

## Your guide to this coming week

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

10am Bible Study – Church Centre  
11.30am Midday Prayer – Church Centre  
(John 1: 43-end)  
11am - 4pm Community Friendship Café  
5.30pm Bell Ringing Practice

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

2pm Busy Fingers

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

12pm Midday Prayer – Centre (Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-end)  
2pm Mothers' Union – Small Hall

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January

12pm Holy Communion – In Church Centre  
6pm Choir Practice – In Church Centre

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

10am Sung Eucharist – In Church Centre  
4pm Sung Evensong – In Church Centre

### TECH SURGERY – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 11am – 4pm

Issues or concerns with your mobile, laptop, computer etc?  
Then why not pop along, with your device, and  
have a chat with Keith - In the Church Centre.

### PCC MEETING – WED 14<sup>TH</sup> JAN AT 7PM

WITH Tea & Coffee served FROM 6.45PM)

CHURCH CENTRE - SMALL HALL

### Confirmation Service

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am

With The Venerable Ian Bishop – Bishop of Thetford

If you're interested in being confirmed please speak with  
Simon as a matter of urgency

### Prayers for Your Parish - Street by Street

This week, please pray for the residents of:

Tethy's Place – Map no. 91 / Map Ref. G 13

Thurston Road – Map no. 147 / Map Ref. J 13

Water Lane - Map no. 136 / Map Ref. H / I 11

### SAFEGUARDING:

St. Margaret's Church is committed to safeguarding all worshippers,  
staff and visitors. If you have any concerns, please refer to the  
noticeboards on how to voice your concern

NB: The 10am service is livestreamed. Side aisle seats not in view

Toilet & Baby Changing available in the Centre

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### CONTACT DETAILS

#### Rector

Revd. Canon Simon Stokes  
simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk  
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

04.01.26

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.* ✨



## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Epiphany

*Final service in church before building work commences*

### 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: Mass of St. Thomas

Presiding: Canon Simon

Preaching: Rev Pauline

Reader: Richard A

Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Intercessor: Helen S

Hymns: 94, 62, 105, 68 & 86

Anthem: Far away, what splendour comes  
this way? (Lully, arr. Bizet)



SCAN FOR  
SERVICE  
BOOKLET

Refreshments served in the Church Centre  
plus a simple bread, soup and cheese lunch.  
Please stay and share fellowship together.

### No Evening Service

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## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Baptism of Christ

*First service in the Church Centre  
due to building work happening in church*

10am Sung Eucharist

4pm Sung Evensong

**Please note all services  
will be held in the Church Centre  
(hopefully returning to the church in March)**

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## Readings for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

### Old Testament: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### New Testament: Ephesians 3: 1-12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard

this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' "

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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### Collect (Prayer of the Week)

*Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### Post Communion Prayer

*Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations  
seek: may we who with the wise men have been  
drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### Christians Together in Lowestoft & District Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**United Service on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm**

Salvation Army Citadel, Battery Green Rd, Lowestoft

***Our Evening Service on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm has been cancelled.***

***You are invited to join us at the  
Christians Together Service instead.***