

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizevell



**PEACE AND JOY TO YOU ALL
AT CHRISTMAS**

DECEMBER 2021

£1 25

St Margaret's Worship

The restrictions due to the pandemic continue until further notice, Places of Worship can be used for services carefully following all the government rules, including; social distancing, wearing face coverings, hand hygiene etc. At St Margaret's we continue to offer a service of Holy Communion in church at 10am each Sunday. See p7 for details of Christmas services.

There is a short service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30am; this is held by telephone conference call. A service of Evening Prayer will be held on Wednesdays in church at 5pm.

Our Good Morning news sheet, readings and other resource material and information are shared by email every Saturday.

If you wish to join our mailing list or the Tuesday Morning Prayer please contact me (email: vicarleiston@gmail.com or telephone: 01728 830421).
Richard Finch

CONTACT US

Priest in Charge: Reverend Richard Finch: T.830421

The Vicarage, Church Road, Leiston E.vicarleiston@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Reverend Morag Finch

Reader: Mr Bernard Smith: 3 Daneway Gardens, Leiston T.830105

Lay Elders:

Mrs Pat Carter, 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

Church Wardens:

Mrs Pat Carter: 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

One Vacancy

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

PCC Secretary: Mrs Emma Jameson, 4 Woodlands, Leiston T.832166

'JAM' (Jesus & Me) Sunday School Leader: Mrs Sandra Ellis T.832168

Organist & Choir Master: Mr Matthew Merrett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Vaughan Windle, 21 Eastward Ho T. 833988

One Vacancy

Resident Retired Priest:

Reverend Richard Ellis: 9 Kings Road, Leiston T.832168

Website Editor: Mrs Maureen Fox T.830929

Magazine Editor: Mrs Pat Carter T.831852 **Email:** pm42carter@gmail.com

A WANDERING WORSHIPPER WRITES.....

Hello. To me falls the honour of writing the lead article for our lovely little magazine this month, although I must admit I do feel a bit of a fraud in that I have not been a regular attender at St Margaret's recently. This has certainly not been due to any diminution of faith, but to two very different factors which I hope you will think are valid excuses for my absence.

Firstly, Jenefer and I have been laid low for several weeks by an unpleasant and long-lasting flu-type bug (no, not THAT bug) which has prevented me from going to Church and has spared you the horror of having me coughing, spluttering and sneezing in your vicinity on Sunday mornings. My devotions have been limited to indoor Bible studies and catching up with the lovely Our Daily Bread booklets and other religious magazines which arrive in the post.

But the main reason for my irregular attendance at St Margaret's is that I have adopted two other Churches which, when not coughing or spluttering, I attend in rotation with our own Church. They are very different from each other, which is part of their charm. One is Lowestoft St Margaret's, where I join a sizeable congregation to stand and bellow out hymns to the accompaniment of a big choir and the organ played by Jonathan Williams, once our organist here in Leiston. The big Church is a mask-free zone, so I can sing or mumble the hymns without steaming up my glasses and falling over. And my other refuge is the dear little Church at Yoxford, where my occasional attendance swells the tiny congregation almost to double figures. Here we have no music, so we sit and SAY the words of the hymns, which is a bit strange but means that you concentrate more on the words without trying to get the tune right.

I love it all, and feel uneasy if a Sunday morning goes by without me stepping through the doorway of a Church somewhere. But wherever I am, and wherever I sit, the question often comes to my mind: why do we go to Church at all? After all, presumably one can do his or her best to live a good Christian life without going to Church services. What does going to Church add?

Well, to me there are several things. In these strange times, when religion is often ignored, insulted and mocked, it can sometimes feel quite lonely trying to be a Christian. But when you walk into a Church, you know that everyone in that beautiful building understands and shares your beliefs. You do not need to explain or justify your faith, for you know it is shared by all around you. All you need to do is relax and worship, knowing you are among friends with whom you have a lot in common even if (as with me at Lowestoft) you do not know many of them by name or anything much about them. You are all there for a beautiful common purpose, and that precious hour can charge up the batteries to enable you to face an uncaring world for another week.

And then there's the welcome. At whatever Church, you are greeted by friendly people who want to know a little about you and who are pleased to guide the new visitor through the unfamiliar surroundings and rituals of their Church. In my younger days of Church-wandering, I used to be wary of attending any Church more than three times as any new person seemed to be at great risk of being offered a job, but now that I am ancient and absent-minded I feel sure I am safe and that the welcome has no ulterior motive. Church people are just very nice people!

Next, there is the humbling beauty of the buildings themselves. How did they come to be, I wonder as I gaze around them in awe-struck amazement. Could they possibly be built today, or have the secrets of such beautiful construction died with the amazing people who made these wonderful places which we are lucky enough to be allowed to enjoy? There is great skill and cleverness in the world today - we can send Captain Kirk into space, but could we build another Leiston Church? I fear we could not, so I cherish the beauty of Leiston, of Lowestoft, of Yoxford Churches and thank God for allowing me in.

And finally, there is of course the mystical side of Church gatherings. Many a time I have attended a service in a troubled or negative state of mind, only to find my worries or concerns dissipating as the service goes on so that I feel a different person when I emerge into the daylight. Could anything be as mind-changing as an hour in the holy presence?

So it all adds up, and it's hard to do without it. I shall be somewhere this Sunday, sharing prayers with you and wishing you well. Have a contented Christmas, keep warm and safe, and let us reflect on how lucky we are.

Peter Roberts.

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THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA



The Mexican legend of the poinsettia tells of a poor orphan girl who had no gift for the cathedral's altar on Christmas Eve. Out of desperation, the little girl picked a bunch of unsightly weeds on her way to the church. As she reluctantly presented her gift, a miracle occurred, and the weeds were transformed into colourful poinsettias.

SUBMITTED BY JILL MOWER

Pondering Prayer

December and by now I imagine we are all thinking about Christmas, although, sadly, not all necessarily looking forward to it. There are many reasons why some may be unhappy, bad memories, loss of family member(s), loved ones, lack of money to buy presents, poverty, sickness to name but a few. There are others who do not even relate it to the Christian religion and just think it is an annual party time, or maybe just for children.

Over the years, when walking through busy high streets and highly decorated shops, many with a crib, angels and other Christian themes, at this time of year I have often heard the phrase “Why does the church always try and get into everything?” These persons seem to have no knowledge whatever of the Christian Festival and the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and what it means.

They do perhaps have a point however in that December 25th was always a time for the Pagan festivals. At the coldest and darkest period of the year they needed something to brighten their lives and so festivals to cheer became common in Europe and beyond from very early times. As the Christian religion developed after the death and resurrection of Jesus and Christianity became adopted by the Roman Empire as the state religion so it took over the festivals of December 25th. No one then or now knew precisely when Jesus was born and I suppose it seemed like a good idea at the time as means of conversion among other reasons.

Nicholas of Myra, a 4th Century Saint, became ‘Santa Claus’ now also known as Father Christmas. Legends are highly fanciful but all attest to his loving kindness. He is said to have saved three girls from prostitution, by providing 3 bags of gold for their dowries, among other stories. Many of his patronages spring from these stories, the most popular being his patronage of children, and led to the tradition in the Low Countries of giving presents to children on his feast day, December 6th, and his modern metamorphosis into Santa Claus. Dutch Settlers in North America merged Scandinavian folk tales about a wizard who rewarded good children with presents; these became popular in the United States and then spread worldwide.

Pray for all who may be sorrowful or incapacitated at this time; for those who no longer have families to celebrate with; for those in poverty; for those who are being persecuted for their beliefs. Above all, pray for love, world peace and the rebirth of faith and the ability to forgive and be forgiven.

Br. Christian



The Band of The
Royal British Legion,
Leiston



Present
a concert to
**Salute the
Forces
at
Christmas**

Sunday December 19th
3pm
at St Margarets Church
Leiston

FREE ENTRY - We welcome donations for refreshments
& there will be a retiring collection

RAFFLE

Disabled access

All proceeds will be shared by the Church and The Band

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022

Many thanks to everyone who has bought the Parish Magazine during 2021. We are most grateful for your support of St. Margaret's and its outreach work both in our local community and further afield.

If you would like to continue, or start, subscribing to the St. Margaret's Church Magazine we will be collecting subscriptions for 2022 during January. This will be via a payment envelope which will be enclosed in January's edition of the magazine. Please enclose your £15.00 annual subscription in the envelope provided and then return it either to the person who delivers your magazine, to church or directly to Sandra Harle, church treasurer, at 4 Lime Tree Avenue. Cash or cheques are both welcome - cheques must be made payable to 'Leiston PCC'.

Many thanks again for your continued support of the St. Margaret's Parish Magazine.

Sandra Harle

Christmas Celebrations at St Margaret's and in the community



19th December 3pm Christmas Concert by The Royal British Legion Band, in church.

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service. Setting up the crib scene, telling the story, lighting the tree.

6.30pm Carols in the Square. The community joins together to sing carols at the Old Post Office square in Leiston.

9pm Holy Communion - Welcoming in Christmas Day, "Midnight in Bethlehem".

Christmas Day - 10am Holy Communion

DECEMBER

Once again most of the leaves are off the chestnut trees and the bare branches reveal a few nests which I think the pigeons built. The leaves seem to have taken longer to fall this year. Now we are getting ready for Christmas, which seems to come quicker each year. I was able to get some Lego at the Tesco half-price sale with the guidance of the family. Such a lovely selection and so different from when my family were younger. They were a much cheaper toy then. Another one was stickle bricks – a plastic spiked toy which you joined up and made all sorts of shapes. I've not seen them for a while.



The window of the Co-op toy shop from July onwards would have in big white letters PAY A DEPOSIT NOW TO SECURE YOUR TOY FOR CHRISTMAS. You would pay a little each week and by Christmas the price for the toy would have been paid. I also had a club at Titlows. They had a lovely toy shop upstairs; they also had a lovely selection of books. It's not all about what you get for Christmas – it's a time you should be grateful for what you've got and health is the main thing. So many people are in bad health, with sadness from loss of loved ones. So we make the most of every day, especially Christmas this year. Hopefully there will be no restrictions as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

MARGARET CLARK



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 For free and independent advice.

- Debt
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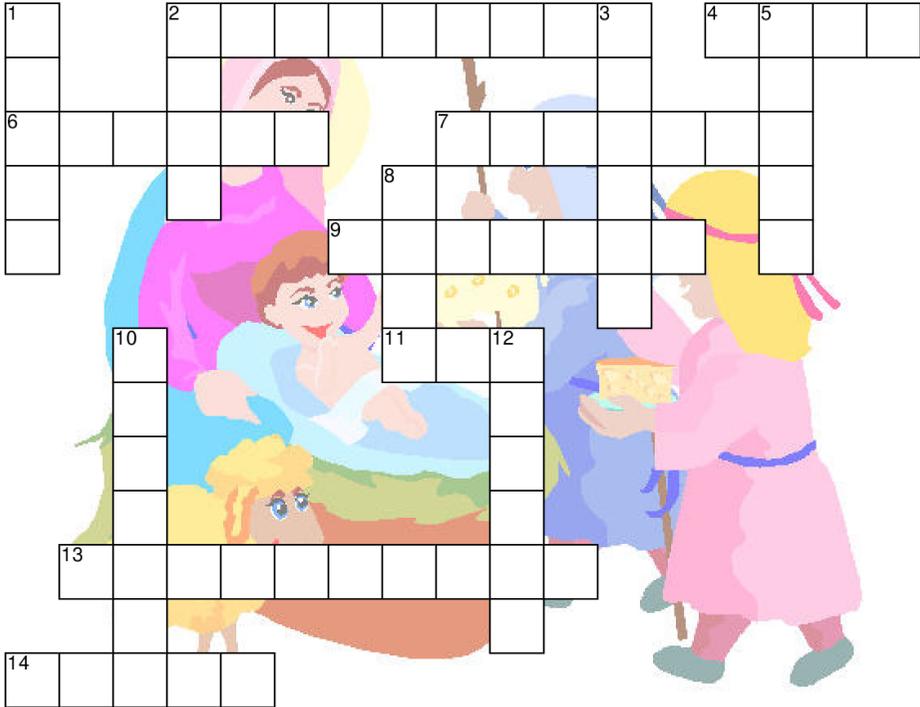
Check www.leistoncab.org for our opening times and outreach venues.
 Or call us on 01728832193 or email: supervisor@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk to make contact.



A Christmas Nativity puzzle

Christmas Nativity

www.kidsCanHaveFun.com



Across

2. The town where Baby Jesus was born.
4. Jesus mother's name.
6. The inn-keeper told Mary that she could stay in the _____ with the animals.
7. There was a _____ star that lead the wise men to Baby Jesus.
9. _____ brought Jesus gifts and travelled far.
11. Baby Jesus was also the son of _____.
13. The wise men _____ baby Jesus.
14. The manger was filled with _____ to make it comfortable for baby Jesus.

Down

1. Mary was told by the angel to call the baby _____.
2. An angel told Mary that she would have a very special _____.
3. Jesus lay in a _____.
5. An _____ told the Shepherds about Jesus birth.
8. Jesus was also known as the newborn _____.
10. Jesus would be our _____.
12. Mary rode on a _____ to find a place to stay.

MUSICAL QUIZ FOR CHRISTMAS

(All the answers are the titles of Christmas songs and carols)

- 1 A quiet evening
- 2 Happiness to the world
- 3 Fat man in red suit coming from North Pole
- 4 Cover the entry with branches of berries
- 5 One letter missing from the alphabet
- 6 Small city in Israel
- 7 Us, two plus one male crowned rulers
- 8 It arrived at 12 pm uncluttered
- 9 Listen, the herald non-devils are musically speaking
- 10 Ringo Starr as a small child
- 11 A certain bird in a fruit branch
- 12 _____, the crimson proboscis precipitation darling
- 13 Ice cold, the white flakes male
- 14 It's starting to resemble 25th December
- 15 Ding-a-ling ding dongs
- 16 I peeked at Mother "smooching" with a red-suited fat man

(Quiz submitted by Jill Mower)

Answers to last month's questions

- 1 St Stephen 2 Petrograd (1914 – 24), Leningrad (1924 – recently)
3 St Elmo's Fire 4 St Jude 5 San Marino 6 The canonisation of Joan of Arc in
1920 7 Bury St Edmunds 8 It will rain for another 40 days 9 St Augustine
10 St Luke

**When contacting any of the businesses advertised,
don't forget to mention you saw their advert in the
St. Margaret's Magazine!**

PLEASE NOTE Andrew Hawes no longer uses Mobile number 07521476294

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EYAM - PLAGUE VILLAGE



On a recent visit to Derbyshire I visited Eyam (pronounced 'Eam' as in 'steam'), a village that went into self-imposed quarantine when plague broke out in September 1665. The villagers were led by their rector William Mompesson who ministered to the sick and dying and held church services in the open. About two-thirds of the population perished, but their sacrifice prevented disease spreading beyond the settlement.

The above window was given by Mrs CM Crewick in 1985 in memory of her husband. The central panel depicts the rector with, at the bottom, on the left Eyam Church, and on the right the old St Paul's Cathedral, destroyed by fire at about the time the Eyam plague was at its height and giving a link to London, where the plague was thought to have started.

The panel on the left depicts some cloth from London being opened by George Viccars, the village tailor, and a young boy, Edward Cooper. In the upper part Viccars lies dying, surrounded by his neighbours. Linking the two scenes is a wreath, the "Ring o'Roses" of the rhyme.

The top of the right-hand panel shows a meeting between the rector and a former incumbent planning their action to control the plague by closing the Church and the

boundaries of the village. The lower part shows a pair of lovers who could not meet but called to each other across the river Delph. Sadly one of them did not survive.

In the smaller light is shown Mompesson's well where money was left by the villagers in return for food and goods from outside the village. On the right are graves of the Hancock family, plague victims. There were no funerals and families buried their own family members near their homes. Mrs Hancock buried her husband and six children in eight days. At the very top is the 8th century Saxon cross which is in the churchyard – a symbol of their faith which sustained them through this time.

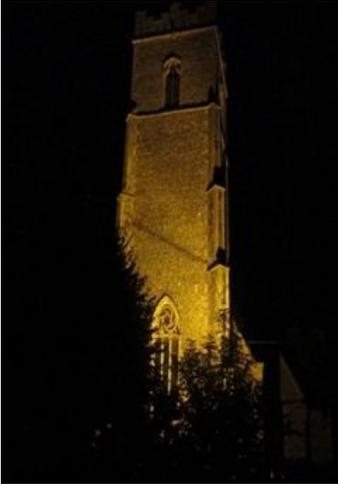
PAT CARTER

LINK TO HOPE – FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL



A very big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this year's Shoebox Appeal, either by filling boxes or by donating items and/or cash to help with shipping costs. Church members and friends generously filled a total of 39 shoeboxes this year. Following our morning service on Sunday 31stOctober the boxes were blessed by Revd. Richard Finch. They were then dropped off at one of our nearest collection points, in Diss, for onward transportation. The boxes will be delivered to families in Eastern Europe, who are going through some very tough times. More information, including wonderful pictures of people who have received boxes in the past, can be found on the charity's website www.linktohope.co.uk

With thanks again for your generosity and support.
Sandra Harle.



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During November the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

**Wednesday 3rd November
Happy 96th Birthday Eileen Free
Love from the Peck family**

**Thursday 11th November 'We still do'!
Paul Fryer and Claire Middleditch are
celebrating their 10th wedding
anniversary. xx**

Friday 19th November

**In loving memory of John Geater who died two years ago
but lives in our hearts.**

June, Susan & Steven and families.

Monday 22nd November

In loving memory of Paul Snowden on his birthday.

Friday 26th November

Remembering dear Stew Hall on your birthday.

Love from the family.

If you would like to mark a special occasion by sponsoring the lighting of the Church Tower for a donation of £5 per day, please write the details in the diary provided in church, then place the completed payment envelope in the wall safe. Many thanks.

*If you would like to arrange to light the tower during the lockdown period, please contact Sandra direct (contact details page 2)

Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

22 November 2021 Bessie Doreen Chandler

ST. MARGARET'S GETS CRAFTY!



At the Craft Fair held on Saturday 30th October, the church was packed full of stalls each laden with lots of lovely hand-made craft and gift items. These included cards, knitwear and paintings, together a wide selection of jewellery and many more seasonal goodies, which made for perfect early Christmas shopping!

Our ladies in the kitchen were kept busy throughout the event, serving up delicious refreshments, which had been kindly donated by members and friends of St. Margaret's and the raffle, as always, was well supported. A stall with a large amount of new wool which had been donated to the church proved very popular with buyers and raised £64.50. The total amount raised for church funds amounted to £602, so many thanks to everyone who came along on the day and/or helped in any way.

All the stallholders did a brisk trade, commented on the lovely atmosphere and said they were very much looking forward to the next one!

Sandra Harle

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CHATSWORTH HOUSE

While in Derbyshire recently I visited Chatsworth House, the magnificent home of the 12th Duke of Devonshire. Since then I have come across the following written by Former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan who was married to Lady Dorothy, third daughter of the 9th Duke.

CHRISTMAS AT CHARTWELL

One of the old traditions of Chatsworth scrupulously maintained was Evensong every Sunday in the house chapel. Those who know Chatsworth will remember the great beauty of this masterpiece of late seventeenth-century work, with its lovely altar and fine ceiling. The village organist and choir came up for the service. Two rows of straight Jacobean chairs stood facing each other. On one side were the men; on the other the women. When the house was full, with all the guests, servants and visiting servants, there was a goodly company. The service always ended with the same hymn, called the Benediction hymn, sung kneeling:

*Father give us now Thy Blessing
Take us now beneath Thy Care;
May we all enjoy Thy presence.
And Thy tender mercies share,*

*Guard us through this night from danger,
Keep us in Thy heavenly love;
Through our life do Thou be near us,
Then receive us all above.*

**The origin of this hymn is unknown.*

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The two week period for the Poppy Appeal started on 30th October and finished on 13th November. This is preceded by lots of preparation, the ordering of poppies, wreaths and other materials. The poppy boxes are filled by the RAF Air Cadets at the Cadet Centre. There was five days of



collecting donations in the Leiston branch of the Co-operative Society plus boxes in other shops, pubs and clubs. Grateful thanks to the store and their staff for their help and co-operation. On Saturday morning cadets from the Leiston Army Cadet Force helped with the collection in the Co-op as shown in the photograph above.

Both sets of cadets were on duty at the Festival of Remembrance at the Film Theatre and on Remembrance Sunday. The RBL Band Leiston led the parade from the Cadet Centre to the war memorial in the St Margaret's church where Leiston's Tommy was on duty. The traditional wreath laying took place followed by the Remembrance Sunday service in the church.



Tommy alongside the war memorial surrounded by wreaths

At the beginning of the service a new standard for the RBL Leiston Branch was dedicated. The band played for the hymns during the service.

Following the two week collection period all the donations are counted and banked. Donations are recorded and cards of thanks are written for all the volunteers. To date the sum raised is £4775 84 with more to come. My most grateful thanks to my loyal band of helpers and to the people of Leiston and the surrounding area for their very generous donations for this important cause.

Pat Carter, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Leiston and Sizewell

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

December's magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time, with the St Margaret's Church family group for this month as shown below. There are three family groups with each one appearing in the magazine every three months. However, you remain in our thoughts and prayers always.

If you would like to be included in our family monthly prayers, or have any queries please email stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com. If you feel you would prefer to be remembered in a particular month then please let us know. Also, if you have a specific need for additional prayer time then please let us know and we will add you to our 'special prayers' section.

In our Church Family Prayers

Jim & Pauline Florance	Shirley Newman
Bernard & Patsy Smith	Matthew, Vanessa, Alex, Kierah & Sasha Newman
Joe Diegnan	Kathryn, Mark, Ian & Stuart Langley
Pat, Neil, Lucy, Craig & Ryan Carter	Adrian & Jackie Shotter
Daryl, Helen & Chloe Cartley	Stephanie, Craig, Isla, Edie & Harrison Shotter
John and Joy Kemp	Kim, Dan, Indi Rose & Florence Nola Keeble
Mary Joel	Jan Snowden
Kate Kersey	Nicola, Jon, Toby & Robert Kerridge
Peter Downey	Josie, Steven, Olivia & Maisie Snowden
Donna Button	Derek & Barbara Cole
Billy & Margaret Clarke	June Linsell
Lesley Martin	Hilda Woodhead
Julie, Ellie & Charlie Howard	Pat & John Swatton
Kay, Trevor & Grace Nash	Debbie, Samantha & Matthew Vettesse
Anthony & Sue Hawkes	Kay Curtis
Hilary & Richard Slaughter	Colin, Lucy, Freya, Lola & Leeam Curtis
Toby, Sharon, Emma & Sophie Slaughter	Nicola, Matthew, Callum & Jamie Smy
Jill Staff	David, Lisa, Isle & Neave Curtis
Glyn & June Clarke	Elaine & Jon Ellis
Mary Cornish	Norman Chapman
Trevor & Thelma Hawkins	Eamonn, Cathy & Ursula Harvey
Kirsty Stowe	Helen Thackeray
	Rodney Avis

St. Margaret of Antioch



Parish Church of Leiston-cum-Sizewell
Church Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HG

NOTICE: Items for January's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Pat Carter by **18 December** for inclusion in the January Magazine. Thank you.

Email: pm42carter@gmail.com

The Parish Magazine is available from St Margaret's Church. Delivery can be arranged.

Keep up to date with all Church Events
By visiting our own website

www.stmargaretschurchleiston.onesuffolk.net

How to Find Us

