

Your guide to this week:

Morning & Evening Prayer are said in our own homes.

Monday 4th December

10am: Bible Study Group (Church Centre Lounge)

12pm: Midday Prayer for Advent - In Church

6pm: Bellringing Practise

Tuesday 5th December

2pm - 4pm: Busy Fingers

Wednesday 6th December

12pm: Midday Prayer for Advent – In Church

2pm: Mothers' Union (Church Centre Small Hall)

Friday 7th December

12noon: Holy Communion

12.30pm: Church is open for visitors (until 2.30pm)

6pm: Choir Practice

Christmas Eve Helpers Needed!

Christingle & Midnight Services

If you think you can help in some way then please speak with Simon, Pam, Roy or Kathryn. Thank you!



Christingle Making

St. Margaret's Church Centre

Saturday 23rd December at 10am

If you can come along and help with making the Christingles your help would be greatly appreciated.

Festive Dates for the Diary

Festive Food & Carol Evening - 12th Dec at 7pm (Centre)

Christmas Carol Service - 17th Dec at 6pm

Christmas Eve - Crib & Christingle at 4pm

Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day - Family Communion 10am

6th Jan - Epiphany Pantomime 3pm (Church Centre)



Christmas Carols & Songs Evening

Tuesday 12th December at 7pm

St. Margaret's Church Centre

Don't forget to sign the sheet at the back of church or church centre if you'd like to come along.

Rota Volunteers Needed

Readers, Intercessors, Sidespeople & Coffee Helpers

If you feel called to help during a service with readings or prayers, or by welcoming people, or possibly afterwards helping the 'Coffee Crew' team (who do a fabulous job warming us up again after a service with a lovely cuppa!) ... please do let us know!

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Revd. Canon Simon Stokes
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Office: Kathryn Williams
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Tues & Wed 9am - 3.30pm & Fri 8.30am - 5pm

03/12/23

Welcome to

St. Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft



Sunday 3rd December 2023 Advent Sunday

10.00am Sung Eucharist with Advent Hymns

Presiding: Canon Simon
Preaching: Canon Simon
Deacon: Gerda
Readers: Revd. Jim & Kathryn
Readings: Isaiah 64: 1 - 9
1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9
Mark 13: 24 - 37

Intercessor: Gerda

Introit (*Choir*): Advent Wreath Prayer 1 (Archer)
Hymns: 45, 42, 30 & 41
Gradual (*Choir*): A Tender Shoot (Goldschmidt)
Anthem (*Choir*): Let All Mortal Flesh (Cleobury)

Tea & coffee are served in the Church Centre following the service. Why not come and join us?

Services for Sunday 10th December 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Presiding: Canon Simon
Preaching: Gerda
Deacon: Sarah
Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Mark 1: 1-8

Readers: Gill & Sarah
Intercessor: Pam

6pm Sung Evensong

Leading & Preaching: Canon Simon
Readings: 1 Kings 22: 1-28
Romans 15: 4-13
Reader: Sheila

If you are visiting us today, you are very welcome. Please ask the sidespersons at the back table for any help. If you wish to make an offering, the gift bowl is near the back of the church, together with a card-reader.

TOILETS are in the centre – if you need them during the service, the key is available from the back table.

Lectionary Readings & Prayers for this Sunday

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64: 1 - 9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13: 24 - 37

Jesus said to his disciples. 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth

its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Collect (Prayer of the Week)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Advent 1 – Lighting of the Candle: Responses

Come Christ Jesus.

Awaken our hope.

The candle is lit.

Come, Christ Jesus.

Awaken our hope. Let it rise and shine and live. Amen.



Midday Prayer for Advent

St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft

Mondays & Wednesdays 12noon

The church will be open for midday prayer

Lowestoft Foodbank

Please leave any donations for the foodbank at the back of the church. Thank you for your kind generosity.