

St. Margaret's Church News

Easter 2018



Ifield Street, Crawley, RH11 0NN



Simon says...

With Easter nearly upon us we will once again be hearing those wonderful gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection from the dead - accounts that can encourage and direct us in our journey of faith; because we, like those disciples, so often look for hope and security in the wrong places.

Peter and John on the first Easter Day ran in to an empty tomb to seek some explanation as to what might have happened to the body of their beloved friend and master. They found nothing – leaving the empty tomb even more confused than when they had arrived! They were looking in the wrong place for their sense of security and understanding – Jesus was no longer to be found in a cold and empty tomb – he had risen!

Where do we look for our sense of security?

When we start thinking about that question, we may give many answers: success, money, friends, property, popularity, family, connections, insurance, and so on. We may not always *think* that any of these actually form the basis of our security, but our *actions* or *feelings* may tell otherwise. When we start losing our money, our friends or our popularity, our anxiety often reveals how deeply our sense of security is rooted in those things.

Such things, as good as they may be, can be like empty tombs – not able to offer the comfort and security all of us need at our deepest level of being. Only the God of everlasting love, in whose image we are made, can offer that.

The disciples found the risen Christ outside the tomb and were transformed from frightened, grieving people to a group of secure, courageous, confident, and committed missionaries. Only an encounter with the risen Christ could have given the early disciples the security and confidence that they would have needed to do what they did.

This Easter, I encourage all of us to stop looking in empty tombs for our hope and security and to start looking for the risen Christ so that we too can be transformed into the confident and secure people he calls us to be.

Simon Newham, Rector

Holy Week at St. Margaret's

In Compline services we'll be contemplating 3 biblical stories of calling and reflecting upon God's call on us

26 March	8pm	Compline	Jonah (Jonah 1:1-3)
27 March	8pm	Compline	Mary (Luke 1: 26-38)
28 March	8pm	Compline	David (1 Samuel 16:6-13)
29 March	8pm	Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist, followed by a Vigil
30 March	10am	Good Friday	Children's workshop
	2pm	Good Friday	Service of the Cross
31 March	9pm	Easter Saturday	Easter Vigil and Service of Light
1 April	8am	Easter Day	Said Eucharist
	9:30am	Easter Day	FIISH
	11am	Easter Day	Sung Eucharist

A date for your diary...



Monday 7th May



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www.stmargaretsifield.wordpress.com



From the Editor...

This year, for Lent, I watched a few cowboy films. Why? Well, it was all in the name of research (which will be revealed at the 9:30am ReFresh service on Palm Sunday...).

Easter Week starts with Jesus riding into town. Jerusalem at that time was occupied by the Romans, who were running the place to suit themselves. The local townsfolk, the Jews, were mighty unhappy, but unable to do anything about that. They needed a gunslinger to ride in and fight for them. An incorruptible hero in a white hat who could come in and clean the place up. And lo and behold, in answer to their prayers, Jesus came, Clint Eastwood style, riding in on, err, a donkey. Howdy! Eh?

In cowboy movies, when the white-hatted hero rides in, people get their hopes up. Hooray! But then there's a setback and they get fearful again. Groan! The bad guys mock their new hero, so they lose confidence in him. Nothing really seems to have changed. Oh dear! The rescue act doesn't quite go to plan. Until the final showdown, when, against the odds, the good guy somehow turns the tables, outguns the bad guys and (yippee!) triumphs. Yay! Everything gets happy-ever-after and the hero moves on to some other town where some other folks might need some assistance....

In the Easter story too, it got worse before it got better. The Jews, hoping Jesus was the answer to their prayers, were shocked and stunned to see him get captured, humiliated, filled full of holes and killed. How come? That's not how Clint Eastwood does it. Some saviour, eh? Disappointing. Jesus wasn't supposed to be the one getting buried.

But the final reel of the Easter story was a film no one had seen before. The hero came back to life. He really could do the happy-ever-after stuff. And he didn't need to head off to another town to do it again, because he'd also sorted everything everywhere forever all at the same time.

And that (sort of) is how the Wild West was won, folks. Yes siree...

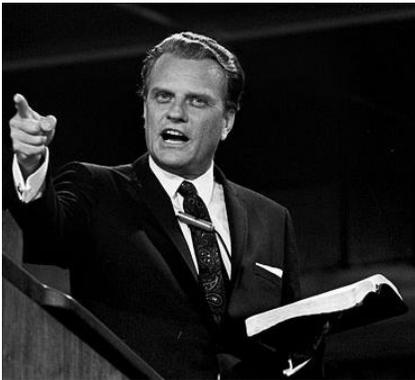
Ian Edgson



Me and Billy Graham...

When I heard of the recent death of Billy Graham, the famous American Evangelist, I recalled the time I heard him preach in 1954. His visit received a lot of advance publicity. A group from our local Methodist Church Youth Club went to hear him at a packed Harringay Arena. Following his charismatic preaching each night, he would invite people to go forward to offer their lives to the Lord – an amazing time when so many moved forward to do just that. I found it to be a highlight of my life. A wonderful preacher who changed so many lives. Praise the Lord!

Pat Hollis



Here's **Pat Hollis** on the right, with some of the **SMILE** social group for ladies. They went to see a recent production of *The Kite Runner* at the Hawth Theatre.

If you enjoy a fun evening out with good company, Clare Wilson (sitting next to Pat) is the person to contact. Everyone is welcome. Email: office@ifieldparish.org



Bridgeham Clinic News: Jo Strutt

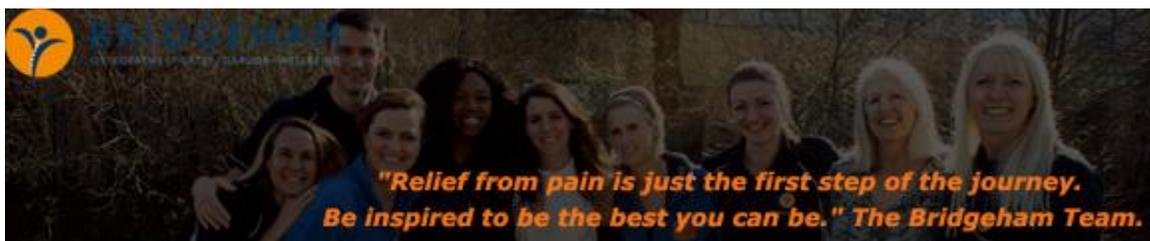


Get your feet looking foot-tastic in time for Springing into your Summer Sandals! (Or at least the church foot washing service at the end of Lent!) Janine at Bridgeham can help with all things foot related...cracked heels, athletes foot, chilblains, diabetes foot health checks, corns and athletes foot too!

Let me introduce you to some new members of the Bridgeham team:-

- Selena is our new Acupuncturist, helping to boost everyone's energy as we step out of winter into Spring.
- Clemence is an osteopath with a special interest in treating babies, children and pregnant mums-to-be (which makes me feel hopeful the lambs are a-coming!)
- Natalie is starting a lushtums yoga class for pregnant mums on Saturday mornings. (I am dreaming of hot cross buns in the oven – excuse the puns!!)
- Tara who is one of our superb osteopaths is also adding massage to her services at Bridgeham

You can book appointments online or over the phone. We look forward to welcoming you!



Bridgeham Clinic Ltd: ☎ 01293 542245 ✉ info@bridgehamclinic.com www.bridgehamclinic.com

Volunteering

Trying to recruit volunteers in church is sometimes difficult. Without volunteers though, nothing much would happen. If you're not sure how true that is, ask a vicar! Jesus talked a lot about serving others. He said that serving is the path of blessing. Volunteering can give you so much in return: a sense of achievement; new skills; the chance to help others and to make new friends, to name just a few. We are very grateful for those who offer their time and talents to enable us to keep our church running.

If you're interested in volunteering in some non-churchy capacity, we might be able to help point you in the right direction as we are well connected through the many things we get involved in as part of serving the wider local community. Helping out at the Ifield May Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday, for example, is a good example of how anyone and everyone could get involved. You really don't need to sign your life away to get involved in something interesting and worthwhile. So, whatever your skills, whatever time you can give, if you think you might be interested in volunteering, then we would encourage you to explore that. You're welcome to get in touch with us. Or contact Crawley Community Voluntary Services (www.crawleycvs.org/volunteer). Volunteer and make a difference!

Did You Know...?

According to Wikipedia (so it must be true), the earliest record of a vicar being present at St. Margaret's Church was in 1247. He is simply listed as '?' on the Church's list. We know it would have been a 'he' because there weren't any women vicars in those days. The first named vicar was called 'Simon'. He took over in 1288. There have been 53 vicars since then, including the current one, who is also called 'Simon'. Interesting, eh?



Martin Stone's Topsy Turvy Tales

I had a phone call the other day from a woman who said, "Martin, you don't know me, but you know my mother. She used to run a launderette in Tilgate".

I replied, "I remember your mother very well".

She said, "You sold a hairdryer to my mother 25 years ago. Can you tell me what make it was?"

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Who goes to a church like this?

Clare Wilson...



How long have you been at St. Margaret's? 18 years

What is your motto? Never Give Up, or Keep On Keeping On

What is something you learned recently? 11 times tables skills

What is your guilty pleasure? Orkney fudge

Which talent do you most wish you had? Interior design skills

What's your favourite song? (I've Had) The Time Of My Life

What trait do you most dislike in others? Dishonesty

Who is your favourite fictional hero? Wonder Woman (2017)

What is your greatest fear? Failure (but it won't stop me having a go!)

How would your friends use to describe you? Organised, bossy, discreet, friendly, clumsy, caring and cheerful

What do you most value in your friends? Reliability, loyalty and kindness

When and where were you the happiest? I have been fortunate to have had some wonderful holidays with my husband (Rome, Antigua, Edinburgh & Maldives), my family (Dorset) & friends (Spain, Italy, Germany & Sicily). Happy memories. A pilgrimage to Jerusalem with my Mum in 2010 is a very special memory

If you could have one superpower, which would you choose? The power of healing

Who did you have on your wall as a child? Donny Osmond, Bay City Rollers and David Soul (Hutch)

Who is your real-life hero? My Mum – unexpectedly widowed young and with four children aged 4 -9, she single-handedly gave us a great start in life and a comfortable home whilst re-training as a special needs teacher.

What is your favourite food? Anything spicy e.g. Chinese, Curry or Mexican

What is your favourite quote? 'O still small voice of calm' (from the hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind)

What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity? Aquafit class or going for walks

What was the last movie, TV show or book that made you cry? La La Land (movie); The Kite Runner (stage play)

When you have 30 minutes of free-time, how do you pass the time? Reading

Have you ever had something happen to you that you thought was bad, but it turned out to be for the best? Worrying how we might support our unexpectedly pregnant daughter and finding our Grandson to be a blessing and a joy.

Have you given up or taken on anything for Lent? Given up eating snacks and high sugar products. Taken up Lent classes and trying to read all the #LiveLent Reflections

Knit 1 Pray Too is St Margaret's Shawl Ministry group.

Whilst the shawls are being knitted they are being prayed into. The 1st stitch – God the Father; the 2nd stitch – Jesus, the Son; and the 3rd stitch – the Holy Spirit. This prayer is repeated throughout the shawl. Once the shawls are completed they are then blessed with the Holy oil of Christ in church. We have two types of shawl, those for babies at baptism and those for adults in need. Last year 30 shawls were given out at baptisms. It was the first year that it had been done and the reception has been tremendous. 6 adult shawls were given out too and received much warmth and thanks. Some adults wrap their shawls around them and think of it as God's love enfolding them. Sometimes they put it over a chair that they sit in so that they are always in touch with it. Others put it over the back of the chair of a loved one that has died so that they can touch it as they walk past. The people that knit the shawls find it very therapeutic and generally do it in their own homes, sometimes meeting together. If you feel that you would like to Knit 1 Pray Too, or contribute some chunky wool or money, then please contact: **Susan Maries** (01293 416610)

The Archbishop Says...



Easter egg? I'd rather have a curate's egg!

