



Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield
Loved as you are



Sunday 8th March 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Everyone is welcome at St Margaret's.

THE GATHERING

*As we gather before the service, we speak to God.
During the service, we let God speak to us.
After the service, we speak to each other.*

We stand and sing at the entrance of the clergy

Processional Hymn

**Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.**

**For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.**

**Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.**

**Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!**

*WILLIAM COWPER (1731–1800)
Tune WAREHAM WILLIAM KNAPP (1698-1768)*

THE GREETING

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you.
and also with you.

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily
magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The priest introduces the prayer ending with
Let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*The priest offers absolution at the end please respond
Amen.*

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy, **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words, 'Let us pray.'
The Collect is said, and all respond, **Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings

First Reading
Exodus 17:1-7

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please stand

The Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon

THE SERMON

We stand

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
From there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need. After each petition the following response is used:

Lord of Lent,
renew us by your Spirit

and at the end of the prayers:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We stand to share the peace.

The Peace

The priest introduces the Peace

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.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

**Above the voices of the world around me,
my hopes and dreams, my cares and loves and fears,
the long-awaited call of Christ has found me,
the voice of Jesus echoes in my ears:**

**'I gave my life to break the cords that bind you,
I rose from death to set your spirit free;
turn from your sins and put the past behind you,
take up your cross and come and follow me.'**

**What can I offer him who calls me to him?
Only the wastes of sin and self and shame;
a mind confused, a heart that never knew him,
a tongue unskilled at naming Jesus' name.
Yet at your call, and hungry for your blessing,
drawn by that cross which moves a heart of stone,
now Lord I come, my tale of sin confessing,
and in repentance turn to you alone.**

**Lord, I believe; help now my unbelieving;
I come in faith because your promise stands.
Your word of pardon and of peace receiving,
all that I am I place within your hands.
Let me become what you shall choose to make me,
freed from the guilt and burden of my sins.
Jesus is mine, who never shall forsake me,
and in his love my new-born life begins.**

TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH (b. 1926)

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Tune ASTON ROWANT JOHN BARNARD (b. 1948)

The Presentation of the Gifts

During the Offertory hymn the bread and wine and the collection are brought to the altar and the altar is prepared.

At the end of the Blessing of the Gifts please respond

Blessed be God forever

We sit or stand

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts and at the end we say,

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

The priest continues with the prayer which recalls the Last Supper, after the elevation the priest says, 'Great is the mystery of Faith'

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

The prayer continues and concludes with the doxology where we respond,
Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

**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.**

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The priest invites everyone to come to Communion or for a blessing

Please sit and wait to be directed for Communion.

During the distribution of Communion music will be played

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Priest prays the post-communion prayer followed by

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him, we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

BANNS

NOTICES

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand

The priest gives the blessing
Amen.

We go into the world to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love,
and to reflect God's glory.

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

Hymn

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.**

*Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch
WILLIAM WILLIAMS (1717–1791)
translated by PETER WILLIAMS (1727–1796)
Tune CWM RHONDDA JOHN HUGHES (1872-1914)*

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Notices

Service next Sunday:
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scouts service (9.30)
Parish Communion (11am)
and on Facebook and the parish website www.ifieldparish.org
