



The Buzz

December 2020



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly information for the Parish of Ifield

Thought for the Month



Advent: expectant waiting for Christmas

Christmas is a glorious season of the year. It is also a busy time for most of us, and it is very easy to let the hustle and bustle of planning for it obscure our appreciation of Advent; even this year when we are facing the possibility of a very different Advent and Christmas due to Covid-19.

Advent is a season of expectant waiting; but waiting is not something most of us do easily. Indeed, in our credit driven society we are urged by many advertisers to 'buy now - pay later'; we can have it all immediately so why do we need to wait? Waiting is increasingly a strange notion. We have become accustomed to immediacy and swift action.

Given all this, it seems ludicrous that the church should have Advent – four weeks dedicated to waiting. I suppose many people today would argue that Advent is irrelevant to our society, it's outdated and out of touch with the pace of people's lives. There were times when Advent truly was Advent; when Christmas trees weren't set up until Christmas Eve, when carols weren't sung until Christmas Eve and the following days, and not begun in November. When this was the norm then Advent could be properly Advent and Christmas, Christmas.

The anticipation, which looking forward to Christmas brings, has encouraged us to 'anticipate' Christmas in another sense, not as 'looking forward to' but of 'bringing it forward and beginning the celebrations early'. This is certainly true of many of our shops where it seems that we are no sooner back from summer holidays than we are entangled in yards of tinsel, baubles, wrapping paper and ribbon!

But the joy of learning to wait is to rediscover the pleasure of being fully and joyfully present in the now. After a month of waiting, truly waiting, the joy of Christmas Day can gain a new depth and meaning, which might otherwise be lost in the whirl of mince pies and presents.

Viewed like this, Advent is not irrelevant, or a cultural dinosaur, but vital to human well-being. Advent offers us the time to delve into a deeper truer encounter with ourselves, the world and most of all with God. The Advent season offers a space to progress towards Christmas and anticipate the joy of celebrating the light of Christ coming into the world. Perhaps this year, like none we have experienced for some time, we need the time to pause and wait patiently for Christmas.

Our anticipation of Christmas should be a reflection of the love and selflessness taught by Jesus. Giving, not getting, brings to full bloom the Christmas spirit. We feel kindlier towards one another. We reach out in love to help those less fortunate. Our hearts are softened. Enemies are forgiven, friends remembered, and God obeyed. The spirit of Christmas illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than in things.

As the Advent season envelops us in all its procession towards Christmas, I pray that like the Wise Men, we may seek a bright, particular star to guide us in our celebration of Jesus's birth. May we all make the journey to Bethlehem in spirit, taking with us a tender, caring heart towards others as our gift of love to God.

With every good wish for a very blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmastide

Revd Christine

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

At the time of writing, we are still in lockdown, so our Advent Sunday services will be recorded and available via the parish website (see below). From 6th December onwards we plan to revert to holding services in church on Sundays at 11.00 am. These will be recorded and posted on-line as soon as practical.

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

On-line services will be as follows:

2 nd Sunday	FIISH for young families
4 th 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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

(subject to change – please check via the parish website or Parish Office)

Sunday 29 th November	11.00 am	Holy Communion (said) *
	6.00 pm	Advent Carol Service *
Sunday 6 th December	11.00 am	Toy Service Plus
Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Family Holy Communion (said)

*These services will be on-line only

Please Note: Tickets will be required for all services in church – please see the website or contact the Parish Office



TOY SERVICE PLUS SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

St. Margaret's Church will be collecting toys,
vouchers, and toiletries on behalf of
Family Support Work.

Please bring your contributions to St. Margaret's church, on Sunday 6th December* or
during the preceding week between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm.

Message from Family Support Work...

We can accept any new toys but please encourage people NOT to wrap them. We especially need toys for the over 5s, and toys includes things like games, jigsaws, colouring books and pens and of course books. For teenagers gift vouchers are good. Unfortunately we are unable to accept soft toys this year.

Finally we would like presents for mum and dad too, bearing in mind that for some of our families not only have the parents had to support their children through this difficult year but also they may well have seen a big drop in income and that will mean any spending on presents will focus on the children and that mum and dad may well be doing without.

** Service details will be advised on the church website.*



Please Note

If you would prefer to give a cash or cheque donation, FSW envelopes will be available.



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 / 01293 537578



ADVENT WINDOWS

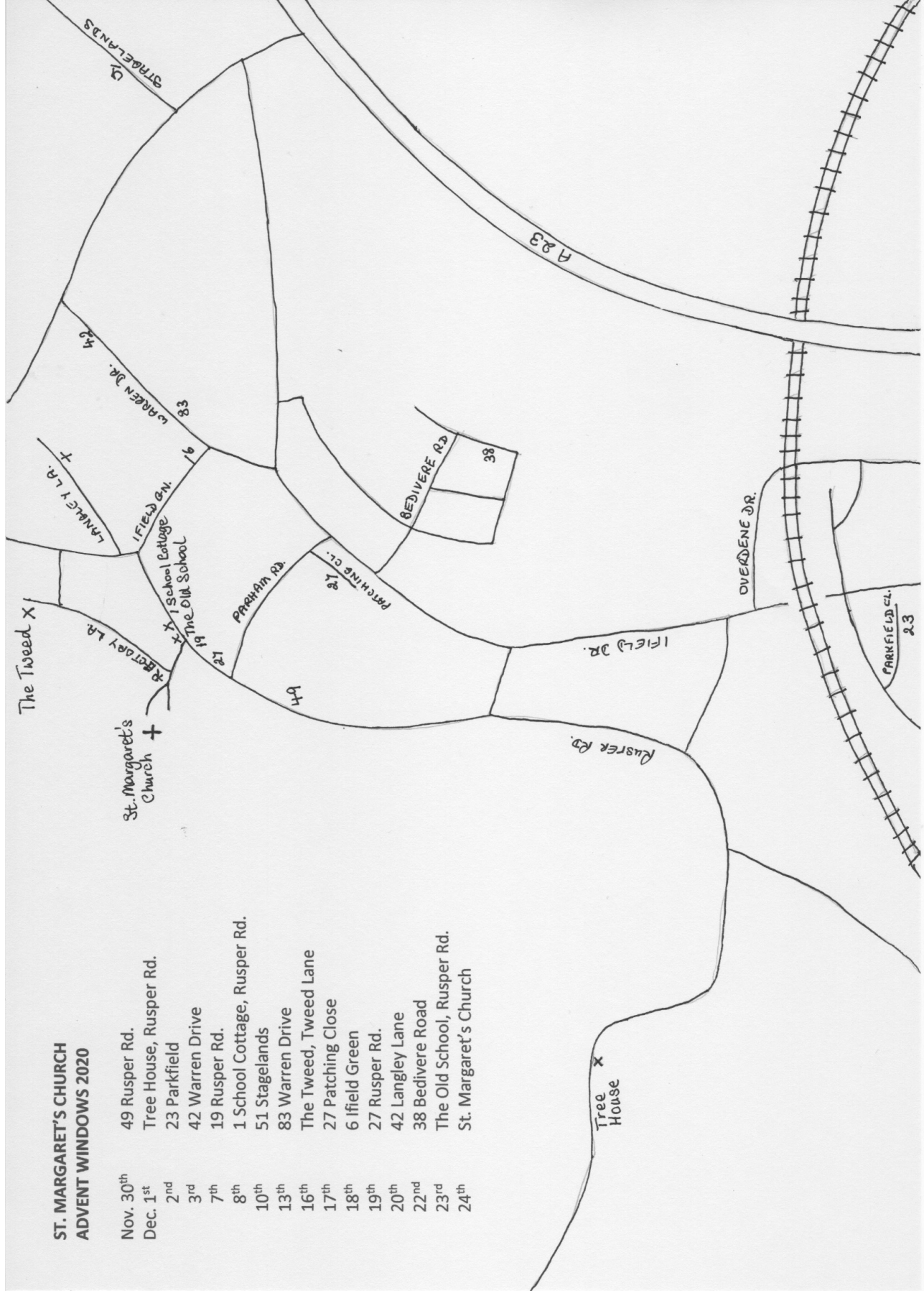


Our first Advent Window will be unveiled on Monday 30th November. Throughout Advent, different windows can be seen in homes around the parish, each on the theme of a Christmas carol. You can choose either to visit the windows as they are unveiled, observing social distancing, or wait until they are all in place before following the trail. How many different carols can you identify?

The final revelation will happen outside St. Margaret's Church at 3.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Please see the map below for details.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH ADVENT WINDOWS 2020

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Nov. 30 th | 49 Rusper Rd. |
| Dec. 1 st | Tree House, Rusper Rd. |
| 2 nd | 23 Parkfield |
| 3 rd | 42 Warren Drive |
| 7 th | 19 Rusper Rd. |
| 8 th | 1 School Cottage, Rusper Rd. |
| 10 th | 51 Stagelands |
| 13 th | 83 Warren Drive |
| 16 th | The Tweed, Tweed Lane |
| 17 th | 27 Patching Close |
| 18 th | 6 Ifield Green |
| 19 th | 27 Rusper Rd. |
| 20 th | 42 Langley Lane |
| 22 nd | 38 Beddivere Road |
| 23 rd | The Old School, Rusper Rd. |
| 24 th | St. Margaret's Church |



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

Please send any information/photos for publication on the website to
Carl Peirce 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

PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATES FOR THE DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE TO JILL BELL
reader@ifieldparish.org by 21ST DECEMBER