



A Service of the Word

for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

25th January 2025

10am



ST MARGARET'S
PUTNEY

Welcome to St Margaret's, Putney

St Margaret's is a diverse and friendly community in leafy West Putney. A space to meet God, to connect with others, celebrate life and find support when we need it most. We are building a vibrant community and making a positive change, through prayer, friendship, charity and care of the environment.

Our services and music are rooted in the traditions of the Church of England. We want church to be inclusive, thought-provoking and fun, and we strive to make God's Word relevant and connected to everyday life. People of all ages fully participate in Sunday Mornings and activities throughout the week.

Whether you want to be part of something bigger or need a quiet moment to yourself, there's a warm welcome waiting for you here at the heart of your community.

St Margaret's Putney. Reflect. Connect. Grow.

Welcome to St Margaret's. Please take a moment before our service begins to pray. A voluntary may be played.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined".

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Please be seated for the welcome.

All 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 grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

All 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.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

The reader concludes:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Jeremiah 1.4-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Then I said, Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.

But the Lord said to me, Do not say, I am only a boy; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

The Collection

- *Please fill in a gift-aid envelope if you are a UK tax payer.*
- *Contactless Machines are available at the back of church if you wish to donate by card*
- *You can go straight to our secure giving page by scanning the QR code:*



Please stand

Psalm 23

The king of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction, grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

DOMINUS REGIT ME REH 573

H W Baker 1821-77

J B Dykes 1823-76

Acts 9.1-22

A reading from the letter to the Acts
of the Apostles

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

He asked, who are you, Lord? The reply came, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do. The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. He answered, Here I am, Lord. The Lord said to him, Get up and go to the

street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight. But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name. But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, He is the Son of God. All who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the man

who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests? Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

The reader concludes:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

Please be seated.

Let us stand to declare our faith in God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 the life everlasting.
Amen

for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please be seated.

Let us pray for the whole
church of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according
to their needs.

The response is:

Lord, in your mercy,

All **hear our prayer.**

The intercessions conclude:

Merciful Father,

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

As our Saviour taught us,
so we pray:

All **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;**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Let us pray for God's blessing.

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Christ the Son of God perfect
in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with
the good news of his
kingdom; and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you
always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

We will now have a time of
conversation together about the
future of St Margaret's, Elizabeth
Renshaw Aimes will lead our
discussion but before we start
please read the background
information below:

"Our first step in appointing a new Vicar involves developing and then publicising our Parish Profile. It is the document on which a prospective applicant will base their decision to take the application further.

Not surprisingly, clergy are looking for as complete a picture as possible, for honesty about our strengths and weaknesses, and for a sense that we have a vision and know where we are going.

Today, as a Church family, we are going to open up this conversation together to start painting a picture of St Margarets now and to think about the future of our Church here in West Putney.

Everyone's views matter; as a first step, this morning we will spend about half an hour discussing in table groups three open questions designed to gather input about our values as a

worshipping community, our main priorities in our worship and in our wider parish life. This discussion will then be followed up by an online survey over the next few weeks, for everyone to contribute to.

Prayer

Let us pray
Gracious God,

We bring before you the life
or our church, Your church.

We ask for your guidance as
we look to the future, help us
grow in faith, in fellowship and
in service.

We praise you for all who
have served this church over
the years, who have nurtured
and encouraged our faith,
who have been part of our
continuing life and
witness. You have called us
into the body of Christ.

Loving God, as we journey
together through this period

of Interregnum, we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us. At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit, to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom the one whom You have chosen to be our leader in this parish, that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people: ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Discussion

Please stand for the hymn

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided: Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us, speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us: Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation, spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care: for young and old, for commonwealth and nation, Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,

loveless in strength, and
comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost
indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray
that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living
power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ
upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the
future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for
Christ alone.

We say the Grace together
May the Grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ and the love of
God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with us all
evermore Amen