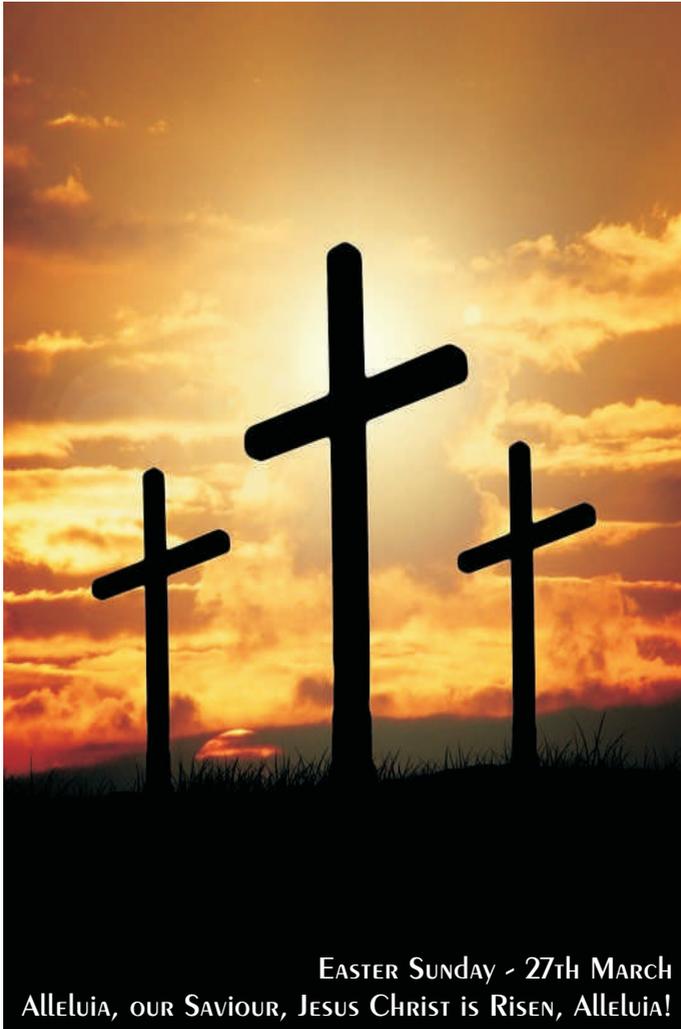


ST. MARGARET'S

PARISH CHURCH FOR LEISTON-WITH-SIZEWELL



EASTER SUNDAY - 27TH MARCH
Alleluia, OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN, Alleluia!

MARCH 2016



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 all-age Informal Service for the whole Family.
Praising the Lord through Drama, Readings & Music

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 Parish Eucharist Service & 'JAM' (Jesus & Me) Sunday School

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 'Welcome to the Table' Family Communion

A simple Family Communion Service
where all are welcome to the table

FOURTH & FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 Parish Eucharist Service & 'JAM' (Jesus & Me) Sunday School

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

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

Sunday School: Mrs Kathryn Phillips-Last: T. 561149

Sunday School: Mrs Sandra Ellis: T. 832168

Director of Music: Mr Jonathan. S. 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



WHAT IS YOUR PICTURE OF GOD

'What is God like?' is a question I have been asked many times. Working on the assumption that the traditional picture of an 'old, grey-bearded man in the sky' isn't good enough. Exploring peoples responses to that question are always revealing and challenging.

Over the years I've run many classes where the basics of the Christian faith would be explored with a small group of people exploring that same question, 'What is God like?' But rather than trying to find the words to give a definitive response, as if there was one to satisfy everyone, I'd use the question 'What is God like?' as a way of getting the enquirers to think about what God meant to them, and how they might express that.

Because i've always found it easier to explain and understand things in pictures, I would ask the folk in the class what their picture was of God. Could they find a metaphor, an image that could communicate the nature of God in their own lives, even if they couldn't explain it in words?

The pictures shared were enlightening, deep, expressive, emotional, challenging and much more besides. No one ever failed to come up with a picture. Everyone was right, and everyone learned from everyone else.

One young lady drew God as a blanket of knitted squares which she could pull around her for warmth. It was brightly coloured and had no set pattern or form; but it was always there and always did its job. Sometimes when she pulled it too tightly the stitching came out somewhere. So she'd take it off and examine it carefully, and do a bit of mending before pulling it round her again.

Another young lady drew God as an empty tomb in the middle of a beautiful garden. Although the tomb seemed empty, to her it was full of questions. It was a place where she felt comforted in the fact that the tomb was empty for her, so that she could walk in the beautiful garden. Sometimes the flowers would wither, but she knew that life would overcome death.

Easter is a time of new beginnings of new hope and a good opportunity to ask ourselves 'What is God like?' Easter is a time during which God reveals to the world just how much he loves you, and how much you mean to him. Easter is a time during which we can't help but wonder what God is like. So what might your picture of God be?

Happy drawing and Happy Easter adventures,

Martin

The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During January & February the lighting of the St. Margaret's Church Tower was sponsored on:

2nd January

In loving memory of Jacque & Stuart Hall's daughter Jessica Lorna, who would have celebrated her 40th birthday on this day.

4th January

Celebrating Hannah Merrett's 30th birthday, with love from all your family

10th February

Sponsored by Shirley Newman.
In loving memory of Paul Newman, on his birthday and our wedding anniversary

13th February

Sponsored by Vi Matthews, in memory of a dear father, who died on 13th February 1987

15th February

Sponsored by Vi Matthews, in memory of a dear mother, who's birthday is today

16th February

Sponsored by Betty Harland.
Remembering my very dear mother, Blanche Harland, who died 56 years ago today

If you would like to mark a special occasion by sponsoring the lighting of St. Margaret's Church Tower for a donation of £5 for each day, please write the details in the diary in church.

If you would also complete a payment envelope, and put this either in the wall safe or give it directly to Sandra Harle, it will be received with many thanks.

St. Margaret's

Church Road, Leiston

Holy Week & Easter Services

Sunday 20th March at 10.00am

'Welcome to the Table' Family Communion & Palm Sunday Procession

Thursday 24th March at 7.00pm

Maundy Thursday Service of Remembrance & Foot Washing

Friday 25th March at 2.00pm

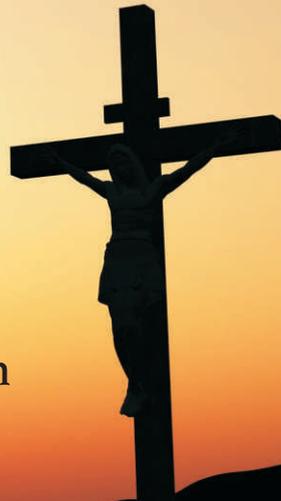
Good Friday Service - Hour at the Cross
A Service of Meditation & Reflection

Sunday 27th March at 6.00am

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service with Baptism
Service will be held at Sizewell Beach

Sunday 27th March at 10.00am

Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service



Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

ST. MARGARET'S SHOP

The shop is starting to look nice and fresh with its new coat of paint and backroom clean up. We still have a little way to go to achieve what we want though. There are now 6 shops in the town which support charities so we do need the continual support of the local people to bring in their donations. So please remember us when you have your "clear outs".

Many thanks to all who helped.

Maureen Fox

THE ST. MARGARET'S EASTER FAIR SATURDAY 19TH MARCH, 2PM - 4PM

Plans are well underway for our **EASTER FAIR** but your help is needed to make it a really egg-cellent event!

Donations are needed for all the usual stalls – cakes, plants, books and toys – raffle and tombola prizes and also bottles for the bottle stall. These can be given to me beforehand, taken into Margarets Shop or brought along on the day.

Also please let me know if you would like to help on the day and if there is any particular stall / activity that you would like to be allocated to. Any egg-citing ideas, with an Easter theme, would be most welcome.

Many thanks, in advance, for all your donations, help and support.

Sandra Harle (Tel: 833578)



How GOING TO church CAN STAVE off depression

GOING to church can help keep depression at bay, research suggests.

Academics have found that people who join a religious community - whether a church, synagogue or mosque - have better mental health than those who join a community group or political party.

The four-year study monitored 9,000 people aged 50 and older from across Europe. The British and Dutch team, whose research was recently published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, looked at different levels of social activity and how they influenced people's moods.

They found that joining a religious organisation was the only activity associated with sustained happiness.

By contrast, those who joined political and community groups tended to show an initial improvement in mental health, but then declined over the long term, while people who did sports and other social activities did not report even short-term benefits.

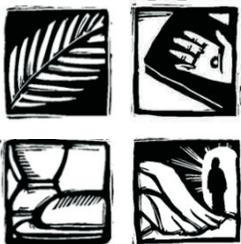
The researchers, from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the Erasmus University Medical Centre in the Netherlands, said it is not clear if it is faith itself that helps people, or if practising religion simply provides a sense of belonging.

LSE health expert Dr Mauricio Avendano said: 'The church appears to play a very important social role in keeping depression at bay and also as a coping mechanism during periods of illness in later life.'

Article taken from a recent publication of The Daily Mail

Sent in by Vi Matthews

JOIN US AT ST. MARGARET'S THIS LENT & EASTER



In addition to our regular Sunday Services there are various services and events happening throughout Lent & Easter at St. Margaret's Church. You are welcome to join us at any of these services, where you will receive a very warm welcome. Check out the Parish Magazine, Notice Board or our Website for further details of upcoming services.

Cooking with the Bible

Sunday 6th March marks the fourth Sunday in Lent for 2015, and is affectionately known as Mothering Sunday. There are many explanations as to why it is often referred to as Mothering Sunday. One reason given is because of the Epistle reading that speaks of how, those who come to Christ, regardless of their ancestry, are the inheritors of Abraham's promise. The old practice of visiting the cathedral, or 'mother church' of the diocese where one was baptised is also another explanation for the name.

Here in England, mothers are often honoured on this day, with the traditional gift of spring flowers, and sometimes also with a Simnel cake - A light fruit cake with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle and covered with a layer of marzipan on the top. This is then decorated with 11 or 12 marzipan balls, each representing the 11 disciples (minus Judas), and sometimes including Jesus Christ.

Whatever its history; this is a lovely cake to enjoy at 'tea-time' with a refreshing cup of tea. It is a great way to celebrate Mothering Sunday and enjoy a break, in what is for some, otherwise a penitential season - a time for making more space for God; thinking about the sacrifices Jesus made for us and through our own personal sacrifices, however small, bringing us closer to Him.

Simnel Cake

100g / 4oz glacé cherries

225g / 8oz butter, softened

225g / 8oz light muscovado sugar

4 large eggs

225g / 8oz self-raising flour

225g / 8oz sultanas

100g / 4oz currants

50g / 2oz chopped candied peel

2 lemons, grated zest only

2 tsp ground mixed spice

For the Filling & Topping

450g / 1lb marzipan

1-2 tbsp apricot jam, warmed

Method:

Preheat the oven to 150°C / 280°F / Gas Mark 2. Grease and line a 20cm / 8in cake tin.

Cut the cherries into quarters, put in a sieve and rinse under running water. Drain well then dry thoroughly.

Place the cherries in a bowl with the butter, sugar, eggs, self-raising flour, sultanas, currants, candied peel, lemon zest & mixed spice & beat well until thoroughly mixed. Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin.

Take one-third of the marzipan and roll it out to a circle the size of the tin and then place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 2½ hours, or until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. Cover with aluminium foil after one hour if the top is browning too quickly. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.

When the cake is cool, brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam and roll out half the remaining marzipan to fit the top. Press firmly on the top and crimp the edges to decorate. Mark a criss-cross pattern on the marzipan with a sharp knife. Form the remaining marzipan into 11 balls.

Brush the marzipan with beaten egg & arrange them around the edge of the cake. Brush with beaten egg & carefully place under a hot grill until the top is lightly toasted.



CENTENARY COOKBOOK

The Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich
of which St. Margaret's Church is a part
celebrated its Centenary year in 2014.

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 a special year & raise funds for
St. Margaret's Church.**

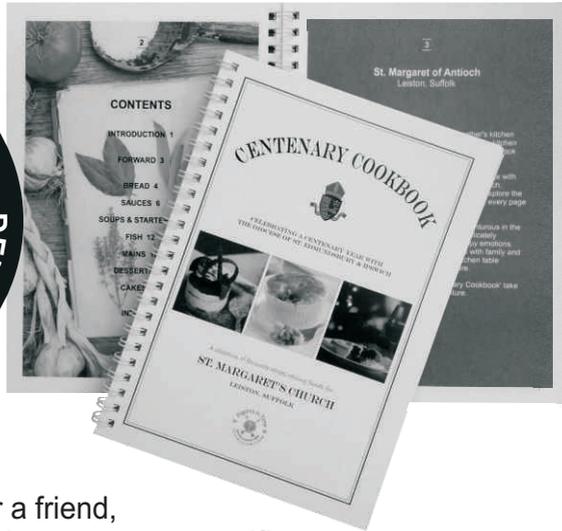
Pick up your copy of the cookbook now!

IDEAL 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**

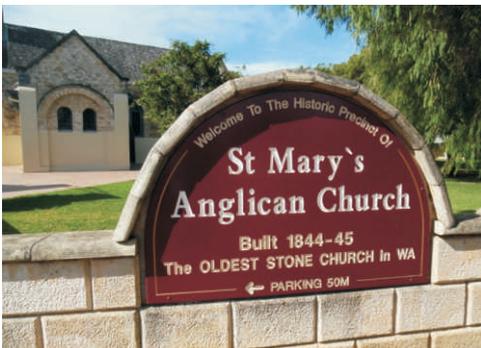
FAMILY EUCHARIST - AUSSIE STYLE

Some of you may have noticed I have been absent from St Margaret's recently on three Sundays. I have been on a trip to Australia – one that had been planned to take place in January 2010 – but did not take place then because of the untimely death of my dear husband, Fred. I flew to Perth, Western Australia, and after a couple of days there picked up my hire car and drove around the south west coast to Albany and then drove back to Perth. This journey took two weeks and then I spent a further week in Perth before flying home.

The first Sunday I was away I was in the air flying between Kuala Lumpur and Perth. On the second Sunday I was staying at a lovely town on the coast called Busselton. It has the distinction of having the longest timber jetty in the southern hemisphere (1.8 kilometres long). I made a point of going to the town church in advance to find out details of the services etc.



St Mary's Church is the oldest stone built church in Western Australia, built in 1845. Busselton was one of the first towns founded by settlers in WA. The church is an old colonial Norman Revival church built with stone walls and a shingled roof. Settlers quarried stone, cut and carted timber and shared in the construction work. The church was opened on 11th April 1845 although the



inside was not completed until 1848. It was consecrated by Bishop Augustus Short of Adelaide in November 1848. The Revd John Wollaston and John Bussell (a member of one of the early pioneering families after whom the town was named) designed the church with the assistance of an architect named Forsyth and modelled it on Winchester College Chapel, England.

The building was named St Mary's after a church of that name in Portsea, where John Bussell's father had been curate. During the 1970s many of the original glass windows which came from a church in Oxford were replaced with stained glass windows donated by descendants of early pioneering families in Busselton. The rectory was built in the 1870s and the 10 metre bell-tower in 1902.

Alongside the church is a modern Family Centre and this is where the service I attended was held. After parking the car in the ample car park I went in to be greeted by Di who handed me a pew sheet – no hymn or service books – the service and hymns were displayed on an overhead screen. The centre was set out in a similar way to ours with a nave altar and comfortable chairs around it on three sides. There was a small room to one side with windows overlooking the central space and this was where the children met. At the beginning of the service everyone was asked to greet someone they didn't normally worship with so of course that was easy for me.... and all those sitting near to me – including Betty who sat next to me. Later on I became aware that there were normally two services each Sunday – an early Holy Communion in the church and a second Communion service later in the Family Centre. The service I was attending was the first combined service and hence the need for everyone to greet each other – the different congregations meeting as one.

Music was provided by a pianist, a cellist, a violinist. The Revd Wayne Warfield, the parish priest, officiated at the service, assisted by the parish deacon, the Revd Dennis Caporn and Di Loudon. The service started with a very lively hymn, unknown to me but one Wayne enjoyed so much we had to sing it twice. The service followed the pattern of our own Eucharist with only very small alterations to wording. One change I noticed was that the confession happened much later in the service than at ours. We had two readings, the epistle, 1 Corinthians 13 v1-13 (familiar to us all from many wedding services) which was read by a member of the congregation and the gospel, Luke 4 v21-30 which was read by Dennis. The sermon from Wayne followed.

The taking of communion followed the style of ours – the priest giving the wafer and Dennis and Di standing either side with the chalices. I noticed that one chalice was the normal shape but the other was like a very shallow dish on a short stand. People seemed to go and queue up to receive in a random manner (no sidespeople to assist). After I received and consumed the wafer I went in the opposite direction to Betty as we do here if there is only one person distributing the wafers. In my case it was to Dennis who had the shallow dish.

He said that I should go to the other chalice which I did. After the service Betty said “Sorry, I should have told you about the sippers and dippers.” Apparently if you consume your wafer before you receive the chalice you go one way and if you retain your wafer and dip it in the wine you go the other way (to the shallow dish). Makes a lot of sense, I suppose.

After the service there were lots of notices. Amongst them was encouragement to complete a sign-up sheet to indicate what time you thought the combined services should start in future. On offer was 9.30 am, 10 am, 10.30 am. Another was about the invitation to come to the next Sunday service to enjoy Pancakes. Also the Annual Meeting of Parishioners was to be held on Sunday 21st February at 11am, obviously directly after the morning service. Another notice asked for the return of Palm crosses to provide the ash to be used on Ash Wednesday. I thought of Joe who keeps our unused crosses so that we don't have to return ours.

After the service finished Betty asked me to join the others for some refreshments. There was tea and coffee, also plates of homemade cakes, savouries and biscuits. We went and sat down and I was asked where I came from. When I said Suffolk in Eastern England, one of the ladies told me about her sister-in-law who lived in Bungay – it's a small world indeed! I enjoyed the service very much and was made very welcome.

It was interesting to note that as well as food items for their emergency relief food pantry toothbrushes, soap, shampoo and deodorant for both men and women were also on the list.

Restoration of St Mary's Church, Graveyard and Rectory is an ongoing commitment to see history preserved. Currently there is rising and falling damp that needs to be addressed, particularly on the west wall and southern facade, causing decay of the wall stability. The church is still used as a place of worship, with regular services held each week. Although many community projects are now based in the church's new family centre, the old stone church is a central focus to both worshippers and the wider community. Its historic value and beautiful setting are recognised by many couples who choose St Mary's as the ideal place to celebrate their weddings.

Pat Carter

St. Margaret's Church

Church Road, Leiston



Mothering Sunday

Family 'Praise & Worship' Service

Sunday 6th March

10.30am



Come along, everyone
is welcome & let us celebrate together

FAMILY SERVICE - 6TH FEBRUARY

'THE MOUNTAIN OF TRANSFIGURATION'

During our family praise and worship service this month we journeyed up the mount of transfiguration (The Pulpit) with Jesus, Peter, James and John. While up there we discovered with the disciples that Jesus truly is the Messiah that the scriptures and prophets had spoken about. And in a large cloud of smoke (produced by a smoke machine) we heard the voice of God telling the world that Jesus is God's Son.

As we journeyed back down the mountain we were met by a large crowd of people and a young boy who was very unwell. Although Jesus' disciples had been unable to heal the boy, Jesus took him in his arms and healed him. Through our journey up and down the mountain of Transfiguration we discovered that the glory of God's love and grace is not to be found at the top of mountains, but where it is needed, among the people. Jesus truly is the Son of God, sent from heaven to bring the Glories of God's Kingdom to earth.

The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

'MORNING OFFERING'

O God,
Help me this morning to think,
not of my own troubles,
But of the troubles of others.
Bless those for whom today is going to be difficult,
those who will have pain to bear;
those of whom sorry will come;
those who will be involved in worry and anxiety;
those who will have some specially difficult task to do.
I understand how they feel much better
now that I have been through it myself.
Bless me, and help me, to live
not even a day at a time,
but to take each moment as it comes.
This I ask for your love's sake.

Amen

Taken from Prayers & Reflections

Sent in by: Hilda Woodhead



St. Margaret's Church

Church Road, Leiston

Easter Fair

Saturday 19th March

2.00pm - 4.00pm



Plus a Grand Draw, Refreshments... and much more!!!!

Come along, fun for ALL the Family
We look forward to seeing you there

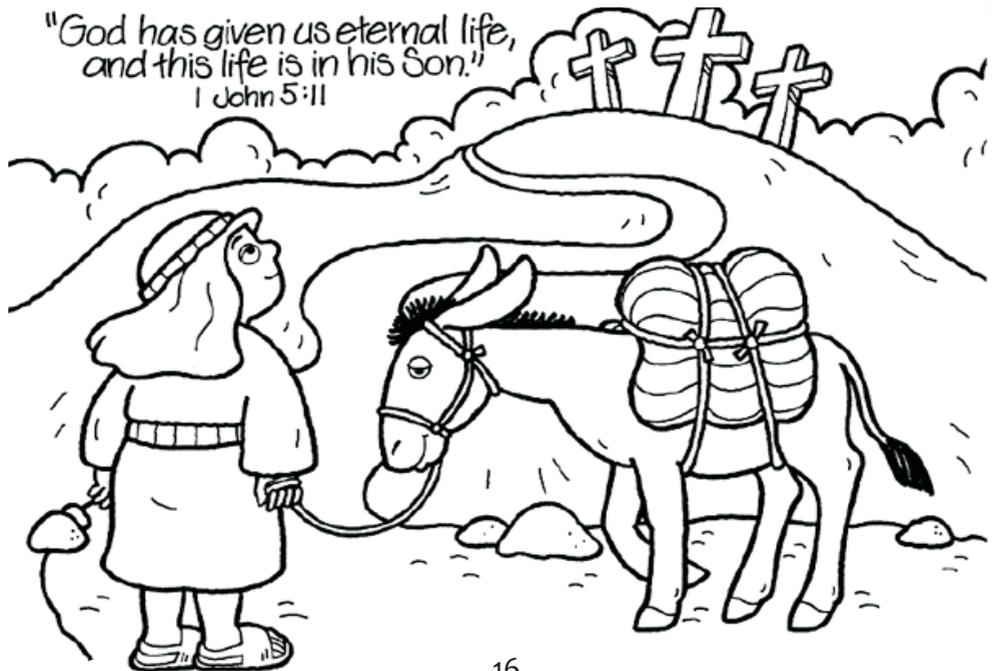


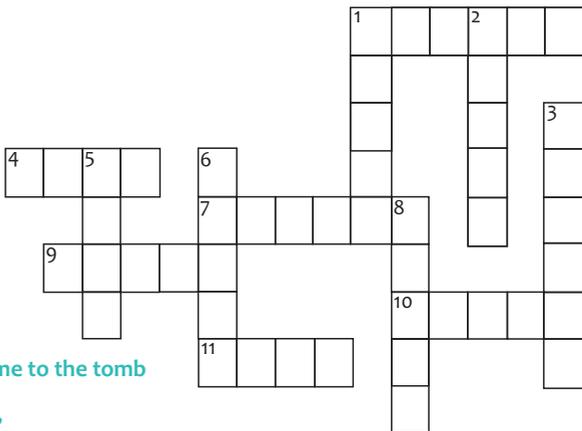
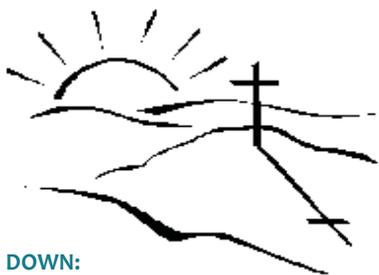
Kids Zone



Y	R	E	N	A	W	A	E	L	S	MARY	SEPULCHRE	EARTHQUAKE
A	R	K	J	E	S	O	J	G	E	ANGEL	STONE	ROBE
M	O	A	U	S	S	T	N	O	M	SNOW	JESUS	RISEN
N	B	U	M	U	S	I	O	S	A	AWE	JOY	GREETINGS
I	E	Q	U	S	T	Y	R	N	M			
T	N	H	O	E	O	U	G	A	E			
E	L	T	E	J	Q	E	R	I	R			
E	E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S			
R	G	A	E	G	N	A	W	K	E			
G	A	E	A	R	T	A	Q	U	A			

"God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son."
1 John 5:11





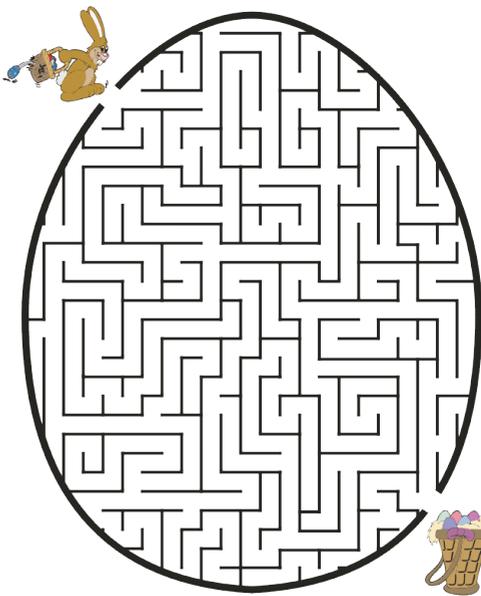
DOWN:

1. Opposite of dead
2. The tomb was opened by an
3. The angel came down from
5. The name of the two women who came to the tomb
6. The Saviour of the World
8. "He is not here. He has as he said"

Jesus	Heaven
Snow	Risen
Mary	Easter
Angel	Stone
Alive	Cross
Afraid	Tomb

Across:

1. The guards were when they saw the empty tomb
4. A place where the dead body of a person is laid to rest
7. The day we celebrate the resurrection is called
9. Jesus was crucified on the
10. When the women visited the tomb, the had been rolled away
11. The angel's clothes were as white as



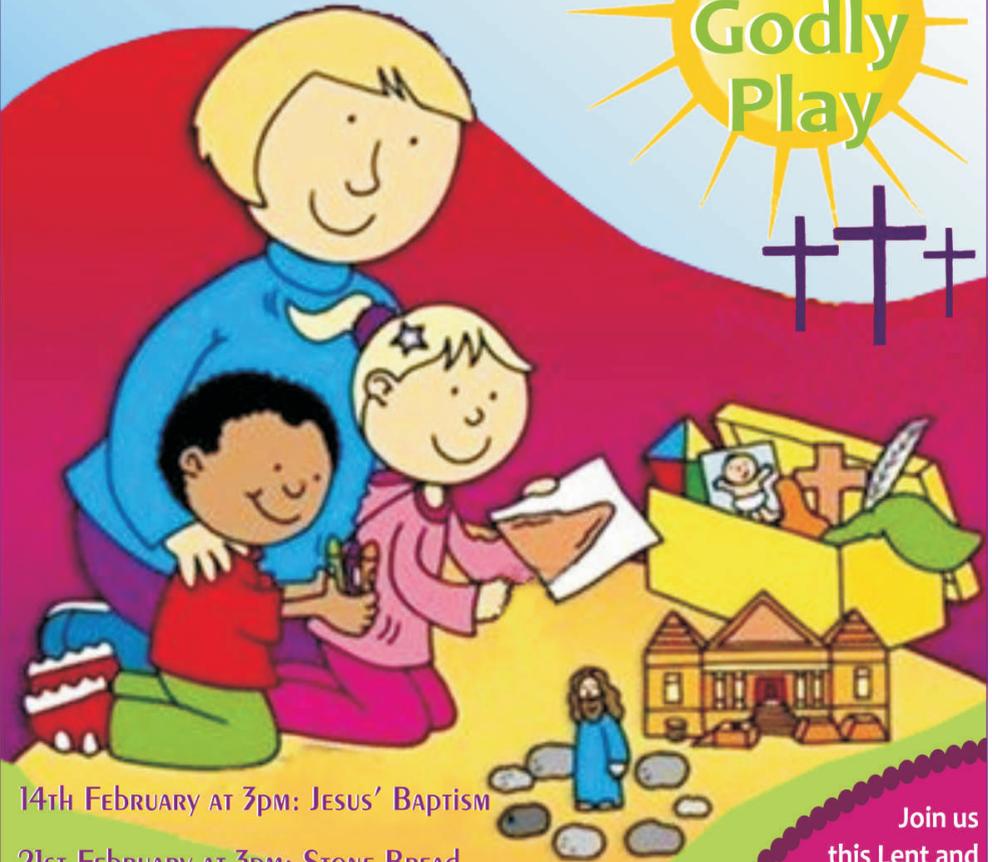
Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' Sessions - Kids of all ages welcome!
Sun 13th March & Sun 27th March - Both @ 10am

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

CHURCH ROAD, LEISTON



Lent
Godly
Play



14TH FEBRUARY AT 3pm: JESUS' BAPTISM

21ST FEBRUARY AT 3pm: STONE BREAD

28TH FEBRUARY AT 3pm: ON TOP OF THE TEMPLE

6TH MARCH AT 3pm: ON A MOUNTAIN ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Each session is followed by a crafty activity, a drink & biscuits

13TH MARCH AT 3pm: HOPE

Final session followed by a shared meal & Christian fellowship

Join us
this Lent and
let us journey to
the cross together,
through the world
of Godly Play.

This will be an event,
a journey on which
all are welcome from
0 - 100 years of age!

SPONSOR A CHORISTER!

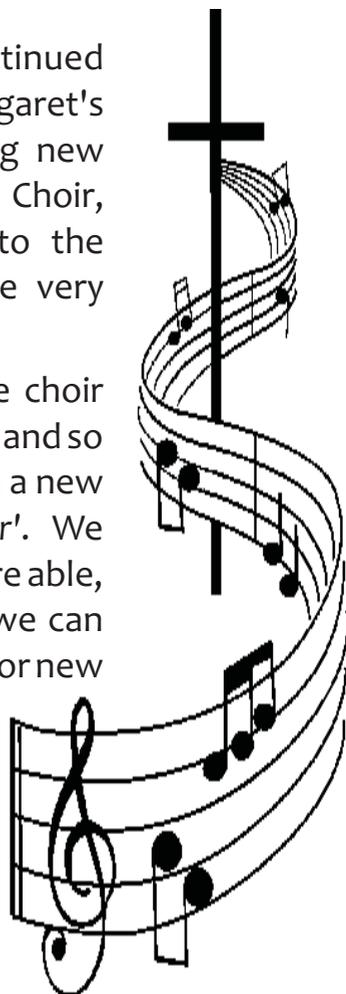
'Bow down and worship God for truly, God is here among you.' (1 Corinthians 25).

Paul's words to the Corinthians highlight how wonderful it truly is to worship God, because it is in the very centre of our worship, that God is present.

As a great encouragement and continued blessing to our worship here at St Margaret's Church, the Lord has been encouraging new voices to join the St Margaret's Church Choir, each voice adding a new dimension to the already inspiring worship that is at the very centre of our community.

To help encourage new members in the choir and in their part of leading us into worship and so into the presence of God, we have begun a new campaign entitled *'Sponsor a Chorister'*. We would therefore like to invite you, if you are able, to make a donation of any size so that we can buy new robes, worship books and so on for new members of our choir.

If you would like to make a donation please see Sandra Harle, our Church Treasurer. We thank you in advance for any help that you are able to offer.



For more information about this appeal please see our Organist & Choirmaster, Jonathan Williams.

OLIVE - A SPECIAL FRIEND OF MARY

Mrs Olive Brundish will be 90 this month.

When she first came to Leiston she was Nurse Dale, District Nurse and Midwife. She delivered many babies in Leiston and at that time they were Home Births so was kept very busy, but loved her work.

She was also nursing patients who were recently out of Hospital or ill at home, often taking them a hot dinner or helping with their ironing, she never spoke about it but the patients she helped did, everyone loved her.



She married Les Brundish, so then she was known as Sister Brundish. They married at St. Margaret's Church and attended Church regularly, helping out at Fetes and Bazaars as well as a lot of other involvements. They looked forward to Christmas & Midnight Mass Services, although Olive sometimes was busy delivering babies; one year three were born on Christmas Day.

Olive trained for her Nursing in London and was awarded for her work and of that time an Honour to receive. She rode a bicycle to deliver babies so she can associate with the TV program 'The Midwife'.

Daneway was the main Clinic at that time, and Olive would take Antenatal Clinics on Monday afternoons for six weeks before the birth, showing new mums how to bath the baby; the baby being a big rubber doll, which must have been bathed thousands of times. They were then shown how to put Nappies on, watching out for the safety pins, plus exercise and breathing. Lots of friendships were formed at these Groups.

Olive is happily settled in a Home now but people haven't forgotten you, a bright happy bubbly lady, who cared so much for everyone.

Enjoy your 90th Birthday Olive.

Love from all who know you.

Margaret Clarke

WOMEN'S World Day of PRAYER 2016

Friday 4th March, 2pm at St Margaret's Church

RECEIVE CHILDREN, RECEIVE ME

The service this year has been written by Christian women of Cuba. A letter of thanks to them says "We want to thank all the people in Cuba, who directly and indirectly participated in the preparation of the worship service and resource materials. You gave us an invitation to learn from each generation their own gift, to put children at the centre of God's Kingdom, and to hear Jesus' call to be that child. We join you in the blessing – 'Receive children, receive me'."

All welcome to come and join us and find out more.

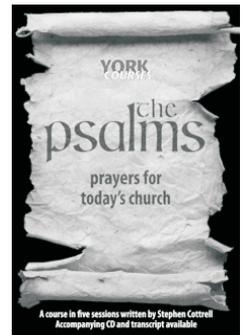


Pat Carter

DEANERY LENT COURSE

2016 is a special Deanery Lent Year, meaning that the Deanery is running a joint Lent course this year; focussing on The Psalm - Prayers for today's Church.

This year's Deanery Lent course for this Parish, is running for the five weeks of Lent. The course, led by The Reverend Pauline Florance, started on Thursday 18th February but continues throughout Lent. It is being held on Thursday afternoons between 2 - 4pm, at 1 Woodlands, Haylings Road. There is a sign up sheet in the church. For further information please contact The Reverend Pauline Florance.



Reverend Pauline Florance

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

January 27th was Holocaust Memorial Day. The service at St. Margaret's was simple and extremely moving. The church was lit by candles and, like last year, haunting music played quietly in the background.

As we sat in silence memories of old news reels came to mind, scenes of people being herded into cattle trucks, fierce



dogs snapping at their heels to hurry them along. Arriving at the concentration camps, people were separated into groups. Those to be put to work as slave labour, some to undergo medical experiments and those deemed to be worthless went straight to the gas chambers.

Occasionally the silence was broken as Martin read out the name and date of birth of a holocaust victim and details of the truly awful harrowing experience each suffered.

Jews have been persecuted for centuries, yet those I have known were wonderful people; kind, hard working, family loving, with a great sense of humour.

We are fortunate to live in a country where everyone is free to follow their religion, regardless of faith or denomination. In some countries Christians are being persecuted and even murdered for their faith.

Why then, when we have the freedom, are so many churches poorly attended, or even closed for the lack of a congregation?

Why do people who profess to be Christians, joke that they only attend church three times in their life; to be hatched, matched and dispatched; their baptism, marriage and funeral.

Like the corner shop, post office or pub, the church needs support. Without it, like the corner shop, post office or pub, the church will close. There will be nowhere to be hatched, matched or dispatched.

How can this be avoided? It's simple - use it or lose it.

Vi Matthews

VALENTINE'S CAKE BAKE

Many thanks to everyone who donated to and / or bought from the St. Margaret's Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Sunday 14th February. With your help, we raised £130.50 for church funds.

Sandra Harle



ST. MARGARET'S SPRING CLEAN!

SAVE THE DATE! There will be a spring clean of the Church on **Saturday 16th April**. If you are able to make it on the day, your help will be gratefully appreciated, thank you.

FAIR TRADE EASTER EGGS

This Easter please spread the word that, an Easter egg is not just about 'chocolate', it is so much more! The custom of giving eggs at Easter is to celebrate new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death. The egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open they stand for the empty tomb. As we walk together towards Easter let us spread the true meaning of Easter to all those you meet, and help support Fairtrade this year when choosing your Easter Egg.



Fairtrade Easter Eggs are widely available from all good supermarkets, as well as www.traidcraft.co.uk, www.realeasteregg.co.uk to name a couple of websites.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2016

Dear Friends,

March'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 & 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'll add you to our 'special prayers' section.

In our Church Family Prayers

Martin, Kathryn, Grace & Eve Phillips-Last

Simon, Sheena, Hannah, Tom & Matt Merrett

Sheila Mckinnon, David & Midge Mckinnon

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

David & Cindy Fitsell

Zara & Emma Fitsell

Paul, Charlene, Alexander, Aidan, Cory & Amyleigh Fitsell

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

Don Bridges

Bruce & Phyllis Songer

Stephen & Gail Southgate

Naomi Kerans

Helen Thackeray

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

Peter & Jennifer Roberts

Charles & Pauline Stride

Steve, Christine & Nathan James

Derek & Sheila Stiff



In our Special Prayers



Joan Whale
Leah Crudgington
Joan Fowler
Martin & Kathryn Phillips-Last's
American family
Karis Braithwaite

Edward Smith
Sara Newman
Jean Hardisty
Jo-ann Clare
Kane



Bereavements - February 2016



Pam Miller (RIP)

May all her family, friends and loved ones be comforted in their loss
within the everlasting loving arms of Jesus Christ.



Peter Mower (RIP)

We remember Peter and we hold Jill and their family in our hearts and prayers.
A dear and special man who will be so missed, and who now walks in the very
presence of the Lord for all eternity. The Lord embrace and comfort you all.

Funeral - February 2016

Tuesday 9th February Fredrick Arthur Revell

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

Psalm 119:76



LET US PRAY FOR GOD-GIVEN SOLUTIONS

When the angels came to Abraham to promise that he and Sarah would have a son, they asked, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

When faced with terrible events either in world affairs or within our own experience, it is understandable that people turn to incredulity.

However, the truth is, as the angel Gabriel said to Mary, forecasting another pregnancy, “Nothing is impossible with God”

In my younger days, we used to sing the following chorus at Camp on this theme.

*Got any rivers, you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains, you can't tunnel through?
God specialises in things thought impossible.
He can do just what no other can do.*

When I look at the news on TV about Syria and the surrounding area I see world leaders caught in an impossible situation, to say nothing of the desperate Syrian people on the ground.

An American Christian working in Germany told me once of her amazement that her colleague was able to remain so calm when they were in great difficulty. Each of them had been praying for an answer, but somehow her colleague had remained unruffled by circumstances, which had caused her great anxiety. His reply was, “I have learned, that the darkest hour is always just before the dawn.”

During World War II King George VI called for a day of prayer for the nation, when things seemed extremely bleak, Thank the Lord he heard and answered prayer and the tide of war turned. As we move toward Easter let's keep pleading for God-given solutions.

When King Jehoshaphat was told a vast army was coming to attack them, he gathered the people at the temple and prayed a prayer which you can read in II Chronicles 20: 5-12. Then a prophet stood up and told the king to go out to meet the enemy, but to put the choir first and to go out singing, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.”

“As they went, “ the Bible says, God acted and you can read that in the same chapter from verse twenty-two onwards. Our God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

Let's ask him, trust him, praise him and be amazed.

PSALM 118 Vs. 1-2 & Vs. 19-29 - A COMMENTARY

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever
2. Let Israel now proclaim, His mercy endures forever.
19. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
20. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
21. I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.
22. The stone which the builders rejected has become to the chief cornerstone.
23. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
24. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25. Come O Lord, and save us we pray. Come Lord, send us prosperity.
26. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.
27. The Lord is God; he has given us light: link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.
28. You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.
29. O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his mercy endure for ever

The Commentary

The Psalmist is calling to the people to the Temple to celebrate a great victory (over menacing Nations) – under God's influence and leadership, he calls them to the temple to give thanks for the triumph and the mercy that God has shown them. Just as in recent times as a nation we have given thanks for the victories in the First and Second World Wars. One aspect here is the 'mercy' the King in his leadership considers they have received from God in the victory they have achieved. There are many aspects of mercy – one aspect is the lack of mercy as many seemed to think that Allies did not offer to the German people after the first World War which resulted in the revenge of the Second World War. To give mercy after battles or even to be merciful to others when they have hurt us in personal relationships is difficult but it is necessary approach to reconciliation.

Cruel gossip that does not view others with mercy will be counterproductive. In our relationship with God we know that owning our failures opens a door to his forgiveness, mercy and our salvation.

The psalm refers to two images of the New Testament. The first is the parable of Jesus in Matthew 18.23 – end where he tells of a servant who begs for mercy from his King for forgiveness and receives it but immediately refuses to offer mercy to a colleague. The unity in the worshippers in the psalm gives a picture of them giving thanks for their mercy reflects St Peter's picture of the Church where the foundation stone (Ps 118. 22, 23, 1 Peter 2.6) of worship is the basis of their life together.

Reference: A Bible Commentary for Every Day - Donald Coggan SCM Press – Chris Gonin

Rev. Chris Gonin

OPERATION CHRISTMAS Child Appeal SHOEBOX DESTINATION

I expect many of you remember the colourful shoeboxes St Margaret's Church members sent off in response to the Operation Christmas Child appeal last year. There was a facility to be advised where YOUR shoebox ended up. I have today received an email advising where one of my boxes was sent. The email says:

THANK YOU!

Thank you for sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child. Because of you a child in Swaziland received a gift to remember. Your gift was one of 41,341 shoeboxes sent to Swaziland from the UK and 11.2 million packed globally. Once more children in need, all over the globe, experienced the joy of a simple shoebox gift and the hope that comes with knowing they are not forgotten. The simplest of gifts can make the biggest impact "I want to thank Operation Christmas Child for thinking about children like me who live far out of town. One Sunday that I went to church all the Sunday school children had been called to the front to receive a gift. I was handed a big box, and when I opened it up I couldn't believe what I saw. There was a set of toothbrushes and toothpaste! I have never used a toothbrush before because we could not afford it – I have been using sticks to clean my teeth. May God bless the people who sent us these gifts because they in so many ways changed my life and that of my family." Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child in 2015 to share God's love in a tangible way with children across the world over the Christmas season.

Pat Carter



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Notice: Items for April's Magazine:

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Kathryn Williams by **Sunday 20th March** for inclusion in April's Magazine. Thank you.

Email Address: stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com

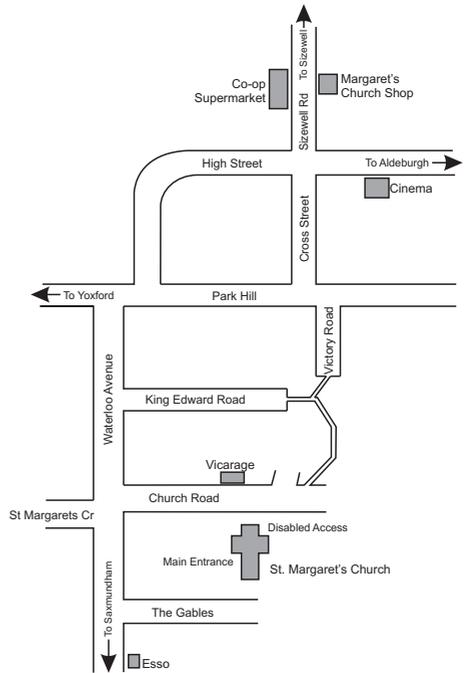


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