wellow (SO51 6DH) on the last Thursday of each month, at 1.00 p.m. The second of these will take place on April 27th.** These will be reflective services (including Communion for at least the first three) on a variety of topics, this second being “Reflections on New Life”. We will welcome folk from any denomination, or none, who wish to seek our Lord. Refreshments will be provided after the service. (Contact [pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk) for further info)

##### St Leonard’s, Sherfield English

To paraphrase Jesse from *The Fast Show*, “This month we have mostly been eating soup”! After thoroughly enjoying our visit to the Lent Lunch in Wellow Church Rooms on 11th March, our talented soup makers seemed to decide that they were feeding the five thousand, and on 18th March St Leonard’s was alive to the quiet hum of seven slow cookers. With six different soups on offer, visitors had tough choices to make and couldn’t be blamed for sampling more than one. It was a joy to welcome so many from the community and across the new benefice into the church, and their generosity has led to over £500 being donated to UNICEF. Added to the monies already raised by the five other parishes, a considerable sum is going to help children and young people in perilous situations around the world. This was our first event with all six parishes working together and, with the recent news that the planned pastoral scheme can go ahead, we hope it will be the first of many that bring our churches and communities together.

April brings Easter, of course, and a plethora of events. Our usual coffee morning will take place on Saturday, 1st April. The following day we hope to welcome back some of those who were confirmed a year ago on Palm Sunday for a celebratory Communion service. This will double as Easter Communion, as the service on Easter Sunday won’t have an ordained priest to distribute Communion, but will feature an Easter Egg Hunt and a celebration of Christ’s rising. In a slight change to our normal schedule, the next coffee morning will be on 29th April. This will have a special Coronation theme and will feature a display by our inventive Knit and Natter team, who have been talking in riddles for some months now! We hope to see many of you there.

I’ll end with a reminder that on Sunday 30th April we will be joining the service at Wellow Wood Chapel, so there won’t be a service at St Leonard’s on that day. The following week we welcome Reverend James Pitkin for a special Coronation service, which (if all goes to plan) will be his first official service as our brand new Rector. After a long and protracted vacancy process you will forgive this tired but happy Churchwarden a heartfelt “Alleluia”!

**Clare Durham, St Leonard’s Churchwarden**

