



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

September 2025



Letters from our Vicar, Rector and Rural Dean – and from our Curate

September marks the “end of Summer”, although there may still be some Summer weather! It is the time when people return to School, or start at a new School. Some others start at College, or University, or start a new job. Do give a thought (and a prayer) to all of those in school, college or university (both staff and students).

It may also be that you haven’t been to Church in a while and are thinking of going back for the first time. We hope

that, if you come to one of our services, you will be made welcome – we are all quite friendly! Harvest Celebrations start soon – do look out for Harvest Services and Harvest Suppers. Our different churches offer different balances of words, music and silences. I hope that you can find a balance that suits you ...

Your Rural Dean, James **Revd James Pitkin**

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rector@tandbchurches.org.uk

My name is Yin-Yin Bull. When I look back over the years, it seems that all roads in my life have led me here. Romans 8.28 says: “... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Before being called to ministry and ordination, I worked in several settings. I worked with teenagers with a variety of disabilities for eight years, leading nurture and social groups, and as a counsellor working with vulnerable teenagers in schools. Before that, I was a contracts manager in the defence and aerospace industry. Now I am serving my curacy with Thorngate and Blackwater churches, it is a pilgrimage and also a privilege to have the opportunity to learn more about God and more about His love for us all, with so faithful and steadfast a community.

My family and I recently discovered Canada Common in Wellow for ourselves, after an Ecumenical service where

there was a throng of voices singing hymns to a brass band. My maternal side are Methodists, so there was a familiarity to the service. We sat or stood on the edge of the managed wilderness, and I wondered what was beyond. The following week we decided to explore the landscape further.

We took the miniature dachshund, Mochi, for our intrepid walk. Mochi met a donkey – and barked. The donkey brayed. Our human commands and reassurances of course had no effect whatsoever. This scene caused me to pause, and think about the common, or perhaps uncommon, language between us all, and the frustration of not being heard and perhaps even moving in slightly different directions; all wanting the same goal of to be loved and to be understood, to seek God, but mostly missing the mark altogether. Often all we can have in common is to laugh at ourselves and hope that God’s love and grace is what will shine through.

Revd Yin-Yin Bull, Curate

Letters from Churchwardens

September brings the changing of the season from summer to autumn, always marked for me by the Romsey Show – some years a summer Show but some years a rainy and cold Show. A bit like life really.

For me this autumn is more than just the changing of the season; it is a whole new way of life, as I face up to life without my wife of 57 years. Having been born a twin, my whole life to date has been through the prism of being a twosome. Fortunately I have two lovely daughters and three delightful grandchildren who offer the love and challenges that make life worth living.

I would like to thank you all who sent me cards and letters of condolence. They really do help, and most especially the handshake or grasp of the elbow with words of sympathy. I will try to learn from that to do better myself when I offer condolences.

This month will also see the restarting of our weekly lunch and coffee groups (coordinated by Gael Clemett), as well as the continuation of the HELP scheme (chaired by Ann Jarrett with Lyn Pickering as Secretary, Paul and Susan Newby as Joint Treasurers and Lynda Hosey as lead Coordinator), providing transport for the elderly to essential medical appointments. Our thanks are due to all the volunteers (more always needed, please!) who help make Wellow a community and not just a place.

Roy Perry, St Margaret’s Churchwarden

The heady heat of our VE/VJ Day concert in June, which was the last subject of this column, seems so long ago now, but what have we at St Leonard’s done over the summer? We have sung hymns followed by a Pimm’s, welcomed Yin-Yin to her first Communion service and, following on from James’s article, I used AI to talk on “The Good Samaritan” – it took just 3 seconds to spill onto my page! Time saver and game changer for a busy person like me! Well, Clare in her next talk showed me the error of my ways – who knew that so much water is used in cooling the AI machines? I repented and returned to a Sherfield, human and more humorous approach the next time, so the churchwardens are now back on a firm footing once again!

Our season has changed and, as the Hampshire scenery changes from summer to autumn, we welcome some rain to fill the rivers and green up our grass. At church we continue in “Ordinary Time”, the period from Trinity Sunday in June to Advent Sunday in November or early December, but how can what surrounds us in Sherfield English ever be considered ordinary? The harvest has been much talked about this year and St Leonard’s congregation will no doubt discuss the trials and tribulations of the weather and yields, during the Ploughman’s Lunch after our 11 a.m. Harvest Festival service on 21st September. All are welcome to join us and lunch costs only £5 per person, but please do pre-book.

Julia Noble, St Leonard’s Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for September 2025

September 2025		Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
Sunday 7th September	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Messy Church [NB New day in month] 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.	Tim Jobson In Village Hall. See more from Sara-Jane below	Rose Forward	Tim Jobson
14th	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Mel King	Carl Donnelly	Barbara King
21st	Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	Sue Amey	John Parr
28th	Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Forsey	Paul Newby
5th October	Harvest Festival Communion 9.15 a.m. Messy Church [NB New day in month] 4.00 – 5.30 p.m.	To be arranged		

Every week in St Margaret's Church Rooms

(Transport can be arranged if needed)

Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon

Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.

The following is from Revd Sara-Jane Stevens: Messy Church is in future to be on the first Sunday in the month (no longer the fourth), restarting on Sunday 7th September at Wellow Village Hall. Absolutely everyone is welcome to come!

At 4.00 p.m. on the 7th we shall start with craft and making activities, based around Jesus' story about a farmer. We will also make our entry for the Wellow Village Scarecrow Competition. Then a story from Bonzo and some songs about God's love. Followed by food for everyone. This is Church, but not as you know it. Come and try it out!

Also: Parishioners please join Sara-Jane in making a Church display for the Scarecrow Competition (16th – 30th September) Monday 15th Sept 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St Margaret's. Do'nuts provided!

Saturday 4th October – St Margaret's Harvest Supper – **watch out for details!**

St Leonard's Services and Events

7th September – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

14th September – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

21st September – Harvest Festival Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens),
followed by Ploughman's Lunch (£5, please pre-book)

28th September – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

5th October – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

[All services are in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturdays 6th September and 4th October, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's

Other Benefice and Diocesan Notices in brief

West Tytherley Church will host a monthly "Book Reflection Group", starting on Tuesday 23rd September, 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. If you are interested in joining these meetings please contact Joanna Percival Joanna.Percival@btinternet.com for details of the first book and the suggested reading ahead of the meeting.

Diocesan Vocations Morning, Saturday 18th October, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. St Boniface Church, Chandler's Ford SO53 2FT

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of your next step?

For more information and to book, please contact Tracey Nicholls tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 710983

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
7 September	Trinity 12 (Prop 18)	Deuteronomy 30.15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14.25-33
14 September	Trinity 13 (Prop 19)	Exodus 32.7-14	Psalm 51.1-11	1 Timothy 1.12-17	Luke 15.1-10
21 September	Trinity 14 (Prop 20)	Amos 8.4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2.1-7	Luke 16.1-13
28 September	Trinity 15 (Prop 21)	Amos 6.1a, 4-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 16.19-31
5 October	Trinity 16 (Prop 22)	Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4	Psalm 37.1-9	2 Timothy 1.1-14	Luke 17.5-10

In case of ambiguity, Readers should not hesitate to consult the Celebrant to check which variant is required.

In general, the Gospel is the required Second Reading at St Margaret's Matins.

Prescribed Altar Frontal Colour: Green throughout this period.

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

<https://tandbchurches.org.uk/news-notice/>

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

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