



St Margaret's Church

Sunday, 18th December 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St Margaret's, especially if you are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time. Please do stay behind after the 10:30 service for refreshments. The church is equipped with a loop system: please switch your hearing aid to "T" position.

Contact Details

Benefice Office (general queries)

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Vicar

Rev'd Daniel Walters

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Daniel's usual day off is **Monday**.

Associate Priest (full-time)

Rev'd Dr Stephen O'Connor

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Stephen's days off this week are **Monday** and **Tuesday**.

Associate Priest (self-supporting)

Rev'd Dr Anne Holmes

anne@ac-holmes.co.uk

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Safeguarding Officer

Rebecca Rose

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For more contact details, please visit our website:

www.stmargaretsoxford.org

Today's Services

10:30 am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST

(Common Worship, sung)

President Rev'd Daniel Walters

Introit 501 – Advent Prose v.4

Opening hymn 11 – O come, O come,
Emmanuel

First reading Isaiah 7.10-16

Second hymn 22 Away in a manger

Second reading Romans 1.1-7

The Gospel Matthew 1.18-end

Offertory hymn 186 – Tell out, my soul

Anthem Ave Maria (Parsons)

Final hymn 9 – Lo! He comes with
clouds descending

*Please note that this service is
livestreamed on the Internet. Please
speak to our welcome team if you have
any concerns.*

EVENING PRAYER

Please note that Evening Prayer at St Margaret's has been **cancelled** today – we hope to resume in the New Year from Sunday 8 January.

**All-age Eucharist for
4th Sunday of Advent**
18 December 2022

Welcome to our all age service. There is no Sunday School today as we're all going to hear a story together today. If you or your child need some time out during the service, the baptistery (room through the doors at the back of church) is still open with some quiet toys, but do still join us again when you are able. To anyone with young children, make sure you get a good seat where they can see what is going on.

There will be some opportunities for children and young people to be part of the service today, so please be aware that this service is being livestreamed (the camera pans away during Communion).

If this is your first time here, we will try to make you feel as welcomed as we can, and please ask a friendly face near to you if you need any help. Also please stay for tea and coffee at the end. Welcome!

The Gathering

Advent Prose

The choir sings the fourth verse of the Advent Prose (Rorate Caeli):

Drop down, ye heavens, from
above,
and let the skies pour down
righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I
will save thee:

For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy
Redeemer.

Drop down, ye heavens, from
above,
and let the skies pour down
righteousness.

We stand to sing a Hymn

11 – *'O come, O come, Emmanuel'*

Welcome

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Confession

When Jesus comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

A short time of silence follows.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.

A short time of silent prayer.

Eternal God,
As Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We sit for the **Advent wreath**

Children are invited to come and sit at the front as the wreath is lit.

We sing our St Margaret's Advent song.

**The holly and the ivy
Are dancing in a ring,
Round the berry-bright red candles
And the bright and shining King.**

**O one is to remind us
To wake from sleep and sing,
We are waiting for Christ Jesus,
We are waiting for our King.**

**And two are for the prophets
And for the light they bring,
They are candles in the darkness
All alight for Christ the King.**

And three for John the Baptist,
He calls on us to sing,
"O prepare the way for Jesus
Christ,
He is coming, Christ our King."

And four for mother Mary,
"I cannot see the way,
But you promise me a baby,
I believe you. I obey."

And all are for God's people
In every age and day,
We are watching for His coming,
We believe and we obey.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading

Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

At the end the reader may say:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing a **Hymn**

22 - *'Away in a manger'*

Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set apart for
the gospel of God, which he
promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy scriptures, the
gospel concerning his Son, who was
descended from David according to
the flesh and was declared to be
Son of God with power according
to the spirit of holiness by
resurrection from the dead, Jesus
Christ our Lord, through whom we
have received grace and
apostleship to bring about the
obedience of faith among all the
Gentiles for the sake of his name,
including yourselves who are called
to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who
are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

At the end the reader may say:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make
his paths straight, and all flesh shall
see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 1.18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah
took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged to
Joseph, but before they lived
together, she was found to be with
child from the Holy Spirit. Her
husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to
public disgrace, planned to dismiss
her quietly. But just when he had
resolved to do this, an angel of the
Lord appeared to him in a dream
and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do
not be afraid to take Mary as your
wife, for the child conceived in her
is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear
a son, and you are to name him
Jesus, for he will save his people
from their sins.' All this took place
to fulfil what had been spoken by
the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'
When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

At the end of the Gospel:

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

We sit for the **Pop-up Nativity**

We stand to **Affirm our faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through
faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We sit for the **Prayers**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The president introduces this part of the service, and invites us to stand.

We stand for **The Peace**

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always
with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

186 - 'Tell out, my soul'

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered
into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set
her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

**It is right to give him thanks and
praise.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your
glory.

You give us this great and beautiful
earth,
to discover and to cherish.

Today we give you thanks
because Jesus our Lord was
awaited by the prophets,
announced by an angel,

conceived by Mary,
and proclaimed at last to men and
women of every race.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his
blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples,
saying:
'This is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the
cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his
disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for
you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

So Father, with this bread and this
cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his
risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one
another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your
loving arms.

And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. **Amen.**

A moment of silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

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.

Invitation

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Communion

*If you normally receive communion in
your own church, of whatever
denomination, you are most welcome
to receive here.*

*We are returning today to the use of
the common cup, but if you prefer to
receive in 'one kind' (i.e. bread only),
please feel free to do so. Please **do**
not intinct (dip) the bread in the wine.*

*If you prefer to receive a blessing,
please come forward with your arms
crossed or holding your booklet.*

Communion Anthem

*During the distribution, the choir
sings the anthem 'Ave Maria' by
Robert Parsons (1530-1572).*

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus
tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
Amen.*

Please remain seated for the

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your
grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will
and with her rejoice in your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

We stand for the Hymn

9 – 'Lo! He comes with clouds
descending'

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before
your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you
always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ,
Thanks be to God.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Margaret Holmes, Joan Johnson,
Julia Aston Smith, Colin Cooke,
Caroline Cooke.

RIP:

Year's Mind:

Barbara Sanders (19/12/2012),
Yvonne Hands (19/12/2003),
Philip Perry (22/12/2007),
Louisa Bullows (22/12/2012),
Margaret Bainbridge (27/12/2004),
Cyril Tuffrey (30/12/2000),
Ramsey Bronk (31/12/2007)

Services & Events This Week

Morning Prayer

Monday–Saturday, 9:00am

Online Compline (via Zoom)

Monday 19th December, 8:00pm

Carol Singing

Wednesday 21st December

Crib Service

Saturday 24th December, 4.30pm

Midnight Mass

Saturday 24th December, 11.30pm

Next Sunday (25th December)

Christmas Day

Parish Eucharist (CW), 10:30am

Notices

Today, Sunday 18th December, we will be **decorating the Christmas tree and church** after coffee at the end of the service. Please do join us for as long as you can on that day, as it's a lot of fun. A soup lunch will be provided.

Also today, we are having an **all-age Eucharist with pop-up nativity**. Come dressed for the occasion as a shepherd, donkey or a camel. There will be extra costumes available on the day. No Kings just yet please!

Please note that **Evening Prayer at St Margaret's has been cancelled** today – normal service will resume from Sunday 8th January.

We will be **carol singing** in the parish on Wednesday 21st December. If you live in the parish and would like a visit, then please let Eva know and we'll do our best to fit you into the route. If you are planning to be one of the singers, then please also let Eva know as a light supper will be provided at the vicarage after the last stop. We've also been invited into The Rose & Crown to sing to their customers at 8pm if you would rather just join us there. All proceeds to go to The Gatehouse.

It would be great to have a few more **volunteers** willing to lead intercessions occasionally, or to help with post-service coffee on Sundays at St Margaret's from time to time. And new people are always welcome on the readings rota too. Any level of commitment is fine; even occasional

help is much appreciated! Please get in touch with Frances Bagnall-Oakeley (frbagnall@hotmail.com) if you might be interested. Many thanks!

Our **Christmas service times** are now confirmed:

Saturday 24th, 4.30pm – Crib

Service A much loved annual feature, this service of carols and readings, telling the Christmas story, is suitable for all ages.

Saturday 24th, 11.30pm – Midnight

Mass See in Christmas in the traditional way.

Christmas Day, 10.30am – Festal

Eucharist A joyful and family-friendly Eucharistic service with carols.

The **Advent appeal for NOAAH** (North Oxford Action Against Homelessness) is now live – if you would like to donate, please visit: bit.ly/3u3PNqQ In addition, the NOAAH committee have provided the local churches which support it with an update for this year, which you can read on our website at: bit.ly/3VnoinW .

Please send notices to smnotices@gmail.com by Thursday, 12 noon.

You can also find updates on our social media accounts:

Facebook: [@StMargaretsChurchOxford](https://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchOxford)

Twitter: [@StMargaretsOX2](https://twitter.com/StMargaretsOX2)

Instagram: [@StMargaretsOxford](https://www.instagram.com/StMargaretsOxford)