Holy Trinity, Penn with Forty Green & Knotty Green and St Margarets, Tylers Green

PARISH NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN
2026

Vicar's Letter
The End of an Era:
Our Final Newsletter



Revd Samuel S. Thorp

This issue of the Parish Newsletter is a bit different to our normal publication, because after a long history (see Miles Green's article for more) regrettably this Newsletter is drawing to a close. It's regrettable because it's an issue which is filled with thanksgiving - over the decades there have been too many people to be able to thank them all by name or significance; from the Vicars who have championed it through to the writers who have filled it, the advertisers who have supported it, the printers who have designed and produced it and the deliverers who ensure that it drops through your letterbox with its wonderful combination of local news and food for thought.

When I arrived in June of 2023 I was delighted to inherit a thriving magazine because I firmly believe in the tangible promise of physical media. In an age where every shop and scammer spams our email inboxes, to get a sincere and well-intentioned publication from your local Church is a sign of respect and an invitation to explore or consider matters of faith and spirituality that we otherwise might not receive. It says clearly and repeatedly that we are here for all who live in this area, whatever level of faith you may or may not have. Some are members of the congregation, many more enjoy the seasonal highlights - Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance. Many of us gather in these holy spaces for Weddings and Funerals, to celebrate, to grieve - but most importantly, to be together in a way that has been woven through the fabric of our cultural history. This is the promise of the Parish Church - to be your Church, here in season and out of season waiting and ready to welcome you whether for a visit, an occasion, or to start exploring faith for yourself.

This is a living promise for both Holy Trinity and St Margarets. Although this Newsletter is drawing to a close we will continue to preach from the Scriptures, to sing and pray together, and to offer hope to all whether in time of personal need, in seasons of national anxiety, or in the midst of our ordinary lives here in Penn and Tylers Green.

The Newsletter is nevertheless drawing to a close. Whilst I was glad to inherit the Newsletter, it quickly became clear that it was unsustainable for Churches where finances were no longer as flush as they were once upon a time. For it to continue we needed the advertising to cover the costs of production, and for it to be practically manageable to deliver. Having raised our advertising rates, significantly, we have been grateful to those businesses who have stuck with us, and understand entirely why some have not been able to. Likewise I am incredibly grateful to our amazing team of deliverers even as people have taken on more and more deliveries as others have - often after many years of service - stepped back. The decision to bring this to a close has not been an easy one, but unable to meet costs and with our pool of volunteers diminishing each issue I believe it is nevertheless the right choice.

I know that many of you nevertheless appreciate the articles we write and the news of what is going on in the life of our Churches. I also understand that for those of you that spend most of your time at home, whether by choice or through circumstance, a magazine like this is a tangible connection to your local community. We do not want to lose contact with you.

If this describes you then please contact the Benefice Office on 01494 813254 and leave your details with Jenna, our new Administrator, and a simplified newsheet with a

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Continued from page 1

reflection will be delivered to you several times a year. Alternatively email office@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk. In terms of digital communications we have our Website www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk, we send out a weekly email newsletter on Friday mornings via substack - you can sign up on the website or email the Office and we can add you to the list. We're also on Facebook and plan on posting more often on Instagram too @HTandSMinPTG. We are still here, and we want to communicate with you because we are committed to being a faithful presence in our community of Penn and Tylers Green.

I know that for some the history of our magnificent buildings and the local interest in the Churchyards is the primary attraction to our Churches, and we have been blessed by the generous support of the community when it comes to raising funds for various projects which preserve and sustain this history, with the Bell Restoration project (see inside for more) being the most recent cause for celebration. However I would like to gently stress that the history of our Churches is inextricably tied to the ongoing ministry which happens within them. The Church of England nationally is going through a significant change, and over the coming years approximately one third of clergy will be retiring from full-time ministry, and we do not have an equivalent number in training to replace them. This will mean structural changes to how Churches are managed and funded, and how many Churches clergy will be expected to look after. My curacy was in a team of eleven. Across the nation many are being combined with their neighbours and finding themselves diminished for it. What this means for Penn and Tylers Green is that there is no knight in shining armour coming to subsidise our costs, there's no benevolent trusts waiting in the wings to preserve our history for us if the Churches struggle.

Our primary prayer for success is that if you value your Churches, and the Christian ideals of faith and culture which has shaped our nation for centuries, that you will step through the doors and play your part in our community. Join us, talk with us, pray with us, sing with us, and seek to bless our local community in the name of Jesus with us; whether that be by pouring drinks at Tuesday coffee, sitting with the memory challenged at the Sanctuary Cafe, or raking leaves, or baking cakes, or raising funds, or ringing the bells.

As to supporting us financially, it costs each of our Churches about £200 a day to pay our way; both for the buildings and the ministry which sustains them. If you would like to support us with either a one-off donation or a standing order please do get in touch either with the office, or by contacting the treasurers on HT-Finance@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk or SM-Finance@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk - or consider getting married here, or having your funerals here. We would be honoured to look after you and will do our best for you and your families.

I opened by saying that this issue of the Newsletter is filled with thanksgivings. It is true that there are too many people to thank individually but there are nevertheless a handful of people who I particularly want to thank. For his constant support and the depth of research he has regularly contributed to these pages, I would like to thank Miles Green as our Honorary Archivist. For her valiant efforts, oft-unsung, liaising with advertisers I thank Diane Stewart. For coordinating the delivery, I thank Roger and Christine Edwards for Tylers Green and Zoe Clark for Penn with Knotty Green and Forty Green. For her many and varied contributions, Mary Lee has been invaluable to this Newsletter, and last but by no means least, for patiently keeping the entire publication on track I thank the wonderful Emma Byrne. Thank you all, and thank you to all those I have not named but who have nevertheless played your part in this endeavour over the years.

I'd like to end by reflecting briefly on a conversation that I recently had with Earl Howe about this Newsletter and the hope that I have for our Churches. He asked me how I felt about being Vicar here and whether it has been as I expected. In many ways it has been, and in many ways you'll never know the reality of a place or a community until you've been able to find your part within it. Yet through the changes in the world, the Church of England, and, as I shared last issue, my own sight issues, I feel an affirmation of my calling to Penn and Tylers Green - a calling which is no longer to a place on a map I'd not been before, but a calling to a group of people who now have names and faces; to be a part of this community with the permission to remember the place of God within our own lives, and the life of our nation. To come alongside those who are ill and dying just as we gather on the common together to remember those who for our liberty have made the ultimate sacrifice. To share honestly how even in moments of hardship, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ remains a light that shines in the darkness, a message which offers us a true sense of peace such as politics, the BBC, AI, and the busyness of the world and expectations of social media can never give. In Christ Jesus God has made himself known, not as a superstar or media personality but as a profoundly human person who dies the death of mortals that we might receive a life immortal; forgiven of our sins, healed of our traumas, and loved by a God who longs to call each of us his children.

This Newsletter may end, but the promise of love of God in Christ Jesus offered to the people of Penn and Tylers Green shall never fade.

And so for the last time in this publication,
With every blessing, Revd Samuel S. Thorp

You can contact the Vicar on
vicar@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk
or 07713638917

Tyler's Green Youth

I am very proud of both the young people and leaders who make our youth group the wonderful place it is! Since January this year we meet about two Sundays a month during term time for lots of fun games, food, and a space to calm down, check in and hear something about God.

We've got a wonderful core group of young people who come almost every time, but there is lots of potential for growth as well. Everyone age 10-15 is welcome whether they count themselves as Christian or not. We endeavour to be a safe space where everyone feels heard and seen, and we take safeguarding seriously so that parents can know they leave their kids in safe hands. All our leaders are DBS checked and our policy is for a leader to never be alone with any children.

If you know a young person who might be interested please let them know we're here!

We meet at 5 pm in the Sanctuary opposite St Margaret's Church - entrance facing the village hall. Don't forget to sign in. Pickup at 7.

Dates
8 November 22 November 13 December 2026
10 January 24 January 7 February 28 February
14 March 11 April 2027

2026-27 Winter Youth Events

More details at www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk



Tylers Green Youth Club	***Sun 8/11 5-7pm***	Years 6 - 9 Hang out with new friends, enjoy some games and a talk
Tylers Green Youth Club	***Sun 22/11 5-7pm***	Years 6 - 9 More fun with the Youth Club. Come and join us!
Christmas Crafternoon	***Sat 28/11 2.30-4pm***	Tygre Club Crafternoon for 2-12 yr olds in The Sanctuary Crafts on the meaning of Christmas
Christmas Jumper Service	***06/12 4.15pm***	Enjoy Carols and the incredible trees at the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity, wear your Christmas Jumper!
Christingle	***Sun 13/12 4pm***	Candle-lit service using carols, oranges and sweets to understand the Christmas story
Tylers Green Youth Club	***Sun 13/12 5-7pm***	Years 6 - 9 Christmas fun before the holidays.
Carol Services	***Sat 19 6pm*** ***Sun 20 6pm***	Carols at St Margaret's Carols at Holy Trinity
Crib Services	***Thurs 24/12 tbc***	Crib services at Holy Trinity And at St Margarets





A big thank you to our parish magazine deliverers

Our readers may be interested to learn that nearly four thousand copies of this magazine are distributed for each issue. This is made possible by around fifty wonderful volunteers.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to this heroic team who over many years have brought each of the homes of our Benefice the news of what is happening in and around our Churches of Holy Trinity Penn and St Margaret's Tylers Green. These senior paper boys & girls go out in all weathers and bravely push the copies through a multitude of different letterbox styles. Of course, fitness and agility training is part of the fun.

The ultra-low letterbox creates the special need for extreme downward bending. One elderly member of the team explained that when people see him on his knees they assume he is praying. However, he has admitted that he is just trying to get up.

So, whether you have delivered in the past or are delivering this issue or have contributed in any way to the organisation of the deliveries, a BIG THANK YOU!

The Story of the SMART Groups (St Margaret's Art Group)

Some years ago, Reg Pusey - a talented, kind, and inspirational artist and member of the St Margaret's congregation - decided to start an art group. His initial idea was to offer adults, particularly those facing serious illness or other challenges, some respite, relaxation, and a chance to draw or paint at their leisure.

The first session launched on Wednesday mornings in the Sanctuary (next to the Parish Rooms in Tylers Green). It proved so popular that it quickly expanded, leading to the creation of a second session on Thursday mornings, and both groups were opened up to anyone who wished to join. Under Reg's enthusiastic guidance, members learned to paint with watercolours. Over time, some discovered that watercolour wasn't for them but wished to stay in the group, branching out into acrylics, oils, pastels, ink, and coloured pencils.

Formal teaching came to an end when Reg and his wife moved to Kent to be closer to their family. He returned on one occasion, and while it gave him much satisfaction to see his classes continuing, there was a visible element of regret that he could no longer be a mentor. Sadly, Reg passed away not long after, but he has never been forgotten. As a lasting tribute to his encouragement, a panel depicting St Margaret - which several group members helped Reg create - still hangs fittingly on the inside wall of the Sanctuary today.

Following Reg's departure, the Wednesday group was expertly supervised by Brian Miller for several years, while Jean Stables generously looked after the Thursday session.

The Groups Today

These days, the groups more or less run themselves with a steady, core membership. While numbers have naturally dwindled over the years, many remaining members have attended for a long time, proving that it is a warm, pressure-free, and highly supportive environment. Although formal tuition is no longer provided, there is always someone happy to offer a word of encouragement or advice. Otherwise, everyone "does their own thing" at their own pace, exploring a wide range of personal subjects and media.

We strongly believe in the social element of the group. We love to chat and catch up, particularly over coffee and biscuits!

How to Join Us

If you are an adult with some drawing or painting experience - or simply a desire to test out your skills in a very relaxed, friendly, and sociable atmosphere - we would love to welcome you. There is always room for a few more.

- **Wednesday Session:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- **Thursday Session:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am (or 10:00 am – 12:00 noon)
- **Location:** The Sanctuary, St Margaret's Parish Rooms (opposite the church and the Old Queen's Head in Tylers Green)
- **Cost:** £2 per week (includes refreshments)

If you would like to join us, you can either **just turn up on the day** or contact **David Carter on 01494 813015** for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

St Margaret's activities for 1-11 year olds - on now and upcoming

Every Sunday at St Margaret's we have Tygre Club where our 3 - 11 year olds do activities, sing songs and hear readings from the Bible. Babies and toddlers are welcome too. They can stay in church at the back or come over to the creche. We have no problem with noise or mess if you want to stay in the church and there are toys and colouring to do, so why not try us out?



Regular Activities and Ministries

There is a lot going on at St Margarets that you might not be aware of so we thought we'd list it all here!

Social activities

Tuesday Coffee

Join us on Tuesdays 10am - 12 noon for tea coffee and biscuits. We have a friendly social atmosphere and always welcome newcomers. The Sanctuary, Church Road, Tylers Green.





Wednesday Morning Art Group 10am - 12pm

The Sanctuary, Church Lane, HP10 8LS.
Drop in for some quiet painting and conversation.

Big(ish) Night Out

Every 2 months a large group of us go to a local pub for a meal. A good way to get to know people in the Congregation and have some fun (and good food!).

Email prayer@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk to show your interest. We'll add you to the list with no pressure. Next event is Christmas Dinner.

Other socials

Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday every year in The Sanctuary.

Second Sunday of each month – lunch at the Red Lion, Penn. To reserve a space and place your food order, please contact the Manager on 01494 815925.

Harvest Festival Lunch open to all in the village every year for free.

For those in need

Prayer Ministry

We pray every week for those in our community who ask us to. Please do email the office on prayer@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk to request prayers.

For those suffering food problems

One Can Trust

We have a One Can Trust collection box in the porch. If you would like to drop off any non-perishable goods for the One Can Trust foodbank please do. We regularly deliver and members of the congregation are actively involved in this charity.

For our world

Eco Church

We are working towards the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze award. This involves making sustainable choices as a congregation, adapting our energy use and prayerfully considering our place in the environment and what we can do to support the natural world.

For our young people

Youth Ministry

Our **Sunday school** called Tygre Club offers fun ways to learn about God for 3 - 12 year olds every Sunday from 9.30am except the last of the month. Come to the Church and we go from there to The Sanctuary.

Our **Youth Club** (Tylers Green Youth Club) meets every two weeks on Sunday from 5 - 7pm at The Sanctuary with games, activities, a talk about exploring faith and a meal (usually pizza!)

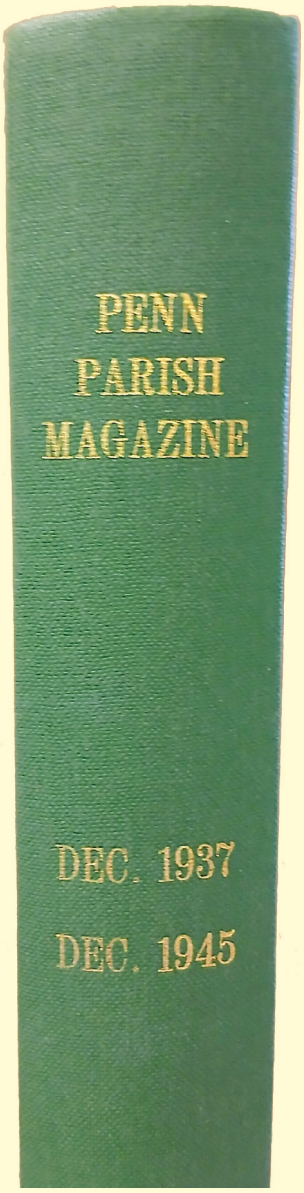
For your most important moments

Life Events

We are of course, here for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. We also hold occasional groups and talks about such things as grieving and preparing for death. It's our privilege to accompany you on some of the most important moments in a life. Check our website for details.

The last Parish Newsletter

This final Parish Newsletter, delivered to all households lying within the parishes of Holy Trinity, Penn and St Margaret's, Tylers Green, marks the end of a regular 'drumbeat' that goes back further than many may suppose. Until Mike Bisset took over as Vicar of the joint benefice on 13 July 2003, Tylers Green and Penn had separate newsletters. Whilst Holy Trinity's publication began some 89 years ago, just before the War, the St Margaret's series started almost as soon as the church was built in 1854. My History of St Margaret's Church lists all the ten Vicars of Tylers Green who kept the publication going thereafter for more than 150 years. At one time we had some examples of the very early newsletters from the 1860s which were lent out and, alas, mistakenly binned! However, we do still have an interesting selection, as listed below. It would be most helpful if you could let me know if you have any others, especially the more recent ones from the troubled reign of Michael Hall (1981 – 2000).



Tylers Green
Parish Magazines:

1884 - 1886
(monthly in a book, but also modern photocopies)

1920 - 1922
(Unity Magazine shared with others incl. Baptist Chapel, Beacon Hill, Wesleyans etc)

1924 - 1926
(Unity Magazine, as book). Jan 1926 as a separate copy

1929
(Unity Magazine, Jan - Aug as separate copies)

1930 - 1934
(May 1930 - Oct 34, as T.G. Parish Magazines)

1962 - 1968
Nov 62 (No. 306) - Oct 68

1983
(only April & Aug)

1854 - 1937
Mrs Becher's St Margaret's History (2 copies)

1995
Parish Room extension

For **Holy Trinity, Penn,** the earliest surviving newsletter is dated December 1937. Its introduction was the work of an energetic new rector, Kenneth Mumford. The very first issue records the baptism of a friend who still lives on the Back Common – Shirley White (née Peppiatt), who can now claim the distinction of featuring in both the very first and the last issues! Kenneth Mumford died only two years later - he had been badly gassed in the First World War - but in his brief term of office he started the newsletter, installed electricity in the church, organised the researches into the newly discovered Doom painting, and published the fascinating memories of an 80 year old Owen Fryer, born in Penn in 1858 long before the coming of the railway to Beaconsfield which was to transform a very quiet rural parish. He had started work at 12 because there was still no school and frequently walked to Amersham when any medicines were needed.

Kenneth Mumford's successor, Edward Comber, was in office for most of the war years and he wrote movingly that 'the vicious circle of war, revenge, resentment, fear and rearmament' has been completed and our country is again at war'. He records the arrival over two days of more than 100 refugee mothers and children. He was then succeeded by Oscar Muspratt, whom many of us remember well. He had served as a chaplain at the siege of Malta, at Alamein, and during the Normandy landings. He was the second longest serving Vicar with 45 years in post. He was devoted to the church, was responsible for any number of interesting discoveries, repairs and additions and was unyielding in his belief that William Penn the Quaker was a member of the same Penn family as the one from whom Earl Howe is descended.

These few examples are just to demonstrate that there is a fascinating story to be told at every point in the long history of these two places of worship and it is a considerable sadness to see the newsletters coming to an end. We saw that some of the St Margaret newsletters were assembled in covers and the Penn Newsletters have six volumes with another to be assembled. Most of the historical articles for both churches can be found on the church heritage website at https://pennchurch.uk/

Miles Green, Hon Archivist
October 2026

From the Registers: June to Date
Holy Trinity

Baptisms

Zara Browne - 28th June
Charles Teale - 12th July
Elliot Rogers - 27th September

Wedding

James Bingham & Candice Lambeth - 25th July

Funerals

Richard White (Burial of Ashes) - 26th June
John Woodger - 9th July
Pearl Davis (Burial of Ashes) - 28th July
Graham Lang - 11th August
Peter Coope (Crematorium) - 29th September
Patricia Hathaway - 9th October

Dates for your Diary



We have some special events coming up that we'd love to share our joy with you for Advent and Christmas.

1st November **Memorial Service** at 3pm at Holy Trinity

8th November **Remembrance Sunday**

9:30 **Holy Communion** followed by Act of Remembrance at 11am St Margarets

10:50 **Act of Remembrance** at Penn War Memorial followed by Holy Communion in Church

11th November **Remembrance on the Common** at 11am

Saturday 28th November 2.30 - 4pm

Christmas Crafternoon at The Sanctuary, Church Road, HP10 8LS

Fun activities, crafts and decoration making for 3 - 12 year olds

Tea and biscuits for their carers/parents

Free. Donation, if desired £2

Sunday 29th November **Advent begins!** Services at both Churches

5th December **Christmas Tree Festival** at Holy Trinity (see website for times)

Come and see this year's Christmas Trees (Tygre Club will be making one!) from all the local community groups eg Scouts, Tygre Club, WI, Bell Ringers etc

6th December **Christmas Jumper Service** Holy Trinity at 4:15pm

Get your cheesiest jumper on and come to enjoy Christmas carols and readings

13th December 4pm

Christingle at St Margaret's

Find out about God's love for us and his coming in Jesus through the simple physical parable of an orange (and sweets!)

Thursday 17th December

Children's Carols at St Margarets 6pm

Carols on the Common 7:45pm

19th December **Carol Service** at St Margarets at 6pm

20th December **Lessons and Carols** at Holy Trinity 6pm

21st December **Blue Christmas** 3pm

24th December **Christmas Eve**

4pm **Crib Service** at St Margarets

5pm **Crib Service** at Holy Trinity

11:30pm **Midnight Service** at St Margarets

25th December **Christmas Day!**

8:30am **Traditional Holy Communion** at Holy Trinity

10am **Christmas Communion Services** at Holy Trinity and St Margarets

27th December **8am Book of Common Prayer Matins** at Holy Trinity

10am **Joint Service of Holy Communion** at St Margarets

About St Margarets

For those who live in Tylers Green, from Hammersley Lane (and the western side of Beacon Hill) up to Curzon Avenue and along to Rose Avenue, St Margaret's is your Parish Church. (It's a quirk of history that Church and Civic Boundaries rarely align, so a number of you may assume you're in Hazlemere or Penn1).

St Margaret's is a beautiful Victorian Church between the Old Queen's Head and the Horse and Jockey, just opposite St Margaret's Parish Rooms and along from Tylers Green Village Hall. It was built on the site of an old brick kiln using bricks and sand dug from the common, and constructed by the same Wheeler family which later would build Tylers Green Village Hall, and the driving force behind it was Sir Philip Rose who lived at Rayners in those days. This is to say that St Margaret's was a local church built by local people for the local community - and it remains a friendly Church for the Parish.

Over the last 172 years St Margaret's has been a beautiful and peaceful venue for countless baptisms, weddings, and funerals and in this way has been woven into the tapestries of many family histories, and we are privileged to be able to continue offering these services for all who live in Tylers Green.

Beyond these key moments in our lives, St Margaret's has a weekly Sunday service at 9:30am where about 50 people meet to sing together, pray together, and enjoy fellowship with one another over tea and coffee together. We are blessed to have Deborah as our organist to accompany our hymns, and we offer a Creche and 'Tygre Club' Sunday School as well for children to enjoy.

Throughout the week St Margaret's hosts the St Margaret's Art groups (SMART), Tuesday Coffee Mornings, the Sanctuary Cafe, and the fortnightly Youth Club. Throughout the year we hold Crafternoons for families, celebrate Pancake Day as the start of Lent, run Lent Groups and topical courses, support Open Gardens with afternoon teas, welcome the Schools for services and visits, host Remembrance on the Common, as well as supporting Carols on the Common along with hosting a range of Christmas and Easter Services. Many of these activities happen in St Margaret's Parish Rooms, in the area we call 'The Sanctuary' which is a lovely cafe style set up.

There's always something going on and all we want you to know is that you will be most warmly welcomed to whatever event or service you come along for. And if you feel that all you need is a moment of peace and quiet to reflect, our Church doors are open every day and all are welcome to visit, to look around, and to pray.

St Margaret's is your Parish Church, please do benefit from what we have to offer and celebrate a wonderful space which is a part of the living heritage of our local community.

From the Registers: June to Date
St Margarets

Baptism

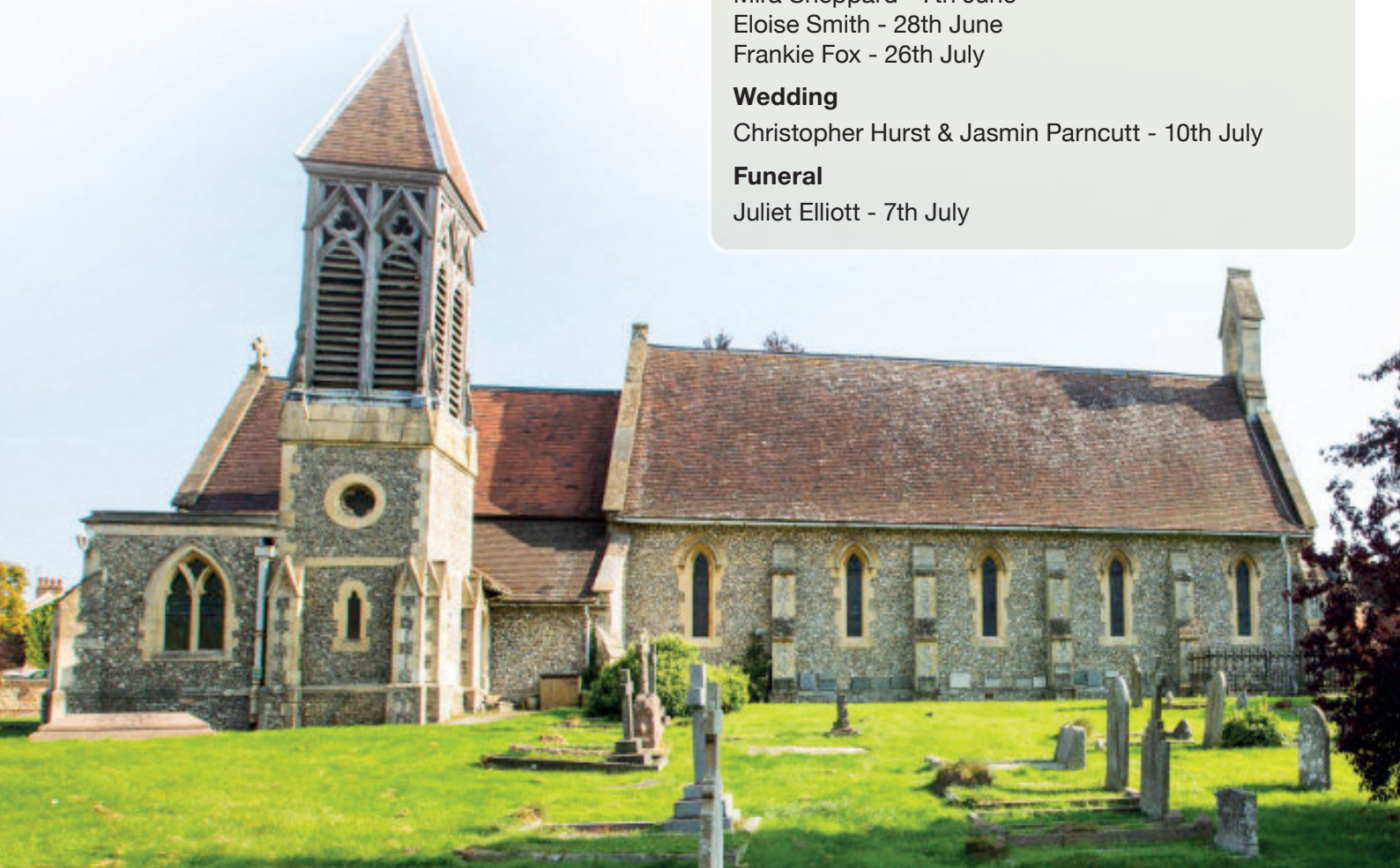
Mira Sheppard - 7th June
Eloise Smith - 28th June
Frankie Fox - 26th July

Wedding

Christopher Hurst & Jasmin Parncutt - 10th July

Funeral

Juliet Elliott - 7th July



The Sanctuary Café

The Sanctuary Café was established around three years ago with a simple but important aim: to provide a warm, welcoming and friendly place where people living with memory loss, together with their carers, could meet, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and spend time with others who understand their experiences.

We meet every Thursday afternoon at the Sanctuary, from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm. The café is free to attend and offers a relaxed, supportive and inclusive environment where everyone is welcome.

Since opening, attendance has grown steadily, and we are delighted to have built a regular community of visitors who return each week to enjoy friendship, companionship and a variety of activities.

We offer a range of group activities for those who enjoy taking part in shared experiences, as well as one-to-one sessions for visitors who prefer more individual attention and focused activities. We recognise that everyone is different, and we aim to provide opportunities for people to participate in whatever way feels most comfortable for them.

The café is run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds. Each volunteer brings their own skills, knowledge and life experiences, helping us to create the caring

Our hope is that the Sanctuary Café will continue to grow, reaching more people in our local community and providing a safe, caring and understanding environment for everyone who comes through our doors.

Caring for a loved one living with memory loss can be challenging and, at times, lonely. Carers can find themselves becoming isolated, with few opportunities to talk openly about their experiences, share their worries or simply take a little time for themselves. We want the Sanctuary Café to be a place where carers feel listened to, understood and supported, and where they can enjoy some much-needed respite from the demands of everyday life.

Although we are not able to offer professional advice, we can provide a listening ear, share our own experiences and offer understanding and encouragement. Sometimes, simply having someone to talk to who understands can make a tremendous difference.

The Sanctuary Café is also there for those attending when they lose their loved one. Bereavement can leave people feeling lonely and disconnected, the café can continue to offer a sense of community, friendship and comfort during what can be a very difficult time.

Above all, we want the Sanctuary Café to be a place where nobody feels they have to face things alone — a place where people can find friendship, share experiences, enjoy a little time out and know that they are welcome just as they are.

Could You Help?

The Sanctuary Café relies on volunteers, and we are always pleased to hear from anyone who would like to support our work.

No previous experience is necessary. All you need is a willingness to help others, a friendly approach and a listening ear. Whether you can offer practical help, join in with activities or simply spend time chatting with our visitors, your contribution could make a real difference.

To find out more about volunteering or indeed if you or someone you know would like to attend, please contact the Parish Church Office on 01494 813254.

Together, we can continue to provide a place of friendship, understanding and support for people living with memory loss, their carers in our local community.

Our day to day life at Holy Trinity

As you will see from our pictures of a typical year at Holy Trinity, we are a community that does things other than on a Sunday morning! However, Sunday morning does play an important part in our lives and maybe the following paragraphs will explain why.

About Holy Trinity

If you live in Penn, Forty Green or Knotty Green, Holy Trinity, Penn is your "local" church. You live within the bounds of its parish. If you have never visited it, do come and have a look round. It is open during the day and is an ancient and quiet church with so much history that its impossible not to feel that it is a retreat from the busyness of our world. There are free guides to borrow as you explore its 850 year history. Remember to walk round the back of the church where there is a lovely sunny old graveyard to sit and contemplate nature. Parts of the old churchyard are deliberately left wild to encourage the various wild flowers and animals to thrive.



Who attends?

We are a small but welcoming congregation and there is always someone inside to welcome you to a service. If you are new to the whole experience, do let our welcomer know and they can arrange for you to sit with someone who can guide you through the service.

Caroline writes:

> "In 1970 my husband and I and our family returned to the UK after having lived for three years in the US, and we settled in Knotty Green. The local vicar, Oscar Muspratt, called, and, on hearing that we went to church, informed us that our church was in Penn and so we found ourselves worshipping at Holy Trinity, in what was then a large and thriving church community.
>
> Like many churches country-wide, the numbers of communicants at Holy Trinity has shrunk, but after 56 years we still look forward to services in this old beautiful country church. The community of church-goers is now small but close-knit who enjoy each others company and always welcome newcomers. I often feel how fortunate I am to have found such a friendly church community and can enjoy services in a peaceful rural setting where thousands have worshipped for over 800 years."

Why not come along and see for yourself? The first Sunday in each month is a special "Invitation Sunday" and is a good place to start.

What has Holy Trinity ever done for me?

I thought I would entitle my musings for this final edition of the Parish Magazine in its current form "what's Holy Trinity ever done for me", shamelessly plagiarising the current BBC promotion and in a way giving me a helpful handle to hang my thoughts on.

I may currently be a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), or a Reader in old money, and full member of the Ministry Team here at Holy Trinity and St Margaret's and, most recently, an Archdeaconry Adviser to LLMs in Mid Bucks within our Diocese, but that's not where I was when I began my Christian journey at Holy Trinity over forty years ago. Then, very young, both married and under 30 which, if compared with church attendees today, is very different. My first experience of a service in Holy Trinity was for an 8am Book of Common Prayer spoken Holy Communion, presided over by a very wizened vicar, Revd Muspratt, who delivered the service at breakneck speed literally as though a train was waiting for him at the station. Strangely, I was not put off by the experience and I continued to come along from time to time for all the usual high days. The arrival of children changed that rather ad hoc pattern with baptisms the start of a new pattern of attendance and growing involvement in a wide range of children's activities Holy Trinity then ran- Sunday School, Friday Club, Junior choir.

My involvement changed again once the children fled the nest with participation in a course run by my LLM predecessor, Beth Wili – Exploring Faith Matters (EfM). This was a wonderful opportunity to explore the scriptures, church history and theology as a group activity and although I joined for just one year, I ended by doing the full four years of the course and graduating at the end. Following that and, much to my surprise, both Beth and our late administrator, Gail Wellings, seemed to think I was eminently suitable material to become an LLM! 'I was not convinced but prepared to put myself forward for selection and subsequent theological and ministerial training with Oxford Diocese, being licensed as an LLM in 2014. Since then, I have been a full-blown participant of the Ministry Team with all the various activities that a church runs - preaching, leading Sunday services, services that mark the church's calendar, funerals and so on. So, what has Holy Trinity done for me? Shaped me, grown me, given me a much richer life than I might have anticipated and while I 'm still surprised at my role within this amazing 800 plus year community of saints, it is patently clear that God knows me better than I know myself!

Mary Lee - LLM



Flowers

One of the joys of going into the church is seeing the many and varied beautiful flower arrangements created by our amazing flower team headed by Anna Taylor.

Anna writes:

"Holy Trinity is such a special church. The peace, tranquility and beauty of this ancient building, worshipped in by so many over hundreds of years, is very apparent, and the addition of flower arrangements provides a warm welcome.

As volunteer flower arrangers we value the time quietly spent with beautiful flowers for the congregation to enjoy. These are generously donated by the volunteers, Penn Estate and local gardens. In a busy, noisy life it gives us the opportunity to think and work in peace.

Whether it be Mothering Sunday and gifts of potted primroses, the Harvest Festival rich in autumn colours and vegetables galore, Remembrance Sunday amidst reflective poppies, Christmas with all the holly and ivy we can muster, or just the weekly change of flowers, our team of volunteers convey their message of welcome.

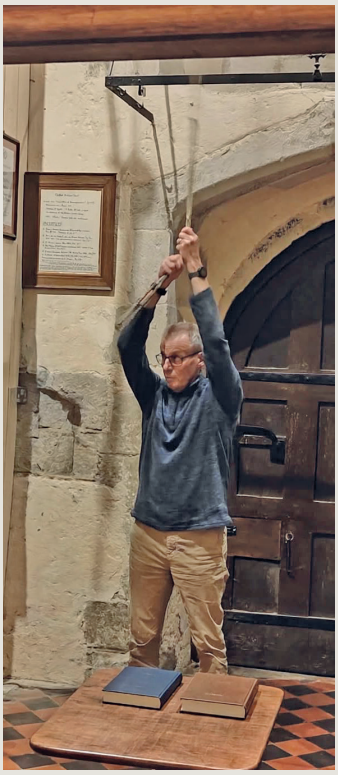
The porch is an important first point of contact. Just inside, a large pottery vase of flowers made long ago by a talented worshipper, sits on an oak bench and just visible from the road. The old oak door is always open, an invitation to step inside.

Flowers comfort, inspire and beautify in good times and bad. It is a privilege to be asked to organise the flowers for christenings, weddings and funerals. In times of grief a pedestal placed close to the mourners can fix the eye and console. Our village church is perfect for flower arranging with its wide, lit window sills, ancient font with a perfectly placed ledge for flowers and a wonderful oak door around which we have attached many a garland for those special pictures of a new bride and groom.

Arranging flowers for a wedding whilst an organist is practising is a real joy; the creation of two ingredients, flowers and music, which bring the church to life.

We are just a few of the willing volunteers who are committed to keeping our church looking its best for the congregation now and for the many more we hope will share it with us in future."

The Bells



Have you ever heard church bells ringing across our community and wondered who rings them? Church bell ringing at Holy Trinity is a wonderful tradition that brings people together and is great fun to learn.

Bell ringing is not just about making a beautiful sound. It is a social activity where people of different ages and backgrounds can meet, learn a new skill and enjoy being part of a team. You do not need to be musical or physically strong to get started. Beginners are welcomed and taught at their own pace by experienced ringers. Once you have mastered the basics, you can ring at any of the 5000 churches in the UK, and further afield in places such as Canada or Australia.

There is a real sense of achievement as you learn to control a bell and eventually ring confidently with the band. Many ringing groups also enjoy social events and activities outside the bell tower, so why not give it a try? Come along, meet your local bell ringers, and discover this enjoyable community tradition for yourself - a tradition at Holy Trinity that is over three-hundred years old! Interested and over 18? Why not phone our Head Bellringer, Peter Barrett, on 07720 594880.

Music

We are fortunate in having two visiting organists and an amazing pianist, Jeremy. There are no quick getaways when Jeremy is playing; most of us stay to hear his wonderful keyboard skills at the end of the service. He writes:

"I began playing the piano for Holy Trinity in the lovely village of Penn since 2025 and I just thought I'd share the fact that I have thoroughly enjoyed each of the Sunday services I've attended.

Everything about the services I've attended has been wonderful and thoughtful and everyone has been so welcoming.

It's been a delight to meet with you all and to regularly share my musical contribution to the best of my ability."

Our Services

If you would like to attend a service then we have two every Sunday. Our 8am service is a traditional service based upon the Book of Common Prayer and is a said service. The 11am service is usually a Holy Communion

service with hymns and is a more modern service. Once a month, it is replaced with a Morning Worship service. Full details of services can be found on our website at www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk As noted above, we are a small and friendly community and we welcome visitors.

And Finally

We know that times are hard but **it costs us £203 per day** (over £6000 per month) to keep our Grade 1 listed Holy Trinity Church open. At 850 years, it does need tender loving care from time to time to say nothing of heating and lighting. If you are able to support us financially do please donate via ***tinyurl.com/HT-donate*** or use the QR code or visit the church and place money in the Fabric fund box in the porch (Gift Aid envelopes are in the church). Thank you.



Holy Trinity Old Graveyard and Vineyard

Our old graveyard behind the church is a peaceful place and indeed contains the graves of several well known people. There is a brief guide with the books in the church which you are welcome to walk round with. The graveyard in current use is through the arch in "The Vineyard". At one stage it was the Vicar's vegetable garden and it is believed that, before that, it was indeed a vineyard with grapes growing on its south facing slope. I don't know about you, but I rather fancy being laid to rest in a Vineyard!



John and Rachel Scurrell started to look after the Vineyard during COVID; Rachel having an avid interest in family history and John having a long link to Holy Trinity. The churchyard had previously been looked after by various members of the church going back to a survey in 1946 of the whole area of the church grounds. In 1952, the Vineyard was opened up having been designed by Sir Edward Maufe. Jane White did regular talks during the Annual Historic Churches weekend (now Heritage Open Days) and, with Dick Barnard, did a display of it in 1994.

The Vineyard is open for the burial of ashes to all members of the congregation, residents in the church boundaries and those with family connections to those already buried there. At present burials are limited due to space for further graves; plans had been made before to reopen the South side of the churchyard but are having to be reviewed in relation to the graves being dug mechanically and this needs straight lines rather than curves and must, of course, take into consideration those graves already there.

A fresh plan of the Vineyard, which is displayed in the archway entrance, is about to be printed with the ashes added of new burials and with our dating records following.

The churchyard is looked after by the church as it is still open and has now a new team looking after the grass and volunteers looking after hedges, trees and general care.

John Scurrell

Christmas

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS WITH YOU!



Who's Who?

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07713 638917
vicar@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers
David Carter 813015
Linnea Thorp 813207
Mary Lee 07816 441386

Associate Priest
Revd Graham Summers
07866 920341
gandcsummers@icloud.com

Parish Office for St Margaret's and Holy Trinity

Parish Office, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, HP10 8NY.
Tel: 01494 813254 **email:** office@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk
www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk
Contact the office for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Holy Trinity, Penn

Church Wardens
Paul Ricketts 814402
Nico Wilson 07989 522626

Treasurer
John Scurrell 813181

Electoral Roll Officer
Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Archivist
Miles Green 815589

Flower Coordinator
Anna Taylor 815262

Chief Bell Ringer
Peter Barrett 07720 594880

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Hilary Forbes 816438

St Margaret's, Tylers Green

Churchwarden
David Winder 07753 162683

Treasurer
Alison Bright 819100

Electoral Roll Officer
Jean Stables 712138

Flower Coordinator
Deborah Yeates 445286
Corrine Summers 814347

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Emma Byrne 07554 053860

Email Newsletter

Did you know we have a weekly email bulletin which keeps you up to date on what's happening in our Churches? If you're interested then you can sign up on the website or at https://holytrinityandstmargarets.substack.com/

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David Toney
whose funeral was on
17th July

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A year in the life of Holy Trinity

We hold many events during the year celebrating the various Christian festivals and also enjoying music. Why not come along to some during the next year. Details will be on our website www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk



Christmas Tree Festival



All Age Crib Service



Fun at a Quiz Evening run by St Margaret's



Our Sonrise Easter service starts outside



And then moves inside to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ



A rock concert raising money for Prostate Cancer



Choral Evening with the Wycombe Chamber Choir



Pet Service



Dogs are welcome!



Heritage Day



Harvest Festival weekend



Memorial Service and tea

Could I go to church?

We know that there are lots of questions about church, why I might go, whether I even need to go, whether I will like it. We try and answer some of those questions here.

I believe I'm a Christian but I go to church (except for weddings, funerals and Christmas etc).

Lots of people have this relationship with God and you are very welcome to join us whenever you like, however often you like! But you might be missing out: on finding out more the positivity your belief can bring, on support from God and from other people at Church in hard times, on real joy and friendship.

I'd like to go join a church but I think it might be a bit cliquey and I won't fit in.

Why not try out a few churches? Visit, observe, maybe even go for coffee afterwards. You'll definitely figure out if that church is for you. We are always told we're very welcoming, but we'd love you to come and see for yourself.

I'd like to find out more about God but I don't 'get' the Bible and I worry I won't know what I'm doing in the service and I'll feel awkward.

We have a booklet that is given out to everyone at the beginning of the service. It has everything we say and gives you directions to follow, because sometimes we forget what we're doing as well! If you can remember the first time you joined a club or went to a game, you didn't know the habits then but now you're fully relaxed. Church is the same.

I don't know anyone at St Margarets.

Yes that can be tricky, and there are two ways to approach it. 1) Come and sit quietly. Our members are friendly and will say hello, then you'll feel more comfortable 2) Come to one of our other events like Tuesday morning Men's' and Women's walking groups and coffee. These events are open to all but lots of church members go to them; it;s a good way to get to know people before trying a service out.

I don't want to be told I have to read the Bible and get drawn into things I'm not ready for.

People at St Margarets get as involved or as un-involved as they want. If you want to do bible study we have small groups during the week, or you can equally come to one of our non-service activities. It's your journey and your choice.

I'm worried I won't like the worship style.

We are lucky to be sister churches that come together for important occasions and share Rev. Samuel between us. We have 2 slightly different approaches to our services. For quiet contemplation and traditional services and music such as Evensong or the Book of Common Prayer you can try Holy Trinity Penn. For more informal services, still with Church of England tradition but with a mix of modern and traditional music, try St Margarets.

My kids are loud and crazy. I'll be judged and embarrassed.

Many of us have brought up our kids in St Margarets so we know what it's like! We are very comfortable with noise and activity during the service. No one will judge you and we also have special activities for kids - Tygre Club - where they can learn about God in their own way with songs, games and activities. Join us in the church at 9.30 and then we head to The Sanctuary. You can join in too!

At Holy Trinity we have a special area in the main church where you and your kids can sit and enjoy colouring, books and toys whilst still being part of the service.

Could I go to church?

Hopefully we've answered some of your worries. So if you feel a 'nudge' in that direction why not try one of our churches out?





Holy Trinity
Penn

Sunday Services:
8am and 11am

H T S M

St Margarets
Tylers Green

Sunday Service:
9:30am

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