

## Your guide to this week:

Morning & Evening Prayer are said in our own homes.

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

3pm – 5pm **Open house at the Rectory for tea & cake**  
**NO** Bible Study (Resumes 8<sup>th</sup> January)  
**NO** Midday Prayer (Resumes 15<sup>th</sup> January)  
**NO** Bellringing Practise (Resumes 8<sup>th</sup> January)

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**NO** Busy Fingers (Resumes 9<sup>th</sup> January)

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

11am Funeral of Norman Garrod  
5.30pm Silent Prayer – Church Centre

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

10.15am Funeral of Irene Louise Cushion  
12noon: Holy Communion  
12.30pm: Church open for visitors (until 2.30pm)  
6pm: Choir Practice

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

3pm Epiphany Pantomime - Don't forget your ticket!  
Donations gratefully received on the day.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10am: Sung Eucharist

### Silent Prayer – Church Centre

Please note, the Silent Prayer group will meet on  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 5.30pm**

### 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 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

31/12/23

Welcome to

St. Margaret's Church

Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft



**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

### 10am Sung Eucharist

Presiding: Revd. Jim  
Preaching: Revd. Jim  
Deacon: Gill

Readers: Pam & Kathryn  
Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:15-21

Intercessor: Revd. Geoff

Carols: 25, 23, 3, 14 & 12 (on the carol sheet)  
Anthem: In the Bleak Midwinter – Darke

### No Evening Service

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

\*\*\*

### Service for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Baptism of Christ

### 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Readings: Genesis 1: 1-5  
Acts 19: 1-7  
Mark 1: 4-11

### No Evening Service

\*\*\*

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.*

\*\*\*

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

### **Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 61:10- 62:3***

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **New Testament Reading: *Galatians 4:4-7***

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### **Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:15-21***

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

\*\*\*

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

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*\*\*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth  
the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*\*\*



## **Lowestoft Foodbank**

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

Most needed items: Rice, Pasta, Tinned Fruit, Tinned  
Vegetables Tinned Meat, Cereal, Tinned Tomatoes,  
UHT Milk, Coffee, Biscuits & Teabags.

Thank you for your generosity.