

Your guide to this coming week

Monday 6th January

9am – 11am FISH (Food in School Holidays) - Centre
NO Bible Study
11.30am Midday Prayer - Church Centre (Lounge)
11am – 4pm Community Friendship Café – Centre
6pm Bell Ringing Practice – In Church

Tuesday 7th January

2pm Busy Fingers

Wednesday 8th January

12pm Midday Prayer – In the Church Centre
2pm Mothers' Union – Church Centre (Small Hall)
7pm PCC Meeting – Church Centre (Small Hall)
(Refreshments served from 6.45pm)

Friday 10th January

12pm Holy Communion – In Church
12.30pm – 2.30pm Church Open for visitors
6pm Choir Practice – In Church

Saturday 11th January

11am – 12pm Defib Training - Church Centre

Sunday 12th January

10am Sung Eucharist
6pm Choral Evensong – In Church

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.*

CONTACT DETAILS

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THURSDAYS ARE SIMON'S DAY OF REST

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NORMAL OFFICE HOURS:
Tues & Wed 9am – 3.30pm & Fri 8.30am – 5pm

05.01.25

Toilet & Baby Changing available in the Centre

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 5th January 2025

Epiphany

Happy New Year!

10am Sung Eucharist

Mass of St. Thomas - Thorne

Presiding: Canon Simon

Preaching: Canon Simon

Reader: Val

Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Intercessor: Rev Jim

Hymns: 3, 23, 4, 2 & 21 (Bethlehem Carols)

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



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

Refreshments will be served in the Church Centre.

Epiphany tea at the Rectory 3 – 5pm

Do drop in if you wish.

NO Evening Service

Sunday 12th January 2025

Baptism of Christ

10am Sung Eucharist

6pm Choral Evensong



Readings for Sunday 5th January

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 Reading: 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.

A Message from Canon Simon

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Christine and myself, to thank you for our journey together during 2024 and to wish each of you a peaceful and blessed 2025.

As we look ahead to this new year there is much to do, ensuring the structural integrity of the building, to consider how we might heat it more effectively and perhaps to improve the access, lighting and maybe even a toilet! Alongside this, we also need to look at our finances and we are planning a stewardship campaign this year - more information to come.

Any change can cause us to react. As we look outside of St. Margaret's we see much disagreement and lack of compassion, not just on the world stage but in our politics and sadly also within the Church of England.

You may recall that one of my 'go to' passages is from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4 v4, and following Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I worry that our society is becoming one where grace is not exercised, and I think it is for us as followers of Christ to be the light that shines with that grace, both within and beyond the Church. The daily readings from Father Richard Rohr this new year are focusing on us as Christians being Salt and light. Matthew, Mark and Luke encourage us to bring flavour to the world as salt does and guidance through light. And St. Paul writes in Colossians 4 v6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. I look forward to an exciting year as we exercise grace, worship together and serve Christ.

Simon