

ST. MARGARET'S

PARISH CHURCH FOR LEISTON-WITH-SIZEWELL



DECEMBER 2014



CHURCH SERVICES

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

9.00 Holy COMMUNION SERVICE

A Traditional Service using Common Worship

10.30 Family PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

An Informal Service Praising the Lord

Baptisms are usually within this service

If you are considering a baptism please contact us to discuss this further.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 SUNG EUCHARIST SERVICE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

6.30 COMMUNITY HEALING SERVICE (NOT CHRISTMAS WEEK)

Listen to the healing word of God through Prayer

ALL OTHER SUNDAYS

10.00 SUNG EUCHARIST SERVICE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

THURSDAY mid-WEEK Holy COMMUNION

11.00 Holy COMMUNION SERVICE (NOT CHRISTMAS WEEK)

CONTACT Us

Priest in Charge: Reverend Martin Phillips-Last:

The Vicarage, Church Rd. T. 561149 E. rev.phillips-last@sky.com

Assistant Priest: Reverend Richard Ellis: 9 King's Rd. T. 832168

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

Church Warden: Mrs Shirley Newman: 3 Red House Lane. T. 832446

Church Warden: Mrs Pat Carter: 42 Haylings Road. T. 831852

PCC Treasurer: Miss Betty Harland: 6 Eastward Ho. T. 832115

PCC Secretary: Mrs Pat Carter: 42 Haylings Road. T. 831852

Sunday School: Mrs Sandra Harle: T. 833578

Organist & Choirmaster: Mr Jonathan Williams: T. 603936

Website & Magazine Editor: Mrs Kathryn Williams:

T. 603936 E. stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com

Deanery Synod Representative: Miss Rosemary Gale: 7 High Green. T. 832105

Deanery Synod Representative: Mrs Shirley Newman: 3 Red House Lane. T. 832446

THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS



One Christmas Eve long ago, across the doors of a church in my sending parish, a young 'artist' had written in large blue spray paint letters, 'God woz ere.' Plans were made to wash it off and re-paint the doors, but after a little thought we decided to do something more creative! Using the artist's discarded spray paint can, we crossed out the word 'woz' and wrote above it the word 'is' and in doing so, proclaimed the message of Christmas: 'God is here.'

It was the message that the angels announced, the shepherd's heard, the wise men sought, Herod feared, and the world didn't even notice. It was the message that Mary cradled and that Joseph admired. It was the message wrapped in cloths lying in a manger. It was the baby Jesus, God with us.

Jesus, God's one and only Son, became flesh, a visible expression of the invisible deity. Here was God, identifying himself with the frailties and tragedies of the human race, getting up close and personal, and announced it to the world with a shining star in the dark Bethlehem night sky: 'I'm here!'

The all powerful and supreme, had made himself breakable, he who had been spirit had become pierce-able. He who is larger than the universe had become an embryo. And he, who created and sustains the world, had chosen to be dependent upon the care of a young girl from Nazareth, through whom the unreachable became touchable and approachable.

From the moment he was born people came to be near him, and would one day touch him as he walked down the street, follow him around the sea of Galilee and on to it. They would invite him into their homes and place their children at the feet of a God in human presence.

So this Christmas, in the midst of the tinsel and the turkey, as we give and receive gifts in love, let us remember that one amazing gift given to the life of each one of us from the depths of a love unfathomable: A baby named Jesus who would grow to be the Saviour of the world. If the Christmas story has a message for us to spray in big blue letters across the doors of our churches and hearts it would be this, 'The Word has become flesh, and dwelt among us, or as Eugene Petersen in 'The Message' paraphrases it, 'The Word has become flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.' In other words, 'God is here!'

May the light of God's amazing love that shone in the dark streets of Bethlehem on that first Christmas morning, shine in your hearts and homes this christmas, from us all at St Margaret's Church, a happy and blessed Christmas to you, and a very happy and bright New Year.

Blessed Christmas adventures,

Many blessings,

Martin

The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

Adopt Me!

the adopt a parish magazine appeal...



There are many species of Parish Magazine, found in a variety of church habitats across this land, that have sadly and for too long been living a life of black & white print.

We here at **'Adopt a Parish Magazine'** have decided to let our magazine live a life of colour. We therefore appeal to you to reach out and help us in our mission to continue bringing colour to the pages of the St. Margaret's Parish Magazine.

You can help do this through giving £1.00 per month for your magazine. You can also help support this form of outreach with a larger donation each month. All donations will be gratefully received, and will in turn help continue to bring colour to the pages of our parish magazine.

We will then watch as they joyfully engage with all they meet, through their illuminated coloured pages; sharing the life, colour and important work of St. Margaret's Church within our community.

If you would like to get involved and give a donation each month to the **'Adopt a Parish Magazine Appeal'**, and continue to bring colour into the world of our parish magazine please do talk to our magazine editor, Kathryn Williams.

For further information, or to support this wonderful form of outreach into our community and give a donation please see Kathryn Williams.

Thank you for your continued support and help in bringing colour to the life of our St. Margaret's Parish Magazine.

ST. MARGARET'S AUTUMN BAZAAR

This year's Autumn Bazaar was well attended and raised £787.64 for church funds (over £100 more than last year). Many thanks indeed to everyone who organised and ran a stall, to the ladies in the kitchen serving delicious refreshments and to everyone who came along to buy the wide range of items on offer. As always, the cake stall and grand draw proved very popular but the Christmas stall was also a great success. Thanks to Maureen for organising that! It was very kind of the Baptist Church to lend us six extra tables – many thanks to Pat, Sandra and Philip for collecting and returning them. Thanks also to Pat, Marian, Sandra and Graham for preparing the church on the Friday afternoon and to everyone who helped tidy up at the end, ready for the concert that evening. Many thanks again to everyone who supported the Bazaar and helped in any way.



Article by: Betty Harland. Photos by: Charles Stride.



St. Margaret's

Church Rd. Leiston

Christmas Services

Lights to Remember
7th December at 7pm

Carols & Candles
21st December at 7pm

Crib Service
24th December at 4pm

Carols in the Library Square, Leiston
24th December at 6.30pm

Midnight Communion
24th December at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Surprise Service
25th December at 10.00am

GRANDAD

Like most people Christmas Day is celebrated with family and friends. Looking back to when we were growing up, our house would be full with Grandparents, Aunts and Cousins.

After about two sherries Grandad would start on about the War. One year my brother said, *'I wonder where we will be this year, in the Trenches or getting over Frostbite'*? Mum said, *'you will listen to him whatever he says. We wouldn't be eating dinner together if it wasn't for your Grandad, Dad and thousands like them, and the ones who lost their lives'*.

So he gave his little speech and we listened, after dinner he had his forty winks (sleep) while the washing up was done. Cups of tea were then made before the King's Speech at 3 o'clock, when the National Anthem was played Grandad would stand up and salute. After that the games would be played.

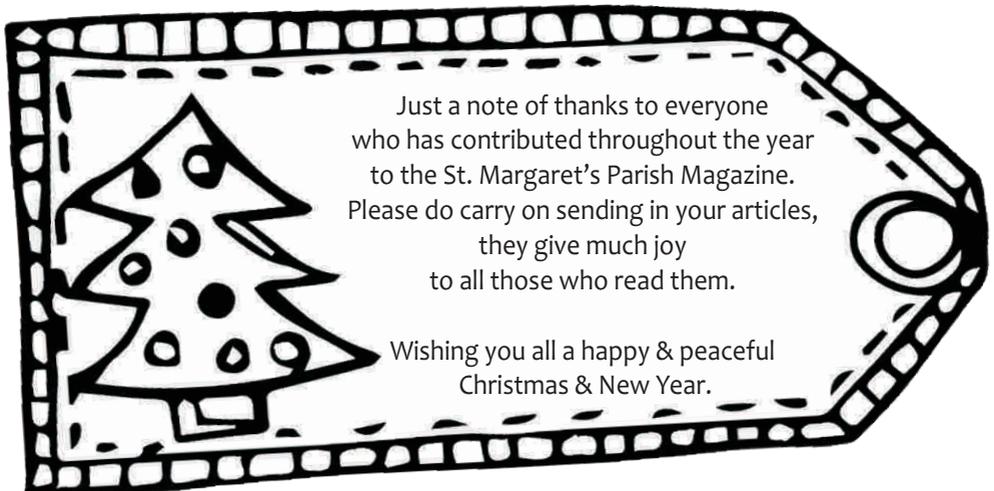
I often think back to those many Christmases together - such lovely times.

The fitting tribute of poppies round the Tower of London in memory of all those brave men makes you think of all who lost their lives.

People are still fighting today. If only they would listen to the Christmas meaning, *"Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men"*.

Margaret Clarke

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR



Kathryn Williams

Cooking with the Bible

Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* or *C. aromaticum*) is a light-brown spice with a fragrant aroma and a warm, sweet flavour. A member of the Laurel family, it is native to what is now Sri Lanka, India, and Myanmar (Burma). It was one of the first trade spices, with records in Egypt dating back to 1500 b.c. and it would have certainly been familiar to the Hebrew tribes by 1000 b.c. (it is mentioned in Exodus, for example, as an ingredient for an oil of anointing).

The LORD spoke to Moses: "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred and fifty of aromatic cane, and five hundred of cassia — measured by the sanctuary shekel — and a hin of olive oil; and you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil." (Ex. 30.23-25 NRSV).

In ancient times, because of its flavour and its scarcity, cinnamon was worth as much as fifteen times the value of silver.

Why not try this festive biscuit recipe for a wonderful smell and taste of Christmas!

Festive Cinnamon Stars

Ingredients:

- 150g (5 oz) self-rising flour
- 150g (5 oz) plain flour
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons of ground ginger
- Grated zest of two oranges
- 125g (4 ½ oz) butter
- 100g (3 ¾ oz) sugar
- 1 egg beaten
- Icing sugar & Cinnamon for decorative dusting



Method:

Preheat the oven to 160°C / Gas Mark 3

Sift the plain & self raising flour into a large bowl, then add the cinnamon, ginger & orange zest.

In a separate bowl, mix the butter with sugar until a smooth consistency. Add the egg & mix well.

Fold in the dry ingredients and mix into a firm dough.

Using a lightly floured board, knead the mixture until smooth dough & roll to a 5mm thickness.

Using a baking cutter, cut into 'star' shapes and place on a greased oven tray.

Bake in a preheated oven for approx 10 - 15 mins until light golden colour. Place on a wire rack and allow to cool. Dust with icing sugar & cinnamon if desired.



CENTENARY COOKBOOK

2014 is a very special year for the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich of which St. Margaret's is a part, as it is the diocese's centenary year. To help celebrate this momentous year we at St. Margaret's Church have created a cookbook full of tasty recipes for you to try.

Help us celebrate this special year & also raise funds for St. Margaret's Church. Pick up your copy of the cookbook now!

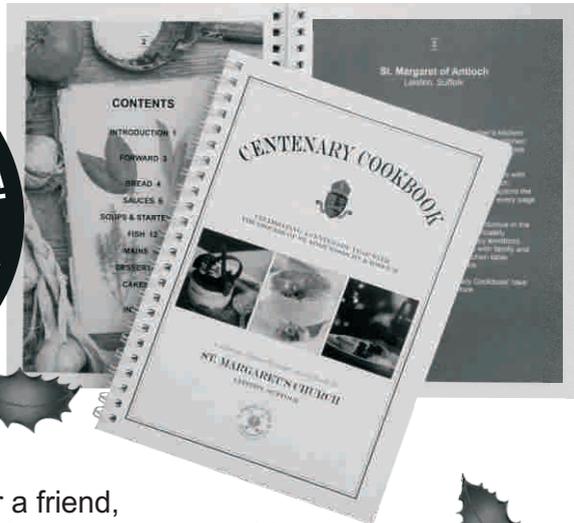


IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Only £5.00

Over 50 tasty recipes for you to try!

DELICIOUS RECIPES!



Makes an ideal gift for a friend, loved one, or simply why not treat yourself!



Helping to support your local Church and the important work it does.

**Available after each Sunday's Service
or
Pop along and pick up your copy from
Margaret's Church Shop, here in the heart of Leiston**

FAMILY SERVICE - ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sunday 2nd November, St Margarets celebrated 'All Saints' by involving the children at the Family Praise & Worship Service. We talked about some of the many saints, with some of the children dressing up in costumes depicting St. Margaret of Scotland (a Scottish Queen), St Alban (a Roman soldier), St Benedict (a monk) and St Helena (the mother of Emperor Constantine The Great).

We learnt that not all the saints were martyred. Some lived long lives and died of old age. All had one thing in common, they all lived Christian lives that followed the teachings of Jesus, and some died because they would not give up their faith in God, or Christ. We also learnt that if we live a Christian lifestyle, we too will be counted as saints by none other than Jesus himself. Amen to that.

Reverend Richard Ellis



Come along & join us every 1st Sunday of the Month at 10.30am

St. Margaret's

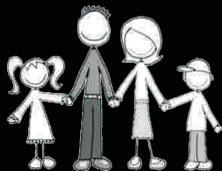
Crib Service

for all the family!

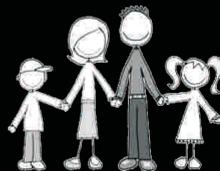


*Come along & join us for an informal service around the crib
for all the family and let us celebrate together the birth of Jesus Christ.*

Christmas Eve at 4pm



Everyone Welcome



SAVE ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH BEGINS A SPONSOR A CHURCH TOWER STONE APPEAL TO SAVE LEISTON'S HISTORIC CHURCH TOWER



During this Autumn, the Leiston-with-Sizewell Parish Church of St Margaret's launched an appeal to help raise the £25,000 needed to pay for urgent repairs to the church's fragile tower.

For the past 654 years, the bells of St Margaret's church tower have rung out across Leiston rejoicing in countless baptisms, celebrating countless weddings, and mournfully embracing countless grieving families. For generations the bells have welcomed worshippers of all ages, and the tower has stood on the Leiston skyline as a symbol of welcome and community to all. However, due to its age cracks have begun to appear in the tower walls and unless these much needed repairs are made, these historic bells will have to remain silent and the tower continue to fall deeper into disrepair. The church tower has been for generations a symbol of community, and it is hoped that through the 'Sponsor a Tower Stone Appeal' it will remain a symbol of community for generations to come.

Please watch out for your 'Sponsor a St. Margaret's Church Tower Stone Appeal' gift envelope, posted through your letter box and into local businesses across the Parish. Every donation no matter how small will make a big difference, and will be collected from you over the following days. We believe that this appeal is truly a symbol of what local community can do when we come together. We therefore invite you to write your name, family name or business name on your gift envelope, which will then be entered into a special St Margaret's Church Tower Community Appeal Book. This will then remain in the church as a record for future generations; a dedication of how the local community of today helped to save their local parish church tower by simply sponsoring a tower stone.

Please get involved and be a vital part of bringing the life back to a symbol of our community, at the centre of community, the parish church tower of St Margaret's, Leiston-with-Sizewell.

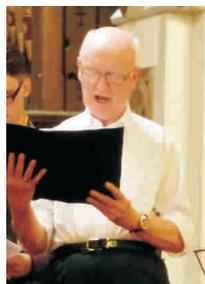
Thank you for your help in supporting this worthy cause. Your gift will help to ensure future generations are able to continue enjoying the sight and sounds of the Leiston-with-Sizewell St. Margaret's Tower.

The Parish Church of St. Margaret's, Leiston-with-Sizewell

ST. MARGARET'S AUTUMN EVENING CONCERT

During this year's Autumn Evening Concert the audience were treated to a wide range of musical items by members of our choir, together with poetry (both romantic and amusing!) read by members of the church. A wonderful rendition of 'You raise me up' by Jonathan on the organ was a lovely conclusion to a very enjoyable evening. A retiring collection amounted to £71.20 which will go towards the Church Tower Appeal.

Many thanks again to everyone who supported the Evening Concert and helped in anyway.



Article by: Betty Harland. Photos by: Charles Stride.

CHRISTMAS 1914

One hundred years ago this Christmas, during the First World War, something unique happened in some parts of the front line; both sides on the Western Front agreed to put down their weapons. This became known as the 'Christmas Truce'. This was a series of widespread unofficial cease-fires that took place along the Western Front. The British high command at the time, which led the British troops, did not agree with this truce and warned the soldiers not to go ahead with it, concerned that the Germans might have been planning an attack on Christmas Eve. However, these concerns were ignored and no guns were fired on Christmas Day 1914.

On Christmas Eve, soldiers from both sides met in no-mans land. They sang Christmas Carols, like Silent Night (Stille Nacht in German). There was even a burial service for dead soldiers where bodies of both British and German soldiers were buried next to each other, with prayers being said, such as the 23rd Psalm. Men from both sides gave gifts to each other. These were mostly food, with the Germans giving sausages to the British and the British giving the Germans chocolates.

On Christmas Day, it was reported that football matches were played between the British and German troops on the Western Front. One such match was reported as being started by a British soldier kicking a football out of his trench, with the Germans then joining in.



Poster circa. 1914

At midnight, in one part of the trenches a flare was lit to signal to the soldiers that it was time for them to return to fighting. However, in some parts of the Western Front the truce continued until the New Year.

The enduring legacy of the truce has been positive and it's looked upon today as a wonderful example of humanity during a dreadfully dark hour of history. It has inspired many songs, paintings, literature, films and other art works. However, its greatest legacy must be the message of 'Hope'. As one Highland Regiment Officer said in The Times in 1915: *"It is a great hope for future peace when two great nations hating each other as foes have seldom hated, one side vowing eternal hate and vengeance and setting their venom to music, should then on Christmas day and for all that the words imply, lay down their arms, exchange smokes and wish each other happiness."*

St. Margaret's

Church road, Leiston

Family Praise & Worship Service
For all the Family!

Sunday 7th December
at 10.30am

Plus every
First Sunday of the Month



We would like to invite you to come along
and celebrate the start of the Christmas festivities
at our Family Praise & Worship Service.

An all-age informal service aimed at families,
praising the Lord through
imaginative drama & readings, as well as
vibrant, joyful music.



**A warm & friendly welcome awaits you,
we would love to see you there!**



Kids Zone

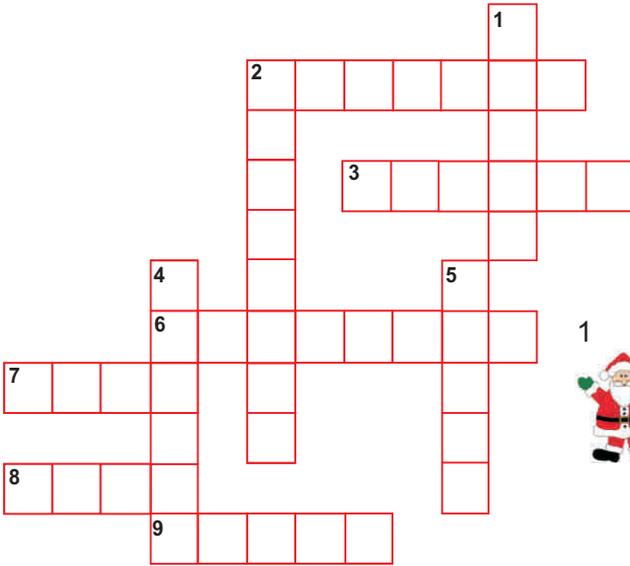
Welcome to
'your page'
full of fun
activities to enjoy!



Wishing you all a wonderful and joyful Christmas & New Year
from everyone at St. Margaret's Church

Christmas Picture Crossword

Solve the crossword by using the picture clues.



Across:



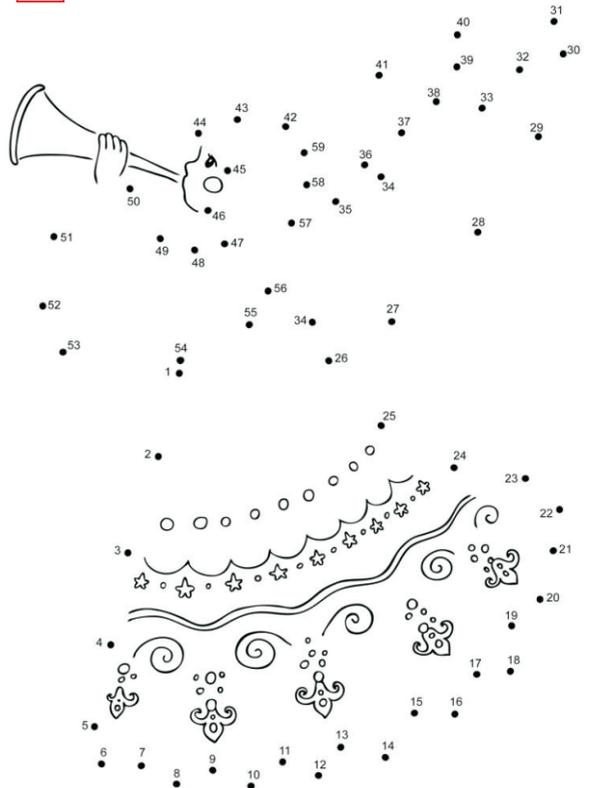
Below:



Nativity Word Scramble

All these come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

- STRA _____
- MAGREN _____
- MYAR _____
- SEPHE _____
- DOEYKN _____
- AEGLN _____
- JPHOES _____
- JSSEU _____
- KIGSN _____
- STBALE _____



Festive Dot to Dot

St Margaret's Church Invites You to

**Come to
remember
and give
thanks
for those
you have
known and
loved
who have
died recently
or in
the past.**

Lights To Remember

**A Service of
Readings and Hymns
and the chance to
Light a Candle in
loving Remembrance**

Sunday 7th December at 7pm

All Proceeds Go to
Marie Curie
Cancer Care 

St. Margaret's Church Choir

Singing together is not only an uplifting and joyful experience, it's also good for you and fun!

Is it time for you to rediscover your musical talent, or to try something new in service to our Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you feel that you could offer your vocal gift to enhance the worship at St. Margaret's by joining the Choir?



As someone who is passionate about building upon our strong musical tradition, I would love to hear from you.

We are a friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic choir who rejoice in serving our church and its wider community through the power of music.

Jonathan Williams
Organist & Choirmaster

Rehearsal each Thursday in Church: 6pm - 7pm

We look forward to welcoming you there!

Midnight Communion

St. Margaret's Church, Leiston

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

a simple service of Holy Communion

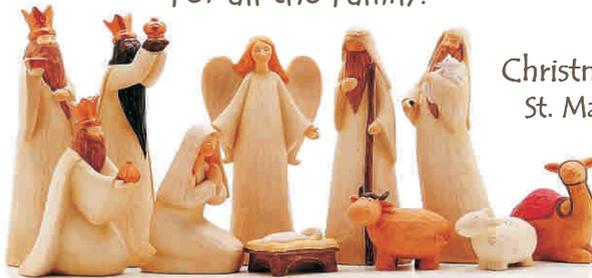
Join us as we celebrate Jesus this Christmas

Christmas Day Surprise Service

for all the family!

Everyone
Welcome!

Christmas Day, 10am
St. Margaret's Church



Come along and join us as we celebrate Jesus this Christmas.
A family service with a few surprises!



Official CHRISTMAS CARD

It is with great excitement that we share with you the news that Bishop David has decided to use a photograph of our very own 'Bas-Relief Reredos sculpture' for his official Christmas card for 2014. It depicts a scene of Mary and the infant Jesus, with two visiting children. This beautiful hand-painted plaster sculpture is the work of Ellen Mary Rope of Blaxhall and can be seen at St. Margaret's Church, Leiston. Her work can also be seen in various other churches, including Salisbury Cathedral.



CHRISTMAS Appeal for Christian Aid

Just a quick reminder that for the ninth time I will be sending a donation to Christian Aid to help those less fortunate than myself. This donation will be in lieu of buying and sending Christmas cards to my church friends at St Margaret's. You will still be wished a blessed Christmas but this will be in person. If you'd like to join me in this, as many of you have in other years, please let me have your donations by cheque made payable to Christian Aid by **Sunday 7th December**. Give joy this Christmas!

Pat Carter

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LEISTON BRANCH (ALDEBURGH SUB-BRANCH)

The Poppy Appeal for 2014-2015 in Aldringham and Thorpeness, Leiston-cum-Sizewell has to date raised £7154.55. Our grateful thanks to all those who helped and supported the Poppy Appeal collection, Festival of Remembrance, Parade and Church Service and the Act of Remembrance on 11 November. Our best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Trevor Peskett

Chairman - Leiston Branch TRBL

CHRISTMAS CAROLS in LIBRARY SQUARE

Come & join the fun on Christmas Eve and enjoy some Festive Carol Singing.

6.30pm in the Library Square, Leiston.

We look forward to seeing you there!



A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

On a dark silent night, where the stars shone so bright
And a chorus of angels did sing,
Of peace, love and joy, of a new baby boy,
Every bell in the heavens did ring.

To the ringing of bells and a stable of smells,
Just imagine the scene if you can,
Where the gnats and the flies, came as no great surprise,
To welcome our Lord, Son of Man.

In the silence of night, where the dark shone so bright,
Came the princes from distance afar
To worship the King, and with incense to bring,
On a journey that followed a star.

Did the donkey, the camel, the sheep and the goat,
Sing a chorus of love, peace and joy?
Did they carry their story to herds far and wide,
That dear Mary had brought forth a boy?

The baby was Jesus the Son of our God
Oh, what glorious gifts did He bare
While resting His head on a straw-filled bed
And love, peace and joy filled the air.

Sent in by Hilda Woodhead
Poem by Brenda Adams



LEISTON WI

Fancy meeting new friends over a cup of tea and a natter, then come along to the Leiston WI. **We meet every 2nd Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm, at WI Hall, John Street, Leiston.**

We have a selection of speakers throughout the year, as well as organising trips out, lunches, afternoon teas and competitions. There's always much fun and laughter and we are all young at heart! We'd love to see you there!

Judith Geater - Leiston WI President

St Margaret's Church

Carols & Candles



For all the Family

Journey with us to Bethlehem

with Readings, Carols and Candles



Sunday 21st December at 7pm



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER 2014

Dear Friends,

December's magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time. Below is the St. Margaret's church family group for this month. Please remember each family group will appear in the Magazine every three months. This is not to say you are not in our thoughts, you remain in our church family's prayers always, however this will allow for our growing church family, and also for us all to focus our thoughts and prayers specifically on those listed for that particular month.

If you feel you have a specific need for additional prayer time then please let us know and we'll add you to our 'special prayers' section. Also, if you would prefer to be remembered in a particular month then please let us know.

St. Margaret's would also like to wish all our church family in all our three prayer groups, as well as the community a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming you during the Christmas festivities and also in the New Year.

In our Church Family Prayers

Martin, Kathryn, Grace & Eve Phillips-Last

Peter & Jennifer Roberts

Simon, Sheena, Hannah, Tom & Matt Merrett

Sheila Mckinnon, David & Midge Mckinnon

Ann Essex

Vi Matthews

Stephanie Luckhurst

Terry Ferguson

Sue, Dale, Ewan & Cameron Threadkell

Jo Tozer

Joan Whale

Paul Espindola

Alan Martindale

Jonathan, Kathryn & Joshua Williams

Mary Murphy

Mike & Lesley Cassie

Charles & Pauline Stride

Steve, Christine & Nathan James

Derek & Sheila Stiff

Bruce & Phyllis Songer

David, Cindy & Emma Fittell

Paul, Charlene, Alexander & Aidan Fittell

Stephen & Gail Southgate

Naomi Kerans

Helen Thackeray

June & Fred Shanley

John & Sue Last

Helen Rivett

Judith & Mike Stigwood

Alan, Maureen & Jason Fox

Wayne, Ben & Niamh Fox

Fi Long

Allison King

Luke, Asha & Jai Mewett

Clare & Kane Hambridge

Don Bridges



In our Special Prayers



Freddie Moss
Joan Fowler
Leah Crudgington

Lesley Cassie
Olive Brundish
Sally Hitchcock
Lesley Culpeck

Jo Hamer
Ray Newstead
Olive Wilson



Revision about Prayer - Praying for Others

We are taught that we should love others as ourselves – and sometimes we forget the second part! Sometimes we overlook the first part of that teaching and think only of ourselves in our prayers! Praying for others comes from our belief that Our Lord Jesus continually remembers all of us in his intercessions to the Father – and the word 'intercession' is to put yourself in another's place which is what Our Lord does for us.

This is why our prayers for other people in the congregation and beyond it are always remembered in the Church Magazine. The depth to which we can go with each person of course will vary. For some all we know about them is their name – and with some we may not even be able to put a face to the name. Perhaps that is a challenge to learn names. But to remember them is to contribute to the cloud of prayer we all seek our congregation to be bathed and surrounded by. Others we may know better and be familiar with their family and its needs. For closer friends we may know about their troubles and anxieties – and they may have asked us especially to pray for them.

When we look at our intercession list in the magazine it seems an impossible task. If we divide the list with pencil marks for three to four people a day it becomes more manageable if we concentrate on those particular people then. But most of us have friends and families as well - some many extensive well beyond our congregation. What about them?

When I left College our Dean suggested that we bought a small leaflet file for the names of those we wish to remember. Again it is helpful to use a page a day so that you always remember the loved ones near and far. After fifty years it is quite large but it is a joy to remember those of long ago as well as new friends and acquaintances.

This completes the Prayer Revision. **Next Month:** A commentary on the Psalm for the Month

Revd. Chris Gonin

**If you would like to be included in our family monthly prayers,
or have any comments, questions or queries
please contact Revd. Chris Gonin on 01728 635549**

LET US PRAY... AND... CONSIDER HIM

As I write, we have just celebrated Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, which has held especial significance having reached the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Watching the sweep across the country of various celebrations on television, moved me greatly. In addition to the moving scenes of quiet, pondering people at the Tower of London, there were wonderful moments as the poppies fell across a congregation at Truro cathedral, along with many other opportunities for the people of our land to consider the cost of those sad times, both for those who laid down their lives and also for their loved ones left to mourn their loss. Interwoven with the loss were many brave and noble tales to be recounted of men and women who gave of their best.

In the letter to Hebrews the writer invites us to “consider him who endured.... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” The Lord Jesus, who endured the Cross, for the ultimate joy set before him, scorning its shame, is worthy of our consideration. Christians hold their regular time of Remembrance every time they gather around the Lord's Table rejoicing in all the Lord Jesus did to win an eternal victory. You may think this a strange thought for a Christmas magazine, but what better way to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus than to strengthen our faith by considering him, remembering all he has done for us, the freedom he has won for us and musing over the fact that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses” as chapter twelve of Hebrews puts it. All around the world the number of those who love and serve the Lord is increasing, so rather than think of a tiny helpless baby in a manger, which Jesus certainly was when he chose to enter this world, let's consider him at the right hand of the Father, interceding for those who love him. That undoubtedly will encourage us to pray with confidence trusting that God is able to do much more than we can ask or think, when we turn to him in Jesus' Name.

Rev. Pauline Florance

Funerals - November 2014

12th November Sheila Mary Walker

27th November Annie Nettleingham



'May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant'. (NIV).

Psalm 119:76

The Sound of PRAISE

“The next twelve to twenty-four hours are critical,!” Those terrifying words catapulted me along with many others who received that text, into intense prayer. I have a hunch that those who were contacted, as well as myself, enlisted the prayer support of lots of other people in turn. The twenty-four hours passed and Jan was still alive, though diagnosed with encephalitis, a serious infection of the brain. In the weeks that followed various complications arose and now, two months later, she is out of Critical Care, but still in the High Dependency Unit; being fed by a tube and at last able to mouth some words, though unable to make any sound. Her first movement was to rub one finger along her husband's hand. Now she is awaiting a move to another hospital where she will receive specialist neuro-rehabilitation treatment.

For her family and friends this is a huge step forward, yet there is a long way to go. In last month's magazine I quoted the hymn which says, “the sound of prayer is never silent, nor dies the sound of praise away.” It is to register my praise to the Lord who has wonderfully heard and answered our prayer, which I write now. It's true what St. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 1: verse eleven, that “as others help us by their prayers, then much thanks and praise will go to God from you who see his wonderful answers to your prayers for our safety!”

There is still a long road ahead, so please continue to remember Jan and her family.

Pauline Florance

OPERATION CHRISTMAS Child Appeal

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who has joined in with this year's collection for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Over the last two weeks we have been able to send off a total of 28 boxes and, in the New Year, we should find out which country they have been sent to. Many thanks indeed to everyone who contributed empty and full shoe boxes, items to fill the boxes and for cash donations and also to the Sunday School children for helping to fill some of the boxes during and after our Sunday services. Once again, our church family and friends have worked together to help others much less fortunate than ourselves throughout the world.



Sandra Harle

Ladies Group

The Ladies Group was delighted to welcome back Helen Lewis (Helen MacLeod as she was when she visited us last time) to talk to us about Traidcraft and to give us the opportunity to buy cards, presents and Fairtrade food supplies at the October meeting. We were all amazed at the variety of foodstuffs which Traidcraft now sell. The chocolate proved very popular! Our photograph shows Helen (in pink top) and many eager buyers. After the meeting Helen was delighted with the eighty pounds plus she had taken for purchases. She had started the afternoon by explaining how she had got involved with Traidcraft and the aims and objectives of the organisation. We gave grateful thanks to Helen and Graham (her husband and box carrier extraordinaire) for a most entertaining and enjoyable afternoon. After refreshments we all left pleased with our goodies. Our next meeting was Monday 17th November – a Quiz Afternoon church, 2.30 pm.



On **Monday 8 December, 2pm - 4.30pm**, we are hosting a Beetle Drive and Social Afternoon with the United Church Ladies Group **AT THE UNITED CHURCH**. Please bring a plate of festive food to share and a gift wrapped Secret Santa present to the value of £1.

The January meeting will take the form of a Post Christmas meal – more details of this will be available after the November meeting.

Pat Carter

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Notice: Items for January's Magazine:

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Kathryn Williams by the **8th December** for inclusion in January's Magazine. Thank you.



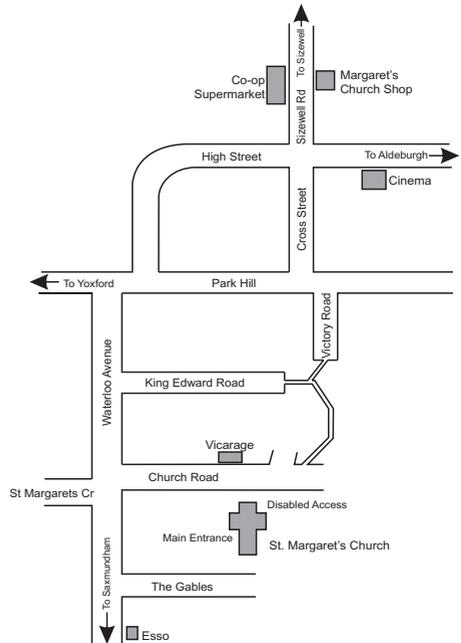
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