

St Margarets, Margaretting

New On-line service

St Margarets still has its doors shut- yet the 'church' is still open for business. Of course that rather depends what you mean by 'church'. The word 'church' (*ecclesia* in Latin) originally referred to a group of people who were followers of *The Way* – trying to live life with reference to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, meeting in secret in people's homes. When the Roman Empire became Christian in the 3rd century AD, church buildings were built; Christianity arrived soon after in the British Isles. There was probably some sort of church building in Margaretting in Roman times and the wall near the porch has some of those Roman bricks set in. In these pandemic times it looks rather like we have reverted back to the earliest model of church, except we can be connected by new technology.

Some of us have been joining the on-line community of people in Ingatestone and elsewhere for Sunday services. We don't expect to be allowed to have normal church services at Margaretting for a while, so we are going to have a short on-line service beamed from Margaretting church on *Youtube*, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We'll be sending round a link by email link; you can also pick this up by an on-line search for 'Margaretting Church service' and the church's website. The first on-line service will be on 5th July; it can be seen any time of the day from then.

Timothy Lee, Lay Minister