

**Church of St Margaret of Antioch
Lime Avenue, Leigh on Sea SS9 3PA**

Bulletin

Winter 2020



www.saintmargaretsleigh.org



St.Margarets Quarterly No.2

For friends, parishioners and congregants.

Dear Friends ,

I hope you enjoy the second of our quarterly bulletins on life in and around the parish of St.Margaret's. As it develops we hope that you may feel able and willing to contribute. One of the delightful things of our centenary year and celebrations was how life in the parish had impacted and continued in the affections of folk around the world who had moved onto to other places and lives. I hope in the coming editions some of those folk will share something of their diverse and fascinating journeys. One of those folk is of course our diocesan bishop Stephen Cottrell and we wish him well this coming summer as he is translated to become Archbishop of York. Bishop Stephen visited the parish 4 times in our centenary year – I suspect it may be post York and post retirement before we see him again.

November was a very full month with All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance services and events within the church, our schools and elsewhere. A particular highlight was the blessing and dedication of a new life-size statue of a young WW1 soldier in front of Southend's Cenotaph War Memorial and designed by local sculptor, Dave Taylor. The intimacy and realism contrasts so well with the grandeur of Lutyens cenotaph and is well worth a visit.

We also concluded in November our first communion and confirmation classes for adults and children. We had 7 candidates for the confirmation who were joined by candidates from 2 neighbouring parishes some of whom had joined me in the preparation course. On the night sadly the Bishop of Richborough was very delayed by a terrible accident on the motorway and so under his instruction and a tad self-consciously, I celebrated the entire liturgy and admitted the candidates to communion leaving the bishop to arrive mid party when he then conducted the rite of initiation and anointing. Very Acts of the Apostles! One of our centenary year initiatives has been our last Sunday supper mass and informal pizza pasta evening and most of our candidates are regular supporters of this.

December was obviously a full time with advent and Christmas services and events (I think 23 carol services school masses and Christingles – not that I was counting). One thing we didn't organise was the beautiful healing service at St.David's Eastwood which began Advent with peace space and calm. Our own nativity and Christingle is reported on below but also of note were our hosting of the Mayor and council for the civic service and also the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Cadets and our own

carol service around the bonfire on the London road seems to be growing. Additionally the Little Acorns Nursery nativity was really packed this year and a great joy



Practice makes perfect – even for “Herod” Bridge and his minions

The remembrance chapel is reported on elsewhere and we are very grateful to benefactors, workers and those for whom they did it. The tapestry, book and desk are a fitting place to pray for and remember our departed loved ones juxtaposed as it is with the baptistery for we are “baptised into Christs death that we may come to share in his resurrection”. As a point of interest the library will be relocated into the lobby and narthex in due course making it a natural place of enquiry, information and welcome to the church and faith and hopefully more open than hitherto when the inner church is locked.

We continue our involvement with our four schools on a regular weekly basis and of particular note has been the first term of our new head of St. Michael's – the appointment process was a huge effort but in James Mobbs I think we have a fresh and dedicated servant to the school and community and I hope you enjoy his small introduction article.



The vicar and head take time out of school panto to discuss worship policy.

I wish you well wherever you are and remember the Parish in your prayers this coming few months. Key themes will be mission, resources and stewardship, and watering some of the seeds of our centenary year past. Every blessing and keep in touch.

Fr.David. January 2020.

Social Activities

Communitia: First Sunday of each month

16.30 in church hall

This is an afternoon tea for anyone who would like to come. In particular those on their own, who find Sunday afternoons are a time when company is welcome

See website or Weekly leaflet for dates

One Stop Coffee Shop:

Every Tuesday during School Terms.

09.00 in church hall



Edward Bear Club:

For pre-school children and their carers

09.15—11.15 Wednesdays

During term time.

Church Sparkle:

Second Saturday of each month

09.30 with refreshments



Church Services

Regular worship at St Margaret's Church

Sunday 08:00-08:30 Said Mass
10:00-11:15 Sung Mass with Sunday School
Last Sunday only 17:30-18:15 Last Sunday Young People's
Supper Mass followed by pizza & pasta
18:00-18:30 Evening Worship (Advent & Lent)

Tuesday [09:15 St. David's Eastwood]

Wednesday [09:00 St James the Great, Leigh Coffee Mass]
19:30 Said Mass

Thursday 09:30 Said Mass followed by coffee
(2nd Thursday in Lent & Advent includes healing)

Friday 09:00 Said Mass

Saturday 09:00 Said Mass
(Open Church til 12:00 for enquiries)



Church Services

- February** Sunday 2nd - Candlemas
Wednesday 26th - Ash Wednesday
19:30 Sung Mass with Ashing
- March** 22nd Sunday - Mothering Sunday
Combined 10:00 Mass with uniformed organisations, children and presentation of flowers.
- April** 5th Sunday - Palm Sunday
09:45 Palm Procession and Sung Mass
6th Monday 19:30-20:30 Stations of the Cross
7th & 8th 19:30 - 20:00 Said Mass with Address
- Maundy Thursday** 19:30 Parish Sing Mass with Foot washing & procession to the 'Garden of Gethsemane'
21:00 - 00:00 Vigil Watch
- Good Friday** 10.30 - 11:10 Stations of the Cross - all ages
13:30 - 15:00 The Liturgy of The Lord's Death
- Holy Saturday** 08:00 Morning Prayer 09:00 Preparation of the church for Easter 18:00 Evening Prayer
- Easter Day** 05:30 The Dawn Vigil Mass
Parish Breakfast
10:00 Combined Sung Easter Mass





Church Activities

Mothers' Union

If you are interested in joining MU,
contact Sheila Moore 554044 or Angela Bridge 477126
For details of meetings see website or weekly leaflet.

Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

For information, contact Peter Fisher.
Contact details on back page or see the website

Children and Young People

Cross & Dragons: (Sunday School)

cross&dragons@saintmargaretsleigh.org

Half Term Youth Club:

Thursday of each half term 16:00—18:00

For more information or to register
email : holidayclub@saintmargaretsleigh.org
or ring **07768 502 725**

Last Sunday Supper Mass

Last Sunday of each month 17:30—18:15
followed by pizza/pasta

Helping People Who Are Homeless

It is not always easy to know what to do and how we should feel when seeing someone sitting apparently homeless on our local streets. Many of us find it too difficult and possibly embarrassing to engage with them for whatever reason and there should be no shame in this especially if we support such as Serving The Homeless or HARP.

If you do have the confidence then one thing homeless people often say is of their gratitude when people stop and talk to them. Just to be noticed and treated with a degree of dignity and respect can mean an awful lot. Every homeless person has their story to tell and many are at very least interesting.

When engaging with a person who appears to be homeless we should be just be aware that there are those who purport to be homeless but are in fact beggars. This does put some people off from making that initial approach so the advice would be to proceed with a degree of caution but with sincerity. Under no circumstances would the advice be to give them money. By all means offer a drink or food and even enquire if they have enough clothing. Please ask them if they are aware of HARP but be prepared that many will say they do and that HARP cannot help. This is not true and is often a sign that they are not actually homeless or that they have been offered help by HARP on a few occasions but have continued to break the rules of taking drink or drugs whilst in the accommodation offered.

HARP has a huge success rate in turning people's lives around and of helping break with their addictions. They have an Outreach team who will come out at night and who will explain the services on offer and provide a helping hand. So, if you do see someone who is homeless and you have the confidence, engage with them, offer to buy a drink, sandwich or food and if possible find out their name, where they are sleeping and any other information that will help identify them and the location in which they are living. Many homeless people have a pay as you go phone so if you can get the number that is a huge help. Next go onto the internet or get someone else to, and visit www.streetlink.org. You will need to provide your e mail address set up a password and provide details of the location, name of the homeless person and any other information that will be helpful for someone who comes out trying to find them. You will receive an immediate acknowledgement and a follow up notification within a couple of days as to what the Outreach team have been able to do. Streetlink is a nationwide service who will automatically refer any local reports and sightings to HARP who will follow up as quickly as possible. Many people who come to HARP will tell you that had it not been for them then they do not know what would have happened to them and that they would probably have died.

Please help if you can and if you are not brave enough try and find someone who is. You might even save a life. Thank you.

Where are they now?

Eloise Judd



In July 2019 I graduated from Durham University with a degree in Geography. The three years that I spent in Durham have left me with unforgettable memories, lifelong friends, and a true passion for my research area. I specialised in Political Geography with a particular interest in conflict studies.

While in Durham I also volunteered to support local refugees, predominantly from Syria and Yemen, who wished to improve their English skills or simply wanted a chat over coffee and cake.

Having completed my undergraduate course, I applied for a Masters course in 'Conflict, Security and Development' at King's College London. To my delight I was accepted and also offered a scholarship to study in the War Studies department. I am really enjoying my course, although the hard work is really just starting!

I aspire to pursue a career in conflict and peacekeeping after completing my degree course, with a long term ambition to work at the United Nations. With a little bit of hard work, I hope to make this dream a reality!

MOTHERS UNION and friends



Here is a picture of the bags of rubbish we managed to collect around the church and the very local area. Horrifying isn't it!

As collectors we were all really pleased with the results of our efforts, thinking before we started that there wouldn't be much to show for our efforts. How wrong we were!

We had litter pickers, gloves and hi vis tops, supplied by Karen, the nice lady from the council who joined with us in the collecting. The bags were later taken away by Veolia and the participants received Sparkle Southend bags and drinking bottles by way of a thank you.

We all agreed we would do it again and as soon as the weather warms we will organise another go at it. I will publicise when and hopefully some more of the congregation will join us.
Sheila Moore 01702 554044.

New Head at St Michael's School

James Mobbs



Having had a previous connection with the area as a former chorister at (St. Mary the Virgin, St. Peter and St. Cedd or just...) Chelmsford Cathedral and a pupil at Ingatestone Anglo-European School, returning to Essex as Headmaster of St. Michael's School has felt a little like coming home. Previously, I was Deputy Headmaster and Head of Music at St. Christopher's

the Hall in Beckenham although our family home is in West Ewell. As a family, currently we attend our local church, All Saints, where I occasionally play hymns for services and my wife, Fiona bakes for and runs the church Honeycomb Communita Café. We have four children; our eldest is training to be a teacher, after her, a pilot, a soon to be paramedic and our youngest has started at Belfairs Academy. I am hugely proud of being chosen to be the Headmaster of St. Michael's and my feet are nearly under the table having completed my first term. Highlights have been seeing the smiling faces of the children coming into School, working with a dedicated staff, attending the St. Michael's day celebrations, hearing our choir

sing at St. Margaret's Remembrance service, meeting Bishop Stephen on his walk around the diocese and all of the wonderful Christmas celebrations.

I am greatly looking forward to the new Drama studio and Living Library that we have in hand at School and plans are already in place to mark our Centenary which will start in September 2022, just a couple of years after St. Margaret's celebration. As Vice Chair of Governors, Father David is often to be seen at School, taking assemblies and services (not mentioning his starring appearance in our end of term panto) and it is good to have a strong link with our local church as a Church of England School and developing links with the community is a priority on which I intend to focus .



A list of requirements for HARP donations can be found in the church hall and in the church entrance porch. Please leave all donations in the box provided for delivery .

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2019

Bob Southward

Early in 2018, a recently arrived Fr David outlined to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) his vision for St Margaret's to celebrate the centenary of the cessation of hostilities in the First World War on 11th November 2018. We listened to his plans which were far beyond anything that we'd attempted in the past - and internally quietly shook our heads with the thoughts "it will never happen". But it did and those of us present on Sunday 11th November 2018, witnessed a packed St Margaret's with representatives from local schools, organisations and the Armed Forces. It was truly memorable.

When it came to planning our service of Remembrance for 2019, I'd naively assumed that we would resume our somewhat half-hearted efforts of previous years. But no - Fr David insisted that we would give equally importance to our Remembrance Service in 2019 and not be like many organisations that held a service just because it was the Centenary. If I may paraphrase a well known saying, "Remembrance is for Life - not just for Centenaries". This year, we planned with more enthusiasm, certain in the knowledge that it would be supported once again by local schools and organisations.

On Sunday 10th November 2019, I joined an 80% full St Margaret's for our Service of Remembrance confident that all would run smoothly and be well organised. Fr David had again involved St Michael's School whose choir sang exceptionally. He also involved the youth of our congregation with readings by Thom Bridge, Elizabeth Pirie and George Parnell.

Poppy wreaths were laid by members of our Uniformed Organisations and ribbons draped across them.



The Service was much enhanced by the St Margaret's Music Group who accompanied to a high level throughout the service. Once again our thanks go to our Music Master, David Stowe, for the time taken in arranging the scores for our young musicians.

Fr David's sermon will also remain in my mind for many years to come. He explained why it was necessary to counter extreme villainy with force and how it was vital in times of war to retain a sense of humour and to have fun. Strange words when just written down, but now fully understood by all in the congregation. Those who served in conflict, whether they returned home or not, would be pleased that their actions made us (and our children and grandchildren) safe and that we were having fun.

There is a growing trend in Churches to record the weekly sermon and to make it available on their websites. It is not a trend to which I subscribe ... but I do wish I had a recording of these wonderful words.

Thank you Fr David for once again giving us a memorable service, for making us understand why force is sometimes necessary, for resolving the contradictions of war and fun and for involving the local communities. I look forward to November 8th 2020 when St Margaret's Church will host once again a large congregation to remember those who we have lost over the years in conflicts around the world and over many years.

Remembrance Sunday (2)

Barbara Southward

At 7.30 am on Remembrance Sunday I was on the train to London accompanying our son Paul, who was to march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Paul works for Transport For London and as a member of the Army Reserve he was invited to join the London Transport Old Comrades' Association.

In the First World War buses were taken to France to transport the soldiers to the front lines. Many London Bus Drivers and Operators volunteered and signed up to go to France to drive the buses and to keep them running.

There were many casualties and on their return George V wrote a letter to the London Omnibus Company authorising them to march past the Cenotaph at the Remembrance Parade, in recognition of their bravery. The letter is on display at the London Transport Museum and was used recently to secure their position in marching past the Cenotaph.

Paul and I arrived at 55 Broadway, a beautiful art deco building attached to St James' underground station (which has been sadly been sold) and I was sent for a breakfast of the biggest bacon roll I have ever seen, while Paul was elsewhere receiving instructions. I was befriended by a lovely lady called Helen who had been in the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps. She told me to stick close to her as she knew all the best places to stand for good views.

We all assembled outside to see the men form up and march off. They were all wearing their London Transport Uniforms. I followed Helen down to the main road alongside St James' Park. From here we watched various bands and units of soldiers, sailors and airmen marching to join up at the Cenotaph.

When they had all passed we were invited to return to 5th floor, 55 Broadway to watch the service on a big screen. However, Helen told me to stay in my place and to wait. After a short while I saw blue flashing lights in the distance. She told me that this was the Royal Family being driven into Whitehall. I decided not to try to take photographs but to enjoy the moment. We saw all the members of the Royal family as they drove by and last of all, almost too tiny to be seen, was the Queen herself.

Quite uncharacteristically, I waved furiously as she went by and she waved back. The little Italian girl standing to my left was ecstatic at having seen 'The Queen of England' and her father was equally delighted to have captured a superb photograph of her Majesty.

We returned to 55 Broadway, to a tiny room near the station where there is a memorial with boards carrying the names of First World War London Transport dead and a book containing Second World War names. It was here that we stood for the two minutes silence and a wreath was laid .

After their return and a debrief the marchers joined us for a hearty lunch. I spoke to veterans of WW2 now too old to march, who had also been part of the London Transport Corps in conflict. It was a sobering experience talking to them and we owe them all a great deal.



It was a privilege to be so close to the Cenotaph and the National Remembrance, to see our Queen and to learn about the many unknown and unsung heroes that fought for our freedom in different ways.

Memorial Corner

By The Philips Family

Following the passing of Colin Philips in November 2017, his family decided that they wished to commemorate his lifetime of worship at St. Margaret's Church with a lasting memorial to him.

Colin was born on 18th May 1936 and made his first visit to the Church on Sunday 19th July 1936 when he was baptised by Father Hilditch. He recalled fondly his early memories of his time at the church including being a boat boy at services during the Second World War when he and his lifelong friend John Bridge took it turns to take this role.

On 26th March 1950 he was confirmed at the church by the Bishop of Barking, again with friend John Bridge, and his first communion was on Easter Day 9th April 1950. He became a Server at the church until he undertook his National Service in Hong Kong, where he was based for 15 months, and continued serving on his return.

On his return from Hong Kong he became part of a thriving AY-PA (Anglican Young Peoples Association) which met on Monday evenings, where he met Julia Pearson. Julia had moved to Leigh with her family and came to St. Margaret's, where she was invited to join the group. This was the start of a lifetime partnership, and they were married at the church on 17th April 1965 by Father Bundock. Colin loved children and was happy when each of his children were born; all of whom were baptised and confirmed at the Church.

Colin's last visit to St. Margaret's was on 19th December 2017 for his funeral service taken by Father David Wylie.

It was the wish of the family to give a gift to the church in memory of Colin's lifetime of worship here and to thank Father David for the support he gave to them at the end of Colin's life that the idea for the Memorial Desk and Remembrance Book began, and has been gifted to the church to celebrate and remember the lives of the congregation at St. Margaret's.



The Remembrance Tapestry

Barbara Southward

Last year when the Remembrance Corner was in the planning stage, Fr David asked me if I could possibly make a 'hanging' for the wall using redundant kneelers. I blithely said 'Yes of course' not thinking for one moment of the work involved and the problems I would encounter. Fortunately I like a challenge.

Work started after the Centenary celebrations were over. One Saturday Bob and I ventured up to the choir gallery to discover huge piles of old redundant dirty kneelers. There we found enough predominantly red kneelers to form the cross in the centre.

Each kneeler was taken apart, something that had to be done outside because of the grit and dirt that came out of them. After washing, drying and pressing, all the edges were overlocked to prevent further fraying,

The cross was laid out on the lawn and the positions of the tapestries decided; then after numbering each one they were sewn together. The quality and age of the kneelers varied considerably. Some were sumptuous and others were almost thread bare, which caused a few problems. Next the pale blue kneelers were chosen and processed as above to fill in the spaces of the cross and finally dark blue ones for the border.

The whole took almost three months to complete, with the hanging getting heavier and heavier with each addition.

When each tapestry is taken off the kneeler it is not rectangular and so the corner joins looked very unsightly. I decided to cut discs from more kneelers to cover them and these were all sewn on by hand.

By now the hanging was weighing over 16 pounds and was difficult to manoeuvre. I lined it with extra wide calico, and the tabs, made from strong canvas, were added at the top. Finally a pole for hanging it on was fixed to the wall in church.

Despite the challenges, the blood, sweat and many tears of frustration, not least of all when my overlocking machine had to be sent away for repair, it has been a labour of love and I have really enjoyed making it (but don't tell Fr D please he may have other 'good' ideas)



Over 100 kneelers have been 'repurposed' in making this tapestry and each has been rescued from obscurity to live again. Only one kneeler had the name of the person to whom it was dedicated, and that name is stitched on the back of the hanging, behind his tapestry.

Christingle and Living Nativity

by Michelle Burden

Nativity 2019 We all know the story of the Nativity which is traditionally retold in our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, but come October half-term there was real concern that it would not happen again this year - we had no cast, no “backstage” crew and how on earth could we top the appearance of a real life donkey? Under Lynda Bartholomew's leadership a great team of people united, with excellent communication and teamwork, in true theatrical style “it was alright on the night”. Brilliant to see the Church bursting at the seams - standing room only. Minor changes to the script, Carols and a revamp of accompanying music not only modernised the production but made it more appealing to our younger audience. In addition, we used our very own young adults talents behind the scenes and under Daphne’s watchful eye, in the narration of the production - what an outstanding job they all did. A fantastic atmosphere from start to finish, where all age groups came together to tell the story of Christ’s birth, the real reason for the season,



showing our wider community that the Church is multigenerational. How on earth Herod remained on that Sedan chair I don’t know and I have to mention the undeniable comedy genius of that very grumpy inn-keeper. Huge thanks to all involved but a special mention must go to Mike Bridge and Paul Newman for all their hard work setting up (and no doubt packing away) all the special effects, props and lighting.

As for the Camel - well what can I say !! Roll on next year

Obituary

Dennis Quick 1929-2019

Dennis was born in Bedford and when he and his family first moved to Leigh he attended Leigh Wesley Church in Elm Road, and later transferred to Highlands Methodist where he also became an enthusiastic member of the badminton club and the drama group. He met and courted Rosemary Weir, and they were married in October 1964 at St Margaret's.

Dennis trained as a teacher at Westminster College and taught maths at Goldbeaters School, Mill Hill and Belfairs High School before finishing his working life as Director of Studies at Shoebury High School. One of his former pupils spoke to me of his gentleness as a teacher.

Simon was born in 1965 and Jane in 1968. For some years Dennis had continued worshipping at Highlands, coming occasionally to St Margaret's but after a few years it seemed appropriate that the family should all be together on Sunday mornings and Dennis became a regular communicant member of our Church. He remained a most faithful member of our congregation, sitting near the front with his young children as Rosemary sang in the choir until it disbanded. During the years Rosemary was a Churchwarden Dennis was a strength behind her, providing her with constant support. He was well known for being a perfect gentleman to the end of his active life and would never enter the church in front of a lady.

They moved from Buxton Square, their home from the time of their marriage and the scene of much entertaining in their earlier days, to a flat in Fairview Lodge, Underwood Square, just a few years ago. When his health began to fail, his faithfulness didn't falter and he attended Sunday and Thursday morning masses while he and Rosemary could, later together receiving the Sacrament at home. Dennis's fear was to lose sight of Rosemary, his beloved wife.

We will all miss his gentle, quiet and unassuming ways. His funeral Mass on 24th October was attended by folk from not only St Margaret's but also Leigh Wesley, Highlands Methodist and St Clement's as well as some of the carers who had attended Rosemary and Dennis. One of the carers spoke of her fondness for Dennis and sadness in his passing.

He will be greatly missed by many for his gentleness and quiet good humour.

Hilary Shallis



**Mrs Pat Lamb Worshipful Mayoress.....
Ready for her charity Boxing day swim...
Encouraged by the vicar's umbrella.**



Opening in April 2020
BUMBLEBEES PRE-SCHOOL
at St Margaret's



2½ - 5yrs accepted – Term Time only

To register your child please call 07581 150978 or
email: bumblebeespreschool19@gmail.com



15 Hours free funding and
30 Hours funded FREE for
eligible families
Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 3PA



Who's Who at St Margaret's

Parish Priest:

The Rev'd Fr. David Wylie RN 07768 687 605

vicar@saintmargaretsleigh.org

Churchwardens:

Mrs Anne Mills 07747 618 926

Mr Peter Fisher 07758 177 195

churchwarden@saintmargaretsleigh.org

Hall enquires:

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Organist & Director of Music: & Church bookings:

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