

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

Bulletin

Winter 2022



www.saintmargaretsleigh.org

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

View from the Vicarage November 2022.



A lot has happened in the three months since the last edition. Many of the challenges and warnings I spoke of have now started to bite. We also have a new King and have mourned our Queen (there are some most interesting reflections enclosed on that momentous change for us all). Separately, I will later scan some of the local and community things but first I should like first to share a reminder that we are a called to be a community of worship and mission as our primary identity from which all else we do flows.

Priority P's: Presence, prayer and practical support

As we come to the end of the church year I feel an

important observation needs to be stated. We are blessed in the parish in many ways. We keep feasts and festivals on the day, the church has much worship in the week and we have good facilities with the church, halls, grounds and car park as well as all our associated schools and institutions. Last week we had a wonderful community Remembrance service. Whilst folk from the wider community did come, the support from members of the parish congregation was poor and demoralising for those who do support such occasions. This pattern of not supporting mission opportunities and feasts is a pattern I have observed that goes back to our centenary and has been even more pronounced since the pandemic. Last July for St. Margaret's day was a bit of an exception but generally patchy commitment is true of all our ages – children, young people, families and older generations. The parish will not grow without this core support – we don't invite people to Christmas lunch and then go out for the day leaving them to it. We all have problems, challenges and other calls upon our time and energies and we can't all attend everything. However we can all offer a right balance of presence, prayer and practical support regardless of age or health and whatever else faces us if our Christian vocation is important. In a time of much reduced resources, whether the parish needs, deserves or warrants a full time

priest for example, is in question. The answer to that question lies with each person. Your P's impact many, not just yourself. Like the parable of the fig tree that does not fruit, there is another time and opportunity but not without limit.

When we gaze at the cross we surely see that God has made us his priority – the big question is: ***Is God a priority for you?*** Let this be our Advent thought and prompt for action in **presence prayer and practical support.**

The Diary Review. This throws up a range of joys, sorrows and interest that you may know about. Sadly we said goodbye to another very long standing member of our congregation Cynthia Harkness. Her end was more abrupt than it should have been but I feel privileged to have known her as a faithful kind constant presence and head of a four generation family in our community. It was even more of a privilege to be able to administer the last rites and appropriately one of my predecessors Fr.Robin Eastoe presided at her requiem. I will always remember her as I approach the vicarage door and see her geraniums still going strong after 5 years. They are getting whiter by the year – I complained they came out pink to start!:. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Even in the short 5 years I have been here it's a joy to see

folk progressing and getting on with life in different and fruitful ways. We had the second of our “sister weddings” which was an enormous joy and pictures of Phoebe and Emily alongside Alex and Sam respectively are below. Maybe we could have a sweepstake for whose next amongst our younger folk? Alfie Bridge has gone off to Cambridge to Gerton college, Paddy Warner has been accepted by Camp America as a supervisor and Chris Dowsett (not long after his marriage) has swapped his hard



won place in the Royal Navy as a “scab lifter” (medic) to begin teacher training. I’m sure there’s future bulletin material in the waiting!.

At the end of September we did indeed have the centenary St. Michael's day mass at our St. Michael's School. The Archbishop of York and his wife (former head girl) attended alongside other dignitaries. I celebrated and preached and it was officially the beginning of the centenary year as I wrote about last time. I would repeat my request from then regarding the refurbishment of the chapel. *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.*

Key challenges for the PCC during this time have been the new Parish Share system to be introduced by the diocese from 2023, medium term energy solutions to meet the challenges I have written about and continuing to deal with the wide impacts post pandemic from which most parishes have yet to recover.

We have had a number of special events outside our normal feasts and these have included our all age Community Remembrance Sunday Service and also the blessing of new boats for our Sea Scouts down in Old Leigh. Both of these occasions were well attended by the wider community and supported by a few of our regulars which was gratifying.



Several members of the parish continue to do interesting things that often raise money and goodies along the way for good causes. Of mention is Rosemary Sudlow who along with the Rotary is organising our local Wrap UP. Thick warm winter coats donated to Wrap UP are collected by volunteers and inspected to ensure they are clean and in good condition to be given away. They are distributed via homeless shelters, refugee centres, organisations supporting the elderly, women's refuges, children's centres and other charities helping people in crisis. Wrap UP Essex has run from 1st to 28th November. For further information and last minute help offers, contact rosemary.sudlow@hotmail.com or 07909 526551



Mark Phillips braved driving an old banger around Europe to raise over £3000 for the One Love Soup Kitchen and foodbank. I believe they even sold the banger for a profit.

You can still give via the link [Mark Philips is fundraising for The One Love Project \(justgiving.com\)](https://justgiving.com/MarkPhilips)

I do hope that you will consider writing something up for our next edition of the Bulletin in the spring about some of the many interesting things that express your faith and life. In the meantime keep faith, keep warm, keep hope and help others do the same.

Fr.David November 2022.

Children and Youth at St Margaret's

Each month -

Young children up to 8 years old.

1st Sunday 17:30 A simple Mass service

followed by Pizza and games

2nd Sunday 10:00 Supervised stories, games and crafts

in the lobby of the church.

3rd Sunday 10:00 Worshipping together in church

4th Sunday 10:00 supervised activities as above.

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## Young people 13-18 years old.

1st Sunday 17:30 A simple Mass service

followed by Pizza and games.

3rd Sunday 18:00-20:00 a session of games and snacks

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If you need more information or would like to help

please contact Lorrina or Michael

warden@saintmargaretsleigh.org

Telephone numbers on back page.

From a Corner of the Cotswolds

Alison Whitby

On a very hot day this summer I was strolling through the beautiful village of Blockley which appears to have been frozen in time. Some may know it from the television series Father Brown which I haven't yet watched. Walkers were filling their water bottles from this ancient Spring which had been serving the village since the 19th century, then as the only source of water. Dog bowls were being filled too and emptied just as quickly. The water was as clear and cool as one could wish. It dawned on me just



how God provides for us. There are several Springs of this type in the Cotswolds and most are elaborately framed by such grand stonemasonry. God really is good.

Two sisters - Two weddings



Phoebe and Alex - August 13th



With love and prayers for your future happiness.



Emily and Sam - November 5th



Where were you when you heard the Queen had died?

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When I heard the news that her Majesty had died, I was in the Lincoln Cathedral gift shop with my husband and my Californian relatives, on the first leg of our UK road trip. I said to them “you are here at a very momentous time in our history as the Queen has just died”.

It did affect our trip, as many places on our travels were closed or had restricted admission as a sign of respect.

When we visited Wells Cathedral a few days later, (which was on their ‘ list’ of places to see) we were only allowed to enter the Cathedral to sign the book of condolence. However, we also ended up attending evensong. It turned out to be a service of accession for King Charles III. At the end of the service, we sang the National Anthem with the words “God save our gracious King” for the first time. Although it was a very moving service it was also a strange experience.

On our travels we came across many books of condolence. Another place we visited on our trip was Arundel Castle, which is the home of the Duke of Norfolk. The castle was still open to the public, and our guide advised us that the Duke was not at home, as he was rather busy overseeing the queen’s funeral arrangements. He will also be

responsible for organising the coronation of King Charles when the time comes - a busy man!

Our relatives had to return to the states 2 days before the funeral and watched the whole thing on TV. They are big fans of the UK and the Royal Family (well most of them!).

So, all in all what was always going to be a momentous holiday for my relatives, became even more memorable for everyone.

### **Lynda Bartholomew**

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Barbara and I were enjoying dinner in an Italian restaurant in Eastbourne and were aware that Her Majesty had been taken ill during the day. Barbara's phone buzzed and it was our daughter informing us that Queen Elizabeth had died. The news quickly spread around the restaurant and the usual restaurant noise was replaced as a hush descended with people talking in quiet and respectful tones.

The next day we went to one of Eastbourne's theatres and before the play started, we observed a minute's silence and then sang God Save the King – it was singing these words that had the most effect on me as the reality sank in. Barbara couldn't sing all the words as tears took over.

Bob Southward

The year after the coronation the Queen embarked on a series of tours of the country. I was in the 3rd year at secondary school. We were learning Classical Latin and were bemused by the ecclesiastical pronunciation of “Vivat Regina”! We were encouraged by our Latin teacher to shout it out in classical as the Queen came past the school. The delayed sound reached her first after she had gone by where we stood on the kerb, and she looked back at us (like everyone, I’m sure she looked at me)

Fast forward: the lying in state in Westminster Hall. I had the TV on red button all day (retirement perk!) and the silence and peace right through the bungalow.

Pauline Swenson

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Although the Queen was in advanced old age and frail it was a sudden cessation of her life, and she was constant and faithful in her duties to us all for such a long number of years.

I myself was taken in a school group to see the Coronation procession. We were herded into pens along the embankment on a rainy old day and saw the Queen waving to the crowds from the lovely state coach. Never will I



forget the white-haired Queen of Tonga in an open carriage,  
all smiles and wet!

Many times, in my teens working in London in St Paul's Churchyard I saw the Queen and Prince Philip with dignitaries, drive by, from an upper window. We saw Bulgarnin.

May the Queen now RIP and God save King Charles III and Camilla Queen Consort.

**Thelma Levell.**



## **H M THE QUEEN, A MEMORY**

I grew up in a small village in the Surrey countryside a few miles south of Guildford.

In the year 1957 the Borough of Guildford was 700 years old, that is seven hundred years since the granting of the first borough charter. To commemorate the occasion a pageant was held in one of the local parks throughout the summer and on the actual charter day the Queen came to the town to have lunch with the mayor and other dignitaries at the guildhall and to later attend the pageant.

At this time myself and a schoolmate were both junior sea cadets. One night, some weeks before the event, we were told that the sea cadets would be required to line a section of Her Majesty's route between the guildhall and the park. The next day we approached our headmaster to request the necessary day off school, only to be told that would be impossible because the school had been allocated a position along the route and we would be expected to be there. This put us in a difficult position as we had been ordered by the commanding officer of the good ship T.S. Queen

Charlotte ( two Nissan huts close to Guildford town centre), to be turned out in uniform ready to protect the royal party from any surge of the crowd. So we pestered him no end until finally with some exasperation he agreed to us having the day off.

That very evening at sea cadets we were told, "there seems to have been some misunderstanding, only senior cadets will be required to line the route, not junior cadets."

So we had a quandary, a day off with nothing particular to do with it. However Surrey were playing Hampshire at the Guildford Cricket Ground that week so guess where we ended up. Late in the afternoon the Queen came to the cricket, to be introduced to the players on the field and to join them at the tea interval.

Over the years I have been in the presence of Her Majesty a number of times including two Buckingham Palace garden parties. However nothing could compare with the day I saw the not only Queen and the Duke but also Peter May, Tony Locke, Peter Loader, the Bedser twins and my great boyhood hero the incomparable Jim Laker.

**Chris Dandridge**

## **My letter from the Queen**

From 2007 until her death in 2013 I had the privilege of caring for my dear mother at home with Motor Neurone Disease. She had always had a very strong faith and the Holy Spirit was ever present in this very challenging time. Caring for her was a true honour. She never complained and her faith constantly shone through in what must have been a very frightening situation for her. When she died I found a note written the last time she could write 'I know my God has never left me even in my darkest hours'.

I too had a disability M.E which meant my depleting energy levels were pushed to the absolute limit. There were many nights when I would sense or hear that she was awake and wouldn't remember walking to her bed, one minute I was asleep the next I was by her side. I was running on auto pilot.

Apart from the certainty that God was ever present there were two people who were a constant source of inspiration and helped me get up out of bed to start another very early challenging day. One was Nelson Mandela. When I used to look at the sunshine and beautiful nature outside and feel like a prisoner in our ever closing world I thought of him, 27 years imprisoned with no knowledge of when he would be free. The other was our Queen who was 87 when my mother finally died and was still working dutifully as she had always promised. A year after my mother died I felt it important to write to the Queen and tell her what a great source of inspiration she had been to me and here is her reply.



BALMORAL CASTLE

3rd September, 2014

Dear Miss Whitby,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter.

Her Majesty was saddened to hear that your mother, for whom you cared with such devotion, died in September last year, and The Queen sends you her sincere sympathy.

Her Majesty was sorry to learn of the ill health you have suffered and The Queen was touched to know of the courage and determination with which you have faced so many challenges. Her Majesty greatly appreciated the very kind sentiments which you expressed.

Letters such as yours are a source of great pleasure and encouragement to The Queen and I am to thank you again for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did.

Yours sincerely  
Mary Donaldson

Lady-in-Waiting

Miss A. Whitby

**Alison Whitby**

## Lying in State

I have always loved and admired Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II --- such a remarkable public servant, humble, wise and faithful. She has been a stable and enduring presence in our national life. The Queen showed us what true service and duty looks like and we learnt from her Christmas and other messages about her deep Christian faith which has been her guide during the highs and lows of her life.

Perhaps my favourite Queen Elizabeth quotation is

“I have not chosen this office for myself....

My prayer must echo that of The Virgin Mary and that of our Lord Himself

‘be it unto me according to thy will; not what I will but what thou wilt’ “

I must admit I did shed tears on hearing of her death and just knew I wanted to attend her Lying in State.

And I wanted to go on my own -- which is unusual for me ... especially because of my lack of sense of direction!

I decided to go on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September and sought advice from a friend who had queued for Queen Mother..... go early, water, food ..... and don't go to

Westminster on underground! That was so useful... start of the Elizabeth queue was miles from Westminster so saved my feet and energy!

To my surprise 5.15 am train was fairly busy. Fortunately, at Tower Hill I met a clinical psychologist Sue from Northampton and after one or two mistakes we found the start of the Elizabeth queue! That was such a relief. We celebrated with a banana (me) and a sandwich (Sue). Pamela from New



York, David from Epsom, Sue and I became queue buddies - at various times throughout the day supporting and encouraging each other which was invaluable. We were so fortunate no rain; a big positive.

Pamela was a delight – full of life, very entertaining and we loved showing her the sights – in no particular order: Globe Theatre, Tate Modern St Paul's Cathedral, Black Friars Bridge, Oxo tower, Covid wall ... that really touched me will never forget it, could feel the raw pain and grief .

Of course, the inevitable conspiracy theories circulated

along the queue - they bumped the queen off, and the questions “wouldn’t William be better than Charles as King? “. We eagerly awaited updates from the stewards and estimates of duration we would be queuing. They got that badly wrong. they estimated we would be queuing for 8 to 9 hours --- we did not – only 6 hours. Along with the uniformed groups, the stewards collected our rubbish and ensured unwanted food which could be donated to the local food banks was.



The next “big high “was getting my wristband near Jubilee Gardens. Now I definitely was going to be able to go into Westminster Hall. It was so efficiently organized.

From then on certainly I “changed “. Suddenly I remembered another early morning queue, this one was in the Holy Land. My walk along Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem and like 15 September, an early start 6am. But it was very noisy and crowded and ..

Jesus was spat on, reviled, beaten and jeered and died in ignominy.

It was upsetting, very upsetting

Back to the Elizabeth queue

We were approaching the Snake having crossed the River and



although told not to bring flowers many did, the smell was powerful, they were so beautiful -- and these were taken to Green Park.

This was the hardest part for me; Via Dolorosa in my thoughts , my feet aching ( have rheumatoid arthritis and they did not appreciate standing and walking for hours) and then I saw the faith teams – that was comforting and actually inspiring to me .

It seemed the snake would never end, but of course it did. Next hurdle was to pass through airport security checks!

I sailed through, poor Lorna did not and had her expensive pencils and case removed.

At last Westminster Hall!

Westminster Hall is the oldest building in Parliament and almost the only part of the Palace of Westminster which survives in almost its original form. I have seen it before – magnificent -but now my eyes and thoughts were focussed on the Queen's coffin. Very mixed emotions, sad, nervous.....

I can't explain it .. but once in Westminster Hall it was so peaceful so dignified. I was very very blessed. A change of guards happened as I was processing round so I had a few extra minutes. It was awesome.

The closed coffin was draped in a royal flag, while resting on a catafalque – a raised platform covered with a purple cloth – flanked by a military guard.

The late Queen's sanctified body was represented by the crown, orb and sceptre. The queen wore that crown when she left Westminster Abbey after her coronation in 1953. The orb is meant to remind the monarch her power was derived from God. The golden jewelled ball was topped by a gem – encrusted cross. ....so so beautiful. And the sceptre represented the crown's power and governance

I saw this absolutely beautiful regalia but rising above all was the cross, that so impacted on me I knew I felt the power of Jesus, the reason for all. The queen served God first as she declared when she took her oath. And if she had not that deep humble and real faith which we witnessed, and she articulated throughout her life I don't believe she would be leaving such a powerful legacy. I felt deep gratitude and love for Jesus and for our Monarch. I now have powerful memories of such a worthwhile historic and moving experience.

Possibly because it was so emotional draining, I was extremely weary for 2/3 days but this day will never be forgotten ..... humbling and precious.

**Anne Robinson**

## **Sight and Sound**

### **Enfys Williams**

I would have liked to have gone to London sometime during “that” week but decided to be sensible and watch from home.

I had been to the Mall when the Queen Mother died in 2002 and can still recall the sound of marching feet approaching and the sight of the sun making the jewels sparkle on the crown on the coffin.

It is hard to explain the mesmerising effect of watching the folk filing past the lying in state in Westminster Hall with no commentary necessary, nor orders given – the sound of silence is very powerful.

#### **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8th 2022**

#### **HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II     2pm**

I switched on the television and discovered news of Queen Elizabeth. The newsman was calm and reassuring. He told us that Her Majesty had decided to retire to bed for the afternoon, where she felt more comfortable.

I decided to stay with her so that she was in my thoughts and prayers, I am sure that she was in other people's thoughts and prayers.

At 4 o'clock Queen Elizabeth died. She found a wonderful peace.

Thank God for our Queen!

Anon

# **A reflection for children on the death of Her Majesty the Queen by Bishop Graham, Bishop of Norwich**

I keep bees in my garden in Norwich and over the holidays they were busy making lots of honey. One bee is different from all of the other bees in the beehive and she is called the Queen Bee. All the other bees look to her to help them know what to do.

For seventy years we have had someone in our country who we have looked to for help. She was called Queen Elizabeth II.

Last week Queen Elizabeth died at her castle in Scotland. Balmoral is a beautiful castle, surrounded by purple heather-covered hills and rivers with salmon swimming in them. There are lots of old pine trees, and eagles soar in the sky. Queen Elizabeth loved being there.

She also loved being at her home in Norfolk. At Sandringham, Her Late Majesty enjoyed seeing her foals being born and walking her dogs. Sometimes I went to see her there and we always had a good chat. I felt I was speaking to a very special person who was very wise. She often said that she looked to Jesus to help her to know what to do.

I always took The Queen a jar of my bees' honey. She served the honey for tea.

Last weekend I went to tell my bees that The Queen had died. A lot of beekeepers tell their bees important news.

The bees were very quiet when I told them.

I felt sad because I can't take Queen Elizabeth anymore of their honey. I imagine you might have also felt sad in the last few days. It's okay to feel sad and to cry when someone dies.

I told the bees also about King Charles III. He is a very kind man. He cares for the environment – and for bees. He wants to be a King who serves with loyalty, respect and love – just like his Mother.

I've been saying 'thank you' to God for Queen Elizabeth's life and how she served our country and the Commonwealth. She has gone now to be with God in heaven, where she is held in God's love, along with Prince Philip.

I have also been asking God to look after King Charles and his family. That is why we sing 'God save the King!'

Thank you for reading this and I hope you will remember happy things about Queen Elizabeth. Now we look forward to the happy things that King Charles will do.

With every blessing



# **‘ I Had A Dream’**

**By Susan Heinzelmann**

I had a dream one Christmas night when I opened the  
stable door

And see Jesus the babe in a manger lying there in straw..  
The cattle and shepherds with their sheep in the lantern  
light

Are watched by the angels in the sky at night.

The odours of smoke and perfume around the three Kings  
Of white doves fluttering their feathered wings  
The three people then came in  
From outside the very cold wind.

A poor little shepherd boy kneels down on one knee with a  
lamb

Nothing to give but says my name is Sam.

He says I will always give you my heart

You will bring Christianity right from the very start.

Then a nurse steps forward and held out her hand  
And whispers in the ear of the little man

I will promise to help the wounded and the sick

As her face lights up from the flame of the candlestick.

Then a soldier also held out his hand  
And made a promise to keep us safe for our land  
To bring us peace to all mankind  
And gave a gift of sweet mulled wine.

I silently stepped away and left the group of people to  
pray  
On this very special day  
I looked up to the sky on the dark starry Christmas night  
And blew out my candle and the said Goodnight.

Merry Christmas



## **The Weather Forecast**

Monday was a sunny day and Joe and Mary walked to work enjoying the sunshine.

Tuesday was a bit cloudy but still nice enough for Joe and Mary to walk to work.

Wednesday it drizzled, so Joe and Mary took umbrellas and walked to work.

On Thursday it rained 'cats and dogs' so Joe and Mary drove to work to save getting wet.

Friday was awful; thunder and lightning all day, but Joe and Mary still went to work.

Saturday was better and they were able to do the shopping and catch up with friends.

Sunday, well on Sunday it was

- ♦ Sunny (too nice to go to church, may watch later)
- ♦ Cloudy (we can still get into the garden; we can always watch the service later)
- ♦ Drizzly (we'll get wet going to church. We'll watch on the computer)
- ♦ Raining (too wet to go to church, may watch the service later)



- ♦ Thunder and lightning (too dangerous to go out to church, can't switch the computer on in a storm)
- ♦ Better weather (time to spend in the garden, we may watch the service later on catch-up)

So, Joe and Mary didn't make it to church because of the weather.

Are you like Joe and Mary? Do you use the weather as an excuse not to come to church? Do you watch the service later because you can?

Watching at home is not the same as being in church and receiving the Sacrament. There are some people who really cannot get to church and who need to watch online at the time of the service.

Don't be like Joe and Mary, if you are able, come to one of our services on a Sunday or during the week.



You are invited to  
'Carols and Readings for Christmas'  
On  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm  
at  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh on Sea



A combined local initiative of, Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches in Leigh; Supporting Southend YMCA, HARP, and St Vincent's Centre Southend

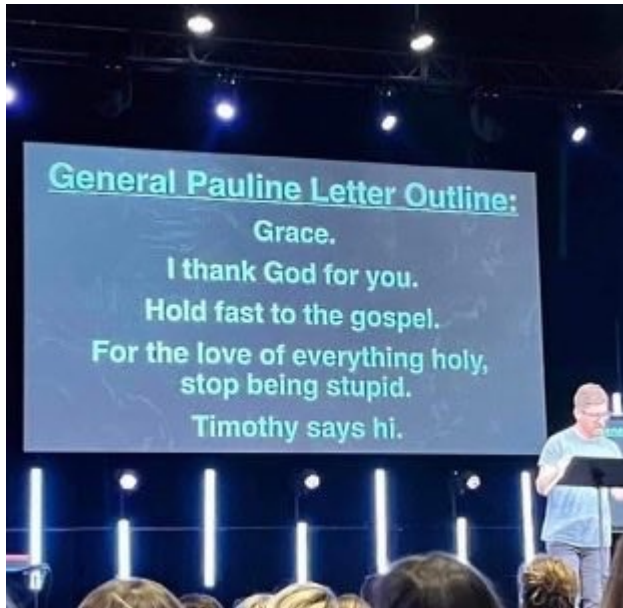
Charity no. 1018354

Please join us for carols with the 'Sea of Voices Choir' and YMCA  
And afterwards for refreshments in the Parish Centre

Donations to Serving the Homeless



## Precis of St Paul's letters



# 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

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

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## **Mothers' Union**

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## **Webmaster:**

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