

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell



**We wish you a blessed Christmas
and a peaceful New Year!**

DECEMBER 2019 £1

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

9.00 HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
10.30 FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

10.00 PARISH EUCHARIST SERVICE & J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

10.00 PARISH EUCHARIST SERVICE

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

10.00 PARISH EUCHARIST SERVICE & J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

16.00 CRIB SERVICE
MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

10.00 PARISH EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

10.00 PARISH EUCHARIST & J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

EACH WEDNESDAY (EXCEPT 25 DECEMBER)

EVENING PRAYER IN CHURCH AT 5 pm – ALL WELCOME

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 Pat Carter, 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

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

Organist & Choir Master: Mr Matthew Merrett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Two Vacancies

Resident Retired Priests:

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

Reverend Pauline Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

Reverend Jim Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

Website Editor: Mrs Maureen Fox T.830929

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

The Light of Christ Has Come Into The World

Christmas for me has always been about light. I can remember as a young child looking at the coloured lights on the Christmas tree, and the excitement of hanging the pretty glittering baubles on the branches and seeing the lights reflected in them. Light is essential in our lives, to carry out tasks at home, to walk about outside after dark, not forgetting always to put a torch in our pockets for when it might be needed.

Fred and I always had an Advent candle, and I still do. We burnt off a little each day as Christmas and the commemoration of the birth of the baby Jesus came closer. Today I give both my children an Advent candle so that they and their families can join in the period of waiting as they did when they were children themselves. In this busy world a reminder of the light to come. The Advent candle shines brightly in the darkness reminding us that Jesus came as a light into our dark world.

Light is very evident in the Christmas story, the angels who shone with a great light before the shepherds, the star that shone over the stable where the baby lay in a manger, the star which shone in the sky to lead the three wise men to the infant king.

In our church we have an Advent wreath, the circle with its four candles reminding us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. We light one candle on each Sunday in Advent and a fifth candle in the centre at the Midnight service on Christmas Eve. The first candle symbolises "hope", the hope the prophets of the Old

Testament had waiting for the Messiah's arrival. The second represents "faith", the faith that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. The third represents "joy", the joy the shepherds felt when the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them. The fourth represents "peace", the angels declaring that Jesus came to bring peace on earth, to bring people close to God and to each other.

And the fifth candle, "light and purity" the one lit at the Midnight service on Christmas Eve celebrates the arrival in our dark world of the light of God through the birth of a baby in a stable.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world: whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

I pray that the light and love of Christ will be with you this Christmastide and shine within you always.

Pat

Pondering Prayer

Over recent weeks I have been reminded of the quote in II Peter, about Lot, which tells us, that he was "tormented in his righteous soul by the deeds he saw and heard". II Peter 2:8

It seems to me we have been bombarded over recent months, both through news reports and investigative journalism, with information which is often distressing, though thankfully there is also good news to be imparted.

The same chapter of II Peter also speaks of how the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from trials. My heart is deeply moved as I discover more about the work in which Jane and Alan are engaged in Nakuru, Nigeria and the work they have established at the Beehive, a Home dedicated to the rehabilitation, education and loving support of vulnerable child mothers and their babies? They are certainly involved in a rescue operation. The Beehive is home to seventeen young mums and their babies.

At Christmas we focus our attention on babies to a large degree. Can we take up the needs of these babies and their mums at Nakuru ?

Pray for Ruth, who despite her hearing impairment, wants to train to be a doctor. She is currently studying, while baby Ben, born in February 2016 is thriving at the Beehive.

Pray for Rachel, known as their “sunshine Mummy” who was rescued at the age of 10 from child marriage. Her baby Nathan was also born in 2016 in April. She would be in danger if she were to return home, but she wants one day to train as a Social Worker.

Pray for God’s ongoing provision for this worthwhile ministry and give thanks for the vision the Lord gave to Jane and Alan to establish a safe place for these young people.

Revd. Pauline Florance

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020

Many thanks to everyone who has bought the Parish Magazine during 2019. 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 2020 during January. This will be via a payment envelope which will be enclosed in January’s edition of the magazine. Please enclose your £12.00 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

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER 2019

Dear Friends

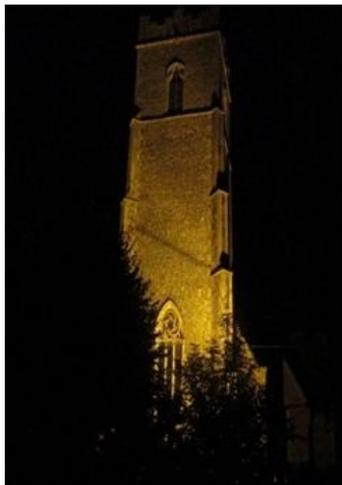
December's magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time, with the St Margaret's Church family group for this month as shown below. There are three family groups with each one appearing in the magazine every three months. However, you remain in our thoughts and prayers always.

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

Richard & Sandra Ellis	Mary, Simon, Archie & Edward Reading
Kevin, Jess & Oliver Ellis	Valerie and Maurice Allchin
Christopher, Anna and Ada Ellis	Charlmaine, Lee, Luke & Liam Wright
Michael, Anika, Darcey & Jack Ellis	Olive Wilson
James & Kristi Ellis	Vaughan & Jenny Windle
Chris & Elspeth Gonin	Liz Mills
Basil & Jean Jenkyns	Jean Crowter
Jill Mower	Colin & Penny Tipple
Sue Watt	Barbara Moss
June Geater	Tom & Nona Wadsell-Campbell
Sue Geater	Stephen & Claire Miles
Ron & Diana Geater	Emily & Rob Oxborrow
Doreen Bardwell	Eileen Griffiths
Sandra, Philip, Ellie & Laura Harle	David & Lynn Bailey
Daphne & Terri Roper	Kirsty, Shane, Ceylon, AJ & Logan Stone
Pam Bloomfield	Kathryn, Grace & Eve Phillips-Last
Graham, Sylvia, Linda & Susan Hawes	Ann Woods

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP



During November the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on:

3 November – In loving memory of Fred, best friend and husband of Pat, much loved Dad of Neil and Helen, proud Grandfather of Craig, Ryan and Chloe on what would have been your 70th birthday

4 November – Hilda Norman. In loving memory on your birthday

22 November - In loving memory of Paul Snowden's birthday

23 November – Stewart Hall. In loving memory on your birthday

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.

BIBLE SUNDAY



Sunday 27th October was Bible Sunday. Towards the end of the service one of the JAM Sunday School children and the teacher came down from the back to tell the congregation about what both of the children had been learning. They told us they begun by learning about the parts of the Bible. They learnt that the Bible was a book which was divided into two books called the Old Testament and the New Testament and that those books were divided up into more books. As the children were not very old they did find it a bit difficult to understand. They also told us they that they had been learning about Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. This story is in the book of John in the New Testament. They showed us their work which included a stand-up scene from the wedding which they had coloured in. Jesus' mother was at the wedding and when the wine ran out she told Jesus. She then told

the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them. Above the scene they put a label with the words “Do whatever Jesus tells you.”

After the service the congregation was able to look at a selection of Christian literature which could be bought locally. The Reverend Pauline Florance had borrowed the items from At the Crossroads in Saxmundham and Sizewell Hall.

Linda Hawes

ST. LUCIA

Saint Lucy (Lucia) is remembered on 13th December and her picture in the window shows her with an oil lamp, quill pen & book. Lucy is the patron of the blind. Lucy's Latin name *Lucia* shares a root with the Latin word for light and her feast has become a festival of light in Sweden where a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In both Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. It is said that to vividly celebrate St. Lucy's Day will help one live the long winter days with enough light.

Lucy was a native of Syracuse in Sicily. She lived at the beginning of the fourth century, when the Roman authorities were attempting to re-establish the worship of gods they approved. The emperor himself was the focus of one of the cults. Tradition has it that Lucy, as a young Christian, gave away her goods to the poor and was betrayed to the authorities by her angry betrothed, who felt that they should have become his property so accused her of being a Christian. She was put to death for her faith in the year 304. One legend tells of the governor ordering the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them and as a result is often depicted holding a plate containing a pair of eyes.



Revd. Morag Finch

Love to Sing Choir

Christmas Concert

Sunday 15th December

St Margaret's Church

Leiston

3:00 pm

FREE ENTRY, All Welcome

Retiring Collection in aid of

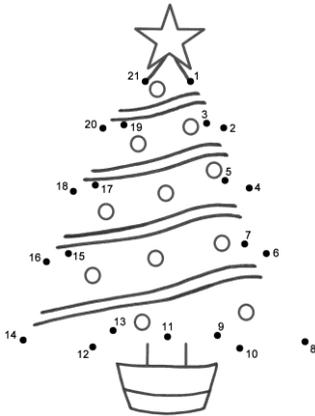
Macmillan Nurses

Refreshments will be available to
purchase after the concert. Raffle in
aid of St Margaret's Church

For Further details contact Rachael:
01728 687923



Welcome to 'your page'
Full of fun activities to enjoy



Merry Christmas



Join the dots and colour in the tree, Santa and the sack of presents and the snowflakes



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JAM Jesus and Me

Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' sessions. Kids of all ages welcome!
Sunday 8 and 22 December at 10.00 am



*The Band of
The Royal British Legion, Leiston*



Christmas Concert



**St Margaret's Church,
Church Rd, Leiston, IP16 4HG**

Sunday 22nd December 2019

2.30pm



Come and enjoy some festive music and a mince pie!

A raffle will take place during the interval

FREE Admission – *Proceeds from the retiring collection
will be shared between the church and the band*

LADIES GROUP LEARNS TO WEAVE

On Monday 18 November members of the Ladies Group met in church to learn how to stick weave. Our very capable tutor was Pat Bloomer. She explained how she had learnt to weave using wool and sticks. Her husband had even made her some sticks to use and he had certainly made a very professional job of it. However Pat showed us how to weave using straws in place of sticks. After a few uncertain starts we all were delighted with our results. Using two straws we were able to make a bracelet. Pat explained that the more straws you used the wider your end product would be. Using five or six straws would make a belt. We finished the afternoon with a cup of tea and biscuits feeling very pleased with our efforts.



The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11 December when we will have a Beetle Drive at Leiston United Church joining with the people who go to Tea and Chat. We will be starting at 2 pm. During the afternoon we share Secret Santa presents so please bring a gift-wrapped present to the value of £1 and a plate of festive food to share.

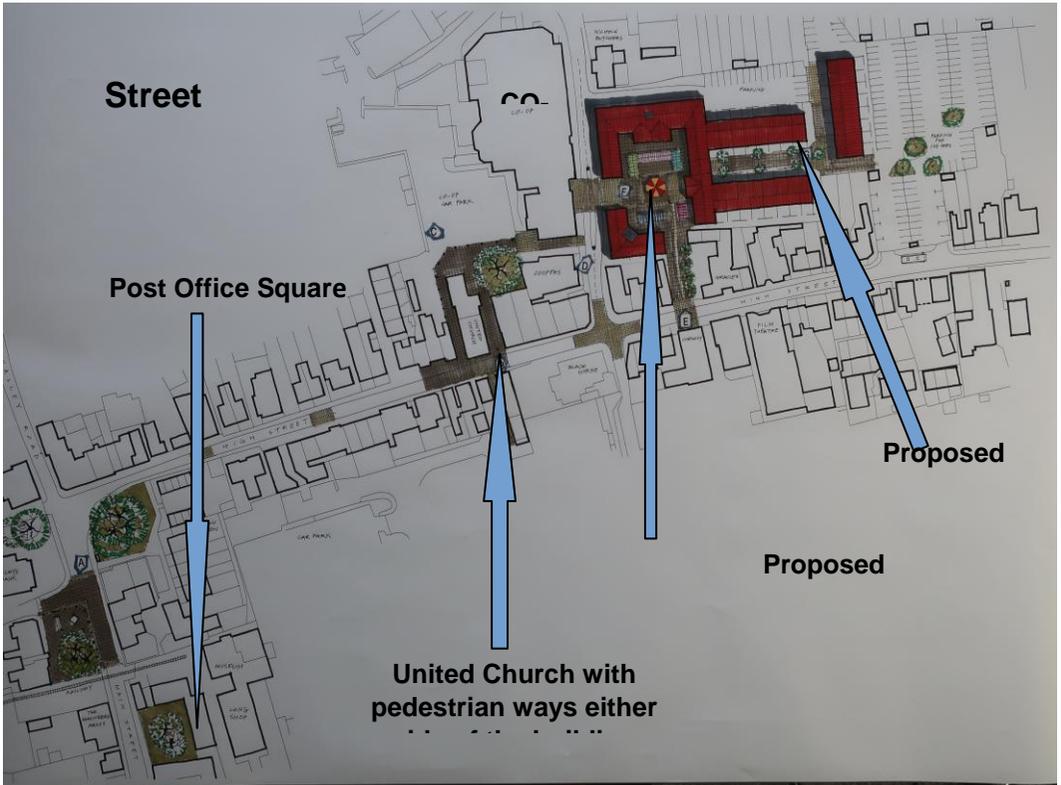
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CHURCH OPENING HOURS

PLEASE NOTE:

Now the days are shorter the church will be open from 10 am until 3 pm Monday to Saturday.

The Regeneration of Leiston Town Centre



Leiston Community Land Trust (LCLT) was founded by a collection of enthusiastic and passionate people who saw a need to revive our town in order to provide an attractive place in which to live, work and play. A town to be proud of. The seeds for this grew out of the Neighbourhood plan which was voted for by the public. It is **not** run by the Town Council or the East Suffolk District Council, though it does have their support and representation on the Board.

The LCLT is a 'not for profit Benefit Society' run by a board of Local Trustees voted for by the residents of Leiston. LCLT is celebrating its first birthday. The Annual General Meeting is being held in the Community Centre in Sizewell Road on 10th December at 6.00pm.

All are invited to come along. Local residents aged 18 plus can become members for £1.00 which gives them voting rights. For those who live

outside the Parish of Leiston with Sizewell they can become associate members, again for £1.00 but they will not be able to vote.

If you have not already signed up as a paid up member DO PLEASE consider it. Already there are nearly 200 members.

Currently the Board of Trustees are Mrs Sammy Betson, Mrs Lesley Hill, Mr Bing Boast, Mr Russ Rainger, Mr Simon Merrett, Mr Barry Norman, Mr Tony Cooper and Reverend Jim Florance.

If you would like to find out more about Leiston Community Land Trust please speak with any of the above or pop into the Trust office No 22 Sizewell Road on a Tuesday morning between 9 am – 11.30 noon.

A 'THANK YOU' FROM THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you to the box holders of St. Margaret's Church for your contributions, which totalled £225.86 this year.

Funds raised from the Children's Society collection boxes are a vital contribution to our mission to help disadvantaged children and young people by bringing life changing support. This includes helping families trapped in poverty and debt, providing support to young carers and combating child sexual exploitation. The kindness and compassion shown by box holders in donating enables us to help children to escape potentially harmful surroundings and lead the happier lives that they deserve.

If you would like to become a box holder, then please see Sandra Harle either in church or by calling 833578. For more information on the work of The Children's Society, please visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk

ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The last meeting of 2019 for the Group was held in Knodishall and a report of that will appear in the next magazine. The committee wishes a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all those who have supported the Group's activities during another successful year.

In 2020 the monthly talks begin on Monday 20 January with a talk by Bob Webb on the railway designer/engineer Francis Thompson. The talk will be at the Waterloo Centre, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston IP16 4HF commencing at 2 30 pm. Admission is £3 for visitors, £1 for members, including tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone is welcome.

ST. MARGARET'S GETS CRAFTY - YET AGAIN!

Our third Craft Fair was held on Saturday 2nd November and the church was packed full of stalls each laden with lots of lovely hand-made craft and gift items. These included cards, cushions and cakes, together a wide selection of jewellery and many more seasonal goodies, which made for perfect early Christmas shopping! We were pleased to be joined by Rona Lear, who brought along her spinning wheel and various wools, and also Graham Goldsmith and his Street Jesus team with their African crafts, raising funds for The Beehive Trust in Kenya. Lots of lovely Fairtrade products were also provided by Sue Watson.



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. The total amount raised for church funds amounted to £626.10, 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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

As always, there was a warm and festive atmosphere at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 23rd November. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make it such a success; to all those who donated items, to all those who ran stalls and came along to spend their money and to everyone who helped to set up and those who helped clear up at the end. Also special thanks to Father Christmas for paying us a visit and to our organist Matthew and all the choir members for the lovely festive music. The wonderful sum of £1,160.70 was raised for church funds.



INVITATIONS AND VISITORS

St Margaret's Church Choir invites you to join them for Carol Singing at the White Horse Hotel on Friday 20th December at 6 30 pm. Warm sausage rolls and mince pies to follow!

During the afternoon of Sunday 8th December, we will welcome a visiting band of ringers to St Margaret's. They plan to ring a 'peal' which should take up to three hours – with no breaks! So, if you enjoy hearing the sound of our wonderful bells, then do please listen out. You are in for a real treat!

Special Prayers

Magda

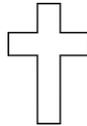
Suzi



Funerals

Thursday 7 November 2019

Cynthia Diana Fisk



Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

Friday 15 November 2019

Olive Rose Brundish

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL REMEMBRANCE TIDE 2019

The Appeal has been successful this year. The Leiston Air Cadets helped, very efficiently, to fill the poppy boxes again this year. For five days collectors were in the Co-op and raised £2191 47 and we are very grateful to the East of England Co-operative who enable us to complete the collection. On 9 November the Army Cadet Force collected outside the Co-op and raised £198 62 (included in the above amount).

The Festival of Remembrance, hosted by the Leiston RBL Band at Leiston Film Theatre raised £865 50. Most grateful thanks to Leiston Town Council and Leiston Film Theatre for their help with this event.

My very sincere thanks go to all those who have helped with the Appeal this year. I thank the people who are prepared to collect house to house and at the Co-op; shops and businesses in the town who are happy to have collecting boxes on their premises. The Leiston and Sizewell RBL Poppy Appeal stands at £6,257 37 at the moment.

Pat Carter, Poppy Appeal Organiser



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**Sunday 15 December 3pm Love to
Sing Choir**

**Sunday 22 December 2 30pm RBL
Band Christmas Concert**

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with us**



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further details**

**Email:
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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 or Leiston Library. 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

