

## Your guide to this week:

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

10am Bible Study in Church Centre Lounge  
12pm Midday Prayer in Church  
6pm Bellringing Practise in Church

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

2pm Busy Fingers

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

12pm Midday Prayer in Church  
5.30pm Silent Prayer in Church Centre Lounge

### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

12noon Holy Communion in Church  
12.30pm Church is open for visitors (until 2.30pm)  
6pm Choir Practice in Church

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February

10am Sung Eucharist  
6pm No Evening Service

### Sunday Pew Sheets

If you would like to sponsor the pew sheet there are forms at the back of Church & in the Church Centre (on noticeboard next to office)

Just complete & post with your donation through the office door or hand to Kathryn. Details on the form. Many thanks.

### 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. With grateful thanks!

Food in urgent need of:

Rice Pudding, Custard, UHT Milk, Pasta,  
Tinned Fruit, Baked Beans, Tinned Meat, Chocolate Bars & Biscuits.

### Going digital – QR Codes

Keep up to date with church life & events by scanning this QR code to visit our website [www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk).



## CONTACT DETAILS

**Rector:** Revd. Canon Simon Stokes  
[simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk](mailto:simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk)  
01502 573046 or 07771 520085

**Office:** Kathryn Williams  
01502 561973  
[office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk](mailto:office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk)  
Tues & Wed 9am - 3.30pm & Fri 8.30am - 5pm

28/01/24

## Welcome to

# St. Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft



## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Presentation of Christ

#### 10am Sung Eucharist

Presiding: Canon Simon  
Preaching: Canon Simon  
Deacon: Gill  
Readers: Sue & Caroline  
Readings: Malachi 3:1-5  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40  
Intercessor: Revd. Pauline  
Hymns: 736, 396, 702, 113 (v. 1-6 & 13) & 719  
Anthem: Christ as a light (Rizza)

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

#### 6pm Sung Evensong

Leading & Preaching: Canon Simon  
Reader: Pam  
Reading: Exodus 13:1-16  
Romans 12:1-5  
Hymns: 698, 34, 721  
Psalm: 48  
Anthem: Christ as a light (Rizza)

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## Services for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

#### 10.00am Sung Eucharist

#### 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: *Malachi 3:1-5***

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

### **New Testament Reading: *Hebrews 2:14-18***

Since, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### **Gospel Reading: *Luke 2: 22-40***

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been

revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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