

ST. MARGARET'S

PARISH CHURCH FOR LEISTON-WITH-SIZEWELL



5TH MAY - THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

MAY 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

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THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

WHAT DOES JESUS' ASCENSION MEAN FOR ME?

For the forty days from Easter to Ascension, Jesus gave his disciples their last bits of instruction, blessed them and then ascended into the heavens until a cloud hid him from their eyes. But instead of being sad, the disciples were filled with joy.



My junior school teacher once told my parents one open evening, that I was going to grow up to be an astronaut! Not because I was super fit or intelligent, but because I spent all my time joyfully gazing out of the classroom window up at the sky.

What does the ascension of Jesus really mean for us, and why are the disciples joyfully gazing up at the sky & not sad that Jesus has left them?

To answer these questions, let's begin with the obvious. God sent his Son into the world on a mission. He sent him here to save the world from sin, and to rescue us for heaven. So basically the fact that Jesus ascended back into heaven must mean that, 'good news' Jesus' mission on earth is complete and there is nothing more that he needs to do. 'OK' I hear you say, 'that's fair enough, but what does that, 'good news' mean for me?'

The answer to that question is found in why the disciples are joyfully gazing at the sky and joyfully waving Jesus goodbye. Jesus' ascension means that everything they needed to become part of God's family, Jesus had successfully done. He had left nothing undone. Every sin was paid for and now they, and we, have a friend in high places who speaks to the Father in our defence.

They were celebrating the truth that every righteous act was done, every piece of scripture concerning the messiah was fulfilled in Jesus, and that one day, as the angels said, Jesus would return in the same way that they saw him go into heaven. They were saved, and they knew it.

For you and me, Jesus' ascension is a time in our own doubts and weaknesses, to joyfully gaze at the sky and give thanks to God for his Son Jesus Christ. Knowing that Jesus has done it all for you and me. Ascension is also a time to remember the one thing that Jesus asks us to do, 'love one another as I have loved you. By this, all people will know that you are my disciple.' No wonder Jesus' ascension gave his disciples such joy, and why it gives us such joy still today. There is great comfort to be had in the reality of Jesus' ascension, rejoice, in all that Jesus had come to do, and has been done.

I still spend time joyfully gazing out of my study window. Not because I want to be an astronaut, but because as the angels said, Jesus will return one day, and that's definitely something to watch out for and to get excited about!

Happy and blessed ascension adventures,

Martin

The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP

During April the lighting of the
St. Margaret's Church Tower was sponsored on:

Sunday 3rd April

In memory of Richard Bloomfield,
a loving husband and dad

Thursday 7th April

In memory of Jackie Mann

Sunday 10th April

In memory of Peter Mower, on his birthday

Monday 11th April

In memory of Derek Linsell - the Light of our Lives

Saturday 16th April

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Gill & Paul Johnson,
who were married at St. Margaret's Church on 16th April 1966

Friday 22nd April

In memory of Basil Slaughter on his birthday

Sunday 24th April

Remembering Peter Whale on the anniversary of his death,
from his loving wife Joan

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 & see your
special occasion appear in the Church Magazine,
then please write the details in the diary provided 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.

Happy Birthday, Your Majesty

On 21st April 2016 HRH The Queen celebrated her ninetieth birthday. To add to the celebrations two of the local churches arranged for their bells to be rung on the day. I was fortunate enough to go to the churches with Sandra, to enjoy sitting in two beautiful well-cared for churches and to hear the peals of bells.

At Theberton we were greeted with the England flag flying on top of the tower against the blue sky. Soon the six ringers had all arrived and the ringing began. The sound of the bells carried over the village. Notices had been placed around the churchyard so that the villagers were aware of the reason for the bells being rung. Theberton church, dedicated to St Peter, has a round tower with the nave and chancel covered by a thatched roof. The font is within the tower and has well carved lions and angels holding shields on the bowl panels.



After half an hour we left Theberton, some ringers including us, moving on to Yoxford church. There other ringers were waiting and once more a group of six began to ring. My father lived in Yoxford as a boy, attending the local school and singing in the choir at the church. His eldest brother, William, a corporal in the Royal Marines, is commemorated on the 1939-1945 Roll of Honour in the church. He had lost his life during the sinking of HMS Prince of Wales off Singapore on 10 December 1941.

The church guide tells us that the church had three bells by 1553. There are now six, the smallest was cast in 1656, the largest in 1684 and the other four in 1655. In 1892 they were describes as the best for tone and tune in the neighbourhood. They certainly sounded beautiful when rung today to celebrate an important birthday by such expert ringers.

My Time At St. MARGARET'S

Reflecting on my six weeks with you at St Margaret's a number of thoughts stand out. The first of these is the lovely sense of welcome that Jill and I received whenever we were with you. Although all churches should be welcoming, not all are (indeed we have had some quite frosty receptions over the years). St Margaret's comes very high up the list, though, and as evidence of the love of Christ for all people, that is invaluable significant. Jill often has a better perspective for this and I can think of no more eloquent testimony than her statement that St Margaret's is a church that she would be comfortable to be a member of permanently.

The second thought to come to mind was how tremendously positive it was as a learning experience. Obviously, that is the purpose of placement within training! However, the spell with you gave me a massive opportunity to try new things out (new for me, anyway): including leading a session of Godly Play, writing liturgy, participating in funerals and baptism, creating a reflection on the Gospel for Mothers' Day and a host of other things that would be less visible to other people. There is a real sense in which the placement is a chance to try things out that might be more tricky in the home church setting (in large part because it is a different church in the first place) and I am extremely grateful for the support of all of you in letting me experiment with you. I hope it was not too cringeworthy!

That leads to my final thought, which concerns Martin. From our first meeting, I really felt that we would get along well and that I would learn a lot from working with Martin. I was certainly not disappointed! Always full of encouragement (sometimes I really needed it!) but happy to challenge and, at times, correct in a gracious way, I sensed a style of church leadership that I have not previously experienced and from which I learned a lot and still have much to learn. Thank you!

As we return to our home churches in Saxmundham and Kelsale, I do so with a much greater sense of the priest-to-be that I am. That is what a placement is meant to be all about and I thank you all deeply for your part in helping me to grow.

Nic Stuchfield
April 2016

May

After having a mild Winter and flowers blooming at Christmas, I didn't think we would have any flowers in Spring, but it all turned out lovely. It seemed odd to see Snowdrops out with Crocuses and Daffodils, but once the Daffodils were out they seemed to have lasted much longer this year. The daffodils in the Churchyard and also Snape Churchyard, mingled with the Primroses, were wonderful. We had a ride round the country lanes and Primroses in the ditches and on the Banks were everywhere. Another flower the Celandine, which comes out when the sun shines, like little star halves, look like banks of gold. Next should be the Cowslips and Bluebells.



I can remember as a child after a walk with mum, when we saw this old man leaning on his gate looking across the fields, we said “hello, what a lovely day”, he said “look at that view”. It was a perfect May day with the May bushes full of blossom, bluebells and the fresh green leaves on the trees. He looked up to the clear blue sky and said “Him above certainly created this right”. I never forgot him saying that.

Margaret Clarke

Thank you

A big thank you from Mrs Olive Brundish, through the Church Magazine she had many cards and letters for her 90th Birthday. She was so surprised so many people still remembered her. Bless You All.

Olive Brundish

The Children's Society Spring Coffee Morning

Our Spring Coffee Morning raising money for The Children's Society will be held at The Dolphin Inn, Thorpeness on **Friday 27th May from 10am-12noon**. As usual there will be delicious homemade cakes and produce, raffle & items for sale. **Admission is £1.50** which includes fresh ground coffee, tea & biscuits. Please come along if you can, you will be most welcome.

Lorraine Lloyd - Secretary

Cooking with the Bible

5th May 2016 is the date we celebrate Jesus' ascension into Heaven. So, what better way to celebrate than with a heavenly cake.

“Let our hearts ascend with Christ” - St. Augustine

Heavenly Cloud Cake

Meringue

Unsalted butter, room temp
300g sugar
3 tablespoons cornflour
1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
6 large egg whites, room temp
Pinch of cream of tartar

Cream

65g sugar
30g plain flour
Pinch of coarse salt
350ml buttermilk (or milk with 1½ tablespoon of lemon juice, mixed & left to stand for 5 min)
3 large egg yolks
½ vanilla pods, split & seeds scraped

Caramel

65g sugar 2 tablespoons golden syrup Whipped cream, for serving

Method:

Meringue: Preheat oven to 275°c degrees. Butter three 8-inch round cake pans. Line bottoms & sides with parchment then grease with butter. Whisk sugar, cornflour, & salt until finely ground. With a mixer on medium-high speed, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Beat in sugar mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time, then beat until stiff. Divide mixture among pans; smooth tops. Bake 1 hour, then turn oven off, prop open door & cool 1 hour. Transfer pan to a wire rack & cool completely.

Cream: In a bowl, whisk together sugar, flour, and salt. In a saucepan, combine buttermilk, yolks, and vanilla pod and seeds; place over medium heat. Gradually whisk in sugar mixture. Cook, stirring, until just boiling, about 9 minutes. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve, pressing on solids; press plastic wrap directly on surface and refrigerate until cold, at least 1 hour and up to 3 days.

Caramel: Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray. Stir together sugar and golden syrup in a microwave-proof bowl. Microwave on high 3 minutes, stirring after each minute. Stir again, then microwave just until golden and caramelized, about 15 seconds more. Immediately pour mixture onto prepared sheet and let cool until firm. Remove from sheet; finely chop.

Using parchment, lift meringue cakes from pans; discard parchment. Carefully place one cake on cake stand. Spread half of cream on top. Sprinkle with 3 tablespoons caramel. Repeat with second cake layer, remaining cream, and 3 more tablespoons caramel. Top with whipped cream and remaining caramel; serve immediately.



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.**

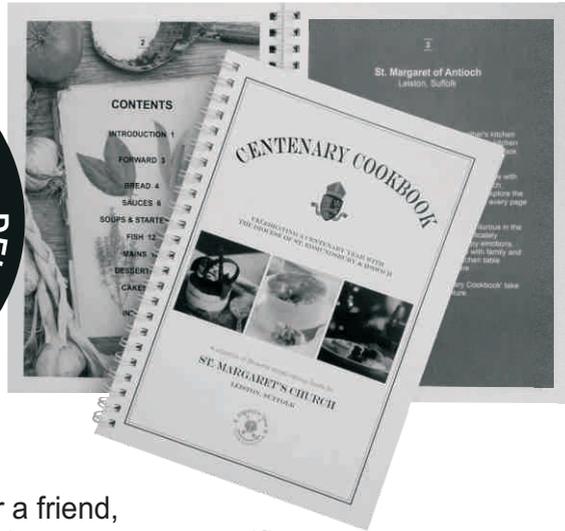
Pick up your copy of the cookbook now!

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**

NOTES FROM PCC MEETING - 16TH MARCH

The meeting opened with prayer at 7 pm with Martin in the chair, 12 members present plus Nik Stuchfield (observer).

Sandra presented financial report – copy issued to those present and attached to minutes. 2015 Parish Share has been paid in full. Valentine Cake Bake raised £130.50. Lease on black and white copier ends 01.08.16. Gift Aid to end of 2014 has been claimed and paid. Martin expressed his thanks to Sandra for her tightening of the control of our finances.

Work on bell tower awaiting Archdeacon's approval. If approval received in time work will commence during w/c 11.04.16.

Local Councillor has pledged £500 towards new choir robes and hymn books. Town Pastors recruitment day had been held 12.03.16. Account at Barclays Bank in process of being opened. Church cleaning volunteers to be sought through magazine and advertisement in Margaret's shop. Shop exterior wall and shop front have been painted.

16th April - Church Spring Clean

29th April - Bishop Martin to visit Martin

30th April – 2nd May Flower Festival

10th May - Archdeacon's Visitation at St Margaret's

25th June - Summer Fete

3rd July - Summer Concert with RBL Band, 3 pm start

19th November - Christmas Bazaar

11th December - Christmas Concert with RBL Band

Date of APC Meeting Wednesday 27th April in Church, 7 pm

Opportunity to request tower lighting to be advertised more widely. Faculty for laying up of standards being prepared. Further payment of 2016 Parish Share to be discussed after next two fund raising events.

Meeting ended with a prayer by Nik followed by the Grace

Pat Carter, Secretary to the PCC

EASTER SPRING FAIR



A very big THANK YOU again to everyone who helped to make our EASTER FAIR such a huge success. We had a great variety of stalls, which proved popular with all who came along to support us. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves, especially all the children who were kept very busy with the craft activities which Kathryn had organised followed by the Easter Egg Hunt in the church grounds. Yet another successful fundraiser (£757.10) but, just as importantly, an event which showed the people of Leiston that St. Margaret's Church is friendly and fun!



Article by: Sandra Harle & Photos by: Kay Nash

TEACHING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A copy of these sets of rules for teachers was displayed in the One Teacher School built in 1874 by George Layman II for the children of Wonnerup House and their neighbours. The photographs show the school and teacher's house and the interior of the school. Both buildings are built of weatherboard with sheoak roof shingles and jarrah floor boards.

RULES FOR TEACHERS 1879

- 1 Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys before beginning work.
- 2 Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the days session.
- 3 Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the children.
- 4 Men may take one evening a week for courting purposes or two evenings a week to attend church regularly.
- 5 After ten hours in school, you may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
- 6 Women teachers who may or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- 7 Every teacher should lay aside, from each day, a goodly sum for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
- 8 Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool and public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reason to suspect his worth, integrity, intention and honesty.

RULES FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS 1915

- 1 You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- 2 You are not to keep company with men.
- 3 You must be home between the hours of 8 pm and 6 am unless attending school functions.
- 4 You may not loiter downtown in any of the icecream bars.
- 5 You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
- 6 You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.

- 7 You may not smoke cigarettes.
- 8 You may not dress in bright colours.
- 9 You must wear at least two petticoats.
- 10 Your dress must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- 11 To keep the school neat and clean you must sweep the floor at least once a day. Scrub the floor at least once a week with hot soapy water. Clean the boards at least once daily and start the fire at 7 am so that the school room will be warm by 8 am.

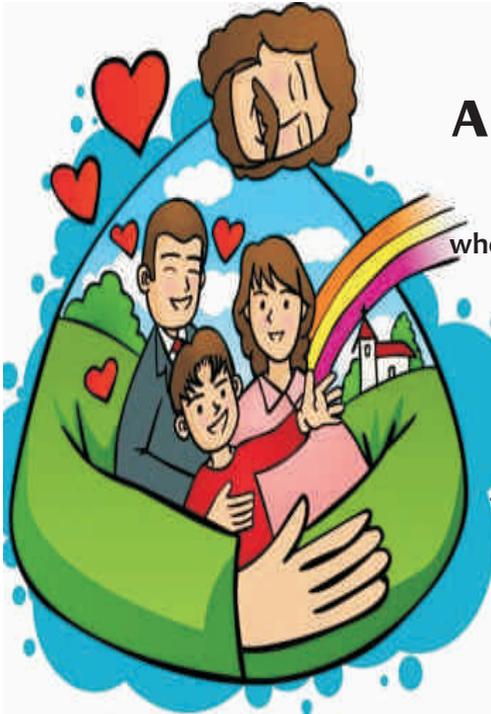
These rules were set down as strict guidelines for school teachers in the year specified.



OUR ASCENDED LORD JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, also known as Ascension Thursday, Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day, commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and is celebrated on 5th May this year. It is a time to be truly glad and rejoice together, in God's love for each and every one of us, and prepare for the Holy Spirit and Pentecost (Sunday 15th May).

After his resurrection Jesus told his followers, "I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Then, in his Pentecost sermon Peter explains, "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing" (Acts 2:33). God promised in Joel 2:28, "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh," and this promise is fulfilled by the exalted heavenly Lord Jesus. The ascended Lord sent the Spirit to be present with his people (John 14:16), to empower them for worldwide mission (Acts 1:8; 4:31), and to transform believers to live new lives reflecting their king (Romans 8:9–11; 2 Corinthians 3:18).



A PRAYER FOR ASCENSION

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
ascended far above all heavens
that he might fill all things:
Mercifully give us faith to perceive that,
according to his promise,
he abides with his Church on earth,
even to the end of the ages;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

St. Margaret's Church

Summer Fair

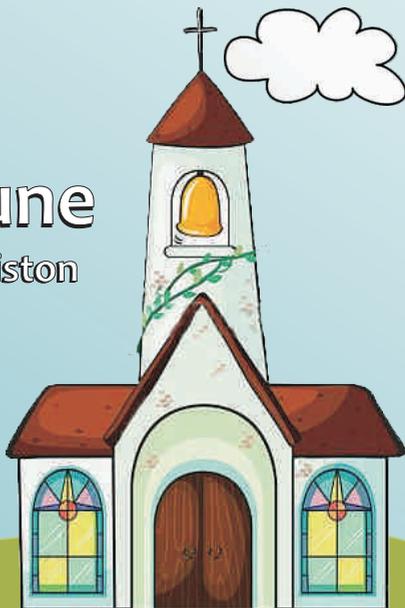
Saturday 25th June

St. Margaret's, Church Rd, Leiston

2pm - 4pm

Everyone Welcome!

Fun for all the Family



Stalls
& Crafts

Sizzling
BBQ

Grand
Draw

Music

Tasty
Refreshments

Fun
Games



5th May
The Ascension of Jesus

The **Ascension** of Jesus is when Jesus returned to Heaven to be with God, His father. When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the **Holy Spirit** would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

WORD SEARCH



Sky

Lord

Heaven

Garments

Jerusalem

Spirit

Men

Israel

Cloud

Father

Kingdom

Galilee

Time



“While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to Heaven”

Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Word Puzzle

Using the key below, replace the numbers with the correct letters & break the code

X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 _____
- 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
- 22-8-18-4-10 _____
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
- 7-8-10-13 _____
- 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
- 26-13-17-13-18 _____
- 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-16-13-4 _____

SCRIPTURE RISE REPENT HEAVEN BLESSING MINDS
TAKEN OPENED WORSHIPPED FULFILLED



Want to hear more about Jesus? Come along to our 'JAM' Sessions - Kids of all ages welcome!
Sunday 8th May, 22nd May & 29th May - All @ 10am

Good Friday - AN HOUR AT THE CROSS

To face the true violence of what we call 'Good Friday' is very difficult. We read about it, we watch films that attempt to portray it and documentaries that try to explain it. Then as soon as Easter appears, all is well again and we move on. This is in many ways understandable. Who really wants to focus on the blood thirsty, violent and cruel death of an innocent man? We know it happened and we remember it once a year and we often mention it in conversation surely that's enough?

But the truth about Good Friday is, that we are more involved with it than we realise. Good Friday is not only about remembering what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ went through. But it's also a time to remember that he went through it for us, for you and for me.

This year at St Margaret's Church we took our hour at the cross service on Good Friday a bit nearer to the gruesome reality of the cross. After laying a blood soaked representation of Christ's body on the High Altar, we then laid the symbols of Jesus' journey to the cross on the steps.

As people arrived they were given a daffodil, a Celtic Christian symbol of Christ. And as the service began, they were asked to look at the beauty of the flower and to think of it as Jesus. While music from, 'The Passion of Christ' played. We heard again the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and the thoughts of some of those who had journeyed with him.

At the end of our hour at the cross those who had gathered were told to look again at the beauty of their daffodil. But as they left, they were asked to destroy it and throw it at the cross; as a symbol of Christ's brokenness for us, and our brokenness that put him there. This is where for us all, the reality of Good Friday struck home.

As the people left in silence, red paint was dabbed onto the palm of their hands with the words: 'the blood of Christ is on our hands, and across our hearts. To face the true violence of what we call 'Good Friday' is very difficult. But if we are truly to understand the what it cost for our salvation, then it is important for the followers of Jesus today, to realise the horrors of what happen to our Saviour on that day which we call 'Good Friday.'



Before the Service



After the Service

SPONSOR A CHORISTER!

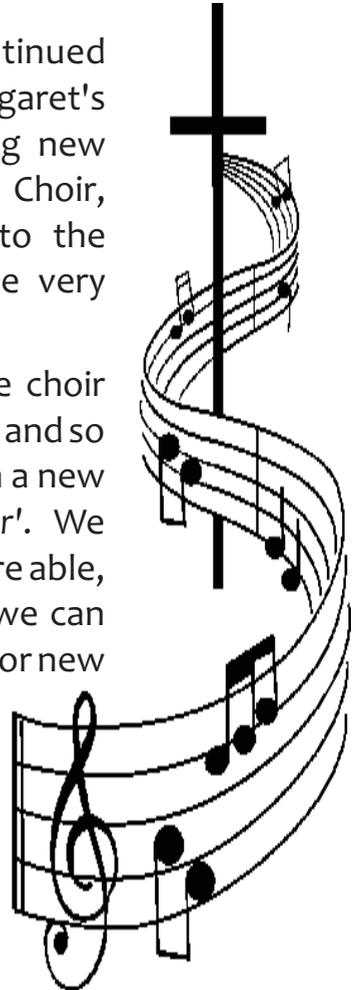
'Bow down and worship God for truly, God is here among you.' (1 Corinthians 25).

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.

EASTER DAY SUNRISE SERVICE with BAPTISM

On Sunday 27th March we welcomed in the dawn of a beautiful Easter morning with a special Easter Sunrise Service; made even more special with a baptism down at Sizewell Beach. Kimberely Burrell-Aitken had chosen this special service for her baptismal day; and surrounded by friends and family was baptised in the sea with Martin and Richard at herside.



Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.



Photos courtesy of Kathryn Phillips-Last

WELCOME TO THE TABLE FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE

LISTENING TO GOD

Every third Sunday at St Margaret's church, we have a family Communion Service called, 'Welcome to the Table,' a wonderfully relaxed service in which all, from the age of 1 to 100+, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. This month we focused on the gospel of John 10:22-30 and 'listening to God's voice.'

In this passage from John, Jesus calls himself a 'Shepherd,' and all those who follow him, 'his sheep.' It was also in this passage of scripture that we discovered a wonderful truth, a promise from Jesus himself to all those who follow him, 'his sheep.' Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me,' (v27).

Jesus didn't say that we might hear his voice, or that we would only sometimes hear his voice. Jesus promises that we will always hear God speaking to us and into our lives if we take the time to listen. Even though the thought of God the Father himself wanting to speak to us seems so unbelievably amazing, too good to be true, or one of those, 'it'll never happen to me' things. It is true, he does want to speak into your life and situations, and not because I say so, but because Jesus himself said so. It's so easy in the busyness of daily life and routine, with all its worries to forget or even find the time to take out to listen to God's voice, but the truth is, that he is waiting to speak to you.

If you would like to have a chat about finding time to be with God. Or talk about the difficulty of prayer and silence, the different ways to pray, or about listening to God's voice, then please do get in touch. I'll be more than happy to take time out with you; so that together we can take time out for God, and listen.

Many blessings to you,
Martin <><

The Reverend Martin Phillips-Last

T. 01728 561149

E. rev.phillips-last@sky.com

Open your garden for your local hospice

St Elizabeth
Hospice

Reg. Charity No. 289154



St Elizabeth Hospice is looking for supporters who are willing to open their gardens between Spring and Autumn 2016 in aid of the hospice.

We are looking for gardens of all shapes and sizes, from small cottage plots to gardens across whole villages. Size doesn't matter.

For more information please contact Fiona Ginn on 01473 707034 or email fiona.ginn@stelizabethhospice.org.uk

e.org.uk

zabethhospice.org.uk

A FOND FAREWELL



It is with great sadness that we say a fond farewell to Shirley Newman. We wish her well as she starts a new chapter in her life with a move to Beccles to be closer to family. After some 38 years at St. Margaret's Church (6 years of which as a brilliant Church Warden), she has been a friend to so many and will be dearly missed. Our prayers, love and warmest wishes go with her for a happy future.

From all your friends & Church Family

A Good SAMARITAN

On Friday 8th April a window at the rear of Margaret's shop was vandalised and the glass smashed. Patsy made an appeal on the Leiston chit-chat page for someone who could board up the windows to prevent further damage. Will James made contact then called at the shop to look at the damage and measure up. His visit was a great delight to Maureen as she fell in love with his smile. Suitable boarding was purchased from Jewsons. A friend of Will, known as Sheehey Chapman offered his services to cut the wood to size using a suitable power tool. Will then screwed it in place, in the rain, around lunchtime on Saturday.



An offer of help also came in Saturday from Kirsty and Shane. The church is grateful for the help and it is good to know that Leiston does have a caring community.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR MAY 2016

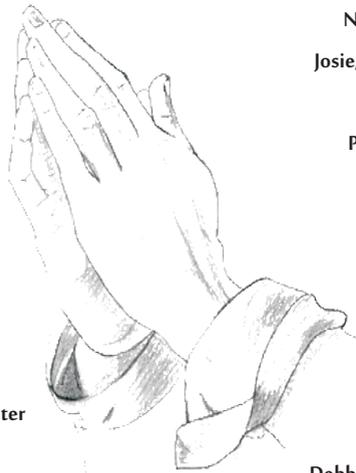
Dear Friends,

May'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

Jim & Pauline Florance
Bernard & Patsy Smith
Joe Diegnan
John & Joy Kemp
Mary Joel
Kate Kersey
Peter Downey
Donna Button
Billy & Margaret Clarke
Margaret Cuthbert
Lesley Martin
Julie, Ellie & Charlie Howard
Kay, Trevor & Grace Nash
Anthony & Sue Hawkes
Frank & Joan Huxley
Hilary & Richard Slaughter
Toby, Sharon, Emma & Sophie Slaughter
Jill Staff
Glyn & June Clarke
Robin & Mary Cornish
Gladys Stannard
Trevor & Thelma Hawkins
Roy Hubbard
Eamonn, Cathy & Ursula Harvey



Shirley Newman
Matthew, Vanessa, Alex, Kierah & Sasha Newman
Kathryn, Mark, Ian & Stuart Langley
Adrian & Jackie Shotter
Stephanie, Craig & Isla Shotter
Kim Shotter & Dan Keeble
Jan Snowden
Nicola, Jon, Toby & Robert Kerridge
Josie, Steven, Olivia & Maisie Snowden
Derek & Barbara Cole
Pat, Neil, Lucy, Craig & Ryan Carter
Daryl & Helen Worsley
Kirsty Stowe
June Linsell
Magdalene Chandler
Hilda Woodhead
Pat & John Swatton
Sara, Paul, Sophie & Liam Swatton
Debbie, Samantha & Matthew Vettesse
Kay Curtis
Colin, Lucy, Freya, Lola & Leeam Curtis
Nicola, Matthew, Callum & Jamie Smy
David, Lisa, Isla & Neave Curtis
Elaine & Jon Ellis
Norman Chapman

In our Special Prayers



Joan Whale
Leah Crudgington
Glynis Windle
Marion Heffer

Sheila Mackinnon
Sara Newman
Jean Hardisty
Jo-ann Clare



The family and loved ones of Mike Ashton, who's funeral it was on Wednesday 13th April, following a tragic car accident in Needham Market.

Births - March 2016

Wednesday 23rd March

Stanley James Andrew Ellis

Congratulations to Anna, Chris & Ada on the safe arrival of baby Stanley, and also to proud grandparents Sandra & Richard Ellis, from all your church family & friends at St. Margaret's.

Funerals - April 2016

Tuesday 12th April

Arthur Adcock

Wednesday 13th April

Dennis William Archer Bailey - 'Bill'

Wednesday 27th April

Rosemary Brind

Burial of Ashes - April 2016

Friday 15th April

Peter Derek Mower



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

Psalm 119:76

LET'S PRAY WE WILL BE ATTUNED TO GOD'S WHISPER

A brave Christian wrote at a time of exhaustion and despair of how he couldn't hear God's voice above his own head noise and heartache. A similar experience faces a friend of mine, weary from caring for a sick relative, whilst trying to keep going in a busy ministry. Another friend wrote recently that she is dying of cancer yet still hopes to take part in the Race for Life in her district. "I can't run," she says, "but I can walk and my friends have promised that if I can't walk by then, they will push me in a wheelchair." She went on to say that her grandchild is to be delivered by caesarean section in May and she is hoping she will still be here. Needless to say, I'm praying for Francesca, that she will make it.

When troubles come, we feel as though we live in a whirl of confused thoughts. God spoke through Isaiah (chapter 55) saying his thoughts are nothing like ours and his ways far beyond anything we can imagine. "For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Elijah the prophet had done amazing things speaking out for God but then got cold feet and ran away from a situation which overwhelmed him. Defeated and hiding himself away he came face to face with God's love for him. We read in I Kings 19 v 11-13 of how there was a terrible storm on the mountain where he hid, consisting of wind, earthquake and fire, but the Lord was not in any of them. Then he heard the sound of a gentle whisper and the Lord spoke to him.

Maybe the storm is a reflection of the churning thoughts and erratic feelings we experience at times of trouble – and the Lord is not in any of them. However, he is there with us, and when they subside we are able to be still and listen to the gentle whisper of the Spirit of God.

In Romans 12 Paul encourages his readers to "let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." This isn't like a Starter Pack for new Christians, but rather an ongoing process for each of us as we seek to follow the Lord. Taking regular time to "let God transform" us is what discipleship is about. The Lord Jesus taking time to get away alone with his Heavenly Father is a good model for us.

Let's make this our goal and pray we will be attuned to the ministry of the Holy Spirit as he comes to us with a gentle whisper.

PSALM 47 - A COMMENTARY

1. Clap your hands together, all you peoples; O sing to God with shouts of joy.
2. For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth.
3. He subdued the people under us and the nations under our feet.
4. He has chosen our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
5. God has gone up with a merry noise, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
6. O sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
7. For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.
8. God reigns over the nations; God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.
9. The nobles of the people are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.
10. For the powers of the earth belong to God and he is very highly exalted.

The Commentary

This is a marvellous psalm for the Ascension of Our Lord. It says so much about Him. As we have followed Lent, and the Passion season, Holy Week and Easter we have been reminded of His work of salvation through Our Lord's Cross and Resurrection. It would be easy to see the Ascension only as his return to heaven but this psalm tells us that God, the Son with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, is to be approached with awe because he is King over all the earth. Sometimes we might follow the logic of that and reflect that our God is Lord of the vast universe we enjoy. In the newspaper I read today scientists have plans to send tiny space ships to our nearest star system 25 million miles away! Wow! Our God is the mind behind those distances and those created stars. The story of our redemption is awesome enough but the story of the creation of the universe with its vast size summons us to sing 'O sing to God with shouts of joy' and perhaps we can modify the next line and say; 'He is the great King over all the Universe'

This psalm as we know is the psalm chosen by the planners of the Lectionary for Ascension Day. The awesome wonder of the creation needs to be put alongside his other phrases 'He subdued the people under us and the nations under our feet'. If only that were so! We can hardly claim that the nations are subdued by God – or some do not see love as dominant in their lives which we believe to be true for Christians. Respect for God is implemented by some with hate and God does not 'do' hate.

Nevertheless our worship for God gives that message 'sing praises to our King, sing praises' and to do so 'sing praises with all your skill'- so choir practise and learning to improve our reading skills express our praise for God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. For He is the creator and Lord of the Universe – the source of our redemption to be the people he created us to be and the strength to live in this world with commitment and love.

Reference:- Psalms The People's Bible Commentary – Donald Coggan The Bible Reading Fellowship.

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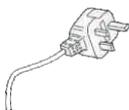
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Notice: Items for June's Magazine:

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Kathryn Williams by **18th May** for inclusion in June's Magazine. Thank you.

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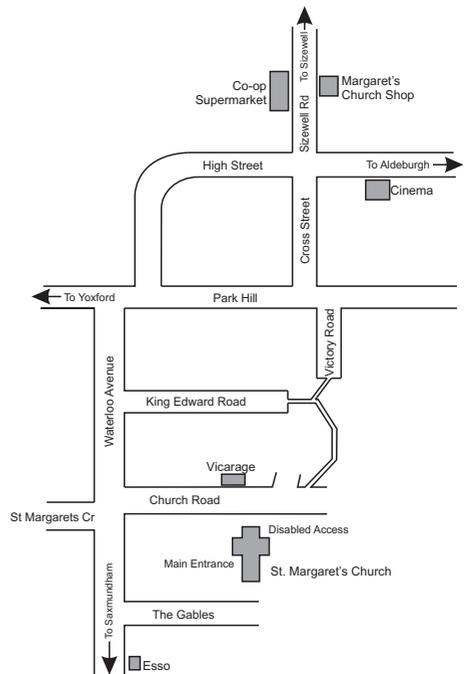


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