



St Margaret's Church



We're delighted to announce that Revd. Hannah Gordon, Rector of St. Margaret's Church, has been appointed Assistant Area Dean of Reigate Deanery. This new role involves supporting clergy and churches across the deanery, and we are truly grateful for Hannah's continued commitment, pastoral care and leadership. Please remember Hannah in your prayers as she takes on this additional responsibility.

Photograph James Rudoni www.rudonipho.com

Week Ahead

Tuesday 8th July

9.15am **Morning Prayer**

10:30am **Interment of Ashes**

8pm **PCC Meeting**

Wednesday 9th July

10am **Midweek Service** followed by refreshments

10am to 1pm **Parish Office Open**

Please do drop in for tea, coffee, cake and a chat.

Friday 11th July

9.30am to 11.15am

Maggies Song in the Orchard

FOODBANK DONATIONS TO:

Chipstead Food Bank Every Thursday at Chipstead Rugby Club from 11.30am to 1pm by the Meads St Margaret's Church, Wednesday between 10am and 1pm, or Sunday between 9am and 11.30am

Saturday 12th July



Sunday 13th July



Sunday, 6th July

We invite you to join us this Sunday with Revd. Hannah Gordon, Rector

9am **Morning Praise**

10:15am **Holy Communion**

There will be groups for children and youth which will run alongside the 10.15am service

Contact Us

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Apotropaic Marks and Graffiti in the Bell Tower

Dendochronology Analysis: Part Two

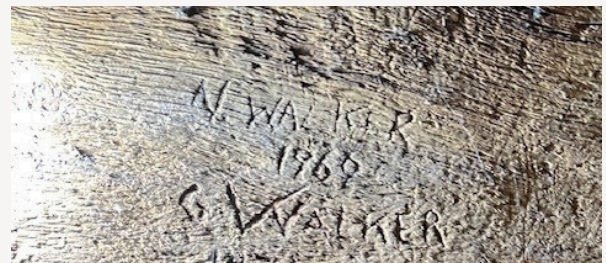
During Dr. Andy Muir's analysis, we uncovered several fascinating features hidden in the timber. Among the most intriguing were witch marks—also known as apotropaic marks—symbols traditionally inscribed into buildings, particularly churches, to ward off evil spirits. These protective markings were typically placed near entrances, windows, and other vulnerable points, where they were believed to trap or deter malevolent forces. While commonly referred to as "witch marks," the more accurate term would be anti-witch marks or ritual protection symbols.



These marks appear throughout churches and historic buildings across Europe. Although once thought to be teaching tools used by master masons to demonstrate geometric principles, recent research suggests otherwise: the compasses used by masons would have been far too large to produce most of the hexfoils we see today (ref: Crystal Hollis, St. Joan of Arc Chapel).



Andy, a dendrochronologist, identified several examples of a specific type of mark known as daisy wheels—a geometric motif believed to offer spiritual protection. Remarkably, he found an unusually dense cluster of these symbols carved into a single beam—something he had never encountered in all his years of work, making this discovery particularly rare and significant. Their presence suggests a heightened concern for supernatural protection at the time the structure was built. There are various forms of apotropaic (protective or “anti-evil”) graffiti, but the most common is the hexfoil, also known as the daisy wheel—a pattern of overlapping concentric circles.



Famous buildings with Daisy Wheels include Lincoln Cathedral, Shakespeare's Birthplace, and Byland Abbey. The study of graffiti in churches also offers a fascinating window into the beliefs, fears, and daily lives of past communities. Far from being mere vandalism, much of this graffiti... including names, symbols, prayers, and protective marks... was intentionally inscribed as acts of devotion, remembrance, or spiritual safeguarding. Researchers now recognize these markings as valuable historical records, shedding light on popular religious practices and personal expressions often absent from official church documents.



In Conversation with Politics: Join Us!

Join us for a Q&A

Rebecca Paul MP and Claire Coutinho MP (tbc)

St. Margaret's Church, Chipstead 20th July at 10am

To celebrate the feast of St Margaret of Antioch this year we will be hosting our local MPs in a Q&A session discovering the joys and challenges of their roles, their hopes for this area and asking how the Church can support them and the local community.

