

## Your guide to this coming week

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec**

Church office closed

Church & Church Centre closed (No groups)

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January (New Year's Day)**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Church office & Church Centre Closed (No groups)

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Church office closed

12 noon Holy Communion in church

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

10am Sung Eucharist (NO Evening Service)

**Please note the Church Office will be closed until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**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.

### GROUPS:

BIBLE STUDY & MON MIDDAY PRAYER START BACK MON 5<sup>TH</sup> JAN

COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP CAFÉ STARTS BACK MON 5<sup>TH</sup> JAN

BUSY FINGERS START BACK TUES 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

WEDNESDAY MIDDAY PRAYER STARTS BACK WED 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

MOTHERS' UNION WILL BE ON WED 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 2PM

CHOIR PRACTICE STARTS BACK FRI 9<sup>TH</sup> JAN IN 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:

Tubby Walk – Map no. 9 / Map Ref. C 5

Thirlmere Walk – Map no. 35 / Map Ref. E 5-6

Tunstall Drive - Map no. 43 / Map Ref. F 4

### 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

Rev. Canon Simon Stokes  
simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk  
01502 573046 or 07771 520085  
THURSDAYS ARE SIMON'S DAY OF REST

28.12.2025

#### Office

01502 561973  
office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk  
Usual Office Hours:  
Tues & Wed 9am-3.30pm  
& Fri 8.30am-5pm  
OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 6<sup>TH</sup> JAN

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**10.00am Sung Eucharist**

Mass Setting: Mass of St. Thomas

Presiding: Canon Simon

Preaching: Canon Simon

Deacon: Sarah

Reader: Kathryn

Reading: Hebrews 2: 10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

Intercessor: Rev Jim

Hymns: Bethlehem Carol Sheet

25, 1, 5, 8 & 12

SCAN FOR  
SERVICE  
BOOKLET



**Refreshments served in the Church Centre**

**No Evening Service**

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Epiphany**

**10am – Sung Eucharist**

**Followed by a simple bread, soup & cheese lunch  
in the Church Centre**

**No Evening Service**

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**From Simon & the team**

**Wishing everybody a blessed  
& Happy New Year**

Thank you again to everyone who helped  
in any way over the festive season  
& also to all those who supported & visited our  
Christmas services, events & activities

## Readings for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

### Old Testament: Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### New Testament: Hebrews 2: 10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,

'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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### Collect (Prayer of the Week)

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of  
an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through 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.*