

Alfred Wood's 80th anniversary of his first visit to St Margaret's

Alfred Wood remembers his first visit to St Margaret's which was on Sunday 18 October exactly 80 years ago, in 1940. when he was 20 years old. It was during the war in 1940 and Alfred came to Evening Prayer with his gas mask in a cardboard box. The service was held in the crypt because of the war when blackout restrictions meant that you were only allowed to have lights on where they could not be seen, for example, below ground level. Alfred came because Christchurch in Lee Park had suffered two direct hits in one week, one at the east end and one at the west end, and that's where he had been worshipping before for about a year. After a week or so, Alfred and other members of the congregation went to Christchurch to see if they could recover anything. Sections of the choir stalls were brought to St. Margaret's and adapted for use as communion rails in the crypt chapel, by a member of the congregation. This was in use until the 1950s. Alfred was specifically involved in bringing the silver-plated processional cross to St. Margaret's.

