

Your guide to this week:

Morning & Evening Prayer are said in our own homes.

Monday 18th December

9am-12pm School Carol Service - In Church
12pm: Midday Prayer for Advent - In Church
1.15pm Funeral - Mary Gill

Tuesday 19th December

9am-12pm School Carol Service - In Church

Wednesday 20th December

9am-12pm School Carol Service - In Church
12pm: Midday Prayer for Advent - In Church

Friday 22nd December

12 – 2pm F.I.S.H. in the Church Centre
12noon: Holy Communion
12.30pm: Church is open for visitors (until 2.30pm)
6pm: Choir Practice

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

10am: Sung Eucharist
4pm: Christingle - In Church
11.30pm Midnight Mass – In Church

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am: Informal Family Communion Service

Brass Cleaning - Volunteers Needed

Wednesday 20th December

In church, after the Wednesday Midday Service

Christingle Making (Church Centre)

Saturday 23rd Dec at 10am

Volunteers needed with helping to make the Christingles



Tea & Cake at the Rectory

1st January 2024

Open Rectory between 3pm - 5pm

Please feel free to pop in for a cuppa, cake & a chat.
We look forward to seeing you.



Confirmation Classes

If you're interested in being confirmed, then please speak with Simon for further information.

Epiphany Pantomime

Saturday 6th Jan - 3pm (Church Centre)

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.
TICKETS ARE FREE, BUT YOU'LL NEED A TICKET FOR ADMISSION TO THE PANTO.
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY WELCOMED ON THE DAY.

Advance Notice - PCC Meeting

Please note, January's PCC Meeting has now moved to Wednesday 10th January at 7pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Revd. Canon Simon Stokes
simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk
01502 573046 or 07771 520085

Office: Kathryn Williams
01502 561973
office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk
Tues & Wed 9am - 3.30pm & Fri 8.30am - 5pm

17/12/23

Welcome to

St. Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft



Sunday 17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Presiding: Canon Simon
Preaching: Revd. Jim
Deacon: Gill
Readers: Helen & Val
Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Intercessor: Sue
Hymns: 39, 609, 37, 247 & 394
Anthem: This is the truth sent from above
(Vaughan Williams)

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

6pm Christmas Carol Service



Mulled Wine (non-alcoholic) & Mince Pies will be served afterwards



Services for Sunday 24th December 2023 Christmas Eve

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

4pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Mass

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. Large-print pew sheets, service sheets & hymn books are available.

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

If you have any donations for the Foodbank, please leave these at the back of the church.

With grateful thanks.

Lectionary Readings & Prayers for this Sunday

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the

wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Collect (Prayer of the Week)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Advent 3 – Lighting of the Candle: Responses

Come Christ Jesus.

Awaken our joy.

The candle is lit.

Come, Christ Jesus.

Awaken our joy. 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

This week's pew sheet is sponsored by Sheila Hancock

Remembering the birthdays of both

David Hancock

Revd. Tom Hawthorne MBE

on the 16th of December

