



## Open Gardens 14 June 2009

### St Margaret's Church



Welcome to St Margaret's. On our website are the words **"We aspire to be a worshipping and serving family church at the heart of our community"** and our displays today illustrate some of the activities taking place in the church and the Parish Rooms which, we hope, go towards fulfilling this aspiration.

Flowers in the porch and on the altar are arranged by members of the church flower team.

Photo boards are of the recent visit to Israel made by a group composed of members of several churches under the leadership of Rev Nigel Stowe and his wife Pauline.



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Below are brief notes about the rest of the displays.

Inside the church, starting clockwise from back left window.....



**Tygre Club** – Our Sunday school for young children, (Tygre Cubs is our creche for under 3s) meeting during Sunday morning service.

**Little Angels** –Weekly service for Under 5s and their Carers meeting in church with refreshments afterwards in the Sanctuary. Meets Mondays during term time at 1.45pm finishing in plenty of time to collect older children from school.





**Tuesday Walkers** – Informal village walking group which meets 9.45am Tuesdays outside the Village Hall for approx 1hr 30min walk in local countryside. We welcome them to The Sanctuary for coffee to round off the morning.

**X-Stream, G3, Donuts and Devotions** – X-Stream and G3 are church groups for our older children and young teens. Donuts and Devotions is an informal worship session on Saturday evening in The Sanctuary once every two months for all the family. As its name suggests it starts with donuts, fruit and drinks and is very un-churchy. Next meeting July 4.



**Alpha** – This 10 week course for anyone interested in exploring Christianity is run each autumn in The Sanctuary on Monday evenings. Sessions start with an excellent supper followed by a talk and discussion.



**Charities** - Each year St Margaret's supports several charities through a tithe (15%) of church income. Currently these are:

**World Vision** – we are a partner church for a project in Stepanavan, Armenia

**Lighthouse Hazlemere** – a Christian activity week for 4-10 year olds.

**Padstones** – local charity helping homeless single young people.

**Blythwood Care** – Christian charity providing relief and development aid. As a separate activity we also support the Shoebox appeal at Christmas.

**Vision 20:20** – global organisation dedicated to eradicating unnecessary blindness.



Windows either side of the altar are decorated with miniature plate gardens created by some of our younger church members.



**Tapestry** – Group meeting Friday afternoons in The Sanctuary, not just tapestry, anyone interested in needlecraft is welcome.

#### On the Font

**Baptism** – we are happy to have welcomed babies, children and adults into God's family this year. Baptisms are usually during Family Service 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of alternate months.



**Marriage** – 13 couples have chosen to celebrate their weddings at St Margaret's in 2009. We wish them all much happiness in their future lives together.



**Little Oaks** – Nursery Group meeting during the week in the Parish Rooms. We are delighted that they hold their Nativity service in St Margaret's at Christmas.

**Parents & Toddlers** – Meeting on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Rooms this very lively and friendly group is led by church members but open to all.



Entrance Desk



**Tuesday Coffee** – The Sanctuary is open 10am -12noon on Tuesday for coffee/tea and biscuits; a good place for a few minutes refreshment in a busy day.

Thank you for visiting St Margaret's, we hope you have enjoyed our displays. Please ask if you have questions about any of the activities. If you have not already seen the **Bible Garden** behind the church please do, it is a lovely place for quiet reflection.



Across the road is **The Sanctuary** where you will find tea and cake and an exhibition of some of the works produced by the Wednesday and Thursday morning **Art groups** before continuing on your tour of the Open Gardens finishing with more tea and cake at Tyler End.

Pictures courtesy Jack Bain except Art for which Reg Pusey and Tuesday Coffee Pauline Stowe

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