

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell



FEBRUARY 2018

£1

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

9.00 HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
10.30 FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY

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

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

10.00 'WELCOME TO THE TABLE' FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

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

CONTACT US

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

Mr Peter Roberts, Meadowcroft, East Green, Kelsale T.603772

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

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

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Director of Music: Mr Jonathan Williams T.604733

Deanery Synod Representatives:

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Reverend Pauline Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

Reverend Jim Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

Website Editor: Mrs Kathryn Williams T.604733

Magazine Editor: Mrs Marian Peskett: T.833537 **Email:** t.peskett@sky.com

OUR NEW CHURCH HALL

In order to be able to afford the extensive re-ordering of our church, it was decided that the church Hall needed to be sold. In its time we had enjoyed using the Hall for social events, youth group meetings (who remembers pancake races with the Pathfinders and the CYFA group?), Sunday school each week and the fellowship and coffee time after Sunday services. One very cold winter we held the weekly Sunday services in the Hall. Bazaars and Summer Fairs were held there and the Hall was hired out for wedding receptions and dances, as well as being used by the playgroup each week.

But the Hall was getting old, needing money spent on it and was unfortunately subject to vandalism. The time had come for a major rethink about our needs. After many discussions it was agreed that plans should be drawn up, the Hall sold and the money used to re-order the church. This was done and during the time of the work we met on Sunday mornings in the hall of what was then the Middle School.

So we moved back into our “new” church with a large open central space – our new church hall. It promised so much as our new social space. But for some time the only social events were the refreshments after services and occasional events. We even held bazaars and fairs in the Community Centre. But things changed. We now have all sorts of social events in the church.

We have had a beautiful wedding reception which seemed so right in the church setting. We have held Flower Festivals, Christmas and summer fairs, using both the church building and the churchyard. Concerts given by the Leiston Royal British Legion Band and the Sheringham Shantymen have been well attended. Of particular note was the concert given by the Love to Sing Choir in December last year. If you look back at the article in the January magazine you will see a photograph taken during the evening. There was a very large choir but we can see everyone as the choir had built up staging and also hung a black backdrop. The nave altar, lectern and chairs had been moved to allow this to happen and to give room for stalls along the side walls. This concert took place on a Saturday evening but all who came to the Sunday service found nothing out of place. Everything had been put back correctly.

We, as a congregation and worshipping community, need to use the church building in many different ways and we must accept that for growth we should use every

opportunity to welcome people into our building. Whilst being a verger at funeral services I have heard many people, upon entering the building for the first time, commenting on the openness, the light and the beauty of it. Most of them had not been in the church for many years and were unaware of the changes.

As part of the process which is necessary to find a new Vicar the Churchwardens, PCC members and the congregation have written a Parish Profile – a description of Leiston, the community and the church. At our Sunday discussion and at the Section 12 meeting with the Bishop there was a strong feeling that there needs to be change, the world is moving forward and we must keep up with it. We also need to think about how we are going to bring the community into the church and how we can go out into the community to spread the good news of Jesus.

Pat Carter

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

It is almost a year since Revd Martin Phillips-Last left us, and ever since then our services have been wonderfully held together by Jim and Pauline, Richard and Bernard, augmented in recent months by Pat and Sandra. But now there is real progress towards appointing a new Vicar for St Margaret's.

On 23 January the PCC held a summit conference in Church. Chaired by Bishop Mike, the meeting also starred the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean. After much discussion of the Parish Profile, a firm way forward was agreed. The vacancy is to be advertised nationally in the Church Times for two weeks from 23 February, with a likely closing date of 9 March for applications. A short list will then be drawn up, and the potential candidates (a maximum of four) will be interviewed in early April by a panel which will include our own two representatives, Kay Nash and Simon Merrett. If a suitable candidate is found who is already in a post elsewhere, he or she will probably be required to give three months' notice to his or her present parish, so that St Margaret's may have a new incumbent around the end of July. Then we shall need your advice about the many plans which we have to take our Church forward into the next exciting phase of its existence. In the meantime, we will keep you fully informed of developments as they occur.

Peter Roberts

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP



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

Thursday 4 January

Hannah Merrett 32nd birthday

If you'd 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 put the completed payment envelope in the wall safe. Many thanks.

Come along to

St Margaret's Church

Sunday 4th February at 10.30am

and be part of our

'Christingle' Family Praise & Worship Service

Christingle

an orange
a ribbon
a candle
some sweets

together they tell a story



We would love you, your friends and your family to join us at our Christingle celebration so we can help to support vulnerable children

There will be a collection for The Children's Society

PSALM 24.7 - 10

7. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you ever lasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8. 'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle'.

9. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you ever lasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10. 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

One commentator, David Pawson, puts the two psalms before Psalm 24 in a Psalm sandwich! Psalm 22 was quoted by Jesus on the Cross, and in the sandwich there is Psalm 23 – the Crook (The lord is my Shepherd) and the other side of the sandwich Psalm 24 - the Crown. That is one way of remembering them. Today's psalm emphasises God as King.

You will recall that when the ten commandments, written on stone were carried by the Children of Israel – they were carried as the Ark of God to remind the Hebrews of the presence of God and his care for them. The second book of Samuel tells the story of how the Ark had been looked after by Obed-Edom's family. King David encouraged the Israelites to bring the Ark to the City of David, Jerusalem where it would encourage those who lived in the city to know the presence of God and his care for them.

If for a moment you can imagine the Ark carried between four men on its way to the gates of Jerusalem followed by a long procession. Imagine the procession singing Psalm 24 in parts.

The first part of the procession intones:-

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you ever lasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

And there comes a response

'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle'

And the first part again

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you ever lasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

And the second part

'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory'.

What a way to celebrate the presence and care of God! A challenge to the choir at St Margaret's!

Ref: The People's Bible Commentary – Donald Coggan The Bible Reading Fellowship
Unlocking the Bible David Pawson Collins

Chris Gonin

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

Following the concert in Church last spring by the Sheringham Shantymen (whom we hope to welcome again later in the year) we have another rather special concert coming up.

On the evening of Friday April 13 we are featuring **KIMBER'S MEN**, described as "The UK's finest sea shanty band". They come from Halifax in Yorkshire and have never before performed in Suffolk. It's a long way to bring them to Leiston, but I think you will agree that it's worth it because they are something special. Their harmonies, instrumentals and acapella singing together make for a wonderful programme and we are very excited at bringing them to you. (For an example of what they can do, go onto YouTube and try "Asleep in the Sand").

Tickets will be on sale soon, but please reserve the date now as we may not be able to persuade them to make the long journey again!

Peter Roberts

Pondering Prayer

“The battle is not yours, but God’s”
II Chronicles 20:16

Most people know the story of David and Goliath. David the Shepherd boy offered his sling as his weapon of choice to fight the mighty giant. King Saul on the other hand wanted to send David out to battle in his strong body armour, which of course was not only too big, but also weighed David down. I was intrigued the other day, reading how a biblical commentator linked this story with a passage in the New Testament from Ephesians chapter six, about the whole armour of God. It struck me quite forcibly that here was a king in the Old Testament asking a youth to protect himself with ill-fitting armour, whereas the spiritual armour the Lord invites us to put on day by day is a perfect fit. In Ephesians, it’s a case of one size fits all.

If ever we needed to be concerned to bring our national and international situation to God in prayer, we seem to have every cause in these days. In II Chronicles chapter, 20 a member of the priestly tribe called Jahaziel had a message from God for all the people of Judah and Jerusalem who were standing before God, praying desperately, because they were under attack.

“Don’t be afraid, don’t be discouraged by the opposition (this mighty army) for the battle is not yours, but God’s,” he told them. Our task as people who trust the Lord is to make sure we stay within his protecting love. Then as we do, we can present the situation, with its problems before the Lord and expect God to act. “Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord’s victory” he encouraged them.

What spurs us on is believing God is with us and trusting him to be at work changing situations as we fulfil what we understand to be our Christian responsibility. We don’t have to see the end from the beginning. We merely have to be convinced of the way forward and trust the Lord for the outcome: whether it is our family situation, or the future of our country, our greatest need is confidence in God.

Most sports men and woman are keen these days to be geared up for the job. Having the right equipment streamlines their activity and increases their effectiveness. How about reading Ephesians 6:10-18 and imagining your thought processes, covered and protected as you move into the day, then imagining your affections safely held in God's love. Trust the Lord to enable you to have a gentle spirit and pray for integrity in all your dealings with others. Whenever you need to discern the best way forward, let biblical principles become your guiding factor and keep on praying, believing yourself to be safe in the shadow of the Lord- and let's allow ourselves to be delighted and amazed about what God can do.

Rev. Pauline Florance

I LOVE YOU

As I wrote my Christmas cards this year I ended with the perpetual 'Love from' as I suspect we all do. Later I wondered at the connotations of that four letter word.

You can love the weather, sunshine or snow, you can love football or your golf, may be you love your dog. Why not? There are also lots of inanimate objects that we say we love. Shall I go on? Famous quotes are 'Love your enemies' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Great is the agony felt (regret) if we utter words that offend, so excluding honest LOVE. The strength in meaning may swell greatly when you realise how much you love your wife, your children your partner or extended family and friends.

Are you thinking like me how massive this little but oft used word is? And how wonderful we use it with each other. But perhaps the greatest of these is the love we gratefully give and receive from our Lord.

Love Brian!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

As part of the morning service on 14 January, Revd Jim conducted a discussion on how we function as a church. The focus was not on our services or the kind of worship we have, but about how we show ourselves to be the Body of Christ in today's society. A wide-ranging discussion developed into four themes:

1. Are we relevant to today, especially to YOUNG PEOPLE? How do we make our message relevant? Our worship must be meaningful to all - make the readings directed more to the children and in the language of today. Get the children coming to Church and the adults will follow. Establish links with the primary school and high school. Does God actually excite us? If you can enthuse children, they will respond. Perhaps skip a generation and target the grandparents. And should we set up an "Open the Book" programme which has worked well elsewhere?

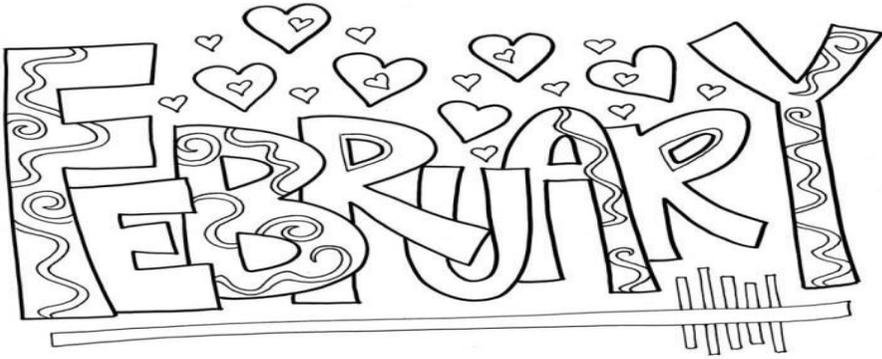
2. We should all become part of the COMMUNITY of the town. We are on the outskirts of Leiston, and must bring ourselves closer to the centre. Leiston does not have a community centre and the Church could fill this role. The Church should be open for meetings, art exhibitions and other events which would make us a more active part of the community. We should publicise ourselves more and communicate with the town by means of Twitter, Facebook etc.

3. We must not be afraid of CHANGE. Society is changing rapidly, but our messages stay the same and we could get left behind. The recent carol service featured "traditional old readings" Should we modernise them?

4. Work alongside OTHER RELIGIONS. Do we believe in the same God but worship in different ways? Faith in God is the starting point, but is some peoples' God different to ours? One person said "It is wrong to mistake religion for belief in God". Another suggested that we should hold an open meeting for people of all faiths or none, with the theme of "I'd like to believe in something, but I don't know what". There was a strong feeling that we should share our activities with other denominations.

Lots to think about there, and to use as the basis for plans with our new incumbent when he/she arrives. If you did not take part in the discussion but have views you would like to express, please let us know.

Peter Roberts



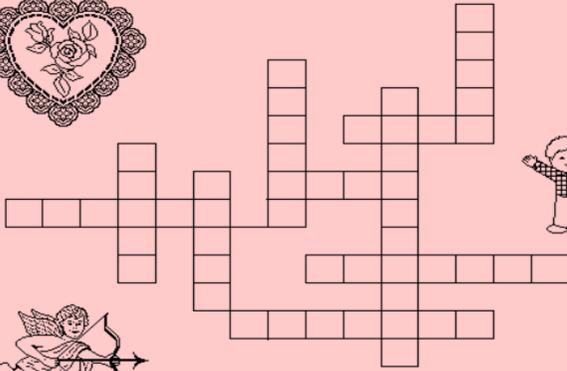
*Pancake
Day is
Tuesday 13
February*

Pancake

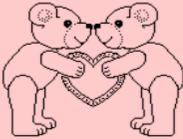
Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pour it in the pan.
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake,
Catch it if you can!



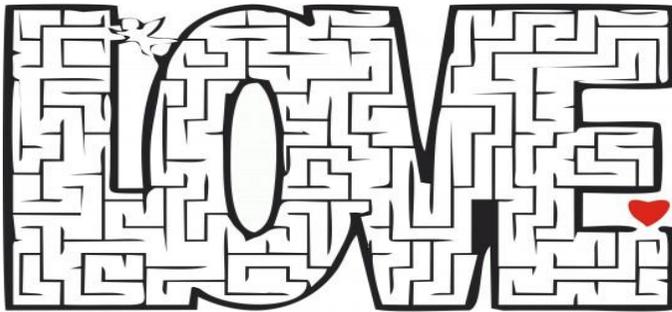
Valentines Crossword



Find a spot for all the words listed in the boxes above.



- VALENTINES
- HAPPY
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- ARROW
- CARD
- FEBRUARY
- CUPID
- LOVE
- FRIENDS



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' sessions. Kids of all ages welcome!
 Sunday 11 and 25 February – At 10.00 am

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Friends

February'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

Martin Phillips-Last

Simon, Sheena, Hannah, Tom & Matt Merrett

Sheila Mckinnon, David & Midge Mckinnon

Phil, Sue, Joshua, Charlotte, Connie & Greg Watson

David & Cindy Fittsell

Emma Fittsell

Paul, Alexander, Aidan, Cory & Amyleigh Fittsell

Jonathan, Kathryn & Joshua Williams

Mike & Lesley Cassie

Vi Matthews

Stephanie Luckhurst

Joan Whale

Paul Espindola

Ann & Peter Essex

Mary Murphy

Terry Ferguson

Jo Tozer

Sue, Dale, Ewan & Cameron Threadkell

Frank & Joan Huxley

Philip, Ian & Susan Huxley

Magda Chandler

Bruce & Phyllis Songer

Stephen & Gail Southgate

Naomi Kerans

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

Peter & Jenefer Roberts

Charles & Pauline Stride

Steve, Christine & Nathan James

Derek & Sheila Stiff

Eileen & Sperry Free

Don Bridges

In Our Special Prayers

Rosemary

Betty in hospital

Noah

Malcolm Briggs

Joan due to go into hospital



The Snowdrop **By** **Lord Alfred Tennyson**

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid,
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!



ALDE VALLEY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

"At The Overseer's Door"

At the February meeting of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group, Ray Whitehand's talk "At The Overseers Door" tells the story of Suffolk's parish workhouses, in operation between the 1570s until the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. The talk, which is an insight into the author's best seller book of the same title, gives a summary of the three types of workhouse which existed in the county over a period of nearly 400 years. It then details the first of these places of residence and employment, the parish workhouse. The talk looks at the type of premises used, where to find them, how they were managed, the types of inmate, and the effect they had on the local economy.

The meeting will be held at 2.30pm on **Monday 19 February** at Kelsale Village Hall. Visitors welcome. Admission: members £1, visitors £3, incl tea/coffee.

NB. Kelsale Village Hall is up an external shallow flight of stairs, but there is a stair lift: if you think you are likely to need it, please arrive early, and let Maggie Strutt know beforehand, so we can be ready for you! 01728 602298 or maggiestrutt@btinternet.com.

INTERESTED IN FAMILY HISTORY? WANT TO DATE YOUR OLD FAMILY PHOTOS?

Have you got any old family photos which you can't put a date to? Bring them along to a **Special Family History Open Day** at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston from **11am - 4pm on Sat 24 February** and let our expert advise you.

Parham Airfield Museum will also be putting on a display about 'Britain's Secret Army', the hush-hush underground WW2 British Resistance Organisation which was active in this area.

A variety of exhibits will be on show, including local graveyard surveys, war memorials, directories, parish registers, census returns, and old maps of the area – and we'll have our computers with (hopefully) Internet to help with your research. Advice and help will be available from experienced researchers.

Free entrance, but donations to the Long Shop appreciated. Light refreshments.

Angela Skelcher

FEBRUARY

It's such a shame to see the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society empty after all these years. I can remember before the Norwich & Peterborough it was Mr and Mrs Ives' Shoe Shop. They sold men, women's and children's shoes but always a bit more expensive.

We also had Freeman Hardy & Willis where we bought our shoes from and the Co-op also sold shoes so we had a good choice.

When I started work and got my first wage packet, I saved up and got a pair of slip-on wedge heeled shoes. They cost £2.3s.2d. I was so pleased with them. My great gran died when I was 17 and she left my brother and I a £5 note each. I went to Mr Ives' shop and got a pair of brown suede sheepskin boots that came right up to my knees. They lasted several winters and I never had chilblains during those winters.

Time went by and Mr Ives moved to Woodbridge where he had his shop. Before moving he had a Sale of Clarks shoes. Bill got a pair, he was pleased as they were good shoes. Over the years he got Clarks shoes mostly at the Sales.

Just before Christmas in Wickham Market he noticed a Charity Shop on the corner. He went in and there were two pairs of Clarks shoes for sale – hardly worn. So he got them!

The moral of this story is the pleasure people have had just by giving, the person who donated the shoes, pleasure for Bill who bought them, the lady in the Charity Shop who made a sale and the Charity it helped.

Margaret Clarke



POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH



The Ladies group met at Thorpeness Golf Club on Wednesday 17 January to enjoy a post-Christmas lunch.

As last year we were in the Lakeside Room which gave us the opportunity to have a lovely chat while we ate our meal. After the meal we were served tea, coffee and mints.

Unfortunately the photographs were taken after all the food had been eaten!!

For our next meeting we will hold our postponed December Beetle Drive. We will host the meeting at Leiston United Church and their Ladies Group will be our guests at afternoon tea. This will be on Wednesday 21 February in place of our Games Afternoon.

Please arrive by 1 45 pm and bring a plate of food to share.

Pat Carter





After the 10 a.m. service on Sunday 11 February
we will be holding our annual

VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE

To Celebrate St. Valentine's Day within the love and
fellowship of St. Margaret's,

To raise much-needed funds for our church,

And last, but not least, to indulge ourselves before Lent begins
the following Wednesday!

Please bring your donations along on the day –
biscuits, buns, brownies, etc., etc, and then buy lots back
to either enjoy straightaway with your usual tea and coffee
or to take home with you. It would be great if your donations
could have a Valentine's theme - hearts, flowers, chocolates
but, of course, the most important thing
is that they are made with love!

FAMILY HISTORY OPEN DAY

Will also include Adrian Gregory who will
sign copies of his recently published book
'My Life at Richard Garrett's – The Final
Chapter 1967-1980

NOTES FROM PCC MEETING 17 JANUARY 2018

The meeting opened with prayer at 7 pm, with Peter in the chair, 10 members present plus Marian Peskett (Minutes Secretary).

Sandra presented financial report – copy issued to those present and attached to minutes. Parish Share for 2018 is £54,513. Payments hopefully will be made according to Diocesan Action Plan. Pat and Sandra had attended Parish Giving Scheme presentation at Saxmundham. Copy of leaflet issued to those present – decision to be made at next meeting.

Correspondence Acknowledgement of Bible Sunday donation to Bible Society received. Letter re-laying up of Leiston RBL Women's Section standard. Agenda, role description and profile received from Archdeacon and issued to PCC members ready for Section 12 meeting on 23 January.

Fabric Report Guttering will be cleared 20 January. Replacement boiler installed, also microphones. Minor repairs would be carried out after Easter.

Christmas Eve ecumenical service in Old Post Office led by St Margaret's very successful. Approximate attendance 300.

Future Events

Valentine's Bake Sale 11 February after service

Easter Fair 24 March, 2 pm to 4 pm

Kimber's Men 13 April, 7 30 pm

Flower Festival 5,6,7 May

Ascension Day 10 May – service at Friston

Archdeacon's Visitation 23 May – venue to be announced

Sheringham Shantymen – concert TBA later in year

Castleton Brass, Eye – concert TBA later in year

St Agnes Fountain – possibly December

Next PCC Meeting 14 January 2018, 7 pm

Other Matters

New Data Protection for Parishes processes comes into effect 25 May 2018.

Pat Carter, Secretary to the PCC

THANK YOU



A very big thank you to Geoff Platt who once again donated a beautiful Christmas tree to St Margaret's Church in memory of Paul. As you can see it was truly magnificent and very much appreciated by all who were able to join us over the festive period.

Jan Snowden

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

St. Margaret of Antioch



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

NOTICE: Items for March's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Marian Peskett by **18 February** for inclusion in the March Magazine. Thank you.

Email: t.peskett@sky.com

The Parish Magazine is available from St Margaret's Church or Margaret's Shop. 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

