



Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield

Loved as you are

Sunday 28th December 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



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 Christ the Lord is born
all the bells are ringing!
Angels greet the holy One
and shepherds hear them singing,
and shepherds hear them singing.**

**'Go to Bethlehem today,
find your king and saviour:
glory be to God on high,
to earth his peace and favour,
to earth his peace and favour!'**

**Held within a cattle stall,
loved by love maternal,
see the master of us all,
our Lord of lords eternal,**

our Lord of lords eternal!

**Soon shall come the wise men three,
rousing Herod's anger;
mothers' hearts shall broken be
and Mary's son in danger,
and Mary's son in danger.**

**Death from life and life from death
our salvation's story:
let all living things give breath
to Christmas songs of glory,
to Christmas songs of glory!**

*MICHAEL PERRY (1942–1996) based on *Puer nobis nascitur*, Latin, 15th century)*

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Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Melody from *Pia Cantiones*, 1582 harmonised by DAVID ILIFF (b. 1939)*

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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The priest offers absolution at the end please respond
Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

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

Isaiah 63:7-9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please stand

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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.

**When Christ was born in Bethlehem,
Fair peace on earth to bring,
In lowly state of love He came
To be the children's King.**

**A mother's heart was there His throne,
His orb a maiden's breast.
Whereby He made through love alone
His Kingdom manifest.**

**And round Him, then, a holy band
Of children blest was born,
Fair guardians of His throne to stand
Attendant night and morn.**

**And unto them this grace was given
A Saviour's Name to own,
And die for Him Who out of Heaven
Had found on earth a throne.**

**O bless-ed babes of Bethlehem,
Who died to save our King,
You share the Martyr;s diadem,
And in their anthem sing!**

**Your lips, on earth that never spake,
Now sound th' eternal Word;
And in the courts of love You make
Your children's voices heard.**

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Child,

**Make Thou our childhood Thine;
That we with these the meek and mild
May share the love divine.**

Words: Lawrence Housman 1865 - 1959

Music: Winchester Old First published in Thomas Este's Psalter 1592

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.**

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.

Recessional Hymn

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

**And 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**

**And 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
(4x)**

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Notices

**Service next Sunday:
Epiphany**

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