

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

# Bulletin

**Autumn 2022**



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

**[bulletin@saintmargaretsleigh.org](mailto:bulletin@saintmargaretsleigh.org)**

## **Church Services**

### **Worship at St Margaret's Church**

**ALL SERVICES ARE NOW PUBLIC**

**Sunday:** 08:00-08:30 Said Mass  
10:00-11:00 Mass with music  
Live Streamed & available on web site  
Sermon written copy online

First Sunday of the month 17:30-18:10 Mass  
with music for family groups followed by pasta/pizza in the Lower Hall.

**Wednesday:** 19:30 Said Mass

**Thursday:** 09:30 Said Mass  
14:00-16:00 Church open for personal prayer  
(Term time only)

**Friday:** 09:00 Said Mass

**Saturday:** 09:00 Said Mass

Details and services are correct at time of publishing.

For up to date arrangements for all services and festivals please see the web site. This is updated regularly.

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

## **View from the Vicarage**

This edition rightly highlights some warming, light-hearted and gratifying events, and times of the year. The reinstitution of the May Fayre, in a different Sunday afternoon form, went well and we must always remember these things, whilst they don't make a huge difference to our finances are extremely important for our footprint and presence in the local community. There are a number of articles related to the Jubilee which was well marked by church and community, although I was quite unwell and not in party mood. Our patronal festival, St. Margaret's Day 20<sup>th</sup> July was a good occasion, though sadly there appear to be no photographs of our celebrations in church and garden. Fr. Reggie Bushau was our visiting preacher, but most gratifying was that the vast majority of the 75 or so who attended were St. Margaret's folk many of whom we had not seen physically in church for some time. This of course is a pattern for many churches and is a real problem as we look ahead but, on that occasion, it was a delight to celebrate mass and party together.

There are some fine pictures of Christopher and Kavita Dowsett's wedding in Dartmouth and of course we are looking forward to two parish weddings of Christopher's contemporaries at St. Margaret's this year as Phoebe Hull is getting married to Alex in August and Emily Hull to Sam in

November. (Graham and Sally have now run out of daughters so we must look elsewhere for next year). Even if you can't attend, I'm sure you will wish them all well in their married life and welcome them back at church when they are able.

Sadly, we lost two enormously valued members of our community since the last edition. Charles Baynes at the alarming age of 64 and Valerie Underhill after a relatively short illness in her late 70s. Valerie was of course full of faith and fun. Attending her funeral was most depressing as it reflected little of her fun and faithfulness and was a reminder that we must all stipulate very clearly how we wish our funerals to be conducted and where. Charles's funeral was also at the crematorium and very well attended by 300 plus people representing his many interests and influences in his full and robust life cut short. Our continued prayers are with Kate his widow, children and grandchildren.

The summer sun and overly fine weather can beguile us as to just how difficult this year has been for many of us individually and as a community. I feel it is going to get much more challenging before getting better. We all know the huge issues of war, inflation recession which impact on our collective and personal lives – sometimes in ways we don't

wish to share. For us as a parish it's important that we do share. Whilst we continue to welcome new people, and our monthly youth mass has developed well, we also have a rapidly aging and declining core congregation of whom more is demanded financially and in other ways. We have no paid workers, active home Eucharistic ministers, administrators, caretakers and the like, unlike many parishes with much smaller parish shares – because less is demanded of them by the diocese.

We are promised a newer fairer and more transparent parish share system, time will tell and perhaps in the winter edition we can share something of the reality as it comes out. The energy crisis is something our centenary group considered in 2018 but investing in renewable sources of heating and lighting for the church and hall was batted into the long grass. With bills likely to exceed 15% of our income and rising rapidly and added to a parish share demanded running at 100% before anything else is paid you can see the problem. Time is running out for us as much as the world in making key decisions.

At the end of September (25<sup>th</sup>) we will celebrate Harvest – and yes God does provide – but we need to cooperate with him. So please pray for your wardens and PCC as we seek use our resources and reserves prudently and wisely

in navigating the challenges and maintaining our community as a community of sacramental and scriptural faithfulness and hope – not just for our sakes but the sake of the community we serve.

**A postscript concerning**

**St. Michael's Independent Church of England School:**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (the feast of St. Michael and All Angels) St. Michael's school will commence its year of centenary celebrations and events. The school has been a key part of our mission and life for most of our parish history.

The PCC of St. Margaret of Antioch wish the school well not only during this key year but also into the next century. We recognise and humbly accept the responsibility and trust placed in us by the Community of St. Michael and All Angels and its successor the Community of the Order of the Holy Paraclete. The constitution of the school sought and continues to place significant oversight and governance of the school under the auspices of the parish and to a lesser extent the Diocese of Chelmsford. We remain committed to ensure that the school reflects the foundational Anglican Sacramental and Social values and

practice of its foundation.

In recognition of our continued spiritual legal and moral commitment we wish to contribute £2500 towards the refurbishment of the chapel subject to those refurbishments being in keeping with its foundational values. We agree to delegate this judgement to the current Vicar of the parish. We appreciate the idea to include recognition of the foundational relationship between parish and school established by Mother Lucy and our first Vicar Fr. Hilditch in 1922 and maintained ever since. We believe that the inclusion of a statue of St. Margaret or image would be an appropriate use of some of the money whilst recognising that plans are fluid and dependent on design at this juncture.

We will endeavour to use our contribution as “seed corn” and encourage former and current members to contribute to this fund.

*Parish Church Council      St. Margaret's Leigh    July 6<sup>th</sup> 2022*

***If you or your family have been connected with the school in any way please consider generously supporting the “parish pot” for this act of thanksgiving and hope. Thank you.      Fr. David***

## **From a Corner of the Cotswolds**

**Alison Whitby**

I have always been very fond of well made shoes and leather goods and take great pride in polishing my shoes taking them to a decent cobbler to re heel or sole. The one we had in Leigh Road Mr Braybrook retired many years ago there was nothing he couldn't repair.

When I worked in the City I used to enjoy visiting Jermyn Street behind Fortnum and Masons full of tailors, shoe makers and hatters. I bought a very nice oxblood Filofax from one of these shops and have used it ever since. On my travels in the USA I treated myself to a beautiful pair of handmade oxblood loafers with two tassels on each. One day I was polishing my loafers on my balcony when before my eyes I saw one of the tassels fly off the shoe into the garden below never to be seen again! I took the loafer up to Jermyn Street and the immaculately dressed salesman looked at it and suggested he showed it to their shoemaker behind the frosted glass door. The said shoemaker came out half glasses on the end of his nose, his hands and leather apron covered in glue. He made a humming noise while pensively studying the loafer with only one tassel and stated 'it will need to go to the workshop'. I was told the shoe would be ready in two weeks and would I like it to be sent to my office. As promised two weeks later the said loafer arrived safely at my office in a soft pull string bag with a business card in-



side now with two tassels! On beautiful embossed letterhead there was written one sentence in ink 'No charge'.

Roll on 25 years later I noticed my Filofax was looking a little worse for wear and my father's binocular strap with his name in his very stylish faded handwriting had come away from the binoculars. I made enquiries here in the Cotswolds and a local stables recommended me to 'the boot maker in the hills'. I was told he was a little difficult to find but keep driving through the woods and I would find him. Lo and behold after a very scenic drive through the trees and hills of this beautiful area I found what looked like an old shepherd's hut. The door was open, and I



stepped into the Aladdin's cave. It was full of old riding boots all shapes and sizes which quite frankly I thought would never look good

again. I met the Master of his craft again hands and apron covered in glue, and he looked at my Filofax with a large grin on his face. He saw the name of the maker in gold letters inside and said 'I've done their repairs for 30 years'. He then looked at my father's binoculars and strap and said 'I guess you would like to keep the strap as it has your father's name on it' which I confirmed I would. He told me

to drop by in about two weeks and they would be ready for collection. Two weeks later I duly dropped by, and the Master craftsman humbly showed me my refurbished very handsome Filofax and binoculars with the strap securely fixed. 'Was I happy?' was his question. I couldn't have been happier to have two items I treasure restored to their former glory. The riding boots I had seen looking very well used were all standing upright ready for collection for 'the Season' and they looked like new!

Behind those very grand windows in the fine shops of St James is an untold story. We still have specialised craftsmen in this Country giving life to that special pair of shoes or wallet which we treasure and that is priceless!



**A GRANDFATHER WAS WALKING THROUGH HIS YARD WHEN HE HEARD HIS GRANDDAUGHTER REPEATING THE ALPHABET IN A TONE OF VOICE THAT SOUNDED LIKE PRAYER. HE ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING. THE LITTLE GIRL EXPLAINED: 'I'M PRAYING, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF EXACTLY THE RIGHT WORDS, SO I'M JUST SAYING ALL THE LETTERS, AND GOD WILL PUT THEM TOGETHER FOR ME BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT I'M THINKING.'**



**The woodpecker might have to go.**

## The wedding of Christopher and Kavita Dowsett



**We wish them a long and happy marriage.**



## **Following Shakespeare**

### **Peter Maddox**

A few years ago, the Royal Shakespeare Company announced that they would be putting on the complete canon of Shakespeare's plays over a six-year period. I decided this would be a good opportunity to see every play in the cycle.

During pre-covid times there would always be two plays on at the same time, one by Shakespeare and a second by another playwright. I would normally go to stay for two nights and see both, visiting a National Trust property or taking a walk in the countryside during the day between plays. This also meant that I got good value from my NT membership as there are a lot of properties in the area, unlike in Essex. Following covid, only the main theatre has been open so often there has only been one play available.

I calculate I have now seen 32 of the 38 Shakespeare plays listed in the programme, some more than once. With four booked to see this year I only have only two left – Pericles and Henry VIII. The only problem with seeing a concentrated run is that it is easy to get confused around the various plots and characters. In some of the plays the actors were in costumes appropriate for the time the play was originally set, others were in modern civilian or military dress, depending on the play. Sometimes there were sex changes, for instance in King John the king was played by a woman.

Other plays I have seen there have been by playwrights such as Molière, Oscar Wilde, Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson together with some more modern writers. One play where I definitely thought the sex change did not work was in Oscar Wilde's play, *Salomé*. The director decided to cast a male actor as *Salomé* for various reasons including that Oscar Wilde was gay. I could not see that the change added anything to the play and thought this was a pity, particularly since there are generally far fewer lead roles for female actors.

Generally, my trips have gone without a hitch. Normally I travel to Stratford by car but on one occasion went by train. It was a very hot day and there were problems on the line such that the train eventually terminated at Warwick. I shared a taxi to Stratford with, it turned out, one of the actors in the play I was going to see. When we arrived, we found the play had been cancelled as the air conditioning in the theatre had failed. I subsequently received a refund and saw the play in London instead.

Last summer the RSC put on "The Comedy of Errors" on an outside stage in the theatre grounds for "covid" reasons. Unfortunately, the stage did not have a roof and that evening it rained periodically. We had been warned that the play would go ahead unless it was unsafe so, barring a couple of people, the audience had all brought waterproofs. Unfortunately, the actors had to perform without protection. Once one of the cast had slipped over,

fortunately without injury, they stopped the play twice in the first half and twice in the second to mop the stage down. The cast did their best, but it did make the play a little disjointed. Perhaps the appropriate play for such an occasion!



Shakespeare's Monument at Southwark Cathedral

# God With Us

God is with us now

This present moment, even if we can't feel it.

Closer than breathing

Which we take for granted

Nearer than hands and feet

Without which we are helpless

God has made us for Himself

Our purpose in life

We come from him

Complete dependence

We belong to him

And no-one else has a claim on us

We go to him

Our true home

God knows us

We need not, cannot pretend



God loves us

Totally, even when we're unlovable

God has a use for us

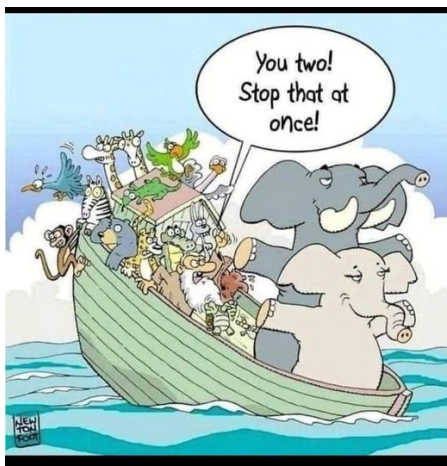
Even if we cannot see it

NOW AND FOR EVER

AMEN

Anonymous meditation on the original poem  
by Alfred Lord Tennyson

~~~~~



## **Coronation 1953**

### **Hilary Shallis**

In 1953 I had my first job, as a shorthand typist working for a small firm of solicitors in Gray's Inn. There were two partners, an outside/managing clerk and me. I did all the typing that was required, operated a small switchboard, opened the post, took registered post (which was quite common at that time) to the Post Office where I also had to buy stamps, made tea and coffee – and did anything else a dogsbody was required to do. Legal documents – contracts, conveyances, wills – had to be typed without any errors and on thick folded paper or parchment and often loose pages had to be sewn in with green silk. I also learned how to use the photocopying equipment. This was in fact a photographic procedure involving photographing and, developing and printing items to be reproduced. I certainly earned my £4.10s a week!

The day of the Coronation I spent at the home of my boyfriend's family in Westcliff. They had a television – one of those things that was obscured most of the time behind folding doors. I needed to have a new dress for the occasion and had spent one of my lunch hours shopping. I found just the dress I wanted in Peter Robinson's, a quite posh shop at Oxford Circus. I loved that dress! It was sleeveless with a

square neck, fitted waist and gathered skirt. The fabric was glazed poplin in stripes of red, yellow and green on a black background. I can picture it still. I remember that dress far more clearly than I remember the Coronation. My “Coronation dress” was such a favourite of mine that in 1956 it went with me on my honeymoon.

In the following days the Queen and Prince Philip did tours around London in an open car and one of those journeys took them along Theobalds Road, which is just north of where I worked in Verulam Buildings in Gray’s Inn. I probably was allowed to leave the office for a short time, or else I just “went missing” and joined the crowds to view Her Majesty. I had a kerbside view, and the car went past me just a few feet away. The Queen was wearing blue. Again, I have a greater recollection of this than of the Coronation itself.



## **TIME FOR JUBILEE TEA.**

### **Lorrina Cockett**

In June, we joined with our whole country to wish Her Majesty congratulations on her Platinum Jubilee. Quite an achievement! Although the tea party was planned to happen in our gardens, the weather was chilly and damp, so we decided to play safer and set up indoors.

Many people made sandwiches and baked magnificent cakes, including a fruit-topped Union Jack celebration one. Platters were filled with savouries, cakes and scones. There were strawberries and pots (and pots) of tea. Many thanks to everyone who joined in with the catering.

As people arrived, they were offered a glass of Pimms. It was lovely to see friends working on a Jubilee quiz while children played and made crowns and visitors were welcomed. Tea was shared until everyone was full. Plates of cakes were also taken home for later. We were very lucky. The lower hall buzzed with chat and there was room for the children to play safely too.

Later, “to crown” our tea party, we moved outside to plant a Rowan tree. The tree was a gift from the Mothers’ Union and lots of the members met with Anna Firth who had come along to help with the planting ceremony. We all raised a glass of Prosecco to toast The Queen. It will be

wonderful to watch the tree, also called a Mountain Ash, change as the seasons turn and grow to maturity.

There were indeed very many parties to bring neighbours together that long weekend in June. But I think our St. Margaret's gathering was certainly one of the best! Thanks to everyone for joining in, preparing and clearing. It was a splendid afternoon.



# **Marking the Queen's Jubilee**

**Lucia Curthoys**

I have always loved trees and have that constant urge to hug them!

So, when our Mothers' Union committee was thinking how to celebrate her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, it seemed appropriate to follow her example – and plant a tree.

Our member Hilary Shallis was given the task of finding one. It is a delightful Rowan – part of the Sorbus family. On Jubilee Day itself we presented it to our church, St Margaret's. It was officially planted with raised glasses by our new MP Anna Firth. Every MU and church member present joined together in unity and added a spade of soil. A lovely moment.

It was not only our way of celebrating our Queen's Special Day, giving thanks for her extraordinary life of dedication and faith – we are very proud she is our Patron – but also to thank our church for their support to us.

The Rowan tree has a long and sacred history. Since ancient times people have been planting a Rowan beside their home as in Celtic mythology it is known as the Tree of Life and symbolises courage, wisdom and protection and Rowan berry jelly is still made especially in Scotland.

Our church is surrounded by many old trees. We now know that trees have their own language. They 'talk' to each other right under our feet, using a fungus network nick-named the Wood Wide Web!

They share water and nutrients through their networks and use them to communicate, sending distress signals about drought and disease, helping each other. I do hope they help our little Rowan – still too young and fragile for me to hug!

Anna was at home with a spade in her hands. She loves trees and plants. It is in her blood. Her great grand-parents had a nursery in Benfleet.





## Mothers' Union at the May Fayre





## **A Letter from Noah Cockett**

'Hello everyone,

Many years ago, I was privileged to receive a significant financial contribution towards some ongoing training and education. At the time it was essential to have a good educational reference for my Bishops Advisory Panel, and the parish stepped in to help me.

I undertook a course of study to become a a Level 3 Forest School leader. This will be useful in my future ministry give me more interesting and exciting opportunities for mission, evangelism, and creative worship.

I studied under one of the foremost Forest Church theologians, who has written several books about God in nature and worshipping outdoors. Her name is Rachel Summers. Some of you may know her.

As many of you will know the pandemic scuppered any hope of continuing the coursework for this course. I was working at that time in a specialist Dementia care home and continued against all adversity.

When I got to Cuddesdon I suddenly had lots of other coursework to do, and that was infinitely more important. So, Forest School was delayed again, and I could not find a Forest school in Oxford on which to base my coursework either.

Finally, after a herculean effort, spurred onwards by the bureaucracy of the Forest School learning institution, I completed my course.

I built a forest school from (nearly) scratch, lead several sessions and taught lots of children the dangerous end of a knife. All thanks to St Margaret's.

And really when one thinks about it my whole journey is thanks to St. Margaret's. Where would I be without Derek Salm? Where would I be without John May or Peter Fisher? If it was not for St. Margaret's I'd never have met Rachel, who has been such a saviour to me these last few years, and of course Pat Lamb has been helping me save for a top-notch cassock and is keen that I always look my best.

So really, I just want to say thank you. For the nurture and support of 26 years. For believing in me.

Thankyou.'



**Noah with his placement supervisor.**

## **“Why Does Anything Exist?”**

The following is the summary from the book

written by John G. Ambrose

Included with kind permission of the author

The Universe did not evolve, it was created 13.7 billion years ago. It was created from energy, the energy of God’s Spirit – or, as some believe, from nothing. It certainly came from something, somewhere, somehow! Why? Unless there was some purpose, can anyone really believe that it was all for nothing! The end result, in our world, can hardly have been an accident, common sense should refute that idea! The obvious design, detailed in the science story is just too incredible. The physics involved points, definitely, to a creator and one able to create the impossible. The rabbit never did jump out of the hat, and human intelligence and personality hardly emerged from a Big Bang in space.

The Big Bang produced trillions of stars, each one shining with the energy of our sun. Just one of these stars, and one near enough to the earth for life to develop. Evolution came from the energy and mysterious power of life, and it is obvious that ultimately, it would, as it has, produced us. The

world we now have, would have been a colossal waste of time, were humans not to have evolved! So we are the 'grand purpose' for the whole show. Only we can reflect the glory of Earth's stupendous creation, which is why we worship, and sing "All things bright and beautiful" and other similar hymns. That's what churches are for, as well as being a leaven in the 'great loaf of life', as Jesus once described it. And, because God is magnificent in his universe, and everywhere present, He is accessible to everyone who needs Him. There was never any need for a sacrifice. That is why the church needs urgent revision of its creeds.

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**THE UNIVERSE SMILED**

Big was the bang that launched all creation  
Programmed potential for purpose Divine  
Miracle wonder of freedom's intention  
Deep from the mystery of Sovereign design.

Nothing to something, the story of everything  
Energy massive and surging with power  
Split second timing, creation's 'fine-tuning'  
Beginning of time and nature's first hour.

>>>>>>>>

Gaseous clouds, swirling and curling  
Gravity fusing dark mass in the sky  
Atoms to forge in the starlights of burning  
Stardust to scatter and planets to fly.

Nine billion years of fiery creation  
Four billion more of planetary strife  
Carbon once kissed by the lightening of heaven  
Flashed miry swamps into travail and life

Crawling and creeping, evolving mutations  
Flying and splashing on oceans vast spray  
Burgeoning exuberance and primal sensations  
Earth's ancient splendours and dawning of day.

Storms thundered loudly in threatening skies  
And nature's alarm screamed out in the wild  
Yet, once in a cave of animal cries  
A baby awoke and the universe smiled.

*Rev John G. Ambrose (c.2009)*

Forward Poetry published this poem for their 2013 anthology (*In Other Words*). It was selected for its "originality, imagery and creativity" and then sent to the British Library, as a work of its time. They then circulated it to all other UK libraries.

Trillions of galaxies do not add up to the value of one child gazing up in wonder and joy at the starry night sky. Vast

space means nothing to God, and he is the sum total of all things. He is within us all, and unites the universe in himself as Creator and Sustainer of everything.

~~~~~

### **WHY DOES ANYTHING EXIST?"**

Cosmic questions and theological thinking for today's world.

AVAILABLE BY PHONE TEL. 01702 474632.

Price £5 on collection

£7 by post

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## **Visit to Ightham Mote**

### **Janet Starkey**

Hidden away in the Kentish Weald, 6 miles east of Sevenoaks, is an attractive Medieval house, built with a mix of local ragstone, oak and brick and surrounded by a moat. This romantic looking property is called Ightham Mote. Apparently, the name is derived from the Anglo Saxon word "moot" which means a meeting place and not, as I had believed, an old fashioned way of spelling "moat". Our visit, by coach, was organised by the local National Trust Society and we were lucky enough to visit on a lovely day last June. We were met by a guide who told us that we would be walking into seven centuries of history as the house dates originally from the 1320's. Successive owners had expanded the house according to their needs over the years but fortunately they had always done so in a manner which was sympathetic to the original building. The National Trust had also used traditional methods and materials when they carried out a £10 million restoration project and which took 15 years to complete.

A stone bridge crosses the moat which would have



replaced the original drawbridge. We were led over this, through wooden doors and into an open courtyard. The



courtyard has a Grade 1 dog kennel in it which was built in 1890 for Dido, a large St Bernard. Apparently she was so big, she was

given her food in a washing up bowl!

The first room we were taken into was the Great Hall which still has an early 14th century wooden roof. This hall has a huge stained glass armorial window which features the Tudor rose of King Henry and the pomegranate of Catherine of Aragon which was installed to impress the king by Richard Clement, a courtier to Henry VIII and who owned the house in the late Tudor period.

After climbing an imposing Jacobean staircase we were able to enter into the old chapel. This room is very plain but would have been the religious heart of the house when it was built in 1340. The Catholic church played a central role in every day medieval life in England and the

Haute family, who owned the house at the time, would have taken part in services in an adjoining room as only the priest would have been allowed into the chapel. Mass would have been sung in Gregorian chant and the family would have been served Holy Communion each morning through a squint in the wall.

Although Ightham Mote is not a large house it unusually has two chapels. Sir Richard Clement was responsible for converting what was probably a grand guest chamber into a more elaborate chapel. Our guide explained that the Bishop of Rochester had at first refused permission for this room to be consecrated but, because the family had connections to the Archbishop of Canterbury, permission was eventually granted. As ever, it pays to know people in high places! Anyway, it is a good thing that the family were allowed to do so because it is a beautiful chapel with a barrelled roof, painted with coloured badges and emblems in red, green and white, representing the royal houses of England, Spain and France and honouring Henry and Catherine. Our guide said that the window was made from early German stained glass and was one of the finest examples of medieval stained glass in the country. In such a relatively small room, it was easy to appreciate the fine detail and to admire the wonderful bright colours.

The drawing room was the next room we were taken into,

and this has a huge Jacobean fireplace and some wonderful hand painted 18th century Chinese wallpaper which is a little damaged in places but still remarkably intact.

We were then shown into a bedroom which was relatively plain which had been decorated in a 1950's New England style. This bedroom had been used by the last owner of the house, Charles Henry Robinson. This wealthy American businessman had first seen the house while he was a young man on a cycling holiday before the First World War and had fallen in love with it. In 1953 he noticed a picture of the house in London, found out that it was advertised for sale and made an offer for it. He later regretted acting so rashly and wrote a letter withdrawing his offer but, arriving back in America, he found the letter in his pocket as he had forgotten to post it! How lucky it is for this country that he forgot to do so because, in 1985, he bequeathed the house to the National Trust. The floor of this bedroom is carpeted in a plain gold Axminster carpet. Our guide told us that in 1953, when our Queen was crowned, gold carpet had been laid along the aisles of Westminster Abbey and when, after the coronation this carpet was put up for sale, Charles Robinson had bought a large quantity and had used it to carpet most of the rooms in the

house. Unfortunately, a subsequent flood had damaged all but the piece which remains in the bedroom. However, it still looks good after 70 years and must be particularly hard wearing.

Going downstairs again we were shown into the library which was Charles Robinson's favourite room and so the Trust have kept it just as it was in honour of him. A painting of the house and moat by Winston Churchill hangs on the wall.

After this interesting tour of the house, it was very pleasant to enjoy the gardens in the sunshine which are delightful. I walked around the formal gardens first of all and much appreciated seeing the many roses which were looking their best when we went in June. I noticed several pools, a vegetable garden and a cutting garden and passed a stumpery before walking through an orchard which was planted with many different varieties of apple. The garden becomes more wooded the further you walk into the garden and there is a natural play area for children. However, I could see several deckchairs which had been placed around the North Lake and I sat

down on one of these to eat a sandwich and relax. It was amusing to watch the antics of a pair of Mallards and several Coots and their babies and, yes, naturally, I felt obliged to share some of my sandwich with them.



In 1972 Anya Seton published a novel called **“Green Darkness”**, based on the discovery of a woman’s body found in a walled up room in Ightham Mote.

It was her last novel and her best selling book.

# **Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham**

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May – Sun 29th May 2022**

**St Margaret and St James, Leigh**

**and St Luke, Prittlewell.**

**Donald Fraser**

I've been asked to write a few words about this year's pilgrimage. Initially around ten of us were due to go to Walsingham this year – but to paraphrase the “retitled” well-known Agatha Christie novel – “And Then There Was One”! Due to various reasons, only three of us made our way to Walsingham on Friday afternoon – and by Saturday evening, I was the “Last Man Standing” (from St. Margaret's).

I had the pleasure of Barbara Holdsworth's company en-route. She was making her first pilgrimage (incidentally after her reading an article written by Clare after our last pilgrimage). Fr David travelled up separately.

The emphasis on the pilgrimage, as always, is not to “overdose” on religion. It is also about getting away from the usual routines and having the time and space to reflect, as well as time to relax. We were asked to remember to pray for those who would have come under normal circumstances.

The itinerary, between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon, was fairly familiar to those who had been previously.

**First Visit**

**Mass in the Holy House**

**Stations of The Cross**

**Shrine Prayers**

**Weekend Pilgrimage Mass**

**Procession of Our Lady**

**Benediction**

**Mass at St Mary's Parish Church**

**Sprinkling at The Well**

**Laying on of hands & Anointing**

**Procession of The Blessed Sacrament**

**Benediction**

In between times, the Refectory served up its usual high standard of cuisine – including the very popular generous salad bar selection!

On Saturday afternoon, I walked along the disused railway line for a mile or so to the Roman Catholic Slipper Chapel and shrine. I then continued along the old track (for as much as possible) to East Barsham – particularly The East Barsham Arms – to enjoy the odd pint (or two) in their beer garden.

Our final act of worship on Sunday afternoon was the ‘**Last Visit**’. This is still a very emotional service for someone at the end of their first pilgrimage or someone at the end of their hundredth and first pilgrimage.

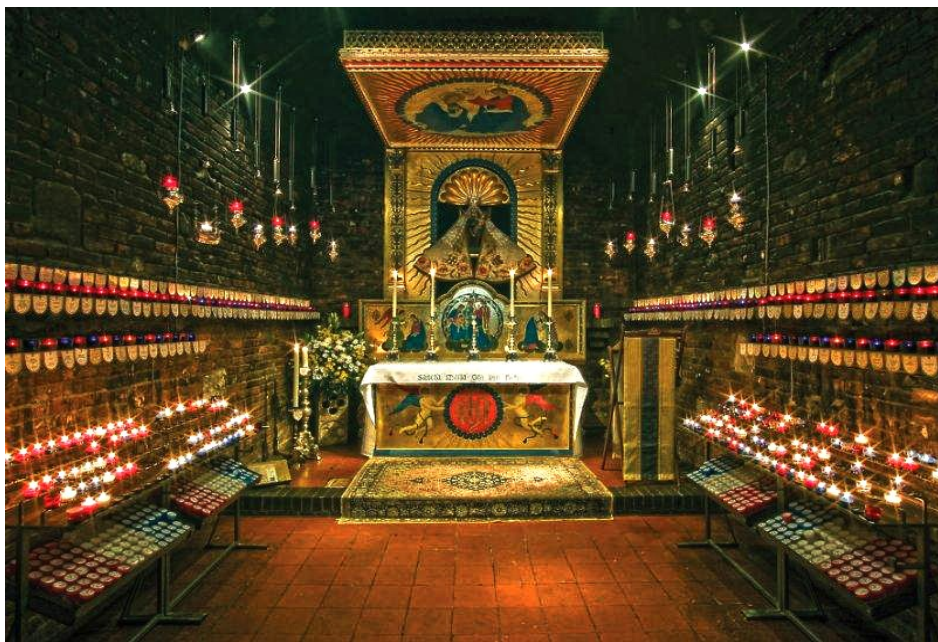
Next year’s pilgrimage is 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June

Would recommend.

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## **“IN AS MUCH AS”**

Whatever I do to others

I do to You

If I do them good

I do You good

If I do them evil

I do You evil

If I speak them ill

I speak You ill

If I show them compassion

I show You compassion

If my words betray non-love

It is non-love against You

Lord teach me to love

In Your way of loving

Anon

## **LORD GIVE ME**

Your Grief

Rather than resentment

Your sorrow

Rather than anger

Your understanding

Rather than criticism

Your pity

Rather than condemnation

May I look on all with

Your eyes of compassion

**LORD GIVE ME YOUR LOVE**

Anon

## Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?

*This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.*

*Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people however will soon find themselves on a jam. Especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs. During a recent fundraising event*

which features this puzzle the Alpha Delta *Phil Lemonade* booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As *Daniel Humana* *humbly* puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight". *Those* able to find all of them will hear great *lamentations* from those who have to be shown. One *revelation* that may help is that books *Timothy* and *Samuel* appear without their *numbers*. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are *normal*. A *chipper* attitude will help you *compete* really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mass *exodus*, there really are 30 books of the Bible *lurking* somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

*Taken from the internet*

## **St. Margaret of Antioch Leigh-on-Sea Notes to Users of St.Margaret's Church, QR Code Halls, Rooms, Grounds and Vicarage**

### **Public worship in Church.**

The Vicar, Wardens, PCC and Congregation of St.Margaret's seek to give the highest degree of confidence for the Covid 19 Security for attendees of the "advertised public worship and open church" on Thursdays and Sundays complying with government law and guidelines

### **Other use of church property**

Hirers and users of any of the church property outside the space of the church designated for public worship and outside of the designated times do so at their own risk. It is part of the contract of use that users of the Church, Church Hall, meeting rooms, grounds and vicarage outside of these events and times must self- caretaker; cleaning and sanitizing all areas and items they are to use and repeat this at the end of their event or visit. They are to keep a full register of their users according to current law. Times, organisations and people using these spaces outside of the Thursday and Sunday Public acts of worship may be obtained from the Vicar who is to be informed of all activity with 24 hours notice until further notice.

The Revd Fr.David Wylie RN

## **Covid and other protocols**

**Facemasks** – These are discretionary but recommended where you are in very close proximity of others outside your household. They are not worn when leading worship including music, reading praying etc. After the relaxation of rules and irrespective of the vicissitudes of government please remember their purpose: to mitigate you infecting someone else within 1-2m in an enclosed space. They serve little purpose outdoors or large airy spaces unless you are getting very chummy J whereas on a crowded bus or shop it would be deemed sensible

**Sanitisation** – please make use of the stations at the entrance and exit to the church continue to observe our other protocols as advertised for good practice

**Communion** – please note during live streamed masses for safeguarding, privacy and benefit of worship enablers, this is received in the usual place in the service but out of sight of the camera (in one kind currently). Please make your way down the central aisle and return to your seat via the appropriate side aisle. Communion remains in one kind until further notice. Please remember that theologically to have received in one kind is to have received in both (bread and wine).

# **Who's Who at St Margaret's**

## **Parish Priest:**

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

vicar@saintmargaretsleigh.org

## **Churchwardens:**

Mr Michael Bridge    07434 974 583

Mrs Lorrina Cockett    07952 431 690

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## **Hall enquires:**

Mrs Julia Fenton    07980 909 244

hallbookings@saintmargaretsleigh.org

## **Organist & Director of Music & Church bookings:**

Mr David Stowe    07876 496 757

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## **Mothers' Union**

Mrs Lucia Curthoys    07401 175 742

MU@saintmargaretsleigh.org

## **Webmaster:**

Mr Bob Southward    07876 685 210

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