

# ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizevell



JANUARY 2017

£1

*CELEBRATING EPIPHANY - 6 JANUARY*

# **CHURCH SERVICES**

## **SUNDAY 1 JANUARY**

9.00 HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

10.30 FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

## **SUNDAY 8 JANUARY**

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

## **SUNDAY 15 JANUARY**

10.00 'WELCOME TO THE TABLE' FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

## **SUNDAY 22 JANUARY**

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

## **SUNDAY 29 JANUARY**

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

## **CONTACT US**

**Priest in Charge:** Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

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

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

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

**Church Wardens:** Mrs Pat Carter: 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852  
and 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

**'JAM' (Jesus & Me) Sunday School Leaders:** Mrs Kathryn Phillips-Last: T. 561149  
and Mrs Sandra Ellis: T.832168

**Director of Music:** Mr Jonathan Williams: T.01379 388385

**Deanery Synod Representatives:** Miss Rosemary Gale T. 832105 and Mr Simon Merrett T.830900

**Website Editor:** Mrs Kathryn Williams: T. 01379 388385

**Magazine Editor:** Mrs Marian Peskett: T.833537 [E.t.peskett@sky.com](mailto:E.t.peskett@sky.com)

# THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

## Great things come in small packages!



The word 'Amen' is only a small word, but is a word that we use to affirm our hope in what has been, and what will be. With its roots in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, it's generally used in worship as a concluding word for prayers and hymns and is translated by many as 'so be it' or 'so let it be'. An affirmation of hope for what was, and what will be.

The word 'Amen' is also used freely in popular culture. I remember my uncle who would answer every positive offer with the word 'Amen'. When asked, 'would you like a cup of tea?' he'd respond with, 'I'll say amen to that!' Or if he'd like to stay for lunch, the same response, 'I'll say amen to that!' Even today when I meet people who are excited about something, they'll often use the word 'Amen' to affirm their excitement for what has happened or what will happen.

In some churches there is what I love to call the 'Amen group'. A group that call out 'Amen' in response to points they are touched by in worship, or in the preacher's sermon. Which I think is great, as it affirms what has been, and the hope of how it will be used for God's kingdom over the coming days.

As one year has now come to an end, I hope and pray that you can say 'Amen'. Maybe as an affirmation to having survived a hard time that you're happy to see the back of and a welcome, 'so let it be' to the hope of better things to come. Maybe it's a shout of gratitude for good things that have experienced, and the continuation of the good things you hope to experience in the coming new year.

As the old year now slips away into the past and a new one lays a new path before us, I pray that for you this small word 'Amen' will become a part of your own popular culture. That it will for you be a word that affirms what once was, and will more than ever, affirm a great hope in you for the coming year and what your future will hold.

It's amazing how the affirming power of hope, can be found in such a small word as 'Amen'. But then again, as we celebrated on Christmas morning, the greatest affirming power of hope ever, for the whole world, was found in a tiny baby named Jesus. Great things do come in small packages!

'Amen' to a year gone by, and 'Amen' to the promise of what's yet to come.

Happy new year adventures

***Martin***

**The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last**

## **Family praise & Worship Service (JAM)**

With the beginning of Advent came the now traditional and much looked forward to JAM Sunday group presentation. This year the youngsters of our Jesus and Me Sunday group introduced us to the wife and family of the Bethlehem Inn Keeper.

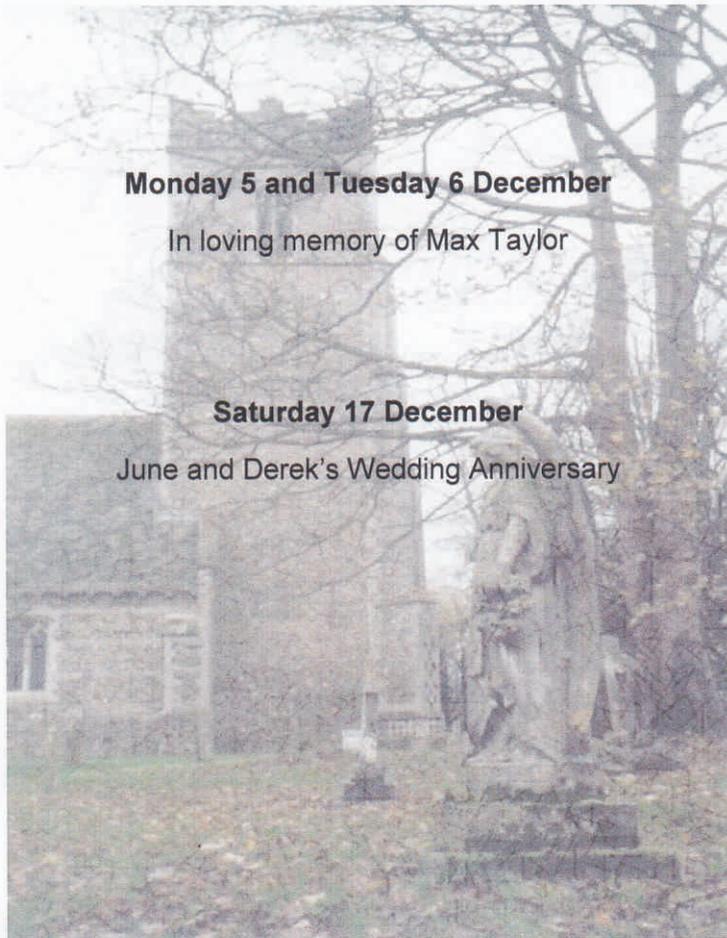
After another very busy time at the Bethlehem Inn, the Inn Keeper's wife sat her children down to tell them the story of what happened that first Christmas night in Bethlehem. The Inn Keeper's children found it hard to believe that someone so important, that a king would have been born in their smelly old Stable. Even though the Inn Keeper's wife found it hard to believe herself, she shared the story of angels, shepherds, a bright twinkling star and a baby named Jesus, born in a stable.

As always a great presentation by JAM, well done.

***Martin***

## **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP**

**During December the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on:**



**Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 December**

In loving memory of Max Taylor

**Saturday 17 December**

June and Derek's Wedding Anniversary

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.

# St Margaret's Church Bell Ringing

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&

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## ***PSALM 36. 5 - 10***

5. Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.
6. Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, and your justice like the great deeps; your Lord shall save both man and beast.
7. How precious is your loving mercy, O God; All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
8. They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house: they shall drink from the river of your delights.
9. For you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.
10. O continue your loving kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to this who are true of heart.

## ***A COMMENTARY***

It is always astonishing that the author of this psalm has seen the wonder of God. The first two verses (5.6) speak of the wonder of God's faithfulness – the height of his love which stretches to the heavens. Indeed the modern writer knowing what we now know of the huge size of our universe – its many, many galaxies has a picture of the love of God which is even more awesome. The size of the universe to us and to him is wondrous. Our scientific knowledge tells us that not only is it so large it is also continually expanding.

The awesome nature of the universe – and his limited knowledge that he has, is set alongside his confidence in the love of God. The earlier verses, not a part of the choirs singing speaks of those who 'think out mischief upon their beds'. So too we have to accept that there are many who are untouched by the wonder of God's universe and even deliberately plan and plot evil and some

modern atheists who deliberately undermine our faith. We can return to the psalmist with his confidence in the love of God – the latter’s mercy all can take ‘refuge under the shadow of his wings’. Others, to quote Donald Coggen, have spurned the way of godlessness. They are open to the graciousness of God. They have found the fountain of life – and are constantly enriched by God’s plenty. St Paul too in Romans 6.12-14, by contrast, he depicts a follower of Christ who has taken the step of putting all his powers at the disposal of God – he has been raised from death to life, his body yielded to God as an instrument of doing right.

So like our ancient psalmist of long ago we know - through our regular worship and constant prayer that we are drawn to a living God – and we know that we share a love that binds us together.

Reference : The People’s Bible Commentary Donald Coggen The Bible Reading Fellowship

Revd. Chris Gonin



## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

The Diocese produces regular e-NEWS for parishioners which advertises forthcoming events and news from around the Diocese. To sign up to receive e-NEWS visit [www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org) and follow the link for Parishes, Communication and Press.

### **Growing Together**

A meeting is being held in Woodbridge on 2 February at 7 pm at St John’s Old Vicarage. The meeting is particularly aimed at Lay Elders, LLMs and Readers (but also open to others who may be interested). No need to book, just turn up! The intention is to develop the group to meet every few months.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's Shoebox Appeal. We covered and filled a total of 34 boxes which were blessed during a mid-November communion service. Half were then taken by Kay and Grace Nash to a collection point in Rendlesham, and the other half were delivered to our local organiser, Jackie Threadkell. Jackie has written 'Just to say thank you for your help with the Shoebox Appeal. I collected 200, the most since I started in 2009! The boxes are now on their way to KYRGYSTAN.'

If, like me, you had never heard of Kyrgystan, here's a little background information!

'Landlocked and mountainous, Kyrgystan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the south west and China to the east. It is further from the sea than any other individual country, and all its rivers flow into closed drainage systems which do not reach the sea. The mountainous region covers over 80% of the country (which is sometimes referred to as 'the Switzerland of Central Asia') with the remainder made up of valleys. Kyrgystan is considered self-sufficient in both food and energy. Despite this, electricity is either unpredictable or rationed in the winter. About 35% of people are involved in agriculture, and nearly every village family has a garden where they grow food to support their needs. Most people have a small amount of livestock, such as sheep, cows and chickens. Excess produce and dairy products are commonly sold to neighbours or at the market.'

Please pray for the people of Kyrgystan and especially for the children, that the boxes we filled with such love and care will bring them much joy and happiness in the New Year.

**Sandra Harle**

## ***A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR***

Wishing all our readers, supporters and contributors a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

**From all at St Margaret's Church**



## **CHURCH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017**

Many thanks to everyone who bought the Parish Magazine during 2016; through this you are helping to support St Margaret's and its outreach work within your local community.

If you would like to continue, or start subscribing to St Margaret's Church Magazine, we will be collecting subscriptions for 2017 during January. This will be via a payment envelope which you should find enclosed in this month's edition of the Magazine. Please enclose your £12 annual subscription in the envelope provided and then return it either to the person who delivers your magazine, return it to St Margaret's Shop, put it in the Church's wall safe, or contact **Sandra Harle on 833578** for further information. Cash or cheques are both welcome – cheques should be made payable to 'Leiston PCC.' Many thanks for your continued support with St Margaret's Magazine.

**St Margaret's Church, Leiston**

## In our Special Prayers



Joan Whale

Leah Crudgington

Val

Joan Fowler

Sara Newman

Suzi

Lesley Hambridge

Isla Shotter

## A Prayer for the New Year

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace

Hearing His voice more clearly

Knowing His heart more deeply

Resting in His love more fully

Trusting His care more completely

Walking His pathway more peacefully

Knowing His presence more intimately

Blessed by His goodness more abundantly



# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

## INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 2017

Dear Friends

January'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](mailto: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

Kevin, Jess & Oliver Ellis

Christopher, Anna and Ada Ellis

Michael, Anika, Darcey & Jack Ellis

James Ellis & Kristi Brennan

Chris & Elspeth Gonin

Basil & Jean Jenkyns

Jill Mower

Jean Crowter

John & June Geater

Sue Geater

Ron & Diana Geater

Doreen Bardwell

Stephen & Claire Miles

Daphne & Terri Roper

Pam Bloomfield

David & Lynn Bailey

Olive Wilson

Ann Wood

Mary, Simon, Archie & Edward Reading

Valerie and Maurice Allchin

Betty Harland

Joan Mower

Charlmaine, Lee, Luke & Liam Wright

Doreen Thomas

Vaughan & Jenny Windle

Liz Mills

Sue Watt

Colin & Penny Tipple

Barbara Moss

Tom & Nona Wadsell-Campbell

Joan Fowler

Sandra, Philip, Ellie & Laura Harle

Emily & Rob Oxborrow

Eileen Griffiths

Grahame, Sylvia, Linda & Susan Hawes

Kirsty, Shane, Ceylon, AJ & Logan Stone

Judy Foster

# THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING



We are delighted to report that the Coffee Morning held on 19 November this year on behalf of The Children's Society was another success. In spite of attendance being down this year, as well as other events taking place locally, we managed to make £1141.75 after costs and expenses PLUS we have sold £112.65 worth of Christmas cards to date. We are most grateful for the generosity of everyone who came along to support us and to those who made donations.

Our little committee have been presented with a certificate of achievement for more than 50 years of fundraising for The Children's Society. Obviously there aren't many left of the original founder members, who were not young at the start, but we still manage to keep up the good work started all those years ago to do what we can for all the young people who need help.

**Lorraine Lloyd**

## **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE**

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE on Friday 9th December by either giving donations, by manning the table in the Co-op or by buying tickets. Not only did we raise £303 for church funds, we sold copies of our magazine and publicised the various services being held at St. Margaret's over the Christmas period. The prize winners were (1) June Burrows (Leiston), (2) Liz Smith (Aldringham), (3) Jan Snowden (Leiston) and Robert Woodhouse (Leiston). The rabbit's name was Bonnie and was won by Sylvia Moore (Betty's cousin).

**Sandra Harle**

# Kids Zone

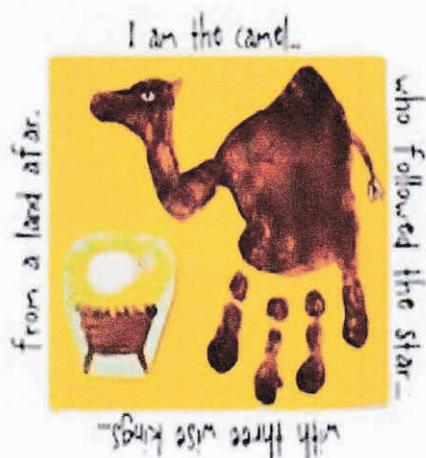
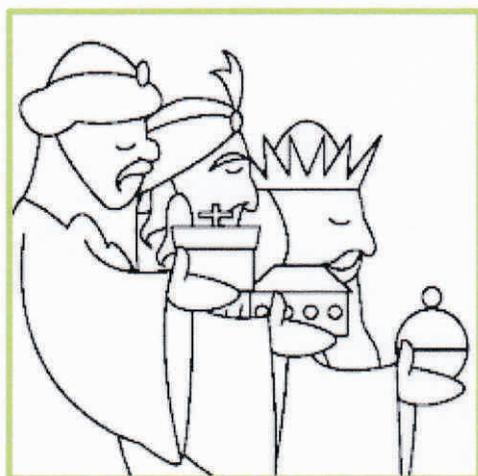
J.A.M

Welcome to 'your page' full of fun

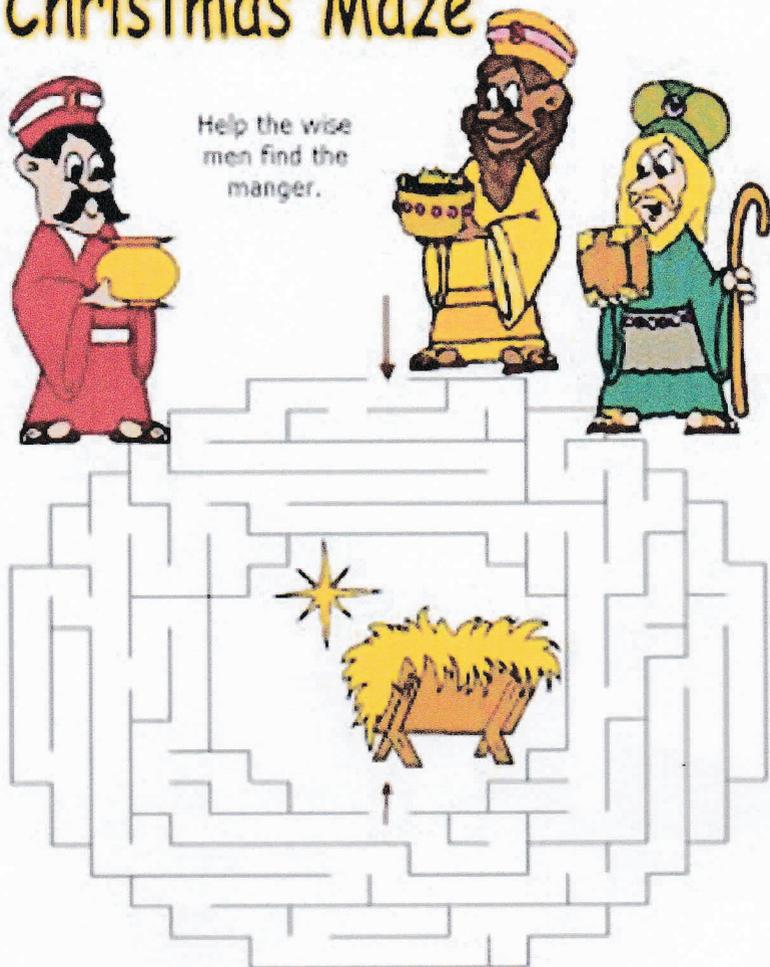
Activities to enjoy

E	D	E	E	G	A	M	O	H	T
C	H	L	K	I	D	E	T	S	E
H	T	I	I	N	I	H	A	A	G
I	N	H	N	H	H	E	S	T	E
T	A	R	G	F	C	L	O	R	A
A	F	R	O	I	E	H	A	A	M
D	N	Y	L	A	L	T	A	S	O
E	I	M	D	R	S	E	R	R	H
S	K	E	T	A	D	B	D	Y	I
A	R	B	E	T	L	E	M	E	M

BETHLEHEM  
EAST  
INFANT  
KING  
STAR  
HOMAGE  
LEADER  
DATE  
CHILD  
DELIGHT  
GOLD  
MYRRH



# Christmas Maze



Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' sessions. Kids of all ages welcome!

Sun 8, Sun 22 & Sun 29 January – At 10.00 am

# Pondering Prayer

We usually start the year wishing one another well, with the greeting, “Happy New Year”. What I wonder, is your wish for the year ahead? One friend of mine who was battling cancer this time last year, wrote to tell me of her longing that she might see the birth of a second great grandchild due last May. I along with others prayed with her that she would and thank the Lord she did and has had many happy months, watching the development of that little baby alongside her sister.

A phrase from the Christmas carol “O little town of Bethlehem” which says, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight”, means a great deal to me in terms of the wishes and longings we bring to God in prayer. As I write I cannot think of these words, but in the context of the people of Aleppo and others like them, balancing on a thread between life and death. How we need to go on praying and go on hoping for a God-given solution to the terrible conflicts across the world, which we witness via our television screens.

Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk wrote, “Christ our Lord did not come to bring peace to the world as some kind of spiritual tranquillizer. He brought to his disciples a vocation and a task – to struggle in the world of violence to establish his peace not only in their own hearts but in society itself.”

Jesus the Prince of Peace who said to his disciples, “my peace I leave with you” warned us that wars and even rumours of war would be part of being alive in this world and even described how members of one household would be set against one another, when one member followed him and another rejected him. As Christians we are called to live out the peace the Lord has to offer in what seems to be an increasingly hostile world.

As Christians we act out His peace every time we share the peace with one another during the Communion Service. We reach out to one another giving us the opportunity of forgiving one another, as the Lord forgives us, before we receive bread and wine, demonstrating that we are at one with the Lord Jesus and have assurance of sin forgiven. Then again, at the close of each Service we are called to go out in peace to love and serve the Lord, which means taking his peace out with us to a needy world.

How do we establish that peace, as Thomas Merton says? Firstly by learning to be still, *establishing* his peace within our own hearts. Secondly by praying for our communities and finding ways to show God's love in our area of influence. One way of sowing peace is to welcome those who have come to our shores for safety from persecution. The New Testament reminds us to "show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realising it." Would the innkeeper of Bethlehem have thought that the Son of God might share a space with his cattle, I wonder?

Another way of sharing God's peace is through the new venture of Town Pastors who will be going out on Friday nights offering a friendly face and some vital support to those who might find themselves a bit the worse for wear when the pubs close. Already towns like Ipswich, Felixstowe and Lowestoft have benefited from such ministry. Those praying for this ministry are asked to pray for God's blessing on those living within a ten mile radius. Will you join in this vital prayer ministry?

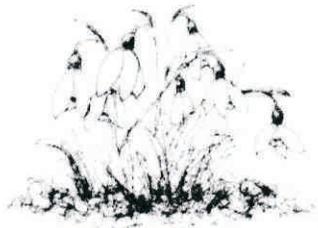
May the Lord bless you as you bring your hopes and fears to the God of hope in this New Year.

**Revd. Pauline Florance**

# JANUARY

The start of a New Year.

January to some people is a dull and long month, and yes it can be especially so after the build up to Christmas. Yet it is the month when nights start to pull out and we wait for the first snowdrops to appear.



picture.

January to me is a relaxing month. I like to look at the bare trees, they look so different without their leaves and on a sunny day shafts of sunlight brighten up the rooms. We have recently had some wonderful sunsets and the reds and gold of the sunset behind a tree makes a truly wonderful

We went to Thorpeness for lunch and sat by a window overlooking the Mere. It was so peaceful, a few swans glided by and on a small island were several more swans. There were a few people like us sitting and enjoying the scene. My niece and her husband had a few days at Aldeburgh and he remarked 'It's a different world, a time warp away from the Rat Race at London. People seemed more relaxed and contented here.'

Let us hope the New Year will make more people relaxed and content and be grateful for the most important things in life such as good health, the greatest gift we can have.

Happy New Year to you all.

**Margaret Clarke**

## **NOTES FROM PCC MEETING 16 NOVEMBER 2016**

The meeting opened with prayer at 7 pm with Martin in the chair, 8 members present. Meeting held in Vicarage as church heating was not working properly.

Sandra presented financial report – copy issued to those present and attached to minutes. Payment made to 2016 Parish Share to date totals £21,000. **Notification has been received about the amount of 2017 Parish Share - £55,561 (an increase of almost £3,000).** Date for meeting with Diocesan Financial adviser awaited. Heating in church not functioning correctly – awaiting attention from specialist firm.

At a recent meeting Leiston Christians Together agreed to hold a short ecumenical service on third Friday morning of each month, each church to lead in turn. United Church would lead on 20 January 2017 (during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) at the United Church.

Choir very pleased with new member, Grace Nash, who has settled in well.

Assessor had been found for “Return to Shore” questionnaires – full report would be available soon. Invitations to “Lights to Remember” service had been sent to all those who had been bereaved in last three years. Primary School would be holding a Christingle service in church on the last day of term. Church Christingle service takes place on 27 November. Oranges and Christmas tree donated to church by Geoff Platt in memory of the late Paul Snowden.

19 November Christmas Bazaar, 11 am to 2 pm

Details of full range of Christmas services available

Peter has arranged for Sheringham Shantymen to perform in church on Friday 7 April 2017 (date to be confirmed)

Auction of Promises, combined with cheese and wine, proposed for next Spring.

New editor for the magazine has been found, Marian Peskett. She will take over from Kathryn Williams in the New Year.

**Date of next Meeting Wednesday 11 January in Church, 7 pm**

Meeting closed with prayer by Martin at 8 10 pm.

**Pat Carter, Secretary to the PCC**

## **WISHING YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL 2017**



Christian Aid began in 1945 as Europe both celebrated the end of the Second World War and came to terms with the terrible cruelty and suffering of the preceding six years. The issues our world faces today have changed in the last seventy years. But Christian Aid's core focus remains – ending the injustice of avoidable poverty that leaves so many without the means to take control of their lives and futures.

Following my normal practice I decided to send a donation to Christian Aid in lieu of Christmas cards for my church family. Some of you, once again, expressed an interest in joining me in this venture.

Rosemary Gale, Betty Harland, Doris Harvey, Sylvia and Graham Hawes and Marian and Trevor Peskett joined with me to send a donation to Christian Aid.

This year we have been able to send off a total donation of £75 00 to Christian Aid which will be used to help others less fortunate than us. This year we have asked that this donation be used to fund seeds and tools to enable a family to grow crops to feed itself.

**Christian Aid's wish: We still want to do more than solve problems. We still want to build relationships of real mutual respect and to help people stand on their own feet in dignity and hopefulness.**

Thank you to all of you who support me at this time of year.

**Pat Carter**

## **FAMILY CRISTINGLE SERVICE**

The Christingle Service was held on Sunday 27 November to mark the beginning of Advent.

The Service was well attended by children and parents who thoroughly enjoyed the singing of the festive Advent carols. The Service ended with the lighting of the Christingles – a truly beautiful moment.



£71.72 was raised for the Children's Society.

## **MARGARET'S CHURCH SHOP**

The year has flown past again, it seems to get faster every year.

In St Margaret's shop it has been business as usual although I have to admit at the beginning of the year I had concerns as the town accepted another new charity shop. I should have had more faith, donations have continued to come in from our town supporters and these are greatly appreciated.

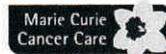
We have had a good year which helps to support our parish share. Thank you to all who help in the shop especially those who are not church members.

Customers seem to love our little "Aladdin's Cave" and are pleased to find just the item they have been looking for.

We look forward to seeing you all in St Margaret's in the New Year where you will receive a warm welcome.

We would like to wish all our customers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

**Maureen**



## **LIGHTS TO REMEMBER**

Thank you to all who took part in helping to make the Lights to Remember Service a special time. £129.51 was raised in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

## LADIES GROUP

The Group met on Monday 28 November to prepare floral Christmas decorations for the church. Thank you, Sue, for leading us in our endeavours.



The candles and arrangements give the church the Christmas feeling as we get ready for the Christmas season

We hosted a Beetle Drive and afternoon tea for the ladies of the United Church at the United Church on Monday 5 December at 2 15 pm. We all enjoyed an entertaining afternoon with much laughter. The Beetle Drive gives an ideal opportunity for mingling as the highest scorer on each table has to move on after each "Beetle". After winner and booby prizes had been awarded, everyone enjoyed the lovely refreshments we had prepared and enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee. At the end of the afternoon everyone went home with a gift wrapped present to be enjoyed on Christmas Day.



In the New Year we meet for our post-Christmas lunch at Thorpeness Golf Club on Wednesday 11 January, 12 noon. Menu choices and "sign-up" list is in church.

**Pat Carter**



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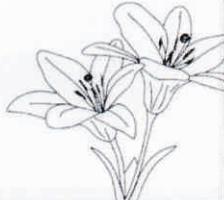
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**When contacting any of the businesses advertised, don't forget to mention you saw their advert in the St. Margaret's Magazine!**



# St. Margaret of Antioch

Parish Church of Leiston-cum-Sizewell

Church Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HG

Priest in Charge – Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

Assistant Priest – Reverend Richard Ellis

## NOTICE: Items for February's magazine

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

Email: [t.peskett@sky.com](mailto: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.stmargaretschurcheleiston.onesuffolk.net](http://www.stmargaretschurcheleiston.onesuffolk.net)

## How to Find Us

