

# St. Margaret's Church News

Easter 2020



Ifield Street, Crawley, RH11 0NN

## Happy Easter!

By the time you read this, we will be well on the way to celebrating the great feast of Easter. We hope you will join us at one or more of the services detailed below, where you will be very welcome.

Easter is both a celebration of the gift of spiritual rebirth and at the same time a reminder of the constant renewal of life here on earth. This message of hope is for us all, whether we are Christians or not.

We live in a wonderful but deeply wounded world that is at times uncaring, unforgiving, cruel, and devoid of second chances. Easter offers the assurance that the many difficulties and challenges that threaten to overwhelm us will be overcome.

Jesus offers us new life, forgiveness and hope for the future. We can find healing and hope in him who came that we might have life in all its fullness. The risen Christ, in his profound love, makes it possible for all of us to have second chances, new beginnings, new life.

Jesus says to frightened disciples, "Do not be afraid." To us he says the same. Whatever it is that causes you to fear, Jesus the risen Christ will be with you and will go ahead of you and continue to be with you. He offers you joy, peace, forgiveness and hope. Most of all he offers you himself. You need not fear. He has overcome the world!

Happy Easter to you all!

*Jill Bell*

### Holy Week at St. Margaret's

Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 am	Palm Sunday Service
Mon. 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Easter Craft Afternoon
	8.00 pm	Compline
Tues. 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Compline
Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Compline
Thurs. 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri. 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Good Friday Meditation
Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am	EASTER SUNDAY SAID EUCHARIST
	9.30 am	EASTER SUNDAY @ FIISH
	11.00 am	EASTER SUNDAY SUNG EUCHARIST



### Ifield MayFayre 2020 - Coronavirus

After much thought and consideration, it was with deep regret and heavy hearts that the Committee made the difficult decision to cancel Ifield Mayfayre 2020. With the prediction of the further spread of the COVID 19 virus, with the peak currently set to be around April/May, they felt it would be irresponsible to try to go ahead with this popular community event which attracts over three thousand people. The Committee are currently looking into the feasibility of the Grand Raffle going ahead later in the summer, further details will be published shortly.

The next Ifield MayFayre will now be on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021.



## From the Editor...

We don't have a vicar at the moment. We're waiting, praying, hoping... Who will it be? When will they come? What will they be like? Will they want to change things...?

Robert Wright was the St. Margaret's vicar 500 years ago. If he came back now, he would be horrified. Some of the things we do and say in our regular services would seem shocking and blasphemous to him. Even the exotically named Lubin Spence Creasy, vicar here 100 years ago, would feel very out of place now. St. Margaret's has changed a lot in the last 100 years. It will change a lot in the next 100 years too. The church is always changing. That's healthy. It's Biblical. Whoever eventually arrives to lead St. Margaret's, we'll have to trust they're God's answer to our prayers. It will be our job to support and encourage them. Whoever they are. Whatever they're like. However much they might challenge our thinking and the way we see things. If they have a different vision of how our church should be, then we'll need to trust that God has given them that vision and try to go with their changes. Some of us will find that harder than others. Change can be difficult. But change can be exciting too. If the Easter story teaches us anything, it's that everything can change and quickly. Everything was turned on its head between Good Friday, when Jesus died, and Easter Sunday, when he was resurrected. Whatever else may change, Christians believe there's a message of ultimate hope that will never lose its relevance or resonance or power. Easter Sunday's coming!



*Ian Edgson*

## Farewell Geraint - 1950 to 2019

Those of you who came to the wonderful Thanksgiving service for Geraint Thomas will have heard the poignant and touching eulogy given by Ciarán, his son in law. The congregation laughed and cried and many, like us, were in awe of the extent of Geraint's commitment and selflessness in support of local and national actions against injustice and poverty. No wonder the church was packed! Geraint was a staunch Labour supporter often seen doggedly trudging/cycling the streets canvassing and delivering pamphlets and, for many years, a local councillor, firstly in Northgate and latterly Ifield - how telling that so many council employees attended his Thanksgiving, all saying what a delight he was to work with; so reasonable, so appreciative. He gave freely of his time on the board of Ifield Park Nursing Home, similarly to Open House, charity for the homeless of Crawley, and as an activist against many of the world's ills, he was never daunted by the size or scale of the task in hand. And Geraint never forgot his roots, he was Welsh through and through, an avid supporter of the Welsh rugby team (even known to turn up for dinner adorned in the Welsh flag!), loved photography, art and music of all kinds especially classical and religious. In typical Welsh fashion, he had a love of singing and St Margaret's church choir benefited from his rich bass voice for many years. He was fascinated with history and wrote various editions of the guide to St Margaret's Church, never missing the opportunity to draw attention to the seldom noticed serpent beside a window in the chancel. Geraint's passing came as a huge shock to us all, not least to his wife, Jenny, and daughter Helen, now living in Dublin with her husband and two-year-old twin sons. Geraint had sung Bobby Shaftoe to the boys on Facetime the morning of his death, happily anticipating the family's arrival for a long weekend the next day. Who could have imagined how suddenly circumstances would change?

In his eulogy Ciarán wrote: 'It is some consolation that he would hate to be described in anything other than mundane terms – but the truth is that there was something extraordinary about Geraint's ordinariness – he was simply a good man who strove to do the right thing by his fellow human beings'.

*Sue & David Gilbert*



## Martin Stone's Topsy Turvy Tales

A little while ago I was doing a 'Cut & Blow Dry' on a rather elderly lady.

When I had finished, I asked her what she thought.

She said: "Thank you Martin, that's wonderful. I am so happy with it.

You've made me look 70 again!"



# All good Christian go to church on Sundays, don't they?

That's not always easy now that "society" is active seven days a week. You may be at work, taking the kids to football club, catching up on the weekly shop in your only free time. Does that mean you can't be a Christian?

The Christian challenge is to try to live as Christ showed us. We know he regularly attended Synagogue on the Sabbath (not Sunday) but if that was all he did, it would give us very little idea of how to live our everyday lives. He spent much of his working life talking to people about God's love for all his creation, spending time with the poor, sick and needy in society rather than the rich and powerful, challenging those in authority whose man-made rules were distorting the laws God had provided to benefit all. Whilst it is important for Christians to spend time together to learn and strengthen their faith, and to support each other in prayer and worship, it is just as important to be out in the world, following the command to love our neighbours and working to make our society a more caring one. We are Christians seven days a week.

*Karen Kelso, Authorised Lay Minister for the Community*

## Jo & Trevor Strutt Bridgeham Clinic

Jo and Trev are still completely passionate about their continuing educational development outside of the clinic as well as in their "Broken to Brilliant and Beyond" mentoring programmes, happening in house within the team. Trevor has even been likened to "Yoda", sharing his magnificent mastery of the true integration of osteopathy and Pilates and wellbeing services for the benefit of the patient, whilst upskilling his team with the many golden nuggets of his invaluable experience. Jo is beaver away challenging herself to use the new skills learnt from the Pranic healing level 1 and level 2 courses she has recently attended. Fitting in mentoring workshops, writing a chapter in a book and preparing to teach some education workshops with Trev along with juggling the kids, family life and St Margaret's church and choir commitments mean they are still as busy as they are grateful!

Lent this year sees Jo adding something in rather than going without! The aim is to add in the Twin Hearts meditation practice as a daily commitment to kickstart into a regular ongoing daily meditation and gratitude practice. Trev says he will be giving up his hair and his waistline!!!



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Our monthly FIISH service (Friends Involved In Sharing Hope) was created with young families in mind, but everyone is welcome to come and join us. The service is 9.30am on the second Sunday of most months (check the website as it does occasionally move). As always, the most recent service was busy, filled with children enjoying being in church (a far cry from when I was young where we were expected to be seen and not heard!). We were focusing on following Jesus and the children drew or wrote prayers in multi-coloured feet that we then stuck onto some lining paper. You might have seen it the church. The music that we have at FIISH is always lively and with many actions, it's worth coming to the service just to see Rob Pudney dancing...

Many of the families that come to FIISH are also involved in other children's activities like Crazy Christians and our Summer Club, which this year is Olympic themed. One of the best things about leading Summer Club for me is getting to dress up. Over the past few years, I've been Cleopatra, a Spy, a Princess and the Captain of a Spaceship!

Crazy Christians has been running for over 20 years and one of our ex-Crazies has a child that will be able to join soon. Over the years we have had many activities and raised money for charities but one of the best things for me is going to the annual Ifield Barn panto (oh yes it is) as the children get so excited.

Being part of the FIISH, Crazies and Summer Club teams has strengthened my faith as we think about ways to share our faith that young children will understand. It is also great fun and the planning meetings contain much merriment. I can't recommend being part of the team enough, and we are always looking for more people to join us. If you are interested in supporting the children's activities please speak to me or Naomi Gater.

*Vervan Nicholls*

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# Who goes to a church like this?

## Ellis Barton...

**How long have you been at St. Margaret's?** Over 15 years. Since I was one of the shortest people that went, now one of the tallest!

**When and where were you the happiest?** I'd say I'm at my happiest now. In a job I love, am dating a beautiful girl, and it's coming up to summer!!

**What is your greatest fear?** Spiders. Just not a fan of them AT ALL!

**What do you most value in your friends?** Loyalty. My friend group have all been friends ever since school so I'm happy we have stuck together.

**What is your guilty pleasure?** I may not look it, but I'm always snacking and eating. I like chocolate too much basically!

**What is your motto?** Latin one this one "Noli Cedere" which means "Never give up". It's also on my football team's badge so I can't claim I thought of it.

**What is your favourite song?** 'Every little thing she does is magic' by The Police. Makes me think of my girlfriend when I play it. She's helped me a lot in life too.

**Who are your real-life heroes?** My parents. They got me into church in the first place, as well as being with me through everything I've gone through in life. I aim to be able to pay their help back whenever I can.

**On what occasions do you lie?** To save someone else. If it's something that isn't too bad of course! If it helps my friends out I do sometimes. I have to pray for forgiveness on Sunday all the same though!

**What is your favourite quote?** 'You'll live!' That's one from my mother. Anything bad happens; 'You'll live' And I'm still alive so it must be true!

**If you could have one superpower, which would you choose?** I'm always told this is a bit lame; but I think I'd choose the power of knowing and speaking every language that exists. Worldwide translator!

**What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity?** Unsurprisingly I'm sure, but I'm a big football fan, playing and watching.

**If you had to work on only one project for the next year, what would it be?** Learning to drive. I've put it off FAR TOO LONG!

**If you were immortal for a day, what would you do?** Spend that day as a policeman AND firefighter. Or anything else that puts life at risk. Would be doing a lot of good and helping the people that needed it most.

**Have you ever had something happen to you that you thought was bad but it turned out to be for the best?** Being fired from my last job. I was panicking because I was worried where I'd be able to pay bills and rent from and then my dream job popped up a day later! And it's where I work now so God clearly had plans for me!

**What was the last movie, TV show or book that made you cry?** I cry at a LOT of things that are well written; happy or sad. I remember I cried at Toy Story!

**What's the hardest thing you've ever done?** Choosing to go into work full time instead of trying to go back into education. All of my friends are at uni so I was worried I'd lose them all, but I thought it was still the right thing to do.

**What was the last experience that made you a stronger person?** Again, at work. Every day I go in and see what people are able to do and what they HAVE to do, and I feel like learning from them makes me stronger as a person.

**What did you do growing up that got you into trouble?** I'd stay out playing all the time. To be honest that STILL hasn't stopped. I'm sorry Mum and Dad.

**What is something you learned recently?** Sign language. My road to learning many languages and one of the first isn't even spoken! It's great for my job though so it's great to know.

**Who is the most famous person you've met?** My mother thinks she's famous as she's a deputy head. And I know she's going to read this, so I'll say her. Hi Mum!

**Have you ever stolen anything?** I wasn't the best child... I haven't stolen anything RECENTLY, let's go with that!

**Have you given up or taken on anything for Lent?** Bit of both; I'm trying to be healthier overall. Giving up alcohol, for example, and having more fruit and veg based meals. I'm hoping it then sticks and I continue it after!

