

St. Margaret's Church News

Summer 2018



Ifield Street, Crawley, RH11 0NN

Simon says...



My daughter is about to finish her summer term at university and begin a marathon summer holiday – she's just got to get through her exams. I think she goes back to university sometime in September!

I envy her this break. That's not because of the three months or so she's going to have 'off work' and be away from responsibilities. It's because of the quality time she's going to be able to spend with friends. Her summer holiday will remind me of the ones I spent in the company of close friends doing all kinds of adventurous and wonderful things!

I sometimes ponder those friendships now. Some I lament – I thought that they would always be there but they are now nowhere to be seen. Some close ties came undone due to conflict.

The flame of friendship faded with others because our bond couldn't stretch the geographical distance between us.

Sometimes there's a sudden ending. Jesus knew that pain of disappearing friendship. Mark's Gospel gives a stark indictment about his band of brothers: 'Then everyone deserted him and fled'. They vanished into thin air.

Friends make us better. We drink deep from joy's well when laughter is shared. A fabulous experience is so much better when we can turn to a friend and say, 'Isn't this great?' Friends tell us what we don't know and, if their friendship is deep, they tell us what we really don't want to know. They shape us even as they disappoint, because there's no perfect fit in friendship, and to think otherwise is naive. Friendship comforts, but also confronts our selfishness. And friendship calls us to faithfulness, to hang in there and stick close – whether we feel like it or not.

With all this in mind how amazing it is to consider that Jesus says to us, 'I no longer call you servants... I call you friends.' This summer, like my daughter, take the time to enjoy friends – because a true friend is a treasure, and loneliness is literally punishing.

Simon Newham, Rector

St. Margaret's Sunday services

8:00am **Said Eucharist**
11:00am **Sung Eucharist**
9:30am (2nd Sunday) **FIISH** (for young families)
9:30am (4th Sunday) **ReFresh** (for all ages)



FLOWER FESTIVAL on the theme of CHRISTIAN HEROINES St. Margaret's Church 21st – 27th July

Opening with a Songs of Praise Service
on Saturday 21st July at 6.00 pm,
followed by sparkling wine & nibbles

We'd love more exhibitors. If you'd like to take part,
contact Sue King (01293 884404) or the Parish Office

From the Editor...

I was a summer baby. So was my Dad (who, if he hadn't died in 1980, would have been celebrating his 100th birthday around now). And so too, apparently, was Jesus (even older than my Dad!). Jesus was born in June but his birthday is officially celebrated in December for complicated reasons.

It's a funny time, summer time, especially if you're responsible for a quarterly church magazine. Spring, autumn and winter editions can easily be aligned to Easter, Harvest and Christmas themes. But the church doesn't really make much of summer.

At a recent ReFresh service, we were thinking about the bit in the Bible where it talks about light coming into the world. Normally, we think about Jesus being the light, but Jesus said to his followers, "You are the Light of the World". So that's a challenge to us. Our job is not, as some might think, to point out how dark everything is and make people feel bad about that. I think it's our job, just like Morecambe & Wise, to bring the sunshine.

You won't usually notice a blob of darkness in a room full of light; but a tiny light in a room full of darkness is unmissable. Anyone who can brighten up someone's day shouldn't underestimate the power of doing that. It's no surprise that most people prefer summer to winter. Light is powerful stuff. And there are many different types of light too. So if you want to bring some light into the world, you can do it in your own way. The world can use all the light we can bring, I reckon. Have a shiny summer.

Ian Edgson



Bridgeham Clinic News from Jo Strutt



Trevor and Jo got down to the bones of things with local businesses at the Manor Royal 'Know your Neighbour' event at the Crowne Plaza in May. It was a wonderful opportunity to speak to employers in the Manor Royal/County Oak area about what Bridgeham can offer. Give us a call if you would like to talk to us about how Bridgeham could benefit you with Pilates mat-based classes and machine sessions, osteopathy, massage, acupuncture and foot health.

The Bridgeham team was delighted to be asked to take part in the amazing Run Gatwick event too, which was being "run" for the first time in Crawley (excuse the pun)! Trevor, Jo, Steve, Gordon and Natalie were on hand to offer massage and treatments to runners. It was a great day.

Bridgeham is celebrating 25 years! From Smallfield to Crawley and all stops in between, Bridgeham has gone from strength to strength. To help us celebrate we would love to hear from you with any stories or photographs, old and new. Please send them by email to Pauline at pm@bridgeham.com, or drop them in to the clinic.

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

Martin Stone's Topsy Turvy Tales



We have a 92-year-old client who comes in to the salon every week. One day, while being shampooed, she called the receptionist over and gave her a tissue. The receptionist took it, rather gingerly, and put it in the bin.

When the client was leaving, she asked the receptionist for her hearing-aids.

"What hearing-aids?" asked the receptionist.

"They were in that tissue I gave you."

We had to empty the whole bin to find them!

Cut & Style	£10.00
Blow Dry/ Set	£5.00
Tint	£20.00
Perms	£20.00
Full Head Highlights	£35.00
Half Head Highlights	£25.00
Gents Cuts	£5.00

Models Required For Training School
(Monday & Tuesday only)
Call Topsy Turvy: (01293) 525500

A year in the life of the Mayfayre by Sue Gilbert

Phew, that's done for another year! Except it's only done 'til September when we start planning the next Mayfayre! A couple of jovial meetings chewing over the last Fayre, deciding what worked and what didn't, and hoping the winter ale will inspire new ideas for the next. We have immense support from The Plough, both financial and practical, not to mention copious quantities of chips to sustain us through our meetings.

January sees us getting to grips with entertainment bookings, craft-stall invitations, raffle-tickets and prizes, advertising posters, competition schedules and May Queen adverts. This is also when we start bombarding John the publican with questions about bouncy-slides and dancers...



February's meeting firms up some of the above. It's also time for printing competition schedules in readiness for distribution, especially to schools and cub/ beaver packs before the Easter holidays. Ah, yes, Easter! What a difference the timing of that makes.

You'd be surprised (or perhaps you wouldn't!) how many people avoid committing to Mayfayre until Easter's over. In years when Mayfayre follows hot on Easter's heels, it's stressful!

Meetings continue through March and April with a couple of Saturday mornings thrown in to check tents and gazebos for missing parts, and to tidy the Mayfayre shed, invariably an utter shambles after tents and equipment were chucked in after the last Fayre. This is also the time to source replacement tents, disposable cups, gaffer tape and rosettes, with the chairman's house swiftly filling with boxes and his wife striking up quite an acquaintance with the delivery man! The free space in their house reduces further after the trip to Costco with boxes of part baked rolls, canned drinks and bottled water. A couple of us make our annual pilgrimage to Bookers for roll fillings, lollipops (Lucky?) and sweets (prizes), braving the chilled room for vast tubs of spread for butter icing.

By mid-April, I'm wondering if some folk are avoiding me. Whilst I'm desperately trying to cover stall-manning, maybe they're wondering if the weather on May Day will be good enough to go to the coast?

The site-plan maestro goes into top gear during the second half of April attempting to shoehorn all the stalls in to everyone's satisfaction, a thankless task! And the brave climb into the trees to secure bunting while the less brave collect coconuts, from the grocers not the trees!

And so the Mayfayre weekend is upon us, starting Thursday, with the delivery of toilets and team radios, collecting the Bedford van, into which on Friday we lug maypole, coconut-shy, ice-cream freezers and tables from St Margaret's school. Saturday is for erecting the Marquee and mess-tent, washing tables and chairs, marking stall sites with spray-paint and banging in posts for the pony ride. Sunday morning is last minute food shopping, finishing touches to the May Queen float, cake icing, book and bric a brac collection; whilst the afternoon is a buzz of putting up tents and safety netting. From 7.30 on Monday morning we're busy putting up everything we didn't do the day before and managing vehicles on and off site - organised chaos! At least the committee (aka safety stewards) can communicate with one another thanks to the radios, providing we don't all talk at once of course!!



The event itself passes in a flash as we scurry from one task to another, managing each situation (and hopefully not crisis, although we did run out of ice cream this year!) as it arises. As the end draws near, we're all silently offering up a prayer for as many people as possible to stay on and help pack up, take down, put away. Wet May Days particularly test our endurance when helpers melt away and we struggle to find space to hang wet tents to dry. The day culminates in a fish and chip supper in the Barn, during which the Treasurer makes his initial pronouncement on the day's takings and we pat ourselves on the back for surviving another Mayfayre - for some, the 25th!

But we aren't done yet! Weary but fortified with coffee from the Barn, Tuesday is for returning all that we borrowed to school and, weather permitting, dismantling the marquee. So, with the van safely returned, all that remains is to thank all the lovely people who help and support us - it wouldn't happen without you!



✉ office@ifieldparish.org ☎ 01293 537578

www.stmargaretsifield.wordpress.com



Who goes to a church like this?

Rob Pudney...

How long have you been at St. Margaret's? 15 years

What word would your friends use to describe you? Slightly 'Mad', but in a nice way!

What trait do you most dislike in others? Selfishness and lack of respect for others

What do you most value in your friends? Honesty

What is your favourite food? Curry – particularly 'Chicken Madras'!

What's your favourite song? Dire Straits – 'Money for Nothing'

What is something you learned recently? Trust in God more and let him lead me

What is your greatest fear? Being separated from my lovely girls

What was the last movie, TV show or book that made you cry? Disney Pixar's CoCo

Who are your real-life heroes? Mum and Dad

Which talent do you most wish you had? Musician

What did you do growing up that got you into trouble? I rode my bicycle into a contractors van at home, and then climbed a tree and hid at the top until I heard the shouts from my Dad!

What is your guilty pleasure? A pint of Badgers, Greene King, Sharps, Wadworths, Theakstons... let's stop there!

Who is your favourite fictional hero? I used to pretend to be the Incredible Hulk when I was younger – my mum hated the number of ripped shirts!

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? Teleport between places to cut out travel time!

Have you ever had something happen to you that you thought was bad but it turned out to be for the best? I got demoted at work from Manager looking after 35 people, to not looking after anyone.

If you could have one superpower, which would you choose? Healing, to help as many people as possible

What's the hardest thing you've ever done? Move away from home to go to University

When and where were you the happiest? I love the Sea and a particular place called Trebarwith Strand in North Cornwall, where I have been going since I was 2 Years old!

What do you consider to be the most underrated virtue? Idealism

On what occasions do you lie? Try not to, but if you believe the lie is helping someone.....

What is your motto? Remember life is a balance and keep persevering

What is your favourite quote? "The Purpose of our lives is to be Happy" – Dalai Lama

What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity? Cooking Indoors and Swimming Outdoors (Lake or Sea!)

If you were immortal for a day, what would you do? Ride a motorcycle as fast as I could round the Isle of Man – as many times as I needed!

How would you like to spend eternity? Celebrating with all those who I have known and loved

Who did you have on your wall as a child? Well it was more motorcycles than people!

Who is the most famous person you've met? Royal Highness Duke of Kent when he visited my work place

What was the last experience that made you a stronger person? Going to May Camp after my Grandma's funeral

If you knew the world was ending, what would you do differently? Quit work and enjoy time with my family



Thanks to Paul Foster, Crawley
Astronomical Society, for this amazing
picture of the stars around St. Margaret's

