

## Your guide to this coming week

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

- 12pm Community Friendship Café Christmas Meal  
(then closed until 5<sup>th</sup> January)  
11.30am Midday Prayer – Church Centre (Matthew 21: 23-27)  
(Last one until 5<sup>th</sup> January)  
5.30pm Bell Ringing Practice

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

- 9.15am St. Margaret's Primary School Rehearsal l/s  
10.45am St. Margaret's Primary School Rehearsal u/s

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

- 9am Northfields Carol Service (Year 5 & 6)  
12pm Midday Prayer – Church Centre (Matthew 1: 1-17)  
(Last one until 7<sup>th</sup> January)

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

- 9.15am St. Margaret's Christmas Service (lower school)  
10.45am St. Margaret's Christmas Service (upper school)

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

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

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

- 10am Sung Eucharist  
4pm Christmas Carol Service

### Church Cleaning Volunteers Needed please

A big thank you to everyone who came and helped to clean the church & the brass on Friday - it looks great.

If you are able to volunteer to help keep the church clean between 10<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January, while our cleaner, Terry, is convalescing following an operation, please speak with Sarah. Thank you kindly.

### FISH – Food in School Holidays Monday 22nd Dec (9am – 11am)

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

### Christingle Making (Church Centre) Monday 22nd Dec (11am - after F.I.S.H)

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

### 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

### 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

14.12.2025

WELCOME TO



## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: Mass of St. Thomas  
Presiding: Canon Simon  
Preaching: Captain Paul McDonough  
Deacon: Rachel with Sarah  
Reader: Gill  
Reading: James 5: 7-10  
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11  
Intercessor: Jennifer D  
Introit: Advent Wreath Prayer 3 (Archer)  
Hymns: 609, 37, 47, 247 & 39  
Choir Anthem: Be still for the presence of the Lord  
(Evans)

SCAN FOR  
SERVICE  
BOOKLET



### Refreshments served in the Church Centre

### 4pm Informal Holy Communion with Carols & Mulled Wine (In the Church Centre)

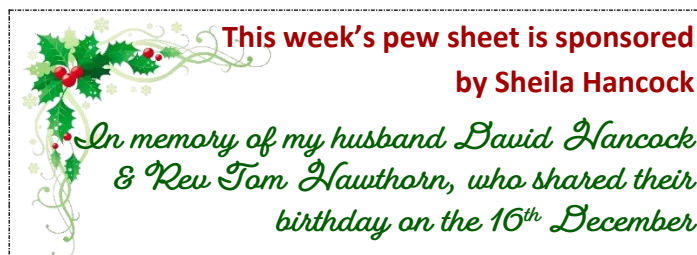
Led by: Canon Simon  
Carols: A selection from Bethlehem Carols  
Reader: Delphine  
Gospel: Matthew 21: 18-25

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## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

10am Sung Eucharist  
4pm Christmas Carol Service  
with Mulled Wine afterwards

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This week's pew sheet is also sponsored by:



*Pauline & Jim Florance*



**Wishing everyone  
a peaceful and joyful Christmas**

## Readings for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

### New Testament: James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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### 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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## Advent 3 - Responses

*People of God: return!  
You are called to be God's own.  
From the mountains announce the good news.*

*The advent candle is lit*

*God comes in justice and peace,  
to all who follow his ways.  
You are God's children.  
Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ  
today and for ever. Amen.*



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### Dates for your Diary

**TODAY: Sun 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm**  
Informal Holy Communion  
with Carols & Mulled wine (*In the Church Centre*)

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm**  
St. Margaret's Christmas Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
4pm Christingle & 11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day at 10am**  
Informal Family Holy Communion

### Prayers for Your Parish - Street by Street

This week, please pray for the residents of:

**St. Margaret's Plain** – Map no. 141 / Map Ref. I 13  
**Skamacre Crescent** – Map no. 153 / Map Ref. J 7-8  
**South View Close** – Map no. 155 / Map Ref. K 8

### Doggie Treats

Thank you everyone for all the tasty treats you've  
been kindly giving me... they've been so yummy!  
Sadly, I'm going to have to stop eating the treats  
following a trip to the V.E.T.S, as I've been told  
I've got to lose over 2kg!!!! From Maine x