



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH Parish Newsletter

<https://sites.google.com/a/stmargaretswellow.org/st-margaret-s-church-wellow/>
<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>



Letter from Chris Pettet

Dear Friends,

There's a lovely prayer written by a great compiler of prayers, Frank Colquhoun, which is very relevant for the season of Lent which continues throughout this month. The prayer reminds us that the old English word for spring is *Lente*, and isn't it lovely to see the snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses emerge once more after this rather grim winter? The new season of *Gardeners' World* also reminds us of this! In the next newsletter I plan to reflect on the hope that Holy Week and Easter provides for us, but the prayer also hints at this:

Lent: springtime in the soul.

Lord God, with Lent we approach the springtime of the year, when the face of the earth is renewed and life emerges out of death.

We pray that this season of Lent may be a veritable springtime for our souls, so that our lives, quickened by the breath of the Spirit and warmed by the sunshine of your love, may bear abundant fruit and be made radiant with the beauty of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

So I hope that this prayer will be valuable for all of us as we move through the month. Inevitably services in Holy Week and Easter are going to be rather different this year, though of course there were also restrictions at this time last year. St Leonard's continues to have weekly services and it is my hope that we can have at least one service for Easter at St Margaret's. Zoom services will also continue for the time being and we will keep you in touch via the next *Newsletter*.

Meanwhile, my prayers and very best wishes,

Chris

Letter from Churchwarden

Hello to Everyone, from St Leonard's Church,

As I write this we are about to be told our way out of lockdown, and what a lovely thought. We all do what we must do, for everyone's benefit, but a little light at the end of the tunnel, after a long dreary winter, like the sun when we see it again, will be very welcome.

February has brought us Lent and contemplative thoughts for those worshipping at St Leonard's. Our Ash Wednesday service was slightly different out of necessity but a poignant moment to take us towards Easter. We are delighted that Chris has returned to lead our services, and his sermon on "Good News" was very encouraging for our community going forward. It was complemented by Clare reading from Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* – we like to keep it light at St Leonard's, and some might say a little theatrical. I read from Captain Tom Moore's autobiography last week – he travelled alone to see Mount Everest in his nineties, and was discussing with his GP nurses about buying a treadmill just before he decided to do his "little walk". An inspiration for all of us, life is for living, whatever your age!

In March we celebrate Mothering Sunday, or in my case Auntie and Godmothering Sunday, as I like to celebrate too. It has been a hard year for mothers, with home schooling and catering for a majority of meals at home, so let's try to ease each Mother's burden all the time, not just on the one day. As for Grannies, the world is your oyster....

Palm Sunday is at the end of March, and I will always think of Terry Drabble who, two years ago now, in our last playlet on Palm Sunday, played Jesus, very well too. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

As I write this, some much needed sunshine is streaming in through the window. The arrival of spring and the way out of lockdown have hopefully lifted your spirits. Thank you to all those who continue to join our Zoom services on a Sunday morning. If you would like to be included please contact me on lesley_mackay@outlook.com and I will send you the necessary link. Our next PCC meeting is at the beginning of March when we shall discuss the possible timetable for reopening St Margaret's for services.

The Zoom PCC AGM is scheduled for 15th April at 7.30pm and again please let me know if you wish to join the meeting. 2021 will no doubt see some changes to our Benefice, perhaps not all of them welcome. We will, of course, keep you up to date with information as we receive it, but the PCC will need your support and prayers.

Lesley Mackay, St Margaret's PCC Secretary

St Margaret's Church East with West Wellow and St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English

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NB new corrected info.

<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>

Please try these if you have been disappointed previously.

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