



# THE BULLETIN

keeping you informed and up to date with activities and developments  
at St Margaret's Church, Leigh on Sea.

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

Vol 2 No 12

December

## Church Services

**2nd - Advent Sunday**

8 am & 10 am

Invited preachers every Sunday in Advent. See poster on page 6

**23rd** - 4pm Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

**24th** - Christingle & Living Nativity 1600

Midnight Mass 2330 - 0030

**25th** - 10 am Christmas Day  
Combined Sung Mass



Mothers' Union Christmas meditation - **December 12th.**  
28 St David's Drive. 8 pm. If you are interested in joining Mothers' Union please contact Sheila 554044 or Angela 477126.



## OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Our next meeting will be on Wed 5th December at S. Margaret's 7.30pm for Mass. It is informal and very friendly. Everyone is invited, whether or not a member. If you require any further information, please contact me by telephone (01702 216401) or by email [churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org](mailto:churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org)  
Peter Fisher

## Communitea

Communitea is a tea party held on the **first Sunday of the month** in the lower Church Hall between 4:30pm and 6:00pm. All are welcome – no charge. If you would like to join us, you don't have to book – just turn up and we will be pleased to see you.

If you know anyone who might also like to come, please invite them. They do not have to attend St Margaret's, just be someone who lives locally and who would welcome the company and the tea. If you have any questions please contact Angela or Michael Bridge on 01702 477126



## Significant Days

**2nd** - Advent Sunday

**6th** - St Nicholas

**13th** - St Lucy

**25th** - Christmas Day

**26th** - St Stephen,  
the first martyr

**29th** - Thomas a Becket  
Bishop & Martyr

**30th** - Holy Family



Parish Priest: The Revd Fr. David Wylie RN

07768 687 605

[vicar@saintmargaretsleigh.org](mailto:vicar@saintmargaretsleigh.org)



This month we are collecting donations of **Canned Stews and Casseroles Tinned Milk Puddings tinned sponge puddings and Long Life Milk.** I am told this milk is what they run out of most of all. When you are buying Christmas presents would you consider buying just **one extra** pair of socks or woolly hat, scarf or gloves to donate to the homeless of Southend? All donations should be clean and can be left in a box in the entrance hall for delivery by Peter Maddox. **Thank you**

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**In Memoriam**

You may not be aware of this, but many of the items used in church are donations from families in memory of a loved one.

In November two items were donated and blessed for use in church.

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Church wardens: Anne Mills 07747618926  
Peter Fisher 07815 686316

At our All Souls Service a new **lavabo** was blessed having been donated in memory of **Reg Smith.** This will be used in the Blessed Sacrament chapel.



The following Sunday a **thurible stand**, donated by the family of **Vikki Francis**, was blessed for use in church.



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**Just a reminder**

Instead of sending cards to members of the congregation, why not let me have a copy of your Christmas wishes for everyone and I will produce a special Christmas edition of Bulletin containing just these wishes. Then you can make a donation directly to your chosen charity. If you wish to specify your charity please feel free to do so.

Contributions are limited to 25 words and should be with me by email or by leaving a note in the

churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org  
churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org

letter rack, (S for Southward or B for Bulletin) by **December 16th** or by email

**bulletin@saintmargaretsleigh.org**

If you still wish to send cards then please continue to do so, this is only a suggestion for an alternative.



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### **A Reverse Advent Calendar**

Instead of eating chocolate or tasting gin every day from 1st December to Christmas Eve, why not try the **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Get an empty cardboard box and each day place something inside that



would be of benefit to a homeless person. It could be as small as a comb, a bar of soap, or a toothbrush, or something larger such as a pack of chocolate bars or biscuits, or a tin of soup. Maybe a pair of warm socks, gloves or a scarf or hat.....the list

and ideas are endless - but something that might make a difference to a person living on the streets of our town. Then after Christmas bring it to the back of church for taking to **HARP**.

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### **From Bishop Stephen**



Most of us avoid disruption if we can. We go to great lengths to avoid the M25, M11, A12 and A13 at the merest whiff of disruption, delay or diversion. We give trouble a wide berth. We are unlikely to give shelter - even in the garage - to a pregnant teenager with nowhere to stay. But during Advent, stress is still etched onto our faces as we scurry around Lakeside, Westfield, Chelmsford or Colchester, queueing for cards and piling up presents, buying things that people don't necessarily want at prices we can't really afford. It makes the carefree summer of 2018 and its scorching heatwave seem like a distant dream. Yet Christmas is supposed to be disruptive. God needed to cause unprecedented disruption to the world. He had to generously transform his relationship with us by opening himself up to the reality of the dangers faced by a vulnerable

baby and then as a provocative young man. This was the only way to change us. The lives of Mary and Joseph were certainly turned upside down. From that Christmas morning onwards, the lives of billions of others have been shaken and transformed. This Christmas, I look forward to all the joy and laughter that go with family gatherings and the usual trappings of a traditional Christmas. And I also look forward to finding peace and stillness with God. But I am increasingly aware that I probably need something else as well. I need the disruption of Christmas. I need the surprise. I need the challenge. And so does the world. So I will also be looking for the signs of the glorious disruption that Jesus continues to bring to our world and pray that you encounter that true spirit of Christmas too.

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### **Congratulations**

To four children in our congregation on receiving their First Communion on 4th November.

Also congratulations to all those who were confirmed, in our church, by The Bishop of Richborough on 14th November.

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### **Church Cleaning.**

There is a small band of people who turn out on the second Saturday of each month to keep our church clean and sparkling. Due to family and other commitments not all can attend every month and it usually means that the cleaning of the whole church is done by 4 or 5 people. This band of people is becoming extremely fed up with having to do everything and the continued lack of support from other members of the congregation.

Surely it is not too much to ask people to give up some time once a month on a Saturday morning to help with the cleaning?

You can either turn up and help with general cleaning or you can be given a small specific job, which will be your responsibility. You do not have to stay for any longer than your job takes or the time you can spare.

Some of us attend 9.00 mass first, which is encouraged but not compulsory. Cleaning is any time from 9.30 until 11.30 for as long as you can spare, and refreshments are always provided.

Please speak to the church wardens if you are willing to help in any way.

The next 'Sparkle' will be on **Saturday 8th December**

## ***Celebrating our Centenary***

The Parish of St.Margaret of Antioch Leigh-on-Sea was begun in 1919 after the Great War. This time saw a huge expansion in residential building in West Leigh to house a growing and changed community both local and from London. The Church building was not completed until 1931 and is a replica of the earliest Christian churches when Christians were first allowed to worship openly in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century after 3 centuries of persecution in the Roman Empire.

As we are celebrating the foundation of the parish, rather than the building, our year of commemoration rightly centres on people rather than things. The parish extends from Marine Parade to Belfair's Park and from Leigh Cemetery to Hadleigh Farm. As with any Church of England parish we are here to serve all residents of the parish and all who work and pass through not only those who are congregants. We are blessed with four wonderful and diverse schools; West Leigh Junior and Infant, St .Michael's Church of England Preparatory School and Belfair's Academy. Additionally, we have many interesting local businesses, clubs and residential homes. These all form part of our parish. Belfair's Academy is the single largest organisation within the parish and we thought it would be an interesting idea to encourage the students to engage with this diversity and history and helps us artistically to develop a logo that encapsulates this diversity and celebrate our mission of the past and future to all within the parish.

Young minds can be wonderfully creative and the winning idea shows people (the church) embracing a circle

**Church wardens:** Anne Mills 07747618926  
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expressing common purpose and togetherness in community, combined with the church season colours of gold green purple and red flowing like waves in and out of the gathered centre. This simple combination expresses Jesus's outward sacrificial love and caring mission in the world sharing all the joys, growth, problems, and challenges that we as people in West Leigh and as members of a far wider world, encounter in life.

***Out of the minds of babes and children comes the Wisdom of God.***

***Fr.David Wylie RN  
Vicar St.Margaret's Leigh  
November 2018***

## ***Design a Logo***



The joint winners of the 'Design a Logo' competition at Belfair's Academy were **Bunnii Wheatley** and **Grace Davidson O'Neil** pictured here with Fr David and Janine Lilleker Head of Art at Belfair's. The logo will be used by St Margaret's for our Centenary Year 2019 and was officially unveiled at 10am Mass on Sunday 25th.

churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org  
churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org

# Advent

waiting on God's  
promise

*Lay service in the  
Church.*

Preachers at  
10 am Mass



Advent Sunday  
2nd December  
Noah Cockett

(Care worker and Ordinand)



Advent 2  
9<sup>th</sup> December  
Margaret Henning  
(Licensed lay minister  
Parish of Southend)



Advent 3  
16<sup>th</sup> December  
Colin Burwell  
(Licensed lay minister  
Parish of St.Clements Leigh)



Advent 4  
23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Stephen Tompkins  
(Headteacher  
St.Michael's School)

# Christmas

fulfilment of God's  
Promise

**Community Christmas  
Singing with Carols.  
23<sup>rd</sup> December 1800-1900  
*outdoor around a bonfire  
on London Road.  
Followed by procession,  
blessing,  
mulled wine and  
mince pies in Church.***

## **Christmas Eve**

**Christingle &  
Living Nativity 1600**



Children come dressed as a  
Shepherd, an Angel or a King



**Midnight Mass 1130 - 0030**

