



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

December 2023 – January 2024



Letter from our Vicar, Rector and Area Dean

This year's Church of England Christmas theme is "**Follow the Star: Join the Song**". It highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

"The shepherds were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise. And before long they were singing, too ... Centuries later, singing is still central to the way many of us celebrate Christmas. We invite you this Christmas to follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song and come into the presence of Jesus Christ."

*(from **Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell**)*

In all of our churches there will be music and singing this Christmas – and it won't all be inside church buildings either! I hope that you will take the opportunity this year to sample some of the music and singing in our communities. It is good for the body, as well as the soul.

Yours, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

Letters from Churchwardens

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

We are already past "Stir-up Sunday" so the countdown to Christmas has really begun.

This past year has been significant for the parish with the appointment of our new Vicar, James, and also the appointment of Sara-Jane Stevens as our House-for-Duty Priest-designate, coming early in the New Year to live in the Wellow Vicarage, with a special responsibility for Wellow and Sherfield English Benefice spelt out in her job description. We look forward to her coming to live amongst us.

I should like to thank all who have sent good wishes to Veronica, wishing her well in recovering from her heart operation. Your prayers and good wishes seem to be working. Now we all send our very best wishes to our organist Keith for a speedy and complete recovery from his operation, as well as to Gael after her hip operation.

My best wishes for a Happy Christmas, the first for many years when Veronica and I will not be in the USA, and above all I wish for a Healthy New Year for all.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

Information from Peter Castle [Methodist Local Pastor]

Community Christmas Carol Service at Wellow Village Hall

Sunday 10th December at 2.30 p.m.: The Joint Churches Together in Wellow (JCTW) are delighted to invite you to this Christmas Carol Service. The Hand in Hand puppeteers will be entertaining us with their amazing puppets. The Revd Kate Cambridge (Methodist) will talk briefly about Christmas. And, of course, Carols will be sung. Refreshments will be provided by the St Margaret's Church Family. All ages welcome. At Wellow Village Hall, Buttons Lane, West Wellow (SO51 6BR)

"Reflections" services at **Canada Common Chapel** (SO51 6DH) will continue as follows:

Thursday 28th Dec. 1.00 p.m. Reflections: On the Covenant

Thursday 25th January 1.00 p.m. Reflections: On Prayer.

All are welcome to any or all of these events.

(Contact pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk for further info)

St Leonard's, Sherfield English

Remembrance Sunday was a poignant occasion at St Leonard's, everyone playing their part superbly including half-muffled bells, to honour the fallen. Now we usher in the Christmas season with the lighting of our Advent candle as we begin the Christian year on 3rd December with Advent Sunday and the making of Christingles, an enjoyable challenge for every artiste, whilst snacking on sweets!

On Saturday 9th December from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, we hold our Christmas coffee morning with various items to purchase or maybe just the treat of a coffee and a cake and mingling with friends old and new as people from across our new benefice join us. Obviously, all discussing how well organised we are for Christmas! Wishful thinking?? Our Carol Service at 6 p.m. on 17th December blends the story of Christmas in the traditional lessons and carols with splashes of more contemporary enthusiasm. It is the season to be merry after all, which naturally brings the choir to lead the carol singing at The Hatchet Inn at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18th December.

Our "Midnight Communion" on Christmas Eve is at the more user-friendly time of 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, I can't remember the date, we shall have a family service when you can join in our St Leonard's family fun, sharing the message of community, hope and peace for 2024. Our service on 14th January will launch St Leonard's 120 years of consecration with celebratory events throughout the year. St Leonard's are also delighted to welcome Sara-Jane Stevens as our new associate priest for our benefice in 2024.

May we be Thankful, Thoughtful and Hopeful this Christmas season, and Merry!

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for December 2023 – January 2024

December 2023	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
3rd December (Advent) Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas
10th December Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Tim Jobson	Sheila Scott
17th December Nine Lessons and Carols 9.15 a.m.	Special Service	Readers	Ann Jarrett
24th Christmas Eve Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Children's "Crib Service" 2.00 p.m.	Margery Thomas	Roy Perry Shepherds	Margery Thomas to be appointed
25th Christmas Day Family Communion 9.15 a.m.	Naomi Shrimpton	Mel King	Steve Shrimpton
31st December Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Sue Harder	John Parr
January 2024			
7th January Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas	Margery Thomas
14th January Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Ann Jarrett	Sue Amey	Ann Jarrett
21st January Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Jonathan Cooper	Brian Scott	Sheila Scott
28th January Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby

NB also 10th December at 2 p.m.: Community Carol Service in Wellow Village Hall (details overleaf)

Saturday 25th November, Christmas Market in Wellow Village Hall

Heartfelt thanks to everybody who supported the event in any way

Provisional notice: Revd Sara-Jane Stevens will be licensed on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30 p.m. (location to be advised)

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

Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon (last of 2023, 19th December; first of 2024, 9th January);

Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m. (last of 2023, 14th December; first of 2024, 11th January)

(Helpers take a well-earned break around Christmas and New Year: many thanks to all involved throughout the year.)

St Leonard's Services and Events

3rd December – Family Service “Christingle” (Revd James Pitkin)	10th December – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)
17th December (6.00 p.m.) – Carol Service	24th December (8.00 p.m.) – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)
25th December – Christmas Day (Julia & Clare)	31st December (10.30 a.m.) – Benefice Service at St John's, Lockerley
7th January 2024 – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)	14th January – 120th Anniversary Launch (Clare Durham)
21st January – Family Service – Epiphany (Revd James Pitkin)	28th January – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

[All services are in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturday 9th December, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon – Christmas Coffee Morning in St Leonard's Church

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel Reading
3 Dec	Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
10 Dec	Advent 2	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
17 Dec	Advent 3	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
24 Dec	(a.m.) Advent 4	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
24 Dec	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalms 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
31 Dec	Christmas 1	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
7 Jan	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
14 Jan	Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21 Jan	Epiphany 3	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalms 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
28 Jan	Epiphany 4	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalms 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

In case of ambiguity, Readers should not hesitate to consult the Celebrant to check which variant is required.

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/>

CONTACT DETAILS

St Margaret's PCC Secretary: Mrs Lesley Mackay lesley_mackay@outlook.com 01794 322570

Parish Newsletter Compiler: Mr Paul Newby paul.r.t.newby@btinternet.com 01794 322993

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwarden

Mr Roy Perry: roy.perry123@btinternet.com 07551 152761

St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

Miss Julia Noble: julia@manorfarmpark.co.uk 01794 322497 Mrs Clare Durham: sherfieldclare@gmail.com 01794 524484