

Epiphany 2023

The season of revelation, of new beginnings, of making manifest that which, until now, has remained unseen.



A curacy at St Margaret's

From the latin, *cura*, to curate is to care, to be concerned for, to cure... to watch over, to guide and to love. To be a curate is to 'care-fully' attend to all those made in the image of God. To be a planting curate is to do so by preparing unbroken ground: taking a regenerative and innovative approach in setting seeds and encouraging growth, nurturing, shaping, supporting, and feeding until roots are established and the plant becomes self-sustaining.

Your arrival this Pentecost will come at the beginning of a new season for the community of St Margaret's. The gathering together of a potential new curate, my appointment as the priest-in-charge, an energised PCC, committed staff, the fabulous resource that is the church-centre and an excellent relationship with a co-located and thriving church primary school is no simple coincidence. Together we will discern the vision to which God is calling us and embark on a journey that will not only transform but also transfigure us as individuals and as community: a community in which together we share and follow the way of Christ.

What do we hope for?

Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see, at St Margaret's we hope to grow younger, to grow in number, to grow in depth and to grow in influence. We see and give thanks for the many gifts we have received, not least our long and prayerfully nurtured desire to work with children and families. We wonder if you share that desire in beholding a new way of being church?

Of course, the detail of exactly what that will look like is yet to be fully revealed: although we expect to see children and families gathering from the very earliest moments of life and faith. Babies and toddlers 'Starting Rite'.... and Diddy Disciples showing us all how to live and worship as children of God. The old and the not yet old, the young and the young at heart breaking bread together, sharing in fellowship and friendship before 'night' prayers then home for bath and bed, resting before we are sent out to our schools, our communities, and our workplaces to live and work to God's praise and glory. Through holiday clubs, activities, and community outreach people of all faiths and of none will be welcomed. There will be opportunities to holiday together and to grow in faith, hope and love. Learning



to become the family of God as we daily follow the call to live and share the love and pattern of Christ Jesus. "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" [Acts 2.47]. If this is your calling, is the community of St Margaret's the place to which you are being called?

What can you expect?

A warm welcome and a commitment to care for and nurture your continued formation as an ordained minister. There will be times of challenge, new opportunities, and things to celebrate. A mixed-ecology at St Margaret's offers a broad curacy through which you may learn and grow in ways that will inform and develop a wide range of deployable ministerial skills and experience.

Worship and music across from the spectrum of the Anglican tradition: from café church, traditional BCP and common worship as well as funerals, marriages and baptism services. As you grow in your ordained identity, we will support you in planting a midweek congregation: amongst very many other things you will need to make new connections, build relationships, manage logistics, plan and deliver projects, ensure financial sustainability... and to what end? To live incarnationally: to be with people, loving, supporting and enabling them to become rooted in the breadth and length and height and depth of the One who loves us, who sustains us and who gives us life.

Expect a daily rhythm of prayer. Expect to know the comfort and the discomfort of the Holy Spirit at work. Expect liminality in your activity, ministry and spirituality. Expect the unexpected: "for no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" [1 Cor 2.9].

The last Word

"Into your hands I commend my spirit." [Luke 23.46]. Until that day when we meet face-to-face to share and explore together our hopes, our questions, our joys and our fears of our shared call, let us prayerfully commend ourselves, one another and all who live and work in the parish of St Margaret's to God, our maker, our redeemer and our sustainer.

Loving Lord, for all that has been, thanks, and for all that shall be 'yes'! Amen.

Revd Sarah Geileskey

Priest-in-charge appointed December 2022 to be licensed April 2023