

## Your guide to this week:

Morning & Evening Prayer are said in our own homes.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10am Informal Family Communion - In Church

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December

No Silent Prayer Group

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December

12noon: Holy Communion

12.30pm: Church is open for visitors (until 2.30pm)  
No Choir Practice today

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

10am: Sung Eucharist Service

### Silent Prayer – Church Centre

Please note, the Silent Prayer group will meet on

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 5.30pm,**  
instead of 27<sup>th</sup> December

### Tea & Cake at the Rectory 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### Lowestoft Food Bank

If you have brought any donations for the  
Foodbank, please leave them in the labelled box  
at the back of the church. Thank you.

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### 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

24/12/23

## Welcome to

# St. Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft



## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

### 10am Sung Eucharist

Presiding: Revd. Geoff  
Preaching: Revd. Geoff  
Deacon: Gerda  
Readers: Samuel & Jennifer T  
Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38  
Intercessor: Revd. Pauline  
Hymns: 315, 47, 75, 85 & 45  
Anthem: Author of life divine - McDowell

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

4pm

### Christingle



11.30pm

### Midnight Mass



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## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Christmas Day

10am Informal Family Holy Communion

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## Service for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Readings: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:15-21

### No Evening Service

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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.*

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## **Lectionary Readings & Prayers for this Sunday**

### **Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The

Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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### **Collect (Prayer of the Week)**

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, for whom we wait,  
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:  
keep us ever watchful,  
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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### **Advent 4 – Lighting of the Candle: Responses**

Come Christ Jesus.  
**Awaken our love.**

*The candle is lit.*

Come, Christ Jesus.  
**Awaken our love. Let it rise and shine and live.  
Amen.**

