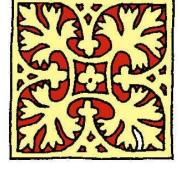


September 2023



Stratton Team Ministry

Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together



STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Priest in Charge: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick

Alison Burston

Dan Read

<u>Church Administrator</u> Georgina Martin 826505

Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954

Mr Ian Jones 07769703385

Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 724776
Mr Richard Pfleger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935

Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Bosher 07799835437

Mrs Mary Bosher

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146

Mrs Diane Whitford

(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis

(PCC secretary St Leonards)

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335 St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089



Dear Church Family

We come into September, in the Anglican church, into the Season of Creation and it starts on September 1st. This is a time when we renew our relationship with our Creator God and all His creation, through celebration and appreciation of the gifts of nature and the beauty of our world. We consider how God created the World and continues to sustain everything in it. We also think about how mankind, being tasked by God to 'steward' the earth, was told to look after it and nurture it, and we consider what sort of a job we are doing.

Often, it is easy to look around our beautiful countryside around Swindon and overlook the fact that there is something seriously wrong with the climate and the weather. This year we have had some warnings of rather more extreme weather ahead for us and for our children. An extreme heat wave in early August, followed by torrential rain in mid-late August. Whether or not you believe that climate change is man-made or simply science/sun spots or natural changes in our weather, what is now indisputable is that the climate is changing, and these changes will be negative for most of the planet.

We have seen through other incidents this year (wasn't going to mention the virus this month) that we are all connected as a planet and that decisions we make locally or nationally will affect the entire planet sooner or later. We can't take a purely local view on climate change.

We have been encouraged to eat less and move more for our own heath and to help us resist the virus (sorry, second mention) but in reality, consuming less and walking or biking instead of using the car benefits the planet as well as our waistlines and our mental health. Recycling and eating local produce is another way of looking after our health and being kind to the planet. If you are already doing any of this then you are blessing your own welbeing and the planet with these new ways of living.

At Stratton Team we are looking at our Eco status and are in the process of joining the Anglican Churches initiatives to greater sustainability.

Never underestimate how even the smallest of changes to lifestyle can have an impact.

So as we move into this new season here is the short prayer for Creation to pray at home.

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



WATER

It asks no questions where or why.
Tumbles from the mountain high.
Rushes to where the sea gulls cry.
Weirs and crags it squeezes by.
Nestles in pools with the dragon fly.
Nourishes wheat and rye.
Feeds creation lest it die.
Bubbles in a baby's eye.
In fiery blaze is not shy.
In anger can make us, in panic, cry
Dwells in stagnant pool, where sinners lie.
Weeps for him sent to crucify.
Returns again to that mountain high
To sparkle in the clear blue sky.



Dan Read 1998

Old Forgotten Words

Times change and word meanings alter or the words themselves disappear.

The Bible itself is not immune from such evolution. When did any of us last glean in grain fields as did Ruth? It was a practice that only disappeared from this country in the last century where local people could collect, by hand, grain that had been missed by the harvesters.

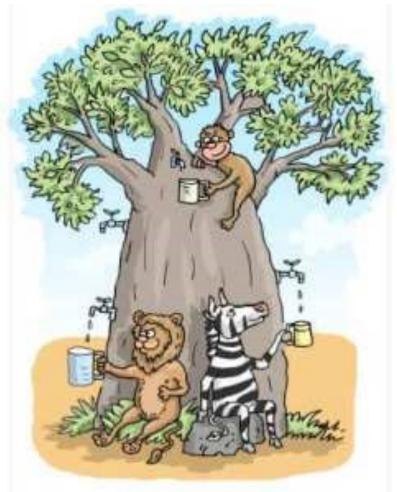
We read of a famine in the land when Elijah stayed with a poor widow and her son and yet throughout the famine there was sufficient oil in the widow's cruse or oil jar to make bread for the three of them. Faith played its part but when did any of us use a cruse, it has passed into history.

The faith of a Roman Centurion saved his sick daughter. He was an officer in charge of 80 soldiers and not as widely believed of 100. The basic army unit was a Contubernium of 8 men for that was the size of a goatskin tent that one mule could carry and, as to be seen in many architectural sites in this country, the size of a barrack room was always for 8 men. 10 of these units, 80 men was a Century and 6 Centuries was a Cohort. So once again the word Centurion has disappeared into the mists of time.

The Baobab tree, even today throughout tropical areas, is a most useful commodity. A thirsty traveller can tap it for a plentiful supply of water and it also has medicinal qualities. In Biblical times it was known as the tree of life so could this be what Jesus was alluding to when He spoke of the bread of life?

So, do keep exploring the Bible for in it are countless words that are no longer in use today and they may provide routes into learning even more about our Christian Faith.

Colin Howell







Attention all friends and supporters of the 5th Swindon Boys' Brigade!

Exciting news! We're getting ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Company this September!

To mark this special occasion, we're putting together a history book, and we need your help.

Please share your photos and memories from the old days. Whether you were a parent, a member of the church, or an Old Boy, we want to hear about your experiences at competitions, camps, parades, or anything else related to the 5th Swindon.

Send your stories, around 200 words, and any pictures to christopherjspackman@gmail.com before the end of September. We can't wait to hear from you!

Dr. Chris Spackman Trustee, The Boys' Brigade Archives



Weekly Prayers for September – Seasons

Monday: Seasons

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. *Genesis* 8:22

God of the seasons, Lord of the harvest, we bring you our first fruits of praise.

God of the seasons, we give you thanks for the rhythm of life by which our days are set.

As day follows night so harvest follows seedtime and we receive once more the provision of our Creator. From summer to winter we are blessed by the crop of his lavish abundance which delights and sustains throughout every season.

Lord of the harvest, we give you thanks for your covenant provision by which our needs are met.

God of the seasons, Lord of the harvest, we bring you our first fruits of praise. Amen

Tuesday: Seasons of life

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Throughout life there are seasons and moments of significance.

Times to celebrate life and times to mourn loss.

Seasons of laughter and seasons of sadness.

Times of new beginnings and times of final endings.

Moments of unexpected joy moments of unwanted challenge.

Times to draw close together and times of letting go.

Seasons of harmony and seasons of discord.

Moments to look forward with hope moments to look back with thanksgiving.

Lord of the seasons, God in the moment, we bring you our worship and praise. Amen



Wednesday: Serving in every season

Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up. *Galatians 6:9 (MEV)*

Lord of each and every season, we celebrate your goodness. We bless your holy name.

Gracious God, the signs of your kingdom are growing but the workers to gather are few. Send us out in every season to the harvest fields of life.

May those who sow and those who reap rejoice in an abundant harvest of goodness and grace.

Give us your strength to carry on throughout changing seasons, knowing that we will reap blessings both now and for eternity.

Lord of each and every season, we celebrate your goodness. We bless your holy name. Amen

Thursday: Seasons of change

God changes times and seasons... He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. *Daniel 2:21*

God of changing times and seasons we give praise that you remain the same whilst your mercies are ever new.

We pray for all who approach a change in season: Where the past has been good, may they be thankful, and filled with vision for the season ahead.

Where the past has been hard, may they know rest, and be filled with hope for the season ahead.

Give us all grace to embrace seasons of change; to set aside regrets and welcome fresh paths, with trust in your unchanging love.

God of changing times and seasons we give praise that you remain the same whilst your mercies are ever new. Amen



Friday: Seasons of fruitfulness

The one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night, is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season. *Psalm 1:2-3*

Loving Lord, we take delight in you. Plant your love within us that we may enjoy seasons of abundant fruitfulness.

Lead us, loving Father, to fertile places; to cultivate a harvest of faith.

Teach us, gracious Saviour, to nestle close to you; that the Spirit may produce fruit in us.

Grow us, heavenly Gardener, into those who have spiritual food to share with the world.

Loving Lord, we take delight in you. Nurture us with your goodness that we may enjoy seasons of abundant fruitfulness. Amen

Saturday: Content in every season

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:12-13*

Lord, give me a heart of contentment in every season through which I walk.

An attitude of thanksgiving, whether the storehouse for life seems empty or overflowing with blessed provision.

Lord, give me a spirit of contentment in every season through which I walk.

An inner strengthening by Christ, to trust in his constant faithfulness whether tears overwhelm or all is well.

Lord, teach me the secret of contentment for every season through which I live.

The peace beyond all understanding, which guards my heart and turns fear to faith. **Amen**



3 rd September	Thirteenth	Sunday	after	Trinity
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St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church
9:30am	9:30am	10am
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship	Family Service

10th September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	St Leonard's Church
9:30am	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Family Service

17th September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Margaret's Church

10am Sunday Morning Team Worship
With Boys Brigade Parade

24thSeptember Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Margaret's	St Leonard's	Coleview
Church	Church	Community Centre
9:30am	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Worship	Service	Service

Please see our website for the most up to date information **www.strattonteamministry.co.uk**We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.



At St Margaret's Centre (Kenwin Close, off Ermin street, Stratton St. Margaret) Saturday 9th September @ 4pm

St Margaret's Revealed



for more information Please contact us at <u>Saturdayscene@strattonteamministry.co.uk</u> <u>301793 826505</u>





St Leonard's Church Stanton

Hosts Coffee Morning now at Stanton House Hotel

tarrorr frouse frote

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

20th of September 2023



PREMIUM

St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston CRING PO

The 'drop in' is for all members of our community

Come and Join Us for Coffee

In the Village Hall

10:00 - 12:00

Saturday 16th September Saturday 21st October

Enquiries or for table reservations please call

01793 824339





At St Margaret's Centre In Aid of St Margaret's Church Saturday 7th October

Table Tops available for just £10

Please contact the Church Office 01793 826505 More details to follow



Watch this space!

GRAB A BARGAIN





STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL'S

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Our Weekly Free Community Cafe Groups Held At Meadowcroft Community Centre - SN2 7JX:

Every **Monday morning from 7am until 8:30am** we have a Breakfast Club providing cereals, toast, sweet treats, fruit and drinks, for parents and children of all school ages

Every **Friday morning from 10am until 12pm** we have a Community Cafe which you can chat with your neighbours and housing officers from Swindon Borough Council, over a cup of tea,coffee and biscuits, and take home surplus food from local supermarkets.

Meadowcroft Community Centre Community Groups:

Youth Club throughout the week Contact Youth Worker Cherry on cherry.riley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Swing Out Swindon - Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm Contact Erica on erica@swingoutswindon.co.uk

Thursday Club (7th&21st) Thursdays 1-3:30pm Contact Patsy on 01793 692143

U3A Dressmaking Group (14th&28th) Thursdays 1-4pm Contact Rhona on rhonaeliza@gmail.com

> U3A Discussion Group - Friday 8th 2-4pm Contact Chris on wttmh1@gmail.com

Singing for Fun - Tuesday 19th 10am-12pm Contact Alison on alisonporter@hotmail.com

Carers Cuppa - Monday 25th 1:15-3pm Contact Zoe on 07796479274

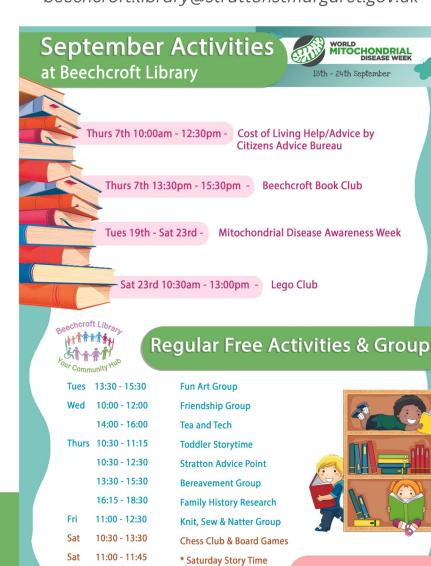
Open Minds - Wednesday 27th 1:15-3pm Contact Zoe on 07796479274

tratton St Margaret Parish Council:

eadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent,Upper Stratton vindon SN2 7JX

Beechcroft Library Activities:

01793 680030 beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



*Saturday 2nd & 16th Septembe



A little boy answered the door, "Mum." He called, "it's the rector collecting for the old folks home. Should I give him Grandad?"



A minister wishing to encourage a young bride on her wedding day, sent a telegram which read, "1 John 4: 18" (There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear.) Unfortunately the telegraph clerk left out the (1) changing the message from a reference to the first epistle of St. John to an extract from the Gospel according to St. John. The young bride was somewhat surprised that night when she opened her Bible and read. "He whom you have is not your husband."

At a weekly Bible study the leader asked an elderly gentleman Jack to open the meeting with a prayer. Jack did so in a soft voice. Another man straining to hear shouted, "I can't hear you." Jack replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

Sam shows up at a revival meeting seeking help. "I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the priest. The priest puts his finger on Sam's ear and prays and prays. When he's done he asks, "How is your hearing now?" "I don't know," says Sam, "I don't go to court until next Tuesday."



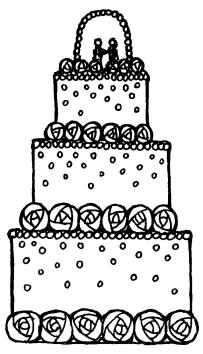
What did the detective in the Arctic say to the suspect? "Where were you on the night of September to March?"



It's September and two geese are chatting in a farmyard. One says to the other, "What do you do now that summer is over and you get lonely?" The other one replied, "Oh, I just have a gander around."

- What reads and lives in an apple? A bookworm.
- Why did they stop giving tests at the zoo? Because it was full of cheetahs.
- What do you call a pig that knows Karate? A Pork Chop.
- What is a cat's favourite dinner? Mice-cream.
- Why do tigers have stripes? So they don't get spotted.
- What did the triangle say to the circle? You're pointless

A gawky lad took her to a nearby amusement park. They had heard a lot about The Tunnel of Love and were especially anxious to try it out. But when they got home, the kids expressed disappointment. "Schucks," the boy said, "it was dark and damp and uncomfortable. Besides we got soaking wet." "How come?" asked a friend, "did the boat leak?" The lad looked amazed, "There's a boat?"



A dietician is lecturing an audience. "The food we eat is enough to have killed most of us years ago, vegetables are often sprayed with pesticides, and our drinking water is frequently polluted. However, there is one foodstuff far more dangerous than all of them combined. Who can tell me what it is?" There's a long pause, then a man in the front rows sticks his hand up and says," Wedding cake?"



Come and join Stratton Team Ministry for our Bumps and Babes group on Tuesdays.

Bumps & Babes is a place for expectant parents and parents with babies (up to one year old*) to meet and chat over a coffee – sharing in the experiences of pregnancy and the joys and challenges of the early months of parenthood.

Mats and toys are available for you to play with your babies, as well as time for a few songs!

We are joined by guests each a month to share with us about subjects from weaning to breastfeeding; faith to reusable nappies!

Register for your place now via the link or complete a form on arrival – we look forward to welcoming you!

When: Tuesdays 11.15-12.15

(term time only)

Where: St Margaret's Centre,

Kenwin Close, SN3 4NY

Cost: Free

Contact Us & Useful Links

Bumps and babes 9@gmail.com



www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore /kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/



Register for your place now https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7



Bumps and Babes St Margaret's Swindon

^{*}Bumps and Babes aims to provide a safe place for younger babies to explore, therefore the group is only open to babies up toa year old or until they are very mobile - you will be responsible for your child at all times. A babies and toddlers group runs in the St Margaret's Centre on a Wednesday and Friday where there are more age-appropriate toys for toddlers. Please contact us if you have a special request.



You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you





Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre

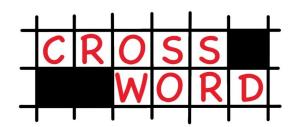


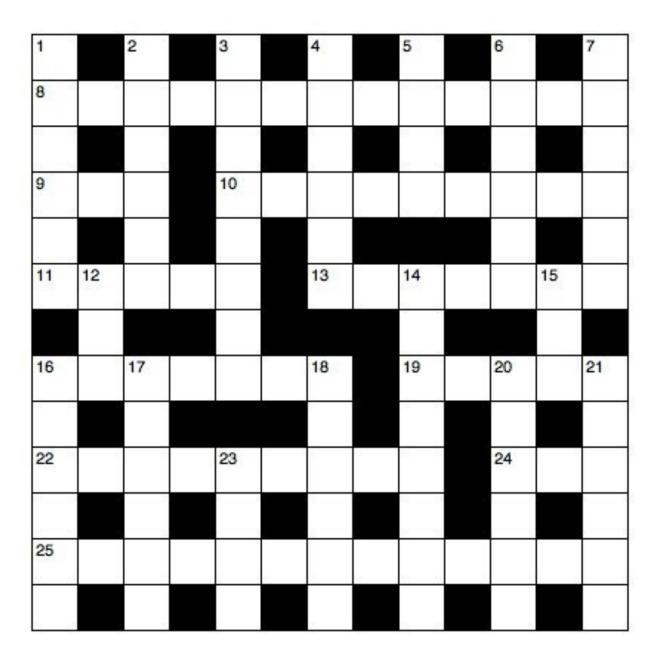


WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE









Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

Across

- 16 'Jesus bent down and to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under the ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS

ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675	
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821	
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daglish	07796 925621	
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398	
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com	
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446	
Centre Bookings	c/o Church Office	826505	
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006	
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England	822786	
Coleview	Church Office	826505	
Church Flowers	Richard Pfleger	828367	
Evening Fellowship Group	Anne Pope	07790 730 685	
	email eannepope@gmail	.com	
FWO Envelopes	Ray England	822786	
Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	724776	
Guide-Brownie Commissioner	Zoe Smith	831190	
Music Group	Rob South	822811	
Organists	Rob South	822811	
	Geoff Walters	822006	
Preschool	Hayley Woods, Superviso	or 07816 547752	
WI. Stratton St Margaret	Mrs Covell	829900	

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01793 832072
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Crossword Solutions

ACROSS:

8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, III at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN:

1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE for Articles and Information anytime before 15th September 2023

Georgina Martin: Church Office,

Tel: 826505 St Margaret's Centre

Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

Errors and omissions — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.