

# ST MARGARET'S

**Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell**



**MARCH 2017**

**£1**

# **CHURCH SERVICES**

## **SUNDAY 5 MARCH**

9.00 HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE  
10.30 FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

## **SUNDAY 12 MARCH**

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

## **SUNDAY 19 MARCH**

10.00 'WELCOME TO THE TABLE' FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

## **SUNDAY 26 MARCH**

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

## **CONTACT US**

**Assistant Priest : The 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 Leader:** 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

## Well Done!



As my family and I prepare to move on and engage with new adventures in Cyprus and as I sit and write what will be my last Rev's Ramblings for the St Margaret's Parish magazine as the Priest in Charge, I find myself affected by many different and often conflicting emotions of what could have been and what has been.

Emotions which I shared recently with my mum, who reminded me of something that happened to me many years ago. She told me that one day I'd come home from school while my aunt was visiting the family home, as she often did. I had always liked my aunt, and had fun with her. However, that day I'd come home from school with something really important to share with my mum. Bounding into the kitchen all excited I'd announced that I'd got the results of my test. 'Oh' my mum replied, 'how did you get on?' Then with a beaming smile on my face I told her that I'd got 98%. But just as my mum was about to respond, my aunt came into the kitchen and asked, 'you got how much in your test?' '98%' I replied with an ever broadening smile. 'Oh,' my aunt had replied, 'and what happened to the other 2%?'

My mum said that my smile disappeared in an instant, and that it obviously didn't take me long to work out that what I'd heard from a possibly well-meaning aunt, was disappointment and a sense of failure. My mum told me that she was really proud of me, and that she was sure that my aunt hadn't meant any harm. I knew I wasn't perfect, maybe that 2% was important, or maybe not. Maybe my aunt was in her own way trying to encourage me to do better, or maybe not. Or maybe it just wasn't helpful that my aunt had reinforce the truth that I wasn't perfect. Total success isn't always possible, but a simple 'Well done for at least trying' is all that is needed!

As I say farewell to St Margaret's and to Leiston, I give thanks for the many, many messages of 'Well done' that Kathryn and I have received. No matter what 2% of my time here I may have got wrong, I leave with such a sense of accomplishment and encouragement, and all because of those two little words, 'well done.' Kathryn, the girls and I leave celebrating the 98%, and giving thanks for what has been done well. And my hope and prayer for the future of St Margaret's and Leiston, is that it will continue to build on what's been done well over the past three years. A simple well done makes all the difference, so come on St Margaret's, come on Leiston, let's not

lose a single opportunity, to say well done and continue making a difference in the future of our community. Well done St Margaret's, well done Leiston, you are without a shadow of a doubt a great community, and we'll never forget you or to be thankful for knowing and being inspired, by each and everyone of you, well done.

Happy adventures,

***Martin***

The Reverent Martin Phillips-Last

## **Family Worship and Praise Service**

Love was in the air at the St Margaret's family praise and worship service. Together we learnt just how much God loves us. There are many places in the Bible where we find great expressions of God's love for us. But the biggest gift of love, was the gift that he gave to each one of us personally, and that gift was his Son Jesus. Jesus's life revealed the love of God to the world. But how does he reveal it to the world today?

Well, St Margaret's welcomed Carol Cotton the Leiston Town Pastors administrator who came and shared with us just how much the love of God is at work in our community, through the loving actions of others. We discovered that the love of God is a personal love given to each one of us personally by God through his Son. But just as he freely gave the love of God to us, so we are called to share that love freely with those around us, and reveal the love of God in the world around us today.

## **LENT AND EASTER SERVICES**

There will be a service with imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, 1 March at St Margaret's Church, 7 pm.

Arrangements for Services for Easter and Holy Week will be in the April Magazine.

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

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

**Monday 30 January**

In loving memory of Joan Mower



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

**Friday 10 February**

In memory of Paul Newman's birthday and our wedding anniversary

**Saturday 11 February**

In loving memory of Jason – a wonderful boy

**Monday 13 February**

In memory of a loving father who died 13 February 1978

**Wednesday 15 February**

In memory of a loving mother on her 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.



# THE SHERINGHAM SHANTYMEN



## The famous Sheringham Shantymen for their first concert in this area!

St. Margaret's Church, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Friday, 7th April, 2017 at 7.30pm

Raising funds for St. Margaret's Church  
and to give local people a jolly good concert.  
Refreshments will be available.

Tickets cost £10 each and can be obtained from  
Margaret's Shop in Sizewell Road, Leiston

or

from Peter and Jenefer Roberts, 01728 603772

## **EASTER FAIR – SATURDAY 8 APRIL – 2PM to 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 Margaret's 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)**

## **1<sup>st</sup> LEISTON BROWNIES**

We are trying to find out when 1st Leiston Brownies started and wonder if anybody has memories of being a Brownie pre 1953 which is the earliest reference Suffolk Guides have of the pack. There is mention of 2nd Leiston Brownies starting in 1952 and 3rd starting in 1957.

We have a photo of Grace and Ida Marjoram, who were born in 1914, in their Brownie uniform, so they must have been at least 7 years old, making the date of the photo 1921 - 1923. This seems to indicate that 1st Leiston Brownies are almost 100 years old and we would certainly like to celebrate such an important event!

If you have any memories of your time in 1st Leiston Brownies, such as dates, who ran the pack and where the meetings were held, please contact me either by email - [2nd.leiston.brownies@gmail.com](mailto:2nd.leiston.brownies@gmail.com) - or drop a note into the guide hut in Westward Ho and someone will contact you.

**Pat Bloomer**

## **PSALM 121**

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
2. My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth
3. He will not suffer your foot to stumble, he who watches over you will not sleep.
4. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
6. So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
7. The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for ever more.

During Lent this year there are two psalms reflecting the writers trust in God. The 121<sup>st</sup> psalm is a pilgrim's psalm reflecting his fears perhaps on the journey to Jerusalem. There was a belief among some on their pilgrimages to look to the hills where they felt other gods lived and who would keep them safely on their way. This pilgrim asks himself the question shall I look to the hills for help – and answers it with a firm 'No' because he knows his help comes from God. His God will not let him stumble and will be there to keep him safe when he sleeps – because his God does not sleep. The pilgrim believes that his God watches over him and shades him from the fierce sun or by the moon at night. In the last line we see that the psalm points beyond the immediate pilgrimage to Jerusalem, to life's journey on the our way to the resurrection life beyond this life - the ultimate end to our journey here, to heaven

## **Psalm 23**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing
2. He make me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside till waters
3. He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *and* I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This psalm should be looked at beyond its normal comfort role to the bereaved and the anxious – to see that the writer is primarily concerned with God. God is the carer – the reviver – the rescuer –and comforter. The psalmist paints a picture of a God who cares and loves and supports those who he sees as his sheep. The Bible is full of shepherd imagery. But sometimes the picture is not a good one, as Ezekiel shows in his chapter 34 where those, who are supposed to care for the people of Israel have not healed the sick or bound up the injured. By contrast Jesus calls himself the good shepherd ‘He calls his own sheep by name’. It is an intimate statement. It is followed up by us knowing that Our Lord is prepared as well to lay down his life in defence of his sheep.

**Prayer: My dearest Lord,**

**Be a bright Flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path beneath me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd before me.  
Today and evermore**

Ref: The People’s Bible Commentary Donald Coggan

**The Revd. Chris Gonin**

## **Angel Voices**

The nine exquisite voices of Seraphim (Director Vetta Wise) in performance at 5.15pm at St. Peter's Church, Theberton, together with Anna Noakes (flute) and Gabriella Dall'Olio (harp). Music will include compositions written for the ensemble by locally-based composers, Elis Pehkonen and Jonathan Rutherford. Special lighting and a peal of bells before the concert will ensure a unique occasion. Tickets £13.50 to include refreshments. Box Office: 07763 527 239 [www.seraphimvoices.uk](http://www.seraphimvoices.uk)

**Sandra Harle**

# Pondering Prayer

**“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you.  
My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you.”**

Psalm 63:1

Someone began talking, the other day, about what they might give up for Lent. Another person present asked what they might add, or do, rather than give something up. In his recently published Lent book called, “Dethroning Mammon”\* Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury invites us to become more aware of the invisible but powerful influences, which shape our attitudes to money.

He asks the question, how “can Christians be distinctive in their approach to money?” The thought occurs to me that if we merely attend to what we give up, we are focussing on ourselves too much. If we spend time during Lent ‘thirsting’ for a deeper relationship with the Lord we will gain new perspectives on the Kingdom of Heaven and discover new treasure.

Let’s be praying this Lent that we will gain insights which will enable us to see the world through God’s eyes and learn to assess and measure issues in a Christlike manner.

Maybe something else we can do this Lent, is to treat ourselves to the Archbishop’s very readable book published by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

ISBN978-1-4729-2977-8

## Prayer

Lord, give me eyes to see you, ears to hear you and a loving heart to recognize you in everyone I meet. Help me to delight in those things which bear the imprint of your love and goodness and grant me a new freedom toward all I possess.

**The Revd Pauline Florance**

# **An Open Letter to The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last**

Dear Martin

When you announced in January that you were leaving St Margaret's, like everyone else I was stunned. I was also saddened as you have become a friend, confident and mediator; someone who was always ready to listen but never judge.

I would like to thank you for making my son and his wife so welcome. It meant so much to Pah a devout Buddhist, to sit quietly in church. She had a need to sit in a holy place, talk to a holy man and have a holy man say good words. Number One Monk will be remembered with affection.

As I walk around town, I have had people tell me of the help you have given; the time you have spent bringing comfort to the bereaved and others in need of a friendly word. This will be missed.

I have my own special memories; the first time I heard you say the words 'broken for you' I was overwhelmed by a sense of quiet and worthlessness, no longer one of a crowd but standing alone.

The Holocaust Memorial Services were understandably solemn occasions. Do you remember telling us that Jews sometimes hold a stone in their hand when they pray, and invited us to pick up a stone? I still have the one I chose. I see it every morning – and remember.

Sunday afternoons during Lent was another time of thought and reflection. With a tray of sand and a couple of little figures you brought to life Jesus being tempted by the Evil One. Last year when the children sat around, absolutely silent and still, they were completely mesmerised by the words you spoke. It was simply amazing. Last year on Good Friday, the House at the Cross was incredible. So much thought and preparation, but what an experience you created. I pity those who weren't there.

Now it is time for us to part. I wish you, Kathryn, Grace and Eve every happiness in this new chapter about to start, but to say 'Goodbye' is too final, so the words of a Celtic blessing must say it for me:

**May the road rise up and meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rains fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again may God hold you in the hollow of His hand  
God Bless you and those who you love**

Yours sincerely  
Vi Matthews

## **Leiston Defibrillator Appeal Update**

Fundraising is continuing for the new Community Public Accessible Defibrillator site to be situated at the Leiston Children's Centre in Waterloo Avenue. The online crowdfunding appeal reached £80 and raised £75.08 after fees were deducted. This brings the amount raised so far to £1075.08. The target is £2000. There will be £200, £300 or £500 to come from the current round of the East of England Co-op's Community Token Scheme. This round was due to end at the end of January but it has been extended by another three months while the scheme is under review. Depending on what amount is to come from the token

Leiston Town Council are looking after the monies for the appeal in a Defibrillator reserve. Anyone wishing to contribute towards this life-saving piece of equipment can now take their donation in to the council offices where they will be given a receipt. When a person suffers a Sudden Cardiac Arrest the electrical rhythm that controls the heart becomes chaotic and disorganised. The quicker this is treated by defibrillation the greater the chance of successful resuscitation. You can also follow the project's progress at <https://facebook.com/Leiston-Defibrillator-News>

Linda Hawes

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

## INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2017

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 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

Martin, Kathryn, Grace & Eve Phillips-Last	Magda Chandler
Simon, Sheena, Hannah, Tom & Matt Merrett	Bruce & Phyllis Songer
Sheila Mckinnon, David & Midge Mckinnon	Stephen & Gail Southgate
Phil, Sue, Joshua, Charlotte, Connie & Greg Watson	Naomi Kerans
David & Cindy Fittsell	Fred Shanley
Zara & Emma Fittsell	John & Sue Last
Paul, Alexander, Aidan, Cory & Amyleigh Fittsell	Helen Rivett
Jonathan, Kathryn & Joshua Williams	Judith & Mike Stigwood
Mike & Lesley Cassie	Alan, Maureen & Jason Fox
Vi Matthews	Wayne, Ben & Niamh Fox
Stephanie Luckhurst	Fi Long
Joan Whale	Allison King
Paul Espindola	Luke, Asha & Jai Mewett
Ann & Peter Essex	Clare & Kane Hambridge
Mary Murphy	Peter & Jennifer Roberts
Terry Ferguson	Charles & Pauline Stride
Jo Tozer	Steve, Christine & Nathan James
Sue, Dale, Ewan & Cameron Threadkell	Derek & Sheila Stiff
Don Bridges	Eileen & Sperry Free

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

Do you know  
how many  
days there  
are in Lent?

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash Wednesday

Holy Thursday

Forty Days

Sacrifice

Good Friday

Jesus

Almsgiving

Holy Saturday

Passover

Prayer

Easter

Foot Washing

Fasting

Palm Sunday

Resurrection

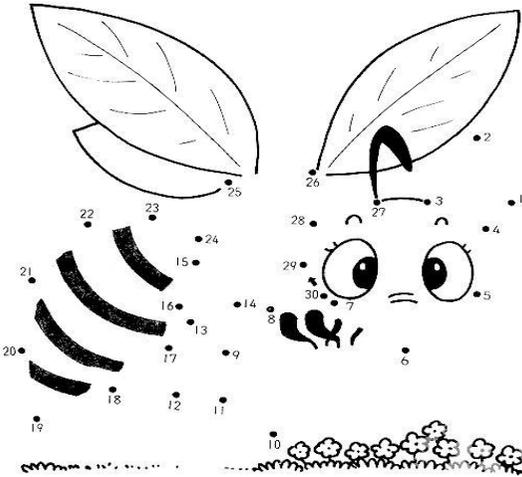
Lent

Purple

Holy Week

Palm Branch

MOTHERING SUNDAY IS 26 MARCH



Are you able to join up the dots?

**JAM** Jesus and Me

Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' sessions. Kids of all ages welcome!  
Sunday 12 and 26 March – At 10.00 am

# **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017**

**Friday 3 March 2 pm at All Saint Catholic Church**

## **AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU?**

The service this year has been prepared by Christian women of The Philippines. We thank all the people of the Philippines, who have contributed in any way to the preparation of the worship service and resource materials. Just as they began to write this service Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines and caused much destruction. The people of the Philippines earnestly need our prayers.

Life in these islands must go on despite all the natural disasters and the different living conditions. The people go on in faith, knowing that God is with them.

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

**Pat Carter**

## **DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES**

Archdeacon Ian Morgan will be preaching at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 5 March, at the 10.30 Family Praise and Worship service.

Bishop Mike will be presiding and preaching at St Margaret's church on Sunday 19 March, at the 10.00 Welcome to the Table Family Communion service.

## **In our Special Prayers**

Jill Mower's neice Lynn in USA

Penny Batho

Pam's Grandson Joshua

Joan Fowler

## **Baptism**

Sunday 5 February

Noah Midwinter

## **Funerals**

Monday 30 January

Joan Audrey Mower

Wednesday 8 February

Iris Foster

## **A PRAYER FOR LENT by David Harmer**

**For Christians, Lent is a time for thoughtfulness and prayer**

For all I have said and should not have said  
For all I have done and should not have done  
For all I have thought and should not have thought  
I am sorry

Thanks to Hilda Woodhead



## St Audry's, Melton – Workhouse to Asylum

In March the **Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group** returns to Leiston to hear David Phelan's talk on St Audry's Workhouse / Asylum.

This talk covers the history of St Audry's from 1765 when the Melton Workhouse (House of Industry) was opened. The Workhouse closed in 1826 and reopened in 1829 as The Suffolk County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics. In 1993 the site was closed and redeveloped for housing, and is now known as Melton Park.

What were Houses of Industry? Why were they established and how were they run? What was it like to be an inmate? David Phelan examines the Victorian attitude to poverty. Asylums are regarded as being grim places, and many were. But it was different at St Audry's, one of the biggest employers in the area. St Audry's had a reputation for being a progressive regime - why? What caused it to be different?

Asylums gave way to Care in the Community. Has it worked?

David Phelan spent his career in banking in the UK and in Spain. On moving to Melton, he became a volunteer at Sutton Hoo, then a guide, then the National Trust speaker for Sutton Hoo.

The meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on Monday **20 March** at the **UNITED CHURCH**, High Street, Leiston, IP16 4EL. Entrance is not at the front of the church, but on the left hand side as you face the building. Parking is available in the Co-op car park which adjoins it, but **you must sign your vehicle in** at the tills in the supermarket or face a charge of £60. Visitors welcome. Admission: members £1, visitors £3, including tea/coffee.

The Group will continue evening meetings in Leiston until next winter.

For more information see our website:

<http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/> or contact Angela Skelcher on 01728 830949

# ???

The Friends of Alde Valley Academy are holding a **QUIZ NIGHT** at Leiston Community Centre on Friday 31 March. Doors open 6.45 for 7.30pm start. Jacket Potato Supper, Licensed Bar and Raffle. To book a table (up to six people) please call 01728 833578.

**Sandra**

**On behalf of The Friends of AVA.**

On Sunday 29th January **JAM Sunday School** learnt about when Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. They learnt how Simeon and Anna recognised that Jesus was the Lord's chosen Messiah. They created pictures of the scene in the temple and decorated candles, which represented Jesus as the light of the world.

**Linda Hawes**

## **PRAYER FOR CHILDREN**

**Now I lay me down to sleep  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep  
If I should die before I wake  
I Pray the Lord my soul to take**



**(Anon)**

This prayer-poem dates from the eighteenth century, when Christian children were taught to pray at bedtime for their safety and the safety of the ones they loved.

**Hilda Woodhead**

# TIME TO SMILE



I was sitting in the Church listening to Jonathan playing the organ at Joan's funeral when Shirley came to me and said 'Betty, there is a cobweb in the Church.' I asked where it was and was told it was coming from the wall where the wall safe is to the font. I replied 'I will get it down when Val and I clean the Church on Wednesday.' Shirley was not too happy with that and went to see Reverend Richard and told him what she had said to me. He replied 'Shirley, that is not a cobweb, it is part of my fishing line which I used to hang balloons on.' I had a lovely silent laugh.

Betty Harland

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

**Saturday 29 April, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 1 May**

If you would like make an arrangement for the Flower Festival, please contact Maureen Fox – 01728 830929. The theme this year is 'Nursery Rhymes.'



## JOAN AUDREY MOWER



Joan was born in the beautiful Suffolk village of Chelmondiston on Wednesday 30th October 1923 into the arms of parents Alfred and Amelia Catchpole. Being born into a poor family, Joan learnt from a very early age to value the smallest things that her family and life could bring to her. Joan was a much loved little sister to four elder brothers, who whenever they could, treated their little sister Joan to things such as piano lessons. But Joan's most valued gift from her big brothers was her bike. A bike that remained with Joan, and she rode for 83 years and is now used as a prop with a theatre company.

Although we don't know much about Joan's childhood, we do know that Joan's family were devout Methodists, and that Joan looked forward every week to meeting with others at the local chapel to worship God. We can imagine Joan enjoying every opportunity she had to be off on her new bike exploring the Suffolk countryside.

Joan's bike also came in very helpful after she'd left School and found employment as a cleaner at the Holbrook Royal Hospital School. Joan and her bike then took employment at Phillips & Pipers making clothes and uniforms. But with the outbreak of the Second World War, Joan was called up to Marconi making wartime radio equipment. Although for Joan, the ideal call up, would have been into the land army. Joan loved the life of a country girl and getting her hands dirty, so the call to work as a land girl was strong. Later in her life Joan would work for over 50 years for Geaters, where she could feed her love of nature and flowers. But for some reason Joan's mum said no to Joan joining the Land Army, and Joan continued making uniforms.

It was while out on a bike ride that Joan met a young man named Claude and after a period of courtship, in 1947 Joan and Claude said I do to one another in a little chapel in Holbrook and were married. After living in Holbrook for a while, and with two tiny sons, David and Richard, taking up a lot of her time, Joan and her family moved to Crown Street in Leiston, and then to Waterloo Avenue. Not long after moving in, and with St Margaret's church filling her living room window, Joan finally met the local priest The Reverend Harling, who after some persuasion, talked Methodist Joan into joining the St Margaret's church community.

But Joan did so much more than just join the church community. Over her years of faithful service to the church and to her God, Joan, not only scrubbed out the pews on her hands and knees and we have to say that there's probably not a square inch of the church that Joan hadn't scrubbed, as well as polishing the brass. She was also there with a mirror for the bride to check that all was well, a loving and comforting arm for the bereaved, and an understanding ear for all who needed one. It has to be said that Joan was lovingly involved with the hatch, match and dispatch of the church for many years. Whenever she was needed, she was there, sharing her simple wisdom of life. The truth is that no matter how much we saw Joan do in and for the church, behind the scenes she did so much more. And for each Priest, and I think Joan has known more Priests than the Pope himself, Joan has brought a deep and wise encouragement; she was a very practical Christian and person.

In the community Joan was always ready to offer a helping hand. Even when things were not too good for her, she would often be found going out of her way to help and support others. We will never know all that Joan did, because everything she did, she did with a humble heart. But everyone who met Joan, whether in church or out in the community was always left thankful for the opportunity. All who knew her respected her.

During my last visit with Joan while she was in hospital, we spoke about her journey through life, its joys, its sorrows and its challenges, and her last faint words to me were, 'Tell them I love them'. What more needs to be said?

The above forms the backbone of Martin's tribute at Joan's funeral.

I was unable to attend the funeral as I was in Tasmania at the time, but I found a quiet spot to sit, at the appropriate time and remember time spent with Joan over the years. She was a brilliant flower arranger and cook. She made sausage rolls for my husband Fred, she loved to make them for him and he certainly loved to eat them! She was very fond of Fred; they both had an enormous love of St Margaret's and the last person he spoke to before his untimely death was Joan as they secured the church following the Sunday service. Marian and I felt privileged to help with, and then take over, the cleaning of the church brass and we often talk of Joan as we undertake that task. Nothing was too much trouble for Joan – she is greatly missed!

**Pat Carter**

# MARCH

Last month the Ladies Group had their annual Christmas meal at Thorpeness Golf Club. Over the years we have had some lovely venues but one place I remember with most affection was Sizewell Hall, now the Christian Conference Centre

In those days there would often be 30 or more of us ladies going in a convoy of cars to Sizewell; sometimes the weather was wet, snowing, gales or a lovely crisp moonlight evening.

As we drove up the long drive we would see rabbits scuttling around on the grass verges. Suddenly, especially on a moonlight night we arrived at the Hall, sometimes looking ghostly, another time with the wind blowing we could hear the waves pounding on the beach and realise how near the sea we were. But once we had entered the large wooden doors it was another world. A beautiful panelled wood room with squishy chairs and sofas with a blazing fire in an enormous fireplace greeted us. There was a staircase leading off the room. Christmas decorations including a tree, were still in place, twinkling around the room which added to the atmosphere.



Our hosts Paul and Carol together with all the willing helpers were so kind and we would give them a round of applause, together with a little 'thank you'. We would then return to the large room with the fire blazing away. Paul would open his little gift shop where we could leisurely look round and take the opportunity to buy small gift. After yet more

chatting we would make our way home.

The evening made you feel you were in another world, and we were lucky to be able to go to there for several years until Paul and Carol retired.

**Margaret Clarke**



## **VALENTINES DAY BAKE SALE**



After the service on Sunday 12 February we had a Valentine's Bake Sale to raise money for church funds. We raised £67.25.

Linda Hawes

## **GAMES AFTERNOON FOR THE LADIES GROUP**

On Monday 20 February the Ladies Group met in church to play the exciting game "Connect" where everyone takes it in turn to lay tiles to follow colour tracks. There was great hilarity and even the new players amongst our midst soon picked up the rules and laid their tiles with great skill. To Margaret Clarke's great surprise she was the first to lay all her tiles and was declared the winner.



After drinks and biscuits another round of the game ensued. This time Jill Mower was the winner. Everyone agreed it was an excellent game to play.

The Leiston United Church Wives Group has invited us to join them for a Social afternoon and tea on Wednesday 1 March at 2 pm. Our Group's next meeting is a trip to The

Weavers Restaurant for lunch on Thursday 23 March.

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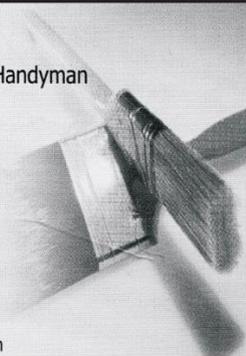
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Assistant Priest – Reverend Richard Ellis

## **NOTICE: Items for April's magazine**

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Marian Peskett by 18 March for inclusion in the April 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  
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