

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Holy Communion

For Candlemas

Including the rededication of Anna Chaplains

Sunday 1st February 2026



Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Preaching: Canon Simon
Presiding: Canon Simon & Sarah

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

(Please remain seated)

Opening Prayer

Forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we recall the day on which Jesus was presented in the temple by his Parents who gave thanks to God for his life. As we remember Christmas we look forward to Easter, and to the sacrifice of love which Jesus made for us when he died on the cross. We celebrate the good news that light and love are stronger than darkness and death.



The Lord be with you
And also with you

We will light our candles

Jesus is the light of the world
A light no darkness can quench

Jesus Light of the world, shine in the darkness of our world. Help us to know that light is stronger than darkness and that love is stronger than hatred. Amen.

HYMN 719 - Lord, the light of your love is shining

***1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

***2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

***3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

GRAHAM KENDRICK (b. 1950)

Saying sorry, being forgiven (please sit)

Jesus says "I am the light of the world". Those who follow me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Let us then bring to God our sins and in the glow of his light confess them with penitence and faith:

For things we should not have said:
Lord, have mercy:
Lord, have mercy.

For actions we regret:
Christ, have mercy:
Christ have mercy.

For not loving each other as you love us:
Lord, have mercy:
Lord have mercy.

May the Lord of love
Bring us back to himself
Forgive us our sins
And assure us of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ the light of the world. **Amen**

The Gloria- Sung to 'Ode to Joy' (please stand)

*Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.*

*Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!*

Collect – Prayer of the Week

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Please sit for the New Testament reading

New Testament: Hebrews 2: 14-end Read by Grace

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN - Light of the World

***Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you hope of a life spent with
you.***

***Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God,
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.***

***King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created.
All for love's sake became poor.***

***So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God,
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.***

***I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.***

***Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God,
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.***

*Please remain standing for the **Gospel Reading***

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40 Read by Samuel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Canon Simon

Rededication of Anna Chaplains

Prayers of intercession Led by Grace

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

at the end

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Banns of Marriage

Notices and time of sharing

The Peace (If you are able to please stand)

God has called us to live in light and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Please offer one another the sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 113 - When candles are lighted (omit verses 7-12)

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

***1 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

***2 The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

***3 They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

***4 But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**5 The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.**

**6 They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.**

**13 The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.**

Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit - The Choir may remain standing

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Lift up your hearts
we lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

Let us come together at the Lord's table.

Reader 1: *Who is invited to the Lord's Table?*

Reader 2: *Listen, and we will hear.*

All are invited;
the young and the old,
the rich and the poor,
the lowest and the least.

Reader 1: *Why do we give thanks at this table?*

Reader 2: *Listen, and we will hear.*

We give thanks because Jesus showed us the way;
we give thanks because Jesus is the Way.
Jesus is a gift from God for the world.

Reader 1: *Why do we eat and drink at this table?*

Reader 2: *Listen, and we will hear.*

We eat because on the night before Jesus died,
he ate with his friends.
He gave them bread and said,
"This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."



At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said,
"Drink this cup. This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."



Reader 1: *What do we remember at this table?*

Reader 2: *Listen, and we will hear.*

We remember Jesus' birth
and his presence as God with us.
We remember Jesus' life and his love.
We remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.
We remember the resurrection and the promise of new life.
We remember that we are waiting in hope
to see Jesus again.

And now we give you thanks because Christ, Light of the World, has
dawned in our hearts.

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***



As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
And the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen**

The breaking of the bread

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world

**God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life**

The Agnus Dei

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

God's holy gifts
For God's Holy people
**Jesus Christ is Holy
Jesus Christ is Lord
To the Glory of God the Father**

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the front.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Please remain seated during the anthem. The Hymn is also sung during communion

Anthem – Be still for the presence of the Lord (Evans)

HYMN 396 – Faithful vigil ended

***1 Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.***

***2 All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.***

***3 This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.***

***4 Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.***

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 2.29-32

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 264 - The Spirit lives to set us free

*1 The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
he binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.*

**2 Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**3 He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light;
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**4 We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**5 By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light;
the Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**6 The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
his light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.**

Damian Lundy (1944–1996)

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth
Help us, in whom he has been born to live his life that has no end.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion
**Help us for whom lent is near
To enter into the Easter mystery**

Here we bless one another in your name
**Help us who now go in peace
To shine with your light in the world.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

