

Services

St Margaret's – all at 10am

1st Sunday – All Age Worship

2nd Sunday – CW Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – Informal Service

4th Sunday – CW Holy Communion

5th Sunday – CW Holy Communion with the Brass Band

Barming Village Hall

2nd & 4th Sunday – 10am - Engage & Praise

5th Sunday – 6pm – Café Church

St Peter & St Paul

1st Sunday – 11.30am – CW Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – 11.30am – CW Holy Communion

4th Sunday – 10.15am – Children's Church

5th Sunday – 11.30am – Family Service

Other Contacts

St Margaret's

Churchwarden - Kathleen Bartholomew – 01622 729 036

Choir – Sue Packer - susanscottparkinson@gmail.com / 01622 727209

St Peter & St Paul

Churchwarden - Sandra Corby – 01622 815218

Choir – Ros Hutchins - rosrhondda@talktalk.net

Deputy Wardens - Rick Collins & Tom McGlynn

Treasurer – John Goldsmith - jgoldsmith969@outlook.com

Safeguarding Officer - Emma Collins – emmastarks@yahoo.co.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Officer – Leah Gardener -

PCC Secretary – Sylvia Major - sylviahmajor@gmail.com



'Like' St Margaret's or St Peter & St Paul on Facebook,
and be kept up-to-date on events & discussions.

The Parish of Barming with Teston

NEWSLETTER

Issue: 0001

Welcome to our first newsletter! As a church and parish, we have identified several goals for 2024! One of those goals is to improve communication within the church family. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes in the parish, that unless you are on the relevant committee you might miss it! We have the E-notices where we try to keep everyone up to date, but we have now decided to trial a termly newsletter! The format and content may change as we experiment, so bear with us!

Our second goal is as a church to really press into the word of God. We live in a society with so many conflicting views and opinions, and like Pilate before Jesus, we can find ourselves asking 'What is Truth?' By deepening our knowledge of the bible, we can start to understand God's truth. That is why this year we are encouraging folk to read the entire bible in the year and is why the lent focus will be the bibles societies 'Bible Course'.

Our third goal is to reach out to the community better and grow the church family. To do this we are trialling several initiatives. There is our new morning service 'Engage and Praise' that meets in the village hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10am. The lent course will be duplicated, one in Barming (evening) and one in Teston (daytime). Going forward I would love to see a home group planted in Teston, but let's take things one step at a time.

The final way we are trying to reach out to the community, is that our road prayer initiative has now been extended to include the roads of Teston! This will be a great way to introducing ourselves to the residents of Teston, beyond the social events already in place.

'ENGAGE & PRAISE'

Our brand-new service, Engage & Praise, was launched on Sunday 14th January. A relaxed and informal service suitable for all ages.

We watched a video about Nehemiah, danced along to MC Hammer, got busy with a discussion, we coloured in, waved banners and flags during worship, and enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

If you would like to join us, come along to Barming Village Hall, Heath Rd, at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

For more details contact Felicity (Fliss) North
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Contact details

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Meet Bertie, our Curate

I believe I have met most people in the Barming and Teston congregations now, but despite being terrible with names I do recognise faces so please keep reminding me your names when we meet, and hopefully I will get the names and faces correctly attached in my brain by the end of my three-year curacy with you all.

I was ordained a Deacon at the end of September last year, in Rochester Cathedral, and as I'm working parttime I still feel pretty new to it all though have now been with you all for almost four months. I just looked up the word curate and the definitions include "a member of the clergy appointed to assist a parish priest", someone who "carefully chooses, arranges, and presents different items in order to get a particular effect" and "an assistant barman". I'm very much looking forward to the latter part of my training. If you want to know more about my current role I suggest you do an online image search for the following terms: "Dave Walker curate cartoon" and you will have a full pictorial job description (except the barman part, about which Mr Walker is curiously silent).

Here's some stuff about my life and if you want to know more, then I drink decaf tea or coffee without milk and my working days are Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

I grew up in Dorset, with my parents and older brother. I worked on an organic farm which, unbeknownst to me at the time, was good practice for my later calling to the Church, as it involved a lot of being on my knees, though this was on flinty soil, weeding around the tiniest of seedlings which we would later harvest for the farm shop and veg boxes. Sometime in my teens, two significant events were attending New Wine, where I experienced God for the first time, as being a real loving presence in my life rather than just something I knew, in my head, to be true. The other was my father losing his job and then sometime later getting employed at The Pilsdon Community in Dorset. I spent time there volunteering and it has given me a love of intentional Community life and a need for social justice.

I went to the University of Kent, in Canterbury to complete my degree where I learned about my lecturer's penchant for cats as they often turned up in his lectures/slide shows, and the joys of a good farce.

I joined Milites de Bec, a Norman re-enactment group and had a lot of fun travelling around the country performing as a spearman in many battles and

cooking authentically using a cauldron over an open fire. No baked potatoes in the embers though, as it was well before they'd been brought to this country.

On completing my last exam, I promptly moved out of student digs and into The Pilsdon at Malling Community in West Malling where I began as a volunteer and left as a Community Member after 4 years there. There was a wonderful sense of balance in the self-sufficient nature of the place where we grew, cooked and ate our own food, where we worked, celebrated, lived, laughed and prayed together. It was also very challenging as we shared our lives with people who had had so many difficulties in their lives and relationships and often hadn't had a model of how to live well and struggled with learning that it was possible after so much heartache and hardship.

During this time I met my now husband when I went to learn how to ride my motorbike (very much a God story for another time), and when I left the Pilsdon at Malling Community I began work at Ticehurst hospital - a psychiatric hospital which is part of The Priory (another God story) which then led on to my mental health nurse training.

Whilst doing this I lived in several guardianship properties which was a way to keep empty buildings secure from squatters but gave us cheap accommodation albeit with very short notice periods to move. I began in a fabulous farmhouse in Crowhurst, then a care home in Hawkhurst and then an ex-dementia hospital in Bobbing. Somewhere in the middle of this I completed my nurse training, married Woody, and moved to Linton.

In Linton I began seriously exploring the call to ministry (another long, God story) and that has culminated in my being in Barming and Teston, learning many more new things and preparing me for some kind of ministry in the future.

I am so happy in the Parish and feel so welcomed and loved already. It is such a blessing to be with you all in this stage of my life and journey so it just remains to thank you for all the help and kindnesses you have shown me thus far, and here's looking forward to the next lot of adventures together.

Bertie

Contact Details

(working days Thursday, Saturday & Sunday)

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