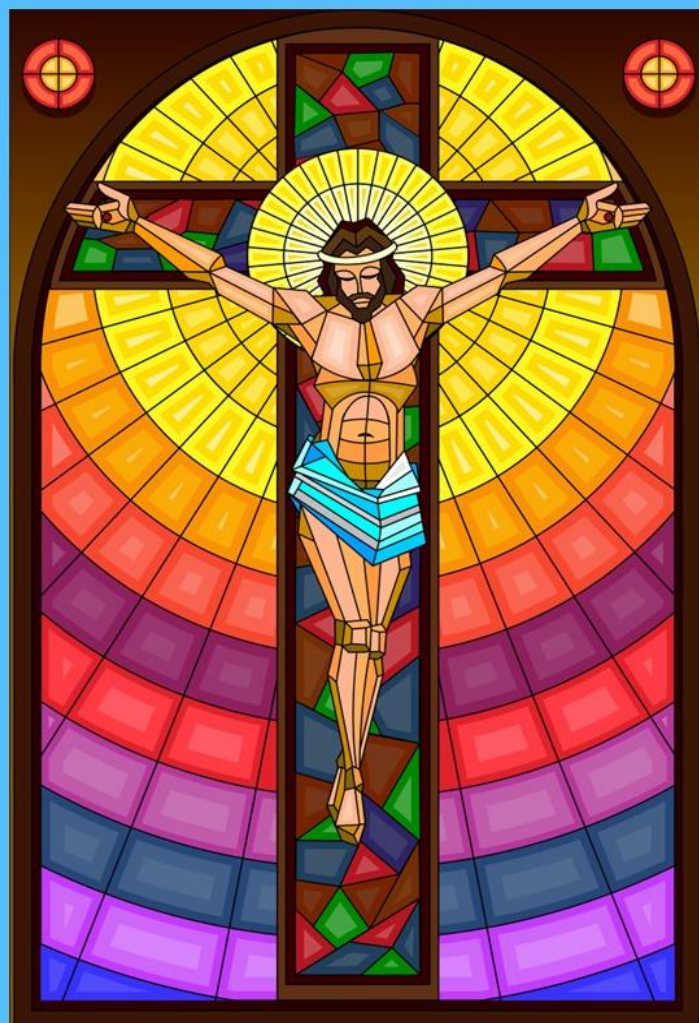


St. Margaret's

LOWESTOFT



'The Spire'

March 2024



Thank you for helping to support the production cost of the magazine
and the outreach work of St. Margaret's Church



MARCH 2024 DIARY

Friday 1st March

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

Sunday 3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 10am Sung Eucharist
- 11:45am Baptism of Luca Newman
- 3:00pm Baptism of Lexi-Marie and Harvey King
- 6pm NO EVENING SERVICE

Monday 4th March

- 10am Lent Group in Church Centre Lounge – God on Mute
- 11.30am Lunchtime Prayer in Church Centre Lounge
- 12pm Lent Lunch – Soup & Bread in Church Centre
- 6pm Bell ringing practice in Church

Tuesday 5th March

- 2pm Busy Fingers meeting

Wednesday 6th March

- 12noon Midday Prayer in Church
- 2pm Mothers' Union in Church Centre Small Hall
- 7pm Lent Group at the Rectory – God on Mute

Thursday 7th March

- 7pm PCC Meeting in Church Centre

Friday 8th March

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

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday

10am Morning Worship and Parade service
6pm Choral Evensong

Monday 11th March

10am Lent Group in Church Centre Lounge – God on Mute
11.30am Lunchtime Prayer in Church Centre Lounge
12pm Lent Lunch – Soup & Bread in Church Centre
6pm Bell ringing practice in Church

Tuesday 12th March

2pm Busy Fingers meeting

Wednesday 13th March

12noon Midday Prayer in Church
7pm Lent Group at the Rectory – God on Mute

Friday 15th March

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

Sunday 17th March – 5th Sunday in Lent

10am Sung Eucharist
11:45am Baptism of Rhia Pitcher
6pm Holy Communion

Monday 18th March

10am Lent Group in Church Centre Lounge – God on Mute
11.30am Lunchtime Prayer in Church Centre Lounge
12pm Lent Lunch – Soup & Bread in Church Centre
6pm Bell ringing practice in Church

Tuesday 19th March

2pm Busy Fingers meeting

Wednesday 20th March

12noon Midday Prayer in Church
7pm Lent Group at the Rectory – God on Mute

Friday 22nd March

12noon Holy Communion Service in Church
12.30pm Church open for visitors (until 2.30pm)
1:15 – 2pm Coffee Concert – John Farmer (piano)
6pm Choir Practice in Church

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist
6pm Sung Evensong

Monday 25th March

12noon Midday Prayer in Church
7.00pm Compline with stations of the cross – Church centre

Tuesday 26th March

7.00pm Compline with stations of the cross – Church centre

Wednesday 27th March

12noon Midday Prayer in Church
5.30pm Silent Prayer in Church Centre Lounge
7.00pm Compline with stations of the cross – Church centre

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Holy communion in church

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

12pm - 3pm Good Friday Service (split into 3 one-hour sessions)

Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday

Summertime begins – Clocks go forward one hour

10am Easter Morning celebration

VIEWPOINT

Welcome to our magazine for March, focused on Easter. As I write this article we are only at the beginning of the Lenten journey and so still have much of that journey left before us until we reach the high point of Easter.

In Luke's gospel chapter 9 verses 51-53 we read

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

In a way, writing about Easter at this point brings an element of danger that we may miss the importance of the journey through Lent with its opportunity to pause, reflect and once again prepare ourselves for the dramatic accounts of Holy week starting with Palm Sunday and finishing with the empty tomb.

As I ponder on this journey my thoughts are taken back to what is one of my special places in the world. I have been fortunate enough to visit Jerusalem twice and on both occasions one of the most powerful places of the visit was a church known as Dominus Flevit (meaning 'the Lord wept'). It is on the top of the hill overlooking the city of Jerusalem and marks the place where, on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he wept over the city. Luke chapter 19:41 records, *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he **wept** over it.*

Standing outside the small church affords the most amazing view of the whole of Jerusalem with a cacophony of sound rising from that city, all of which creates a tangible feel of God's love for not only this city but for us all. Within the city today Muslims Jews and Christians all clamour for the same space as we are reminded of God's love for the whole world. John chapter 3 reminds us that God gave his only son in love for the whole world.

So as we journey together through Lent heading for the celebration of God loving us so much that Jesus died and rose again for us, where is your special place and how does this help you to remember not only God and his love for us but also his love for others. How can we reflect that love in our service to others?

Simon

Rector's ramblings

Each morning as I wander along our wonderful coast, I ponder on that line from the Lord's prayer *Your kingdom come your will be done*, and how we endeavour to acknowledge God's rule in our lives as we try to follow his will. I have often pictured God holding my hand and walking alongside me, guiding and encouraging, I guess a bit like those walking to Emmaus in Luke's gospel chapter 24.

As I pondered this further walking with Mayne on the harness there were certain analogies with God walking alongside guiding and leading. The difference of course is that Mayne does make mistakes and sometimes he is more interested in food than in what we are doing, but generally I have to put my whole trust in him to ensure my safe journey and my successful arrival to where I am going. He guides me around obstacles and dangers and from time to time has to take avoiding action when things crop up. He is also very good at keeping calm in stressful situations, whether that is to do with road conditions or even aggressive dogs or people. As well as being outstanding in his guiding he brings a sense of comfort and companionship and is loving and non-judgmental. The 23rd psalm reminds us that when we follow the good shepherd we will lack nothing and that he guides us bodily and spiritually to all we need to sustain us and encourage us.

It is good for us to reflect on how we can ensure that we are following God's will rather than our own.

Simon

Lent Course

'God on Mute'



Starting on:

Monday 19th Feb - 10am Church Centre

Wednesday 21st Feb - 7pm Rectory

5 Week Course on:

Mondays - 10am in the Church Centre
& Wednesdays - 7pm at the Rectory

We look forward to welcoming you there

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



View from the doghouse

I wonder how your Lent is going. You might know that most mornings the boss, Hope and I have an early morning walk to the beach, we have a well-rehearsed route and for the most part both Hope and I enjoy it, unless its raining of course! Well just the other day I am not sure what happened, but I had one of those moments, I do hope others have these too, but how come you can be walking a familiar route and just forget what you are doing and switch onto another day/route/time!

Well what happened was that when we got to the wall we walked along the beach enjoying the wind and the waves. Hope of course was running free and yes I was on the harness, but nevertheless it was a lovely walk. When we got to the end of the wall, instead of turning up the beach for some reason I forgot, I know occasionally the boss and Christine take us up to the coffee hut at Corton, and for some reason I locked onto this memory! Well after a while the boss kept asking 'are we going the right way'? In fact the words he used were 'find home'. I am not sure why he was asking this or giving that instruction because what he needed was a coffee and that was where we were going, of course the possibility of a biscuit might have been in my head. Anyway eventually the boss stopped someone coming towards us and asked where he was and for some help. He also rang a member of the family for help on a video call. Oh dear how embarrassing, it still took me a while to realise I had gone wrong. Its really hard when we think we are doing a good job to discover we are wrong and then have to deal with the guilt.

Fortunately, the boss was quite understanding and I did point out that it gave him a few more steps on that day.

It is good to know that even when we make mistakes we are still loved and valued, I do have to keep reminding the boss of that!

Mayne



'Sleeping'

By Jennifer Dyer (2014)

Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild
Look on me a little child
When I'm frightened you are there
Keeping me in your sacred care

When the dawn begins to break
It is then when I awake
Huddled in my bed from sleep
Knowing that the angels keep
Watch o'er us as we are resting
Knowing that we have his blessing.

Up above in the sky at night
The stars are there just shining bright
Knowing that they light the way
To a fresh and lovely day

When we are refreshed from sleep
The hours just seem to quickly creep
By until another night
Quickly creeps back into sight.

Now we sleep once more at night
The angels keep me in their sight
An awesome aroma of flowers I can smell
Eventually with the Lord I will dwell.

* * *

This month's Walk - by Malcolm Howes

'Guntton Walk'

This month's walk 'in some damp conditions.!'

About 15 to 20 met on the car park opposite Sparrow's Nest. This walk having been organised by Emma and Waveney Ramblers 5.2 miles - taking around 2 hours.

We started heading south towards Birds Eye and the new park and children's play area where we crossed towards the wooden ramp leading up onto the sea defences, then left turning north towards Guntton Warren. On the right we can see the exposed broken old sea defences being battered by the waves. In my lifetime it was once all covered by sand, now eroded. Moving along, with the old camp site to our left until we reach the bottom of Links Hill, then onto the beach for a lovely shoreline walk, heading north towards Corton over Guntton Warren, (one of my favourite places). Although a lot of oil was buried there in the Seventies from the Eleni V tanker disaster (what were the council thinking!). Further along and up the beach towards Tramps Alley, the only hill we go up on this walk. Turning right along the path, between a static caravan site on the right and Corton Road left. We stay on this path to the edge of Corton and across into Corton Woods.

The furthest point of our walk, we now start heading back, and the paths get more muddy in places, but a lovely walk all the same. (I believe there are connections between these woods and the Colman Mustard family who lived nearby.) As we make our way towards Dip Farm we passed several carved wooden sculptures of animals and many fine ancient trees. We took a short break here where the woods came out at Dip Farm.

Next, turning right and proceeding west through the old Pitch and Putt Course, and under the old railway bridge passing

Pleasurewood Hills on our right, then left into Gunton Woods. The Snowdrops are out, carpets of them looking lovely. Lots of pictures were taken. Later, in springtime will come the Bluebells. Many twists and turns, (lots of work has been done in this well maintained woodland,) which eventually bring us out into Gunton Church Lane by the Church ,and onto dry paths. With the burial ground on our left (lots of new trees having been planted), down the path towards Corton Road, crossing what was the old Lowestoft to Gt. Yarmouth rail line. (long gone and occupied by housing now). Turning right we go along Corton Road to the top of Links Hill then down back to the sea defences heading back to our car park. (I believe, that before my time, there used to be motorcycle time trials along here from the car park to Ness Point.)

Completing the walk in two hours, with the added benefit of having lots of people to talk with on the way round. Then, back home to a well-deserved cold beer and a good feeling of achievement.

Happy walking in improving weather.



Malcolm Howes



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT

GOOD FRIDAY 12PM - 3PM

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EASTER SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION AT 10AM

...from the sadness of Good Friday to the joy of Jesus risen on Easter Day



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We hope you enjoyed reading these articles,
If you did, why not pick up your full copy of
March's edition of 'The Spire' and enjoy
reading more articles.

Our church magazine is available from
St. Margaret's Church, for only £1.

Happy Reading!