



The Benefice of All Saints', Highbrook & St Margaret of Antioch, West Hoathly



Benefice Notices for Advent Sunday Sunday 1st December 2024

Worship & upcoming services

Wednesday 4th Dec. **2pm, St Margaret's – Funeral of Ann Francis**
Thursday 5th December **NO** Holy Communion this week.
Friday 6th December 5.30pm, St Margaret's - Evening Prayer (BCP)

Next Sunday (8th December)

Second Sunday of Advent

9am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<i>All Saints', Highbrook</i>
10.30am	Eucharist	<i>St Margaret's, West Hoathly</i>
6.00pm	Carols in the Square	<i>Queen's Square, West Hoathly</i>

Forever in our hearts this Christmastime: Whether you lost someone many years ago or it's your first Christmas since they died, Christmas can be a particularly painful time. If you are missing someone you love this Christmas, we invite you to light a candle in St Margaret's Church and write their name on an angel shape to hang on our special remembrance Christmas tree. The church will be open especially for this on **Wednesday 18th December, from 4.00 -5.30pm.** All welcome.



Parish Christmas cards: The cards are now available. Please help us to spread the invitation to every house in the Benefice by offering to deliver the cards to a road or two. The cards are at the back of each church, and in St Margaret's are divided into roads or areas. Thank you!

Mission – joining in with God's work of love in the world.



Refugees Welcome Crawley, a local refugee support charity, welcomes your donations of pre-loved suitable clothes in excellent condition all year round. As Christmas approaches, they would also love to receive gifts of festive chocolates and biscuits to

share with refugee families at their Christmas events. New socks, underwear, gloves or woolly hats, packs of cards, colouring books and crayons or similar would also be much appreciated to supplement clothing distributions at this time of year. You can leave donated items in St. Margaret's Church porch or email rwcchair@gmail.com to arrange alternative drop-off/collection. **Thank you so much for making a difference!** www.refugeeswelcomecrawley.co.uk Reg. Charity no. 1186127

The Royal British Legion Appeal 2024: The church collection total



(including £36 on the contactless machine) was £667.57.

Thank you so much for your generous response to the appeal. Every penny goes to the work of the Royal British Legion as they support veterans and their families.

Stewardship - generous giving to and through God

St Margaret's Churchyard Working Party: The next Churchyard working party will be *this coming* Monday (2nd) at 2.00pm.

All Saints' Cleaning: There will be a 'taking the candles down and wax scraping party' on 28th December from 11am -1pm. The first cleaning session in 2025 will be on January 30th. A **big thank you** to all who have helped to keep All Saints' sparkling throughout 2024.

Christingle making in St Margaret's Church - Monday 23rd December at 10am: We will be making Christingles for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Please help to prepare them – it will only take about an hour. Thanks.

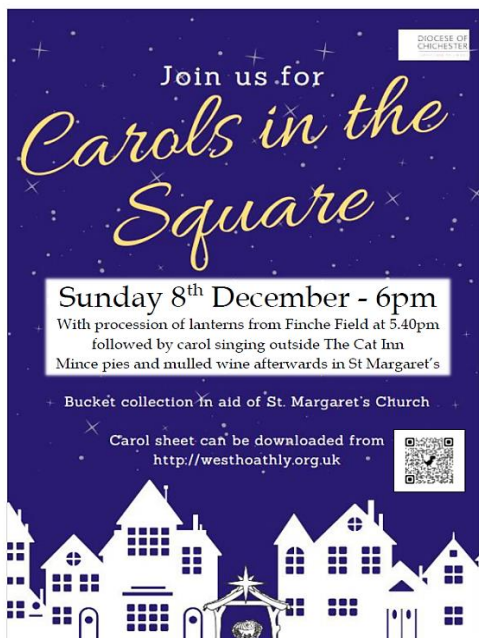
Our Advent and Christmas Events: We greatly appreciate the kind sponsorship we have received so far for these events, including the lighting that will last during the Christmas period. **Thank you so much.** More sponsors would be wonderful! Please consider if you could help to cover some of the costs. Any donations, big or small, would be gratefully received. Contact Rev'd Heather or our churchwardens if you can help in this way. Thank you.

Carols in the Square - NEXT Sunday 8th December at 6pm: Volunteers are needed to help with marshalling the road closure barriers (from 5.15 p.m. - 7.15 p.m.), to shake collection buckets at the end of the singing, to tidy up etc. Could you spare some time to lend a hand?

Refreshments after the Carols in the Square: We plan to provide mulled wine and mince pies. Please could you let us know if you can help with serving the refreshments or if you are able to provide some mince pies.

*Please speak with Rev'd Heather, Derek or the churchwardens if you can help with our preparations for Christmas in any of these ways. **Many thanks indeed.***

Events – growing together as a community.



Carols in the Square (see poster here)

Please note that the **Lantern Procession begins at 5.40pm** from Finche Field. There will be a Bucket Collection to support the work of St Margaret's. If you would prefer to donate by bank transfer, the details are on the St Margaret's Church website or by following the link here: <http://westhoathly.org.uk/give>.

The **carol sheet** can now be downloaded from the St Margaret's Church's website too.



Not to Be Missed...

THIS Sunday 1st December
from 11am until 4pm

FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES

at All Saints' Church, Highbrook.

A selection of nativity scenes, kindly lent by families from across our villages, will be on display. Whisky Macs, wine and some beautiful nativity themed tree decorations will be on sale.

At 4pm there will be a special celebration of **Music and Readings for Advent, with the Choir.**



Images ©pixabay

Studying – Understanding God.



Image courtesy of the Church of England

Follow the Star - Calm and Bright: This booklet, for use each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5th January), is now available from St Margaret's Church.

Prayer - spending time with God.



Evening Prayer on Fridays at 5.30pm in St Margaret's: You are invited to leave your prayers on the prayer tree (and they can be anonymous if you wish). All prayers left each week are offered up to God at Evening Prayer.

Prayer for the week: *Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

For our Prayers: Please remember to pray for yourself, for our communities, for our nation, and for the whole world.

The sick and housebound or in need of especial guidance: Mary Darlinson, Joyce Fish, Glen, Debbie, Mary Cocking, HM King Charles III, Gill Couchy, The Princess of Wales, Annie, Vicky and family.

The recently departed, for Ann Francis, Margaret Ockenden and Roy Blackman, and for those whose anniversary of death falls this week, and all who are grieving for them.

For God's blessing on the homes of our parish – this week we pray for all who live in Top Road, Bulldogs Bank and Longview Lane.

For God's blessing on the life of the church families of our deanery – this week we pray for the Clergy and Church Family of The Presentation, Haywards Heath.

If you would like to add someone's name to the prayer list, please email Rev'd Heather (heather.wilkin78@gmail.com).

If you are asking for someone else, please make sure you have their permission to have their name added publicly.

For details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life, and for updates, please check our website:

www.allsaints-highbrook.org.uk & www.westhoathly.org.uk

And social media:

Facebook - @stmargaretswesthoathlyallsaintshighbrook

Twitter - @StMargarets_WH

YouTube - search for 'St Margarets West Hoathly All Saints Highbrook'

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: The Reverend Heather Wilkin

Email: heather.wilkin78@gmail.com Telephone: 01342 529047

Heather's rest day is usually Monday.

Churchwardens of St Margaret's:

Ann Hutchings (churchwardenstmargarets@outlook.com or 01342 810 742) or

Tim Baker (churchwardenstmargarets@outlook.com)

Churchwardens of All Saints':

Adam Hackett (adamjphackett@outlook.com) or

Roger Cobden-Ramsay (Roger.cobdenramsay@gmail.com)

Items for inclusion on the weekly Benefice Notice sheet: Please send to Karen Blackman (by 12noon Wednesday) at brkb410@gmail.com