

## Your guide to this coming week:

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

NO Bible Study this week (starts again 13<sup>th</sup> Jan)  
9 am – 12 noon school in church for rehearsal  
11.30 am Midday Prayer – In Church Centre Lounge  
11am–4pm Community Friendship Cafe – In Centre  
6pm Bellringing Rehearsal (last until 6<sup>th</sup> Jan)

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

NO Busy Fingers this week (starts again 7<sup>th</sup> Jan)  
9.30am St. Margaret's Primary School Carol Services

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

12pm Midday Prayer – In centre foyer

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

12pm Holy Communion – In Church  
12pm Open Church (until 2.30pm)  
NO Choir Practice this week

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

10am Sung Eucharist  
12pm Church Christmas Lunch – Church Centre  
(after the morning service)  
NO Evening Service

### FESTIVE DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December:

6pm Christmas Carol Service

#### Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> December:

Christmas Bring & Share Lunch

#### Christmas Eve:

4pm Christingle & 11.30pm Midnight Mass

#### Christmas Day:

Informal Family Communion – 10am



### Christmas Bring & Share Lunch

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec (Church Centre)

If you would like to come along, please sign the sheet & list the items of food you would like to contribute to the bring & share lunch.

### FISH – Food in School Holidays

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec (9am – 11am)

If you're able to help please speak with Simon or Christine

### Christingle Making (Church Centre)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec (11am - after F.I.S.H)

If you're able to help, it would be greatly appreciated

Toilet & Baby Changing available in the Centre

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Rector:** Revd. Canon Simon Stokes  
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01502 573046 or 07771 520085  
THURSDAYS ARE SIMON'S DAY OF REST

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

15.12.24

Welcome to

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

LOWESTOFT



If you would like to make an offering to St. Margaret's please place your gift either on the collection plate *before* the service or use the card-reader at the back of church.

Your gift supports our ongoing mission work & helps towards the upkeep of this beautiful church.

*Thank you for your kind gift.*

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### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### 10am Sung Eucharist

Mass of St. Thomas - Thorne  
Presiding: Canon Simon  
Preaching: Gerda  
Deacon: Gill  
Reader: Margaret  
Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7  
Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18  
Intercessor: Sarah  
Hymns: 34, 37, 47, 609 & 39  
Anthem: Lamb of God (Webbe)



Scan QR Code to view this week's 10am service booklet

Refreshments will be served in the Church Centre.

#### 6pm Christmas Carol Service (in church)

Join us for an evening of festive music and enjoy singing some of your favourite Christmas carols

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### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### 10am Sung Eucharist

#### 6pm No Evening Service

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### Advent 3 Responses 'Lighting of the Candle'

(Responses in **bold**)

Come, Christ Jesus  
Awaken our joy

*(The Candles are lit)*

Come, Christ Jesus  
Awaken our joy

Let it rise & shine and live. Amen



## Readings for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### New Testament: Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

### Collect (Prayer of the Week)

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare  
the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord,  
for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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### Community Friendship Cafe Every Monday (Church Centre)

During December & January, we're now open  
a little longer from 11am – 4pm.  
We're here as a warm space & for fellowship,  
serving tea & coffees, light bites & cakes.

### Epiphany Tea Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 3pm – 5pm at the Rectory



### This week's pew sheet is sponsored by Sheila Hancock

*In memory of my husband  
David Hancock's birthday,  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> December  
& to wish everyone a happy & holy Christmas*

### This week's pew sheet is also sponsored by Christine Leech

Wishing a joyful Christmas to all of St. Margaret's  
congregation and a happy & healthy 2025

