

## 2026 Refreshing Worship at St Margaret's Church

Following reflection and discussion at PCC Meetings in February, June and September 2025 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been considering changes to the worshipping pattern at St Margaret's Church. The PCC spent October 2025 listening to the church and wider community before meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to finally discern a new pattern of worship to be introduced from January 2026.



During the listening conversations, there was consensus that the principles and practicalities were proportionate. Six (6) opportunities for conversation and listening took place in person, with more than twenty (20) emails received and numerous informal conversations. Helpful feedback was received from over 35 individuals, some representing households and families, thus increasing the numbers of people who actively joined in the conversation. Revd Sarah also attended both choir and bell ringing practices. The feedback across the board was thoughtful and varied, though understandably sometimes contradictory. At all times the conversation was carefully considered, often with regard for the needs of others. The listening has informed adjustments to the PCCs original proposals.

During their deliberations the PCC recognised that a refreshed pattern of worship will not meet every individual's preference and that it will take time for the changes to settle in. Members of the PCC remarked on the willingness to welcome change, particularly the number of individuals who recognised the sacrificial need to make space for others and to find ways of worshipping together more often. It is hoped that the refreshed worshipping patterns will allow those worshipping at St Margaret's now, and those who will join in the coming weeks and years, to grow younger, to grow in spiritual depth and to grow in number. We continue to keep all of this in our prayers.

Revd Sarah  
Priest-in-Charge & Chair of PCC  
8<sup>th</sup> November 2025

*Children & Families are welcome to all services – those marked \* are usually particularly well received.  
For people who prefer a quieter, less noisy environment – the services marked + are usually well received.*

Messy Vintage services take place monthly by arrangement with Norwood Care Home and Park Manor Care Home.  
A monthly service of Holy Communion takes place at Norwood Care Home and is sometimes led by St Margaret's clergy.  
'Together' meets monthly, but will additionally meet seasonally on a Saturday morning: Lent, Easter/Pentecost, Harvest & Advent/Christmas.

# Sunday Morning Worship

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>8 am</b> (services 35 minutes)	<b>Holy Communion +</b> according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). A service in traditional language with readings from The Authorised Version (King James Version) of the Bible in accordance with the Church of England's published version of the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary				
<b>10 am</b> (services no longer than 1 hour)	<b>Family Communion *</b> <i>livestreamed</i> A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church' returning from the church centre to receive Communion and to share learning.  The choir sing an introit, the Eucharistic prayer responses and lead an alternating choir/ congregational-led Gloria. Opening and closing hymns are accessible to the whole church family. There are 2 readings with a gradual hymn.  Prayers of healing / anointing with oil during distribution of Communion.  Refreshments follow after the service.	<b>Café Church *</b> <i>In church centre</i> Breakfast is served from 10am. Gathering around tables with singing, prayers, activities to explore faith and going deeper faith-conversations. Closing prayer and song.  Occasional informal Communion.  With appropriate seating and picnic blankets, where possible Café Church will take place in the churchyard in summer months.	<b>Family Communion *</b> <i>livestreamed</i> A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church' returning from the church centre to receive Communion and to share learning.  The choir sing an introit, the Eucharistic prayer responses and lead an alternating choir/ congregational-led Gloria. Opening and closing hymns are accessible to the whole church family. There are 2 readings with a gradual hymn.  Refreshments follow after the service.	<b>Sunday Worship *</b>  Beginning by sharing God's peace with one another, we sing, hear readings and tell the stories of faithful living. With a deeply reflective story followed by prayers of intercession, the service concludes with a blessing.  Refreshments follow during which time ministers will be available for individual prayer and a discussion group open to all will explore the service themes more fully.	<b>Parish Praise *</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> A morning service with gathering prayers and confession, 2 readings, a talk and prayers of intercession. This service will either include Holy Communion or a Baptism.  There will be a focus on singing during this service, and a short talk.  Refreshments follow after the service.

## Sunday Evening Worship

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month
6pm	<p><b>Prayer &amp; Praise *</b></p> <p>A service with contemporary worship songs, the possibility of extended prayers and an exploration of scripture and faith through a talk, an interview or a visiting speaker. This informal service will last 45 minutes.</p>	<p><b>Choral Communion + <i>livestreamed</i></b></p> <p>A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church in a bag' for young people in the pew. This service will last just over an hour.</p> <p>The choir sing an introit and the Kyries/Gloria (in season). There are 3 readings with a sung psalm before the Gospel reading.</p>	<p><b>Time Out +</b></p> <p>A 45-minute service of prayer, meditation and contemplation in the Celtic, Taizé or similar style with occasional informal Communion.</p>	<p><b>Choral Evensong + <i>livestreamed</i></b></p> <p>A 40-minute service of sung Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). With hymns, psalms, readings and a short sermon, this choral service is an opportunity to prayerfully and meditatively reflect at the end of the day.</p>	

## Weekday Worship

Monday	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Quiet day					
Tuesday					
8am (30 mins)	Morning Prayer + Daily Prayer according to the pattern of Common Worship: a said service with prayers, psalms and readings.				
3.30pm	[Holy Communion at Christchurch Court]				
Wednesday					
9am	[School Service during term time]				
12pm (35 mins)	Holy Communion + A weekly spoken service using the 'red' Common Worship Communion books (in nave or chapel). Includes a 'thought for the day'. On the first Wednesday of the month, prayers for healing and wholeness will be included, along with the offer of priestly anointing with oil. As this community grows, there will be opportunities for people to join in readings and leading prayers.				
7pm (up to 45 mins)		Prayer Gathering + A chance to explore prayer and to pray.			
Thursday					
3.15/3.30 after school (approx. 90 minutes)			Together * Church Centre Songs and prayers, Godly Play, activities and a shared warm meal.		
8pm (20 minutes)	Compline + livestreamed Night prayers sung by the choir.			Compline + zoom An online service of night prayer.	
Friday					
8am (30 mins)	Morning Prayer + Daily Prayer according to the pattern of Common Worship: a said service with prayers, psalms and readings.				
Saturday					
8.30am (90 minutes)	Men's Breakfast Food and fellowship followed by worship		Men's Breakfast Food and fellowship followed by worship		

## Summary of outcomes arising from the October listening conversations

1. Times of services will be simple and consistent, in a reliable pattern. Services on Sunday will take place weekly at 8am, 10am and 6pm throughout the year. The 10am services that include Holy Communion will usually last no longer than 1 hour, others will last 45 minutes. Services of 30 minutes will take place at 12pm on Wednesdays every week. Other services will be monthly, where possible beginning 'on the hour'.
2. Services will usually follow the Church of England's Common Worship 3-year cycle of lectionary of readings based on the Revised Common Lectionary. At the 8am service the readings will be read in traditional language from the Authorised King James Version, with the corresponding appointed collect prayer for the day also in traditional language (the same collect in traditional language will be sung at Evensong). At other services, the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) will usually be read. On occasion, an alternative translation may be used instead (e.g. International Children's Bible, The Message or similar).
3. Four Sunday mornings throughout the year (usually on either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month) will be appointed as dates for baptisms during 10am Sunday Worship. In future, where there is a clear missional need, stand-alone baptism services may also be arranged by agreement with clergy.
4. A few years ago, the PCC explored the possibility of 'Admitting Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation', concluding then it was not a necessary step. The PCC will review this decision.
5. A team of carefully discerned and trained people will be needed to ensure continued provision of prayers 'for healing and wholeness'/prayer ministry during services. This will take time to grow and so the ministry will begin with licensed ministers only.
6. Bells will continue to ring before services on Sunday mornings, except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (Café Church), when worship will usually be in the Church Centre.

7. Preaching at Sunday Morning Services will offer a mix of traditional sermons, interviews or reflective storytelling. Sunday Evening Services in the choral tradition will include a '5-10 minute' sermon.
8. Music
  - a. The choir & organ will lead the music provision weekly at at least one of Sunday Worship services. In addition, midweek Choral Compline will return post-Covid (a short, 20-minute service of night prayer) will be sung once a month.
  - b. Further conversations have yet to take place with members of the band and music group in the coming weeks to work out who can be available when, before finalising the provision of live music for other services.
  - c. Some services will include videos and/or recorded music.
9. Children & Families
  - a. Children and families who have joined St Margaret's Church over the last couple of years spoke candidly of the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere they value at St Margaret's Church. Particularly, they were clear that the inter-generational worshipping experience benefits both children and adults alike as we learn from one another and grow with one another, not only on Sundays, but also in continued prayer, reflection and conversation during the week.
  - b. Further conversations will be taking place to refresh 'Junior Church', including choosing a new name for this aspect of the refreshed worshipping pattern.
10. Livestreaming
  - a. Following the conversations about 'Junior Church', further conversations may need to take place about which elements of livestreamed services will include images, and which parts of the service will show an 'alternative' camera shot (as is currently the case to preserve privacy when receiving Holy Communion).
  - b. The volunteer team remains very small. Further volunteers are welcome to learn. Where volunteers are available, we will endeavour to stream at least one service every Sunday, either morning or evening.