

# St. Margaret's

LOWESTOFT



Pentecost - Sunday 19th May 2024

## 'The Spire'

May 2024



Thank you for helping to support the production cost of the magazine  
and the outreach work of St. Margaret's Church



# MAY 2024 DIARY

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

- 12pm Midday Prayer – In Church
- 2pm Mothers' Union – In the Church Centre (Small Hall)
- 6.30pm PCC Meeting starting with Holy Communion – In Church Centre

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

- 12pm Holy Communion Service - In Church
- 12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 4pm)
- 6pm Choir Practice - In Church

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

- 10am Sung Eucharist
- 2pm Burial of Ashes
- 6pm NO EVENING SERVICE

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday)

- 10am Bible Study Group meeting – In the Church Centre (Lounge)

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

- 2pm Busy Fingers meeting

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

- 12pm Midday Prayer – In Church

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day

- 12pm Ascension Day Service - In Church

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

- 12pm Holy Communion Service - In Church
- 12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 4pm)
- 6pm Choir Practice - In Church

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

- 10am Sung Eucharist
- 6pm Choral Evensong

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

- 10am Bible Study Group meeting – In the Church Centre (Lounge)
- 12pm Midday Prayer - In Church
- 6pm Bell ringing practice - In Church

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

2pm Busy Fingers meeting

## **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

12pm Midday Prayer - In Church

## **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

12pm Holy Communion Service - In Church

12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 4pm)

6pm Choir Practice - In Church

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Pentecost Sunday**

10am Sung Eucharist

6pm Holy Communion

## **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

10am Bible Study Group meeting – In the Church Centre (Lounge)

12pm Midday Prayer - In Church

6pm Bell ringing practice - In Church

## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

2pm Busy Fingers meeting

## **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

12pm Midday Prayer - In Church

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

12pm Holy Communion Service - In Church

12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 4pm)

1:15 – 2pm Coffee Concert: Marie Long (Piano) – In Church

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Trinity Sunday**

10am Sung Eucharist

6pm Sung Evensong

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

5.30pm Silent Prayer - In Church

## **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

12pm Holy Communion Service - In Church

12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 4pm)

6pm Choir Practice - In Church

## Rector's Ramblings

In May this year we come to the end of the Easter season, with Ascension Day 40 days after Easter when we celebrate Jesus returning to heaven. During these 40 days we have been enjoying being reminded of the times Jesus appeared to his disciples and friends in a way of encouraging them and preparing them for Pentecost 50 days after Easter. We know it as the day the Holy Spirit, the comforter, filled the hearts and minds of the first Christians. In Israel at that time, Pentecost was a harvest festival, but again a celebration of God's love and abundance.

Each year as we think about Pentecost, I marvel at the difference the Holy Spirit made to those first Christians. We read in the second chapter of the book of Acts how the small group were gathered in an upper room with the door locked as they were afraid. After they were filled with God's Holy Spirit they became emboldened to go out and proclaim the love of God and the hope that believing in Jesus gives to us all.

The Baptism service is a reminder to each of us that it is the Holy Spirit that gives life to the people of God i.e. us.

So please join with me in the celebration that as we follow the will of God, we are not alone but filled with God's spirit to help us and encourage us.

**Simon**



# View from the doghouse

It has been said that the Holy Spirit does not dwell in animals, but I want to dispute this! Not only does it say in St John's Gospel chapter 3 verse 16 that God so loved the **world**, and in Greek world is cosmos, which means **everything that God created**, but also, when I hear St Paul talking about the fruit of the spirit in his letter to the Galatians, I actually think that I embody it! He's actually describing me! Let me explain. In Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23 it says:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.*

So I think each one of those describes me perfectly;

**Love:** I just love everyone, especially if they have biscuits! and I think everyone seems to love me,

**Joy:** I bring joy especially to the boss and show my joy by wagging my tail.

**Peace:** I think stroking me brings peace to all and I can just curl up and bring peace to an entire room.

**Patience and kindness:** I spend my life having to be patient and kind to the boss and of course the children who climb all over me!

**Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control:** well all of these go without saying. I wonder if guide dogs have ever thought about using these passages as our instructions!

I wonder how you get on with this list.

By the way, thank you to everyone who came and said hello to me at the Guide Dogs fundraising bake sale – an extra thank you if you bought some cake!

Enjoy living up to St Pauls encouragement.

**Mayne**



## Church Yard Update

It was good to see the PayBack team busy cutting the grass at St Margaret's. We were also pleased to see Arthur briefly at Bible Study, while on a visit to Lowestoft, and were reminded of all the volunteer workers in the past including Ray, Tom, John, Dave, Paul McDonough, Arthur, Michael and Joe Asquith.



Our magazine this month has excerpts from our records about our links with the Linnean Society - the world's oldest active biological Society and the location, in our church yard, of the grave of their founder and first President, Sir James Edward Smith MD FRS.

**J. Tucker**

Opportunities to talk to others about God or the Church can come at unexpected times! We need to learn to recognise and use them!

I got into a taxi one day in the middle of February and the driver recognised me. "Why are you going to church on a Wednesday?" he asked. I told him that it was a special day known as Ash Wednesday. Somewhat to my surprise he said "Oh, that is Lent, isn't it? What are you giving up?"

I explained that, while sometimes we do give up something for Lent, sometimes we decide to do something extra instead.

Sounding genuinely interested, he said, "What a good idea! I might do that" By that time we had arrived at the Church car park so I couldn't continue the conversation.

I wondered afterwards whether he had decided on something to do for Lent, but I shall probably never know! God gives us opportunities, but often He doesn't tell us the next part! That doesn't matter. What does matter is that we try to say the right thing at the right time - and leave the rest to God!

Gerda



CAROLEAN  
CHORUS

# QUEEN OF THE GARDEN

A floral-themed concert

Music Director JUSTIN BINDLEY  
Piano KAREN SMITH

Works include  
THE SPRIG OF THYME by RUTTER  
and pieces by  
GILBERT & SULLIVAN, IVOR NOVELLO  
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

TICKETS  
**£10**

including free programme and refreshments

available from  
[caroleanchorus@gmail.com](mailto:caroleanchorus@gmail.com)  
and

The Church & Church Office  
01502 561973

[office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk](mailto:office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk)  
(CASH SALES ONLY)

AND  
ON THE  
DOOR

7pm Saturday 1 June 2024

St Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft, NR32 4BW





## Report by Mary Carr - May 2024

Owing to illness and other problems we had a less than normal attendance for our April meeting at which it was planned to hold a 'Lady Day' Service. In the recent past, when there were more branches in the area this would be held in the Church and banners paraded. However, this would probably not be allowed now with health and Safety rules.



**Lady Day** - the Feast of the Annunciation falls on 25th March and for many years has been a significant date for Mothers' Union members - recognised as a great day of intercession and thanksgiving. In fact it was as far back as 1895 that the idea to celebrate Lady Day was first suggested to the Annual Committee of Presidents and by 1909 was universally observed by M.U. If it falls in Holy week we usually wait to celebrate it after Easter so we decided to incorporate at our April meeting. Instead of the bespoke order of service that we did in the past we followed a format of hymns and readings supplied by Mary Sumner House. During the service there was a time of reflection and discussion on why did God choose Mary, a very ordinary girl from a small village? In fact to illustrate this we looked back at 300 years in our own country when many people would be involved in farming. Some would own farms, but many more would earn a living by working on local farms. Even the children would be involved at Harvest time. Lady Day is also a quarter day and was the day when farmers would hire their workers for the following year. Labourers would gather in the market place and the farmers would pick the strongest and most experienced - if you were not chosen for a job your family might well starve.

What this aimed to illustrate was that God does not pick people for their importance, strength or experience and often chooses the most unexpected people to do his work, just as he did Mary and just as he could do for any of us today. Following the service notices were given out and John brought a letter received from our link branch in Australia in which they spoke of their forthcoming Lady Day Service to be held in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. We then had hymns and a reading to celebrate Easter and the meeting concluded with refreshments.

At the time of writing I am waiting for confirmation of a date when our president will be visiting St Margaret's to finalize details of the 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition. This could be our meeting day so we cannot make any definite arrangements yet. On **Thursday 2nd May** we have an invite to Bradwell when the Bishop of Thetford will be speaking at their meeting, June to be arranged.







# **ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH LOWESTOFT**

## **2024 COFFEE CONCERTS**

**Friday 22nd March - John Farmer (Piano)**

**Friday 26th April - Evan Ruth & Tanya Kirk**

**Friday 24th May - Marie Long (Piano)**

**Friday 28th June - Kirkley Trio**

**Saturday July 20th at 2.30pm - Shanty Men  
(with Tea & Cake)**

**Friday 26th July - Jonathan Williams (Organ)**

**Friday 23rd August - Rachel Cannon (Clarinet)  
& Karen Smith (Piano)**

**Friday 6th September - Steven Kirk (Organ)**

**Friday 13th September - Tootie Flooties**

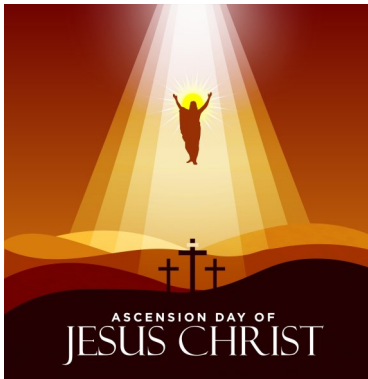
**Friday 27th Sept - St. Peter's Carlton Colville  
Handbell Ringers**

**Friday 25th October - Evan Ruth & Tanya Kirk**

**Friday 22nd November - Katalin Prentice**

*Come along & enjoy listening to these talented  
musicians. Refreshments before & after wards.*

*We look forward to welcoming you there.*



# ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday 9th May at 12pm

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU THERE!

We hope you enjoyed reading these articles,

If you did, why not pick up

your full copy of May's edition of 'The Spire'

and enjoy reading more articles.

Our church magazine is available from

St. Margaret's Church, for only £1.

**Happy Reading!**



FOR CHURCH LIFE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk)

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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