



# WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

## Parish Newsletter

### February 2024



## Letter from our Vicar, Rector and Area Dean

### What is Lent?

Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter. It's one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world, held at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build-up to Christmas.

While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday (this year 14th February) until its conclusion on Easter Sunday (31st March), Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or a birthday, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and bodily resurrection.

### What do Christians do during Lent?

These days, Christians around the world observe Lent in many ways. Many from more orthodox and traditional denominations will still observe the fast strictly, beginning

with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and not eating meat, fish, eggs or fats until Easter Sunday. Others will choose to give up just one item for Lent, more commonly a 'luxury' such as chocolate, meat or alcohol. Some people give up time-consuming activities (such as social media) to focus on their faith in Lent. Many Christians also use Lent to study their Bibles and pray more intensively, making use of the many available books and courses. Sundays during Lent are very important to Christians around the world. Where the Mondays to Saturdays of each of the six weeks are concerned with fasting and abstinence, the Sunday is a celebration symbolic of Christ's resurrection. Instead of fasting, Christians hold feasts in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. The fourth and sixth Sundays are particularly important in the UK – the fourth because it is Mothering Sunday (Mothers' Day, 10th March) and the sixth because it's Palm Sunday (24th March). What will you do this Lent?

*Yours, James*

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

## Letters from Churchwardens

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

February marks a new chapter for our Parish as we welcome our new "House for Duty Priest", Revd Sara-Jane Stevens, as she and her husband come to live amongst us in Wellow Vicarage. It's a new chapter for Sara-Jane as well as for the Parish. We wish her well in this new role, while recognising that it is not a full-time post. We must all try to respect the limits on time that Sara-Jane will face, but it will be good to have a resident priest once again in our midst.

Not only a new priest here, but the Diocese also welcomes Bishop Philip Mounstephen who took up his role in an impressive service in January at Winchester Cathedral. I trust before too long we shall be able to welcome him to a service in St Margaret's.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

### LICENSING SERVICE AT ST MARGARET'S

Revd Sara-Jane Stevens will be licensed on **Thursday 22nd February at 7.30 p.m.** by the Acting Bishop of Southampton, Geoff Annas.

**Early info from the Diocese : "LAY VOCATIONS MORNING" : Saturday 6th April, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives BH24 2LS**

*Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?* More info from [tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org) or call 01962 710983

### St Leonard's, Sherfield English

As we may have already mentioned, this year is a special one for St Leonard's, it being 120 years since the church building was consecrated. To celebrate we have a whole host of events across the year, which started with a launch service on 14th January. Nearly 40 people joined us for a treasure hunt to discover things we perhaps didn't know about the church. The next event is a display of local crafts and talents at the coffee morning on Saturday 3rd February, and we hope you will join us again for the community lunch on Saturday 16th March, where all proceeds will be going to UNICEF. There'll be plenty more going on throughout the year, so watch this space!

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

### Information from Peter Castle [Methodist Local Pastor]

"Reflections" services at Canada Common Chapel (West Wellow, SO51 6DH) on the last Thursday of each month (all at 1 p.m.) will continue as follows:

**Thursday 29th February : Reflections: on An Extra Day.**

**Maundy Thursday 28th March : Reflections on Celebration.**

NB One year since we started this programme, Cake, Sandwiches and Refreshments will be available.

All are welcome to any or all of these events.

(Contact [pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk) for further info)

## St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for February 2024

February 2024	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
<b>4th</b> Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Tim Jobson	John Parr
<b>11th</b> Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Sue Amey	Sheila Scott
<b>18th</b> Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Carl Donnelly	Margery Thomas
<b>25th</b> Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Naomi Shrimpton	Sue Forsey	Steve Shrimpton
<b>3rd March</b> Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Jonathan Cooper	Sue Amey	Sheila Scott

**NB: Revd Sara-Jane Stevens will be licensed on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30 p.m. in St Margaret's Church**

Meanwhile, normally 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

**4th February** – Holy Communion (Geoff Annas, Acting Bishop of Southampton)

**11th February** – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

**18th February** – Family Service

**25th February** – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

**3rd March** – Holy Communion

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

Saturday 3rd February, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon – Coffee Morning, Craft and Art Exhibition in St Leonard's Church

### 2024 – 120 YEARS OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH : DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 16th March, 12 noon to 2 p.m., UNICEF Community Lent Lunch

Saturday 20th April, 6 p.m., Quiz Evening

Sunday 19th May, 10.30 a.m., Benefice Pentecost Service followed by a Picnic

Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, 26th and 27th May, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wedding Dress Exhibition

Saturday 8th June, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Plant and Produce Sale at Churchfields, with coffee and cake

Saturday 29th June, 7 p.m., The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Touring Production)

Saturday 6th July, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee and cake in the garden at St Brelade's

Saturday 20th July, 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Cream Tea at St Brelade's

Saturday 3rd August, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Knit'n'Natter display, 'The Four Seasons', coffee and cake

Saturday 14th September, 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church and Tower Open Day

Saturday 19th October, Bellringers will attempt a full peal \*

Sunday 20th October, 11 a.m., Harvest Festival and Ploughman's Lunch

Friday 15th November, 7 p.m., A Comic Evening with Bob Blake

Saturday 7th December, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Christmas coffee morning and handbells

\* Other bellringing events throughout the year include four quarter peals, and ringing a 'touch' for every bellringer.

## Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel Reading
4 Feb	Candlemas	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
11 Feb	Transfiguration	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
14 Feb	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
18 Feb	Lent 1	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
25 Feb	Lent 2	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
3 Mar	Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

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

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