



# The Buzz

January 2021



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

### Thought for the Month

#### Back to the Future?



I wonder which seat you prefer on a train. I would often choose a forward-facing seat. I sometimes like to see where I am going. Sometimes when I am travelling somewhere new I find it totally frustrating to be moving forward, but only seeing where I have come from. Of course, the 'health and safety' experts would say that I should sit facing the way I have come from.

Research proves that it is far safer to face backwards, because your seat restrains you if there is a crash. Maybe, but if there is going to be an accident, I would rather see it coming!

So which way do you face at the start of 2021? There are those who prefer the backwards facing approach. They look back to the good old days, when everything seemed 'right', and they felt secure. This year, more than many, I would suggest that might feel tempting and safer. 2020 has been a year like no other and I am sure many of us are looking forward to leaving it behind in the hope that 2021 will be better. Maybe that is an appropriate stance for now, but I hope we retain the lessons we have learnt about looking out for each other, caring and being a community. However, if we only look backwards the best, we can hope for is a pale imitation of 'yesteryear'. It could be argued that it is safer to face backwards. After all that cannot be taken from us, and if anything goes wrong at least there is that memory to fall back on.

But it is only by looking forwards that we get a vision for the future. That does not deny what lies behind – after all that was our future once. We know where we have come from; we know where we are; it is only the future that will be determined by our present action. By looking forward we get a vision of what is to come. We also see what dangers lie ahead if we keep on the same track.

Christmas is past; Christ is present, and Christ will come again. It is the lasting gift of Christmas that the baby who was born in Bethlehem is the Christ who is with us always and helps us to look to the future. That should change our whole vision. Now we can know that the Christ who has been with us in the past is with us today and will go forward with us into the future, each step along the way. Have you ever noticed how, in the Gospels, Jesus is always on the move – always moving forwards? People were always trying to tie him down; to ‘encapsulate’ him, but he always broke out of their presuppositions and called them to follow. Even the cross and the tomb could not tie Jesus down, for he broke out into new and resurrection life.

What is your vision for the future? Do you see Christ in the picture as you look to the future? In many ways if we take a line from the past to where we are, and then forward into the future it seems we must change track if we are to avoid a crash.

When we look to the world’s future and see climate change and the effects of pollution; if we look to the rapidly diminishing natural resources grabbed by a greedy world; if we look to the increased tension between world cultures and economies; if we look at the escalation of violence and terrorism, the future looks bleak. The same could be said for the life of the Church if we look at diminishing numbers and increasing costs and if we look to the threat of materialism and secularism. And then we have to look at our own personal future.

But all this can be changed if we have a vision of the future based on the reality of Christmas that Christ is with us and calling us to change track – to new life, new faith, new hope.

As we look through the window towards the future and the world is rushing past, what do we see? I venture to suggest that the most important question is whether or not we see God in the picture. If not, the future is indeed bleak. But if we see the face of Christ reflected alongside our own as we look to the future, that will change everything – it will determine our priorities and purpose and fill us with faith, hope and love.

Even today Jesus will not be tied down – he is always moving on miraculously to transform each new day with the light of his love. Still he calls us to follow and live each new day in the light of his presence – offering our lives; all we are, and have, and do – according to the priorities of his Kingdom.

Wishing a happy, healthy and hope-filled New Year to you all.

Revd Christine

Rector

# SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

In the current circumstances the only services held in church will be on Sundays at 11.00 am. These will be live-streamed or recorded and posted on-line as soon as practical.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday First Sunday Non-Eucharistic Service  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays Holy Communion (said)

On-line services will be as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday FIISH for young families  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday ReFresh

Weekly activities for children will be posted on the parish website.

## PLEASE NOTE:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the church toilet is not currently available for use.



## Supporting Our Local Community – Can You Help?

How we can better connect and serve our community, live our faith and show the love that Jesus has for everyone?  
We're building partnerships with local voluntary organisations to support people who need it most.



## FOOD DONATIONS

Food poverty is on the rise in Crawley and with unemployment expected to increase, more people are going to need help.

We are supporting the Crawley Food Bank Partnership who distribute food and basic essentials to people in crisis all over Crawley

### Items Required:

Coffee, Sugar, UHT milk, Meat and Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, Beans, Bottles of Squash, Soup, Cereals, Pasta, Cooking Sauces, Desserts, Tea/Coffee and Biscuits but, of course, all donations are welcome.

We set-up a collection system across Ifield & Langley Green, so there is no need for you to deliver it yourselves, Sue Gilbert is co-ordinating collections.

Contact Sue Gilbert directly or via  
The Parish office – [office@ifieldparish.org](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org) / 01293 537578



So much more than just a foodbank...



## News from Family Support Work



We would like to thank you all for your incredible generosity in providing Christmas food and toys for our families. We have been really moved by your support, such an outpouring of love, which has meant that we have been able to distribute really special hampers and presents to families over the last week.

### Last months' work in numbers:

- 266 socially distanced visits and 208 phone support sessions supporting 377 parents and 314 children
- 32 online supported meetings with other agencies
- 332 food deliveries made

### Quotes from parents after receiving Christmas hampers:

***"What can I say, wow! Totally unexpected and thank you so much. Lovely bits and treats for Christmas that I wouldn't have been able to get. You've really put a huge smile on my face. Merry Christmas "***

***"Thank you so much. I am very overwhelmed by the support I have had from your charity and the amazing presents that my children are going to wake up to on Christmas Day. Without your help things would have been so upsetting on Christmas morning. The food is very much appreciated. Thank you so much for making our Christmas - as a mother, Santa has come to me this year, and that's your charity."***



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## TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING

Even before the Coronavirus pandemic, 1 in 5 people in the UK were often or always feeling lonely. Prescription Plus Befriender Volunteers are helping to reduce social isolation by offering a weekly telephone call to people who are shielding at home.

If you have a couple of hours to spare each week, an up to date DBS and enjoy chatting to people we would love to have you on board as a Telephone Befriender .

To find out more please speak to Sue Edgson or contact via the Parish Office [office@ifieldparish.org](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org) or Tel: 01293 537578.

Sue will get in touch to discuss the role further

Prescription Plus   
Community connections for a healthier me

## ADVENT WINDOWS

In case you missed them, here are just a few of the beautiful windows displayed around our parish during Advent.



## CHRISTMAS 2020

Despite the restrictions, we were fortunate to be able to hold outdoor services – Carols Round the Tree on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, and two Crib Services on Christmas Eve. The weather was fine, and it was lovely to see families, and dogs, in attendance.



## WHO'S WHO IN IFIELD PARISH

Team Rector	Revd. Christine Spencer	07498 211198	rector@ifieldparish.org
Curate	Revd. Jamie Gater	852763	curate@ifieldparish.org
Retired Clergy	Revd. Daphne Goodwin	886896	dapheter@aol.com
Reader	Jill Bell	521699	reader@ifieldparish.org
Parish Wardens	Rob Pudney	437038	rob@ifieldparish.org
	Chris Bell	521699	chris@ifieldparish.org
PCC Secretary	Clare Wilson	416438	pccsecretary@ifieldparish.org
PCC Treasurer	James May	529146	treasurer@ifieldparish.org
Safeguarding	Andy Cottee	202167	
			safeguarding@ifieldparish.org
Finance Officer	Claire Budd	534783	finance.stmargarets@ifieldparish.org
Youth and Children	Naomi Gater	852763	ycofficer@ifieldparish.org
Lychgate Bookings	Lisa Hull	532337	lmhull@virginmedia.com

### PLEASE NOTE

St. Margaret's weekly notices can be viewed on the parish website

### IFIELD PARISH WEBSITE

[www.ifieldparish.org](http://www.ifieldparish.org)

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to  
Carl Peirce [carl@ifieldparish.org](mailto:carl@ifieldparish.org)

#### Follow us:

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1765334500346387/>

### IFIELD PARISH OFFICE

**Mondays-Thursdays 9.00 am – 12 noon**

1 Lychgate Cottage, Ifield Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 0NN

Parish Administrator: Mave Eshun Tel: 537578 Email: [office@ifieldparish.org](mailto:office@ifieldparish.org)

**PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021  
ISSUE TO JILL BELL**

**[reader@ifieldparish.org](mailto:reader@ifieldparish.org) by 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**