



• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*

Sunday 12th October 2025

17th Sunday after Trinity

CORRECTION: *The 9.30am Rise & Shine Service will be in Church this week. Café Church is next Sunday in the church centre, 19th October 2025.*

As we prepare for Baptisms at our 11 o'clock services both this week for Motun and next week for Chloe I have been reminded of the importance of all our baptisms into God's Church. Each time we walk into St Margaret's we are greeted not only by smiling faces but by the font, the start of all our journey's whatever age we are when we are Baptised.

In the set reading from the Old Testament this week we hear that Naaman (after some resistance) "immersed himself seven times in the Jordan...and he was clean." Naaman was healed not only from leprosy but also was converted at the same time. This washing away of his previous life in the Jordan gave him a new life. I wonder if when we pass the font where we baptise and so many hundreds (if not thousands) of people have been baptised over the centuries at St Margaret's, do we remember our own? Do we remember the purpose of baptism and decide again to be renewed in Christ? As we are reminded this week and next of our own baptism waters with rosemary and water from the font, maybe we can decide to look back and make sure this stays with us on our journey now.

Rev Helen

Services

Livestreamed services are marked (L). Please use the button below to view services at the times given or catch up at anytime.

Livestreaming

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

9.30 am Rise & Shine (in Church)

11.00 am Parish Communion (L) with Baptism

We look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's Church.

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park during these services. Please drive slowly and carefully through the gates. We are grateful for our partnership with the school.

The church is open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 4pm.

Lectiionary

This Sunday

www.BibleGateway.com is accessible again to European users.

8am BCP Holy Communion

Ephesians 4.1-6

Luke 14.1-11

11am Parish Communion

2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2.8-15

Luke 17.11-19

Church News

Men's Breakfast

8.30-10.30am this morning in the Church Centre.

Together & Holiday Clubs

Rev Helen says:

Our Together community is due to meet this Thursday, and I am still looking for some volunteers to enable this to happen, if you are able to help out either in the kitchen (just reheating food) or in the hall during the session, please sign up at the back of church or speak to me.

We are also hoping to run either a two-morning holiday club for which we will just need two volunteers in the kitchen or a Family Morning, which we will need an extra couple of people in the hall to help with activities during the October Half term. Again, if you are able to help, please speak to me or sign up at the back of the church

You do need to complete the Basic Awareness Safeguarding course to volunteer - this can be done easily online and takes about an hour through the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#).

reader.stmagsips@gmail.com

As promised, our Licensed Lay Minister has a dedicated email address that you can now reach him on about all things church related. Do update your contacts for George Woodward!

Deanery Synod

Alison Gibbs was elected as the new Deanery Lay Chair. As deputy lay chair, Alison worked closely with Gill Jackson and takes on this role following her election on Wednesday evening. We keep her in our prayers. The Deanery Synod meeting was attended by Archdeacon Sam and the meeting spent time looking back at the last six years of the Inspiring Ipswich Project and considered what, as a deanery, we would like to retain from the project into the future. With the Archdeaconry of Ipswich being only one deanery, Archdeacon Sam is reflecting on the possibility of taking other deaneries under her wing - thus broadening and diversifying Ipswich Archdeaconry.

From 'Priest-in-Charge' to Vicar

The PCC and the Patrons (Simeons Trustees) have agreed with the Bishop and Archdeacon's proposal that the 'suspension' of the Benefice of St Margaret's Ipswich, be lifted. This is church legal terminology which means that I can be permanently licensed as Vicar of St Margaret's Church. This will take place during a single, 10am service on the morning of Advent Sunday. Archdeacon Sam will be joining us and I hope that we can begin the new Church year with a great celebration and re-commitment to being God's church in this place at this time.

Inspiring Ipswich - video request!

8th November

We will be mark the end of the Inspiring Ipswich project, giving thanks today for yesterday whilst looking to God for all that is yet to come. You can [register here](#). A super lunch is being organised for all who attend and we have been asked to contribute a short film that shares the story of St Margaret's over recent years. We are hoping that as many people as possible will be willing to be included by appearing on this video saying 'I'm here'... or 'we're here'.



Faithful & Fruitful:
A Celebration of Inspiring Ipswich

Saturday 8 November
10am - 3pm
Colchester Road Baptist Church

RSVP
Scan to book
your free tickets:



Service Times Consultation

Thank you for engaging with this period of consultation and prayerful reflection regarding the PCCs plan to refresh the worshipping pattern from January 2026. If you have not yet seen or received a copy of the proposals, please email the office or pick up a copy in church. There are lots of opportunities to meet Rev Sarah and perhaps other PCC members to explore the proposals together before the PCC make a final decision in early November.

- o Saturday 11th October 10.30-11.30 am in Church
- o Tuesday 14th October 7.30-8.30 pm online by Zoom
(<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88593487879> : Meeting ID: 885 9348 7879)
- o Thursday 16th October 10.00-11.00 am in Church (hosted by Churchwarden Margaret and Reader George – no clergy present)
- o Saturday 25th October 10.30-11.30 am in Church
- o Tuesday 28th October 7.30-8.30 pm in Church Office

Job Vacancies

We are trying again to recruit some administrative support to help with the smooth running of the church whilst Lucy is on maternity leave - closing date for applications is Sunday, 19th October 2025. In addition, with grant funding from Suffolk Community Foundation Rev Helen is hoping to recruit casual Holiday Club Workers to assist with the running of children's activities and events - there is no closing date for these roles. If you are interested in either vacancy, please email hr.stmagsips@gmail.com for more details.

Lost Property

Here is a picture of everything in the box at the back of the church! If it's not claimed by the end of October, we will donate it to a charity shop.



Harvest Festival Thanks

To all who decorated the church for harvest, thank you. The church is open for decorations to be removed and stored or composted as needed. Harvest Gifts from the Church and Primary School were delivered to FIND on Monday morning. Thank you to Patrick and Ann Whitear for transporting them, and to Ann for her continuing volunteering with FIND. If you would like to, you can still make a cash donation [directly here](#).



The Church Gives - Final Call

Each year, as a church, we make donations to local and international organisations carrying out God's mission in various ways. We have £1,500 to allocate between these three causes and now that the tokens in the jars have been counted, we can confirm the amount each will receive:

- Mission Direct : congregation member Geoff Spiller accompanies people giving practical support to improve local facilities in Zambia **£470**
- Growing Hope : one of our neighbours, Holy Trinity Church in Ipswich, is looking to work with Growing Hope to set up a space for children with additional needs and their families. They are looking for prayerful and financial support with a view to starting in 2026. **£825**
- Christian Mission Society : we have long been supporting a couple working in an environment that requires their names not to be shared or published on social media or through newsletters like this. We can, however, quietly continue to support them prayerfully and financially. **£205**




Can These Bones Live?

Disability, wilderness, hope and God

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 October 2025
14th annual conference on disability and church

St Martin-in-the-Fields, London and online
BSL • Captions

Details and Registration
<https://CanTheseBonesLive.eventbrite.co.uk>



Exploring experience of wilderness & how hope grows.

With talks, workshops, groups, art, theology, liturgy. Hybrid event - on site & online. You do not have to travel to London! You can join online.

Entry by donation. Details [here](#).

Sunday 19 October - the conference programme is 14.30 - 16.30 - Film screening: Defiant Lives A special screening of this award-winning documentary which tells the story of the disability rights movement in the UK, US and Australia. Followed by panel discussion. Onsite and online, with options for captions and audio description.

If you just want to watch this film you can do so anytime for free at the link

[Home | Defiant Lives](#)

This Wednesday: Theology, Churches & the Mainstreaming of the Far Right

Revs Sarah and Helen are hoping to stream this webinar on the big screen in church: Wednesday 15th October at 7pm: [Theology, Churches & the mainstreaming of the far right](#). All are welcome to join. If people wish to respond, there will be a 30 minute opportunity for reflection and conversation in church at the end of the webinar with the evening ending at 9pm.

**THEOLOGY, CHURCHES
& THE MAINSTREAMING
OF THE FAR RIGHT**

THIS EVENT EXPLORES HOW FAR-RIGHT NARRATIVES ARE ENTERING MAINSTREAM DEBATES ON IDENTITY AND NATION, AND THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS. WE'LL DISCUSS HOW THEOLOGICALS AND CHURCHES, INCLUDING THOSE OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN CARIBBEAN HERITAGE, CAN RESPOND.

SPEAKERS

DR KRISH KANDIAH OBE
DR CHRIS SHANNAHAN
DR CAROL TOMLIN
DR AARON WINTER

HOSTED BY PROFESSOR ROBERT BECKFORD
THEOLOGIAN, BROADCASTER, AUTHOR

**FAITH
HOPE
LOVE**

SIGN UP NOW!

7PM, 15 OCTOBER 2025
ONLINE EVENT

80 YEARS SINCE VE DAY IPSWICH MEN WHO FOUGHT IN WW2



**STORIES OF CAPTURE, ESCAPE,
TRAGEDY AND SURVIVAL**

WHEN
Saturday 8th November
1.0 pm to 4.0 pm

WHERE
SUFFOLK ARCHIVES
The Hold 131 Fore St, Ipswich IP4 1LN

TICKETS

Tickets cost £8

Book online at:

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/>



Find out more about
the men who served
and remember those
who died.

Expert talks and guidance
on researching your own
family's military history

Hear heartfelt stories from
descendants of captured
soldiers

The forgotten story of 67th
Medium Regiment R.A.
T.A., made up of Ipswich
men captured at Tobruk in
1942

Ipswich War Memorial
Project and its growing
digital archive

Exhibition of photos,
letters and personal
testimonies

**SUFFOLK
ARCHIVES**
A SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE

As a follow-on from the wonderful exhibition in church, for VE/VJ Day 80th Anniversary by the Ipswich War Memorial Project, there is a further opportunity to find out more about a relative's war-time life at an event being held at The Hold in Ipswich on Saturday 8th November from 1pm to 4pm.

Parish Giving Scheme

A heartfelt thank you from me to all of you who give regularly to St Margaret's Church. Every little regular gift really does make such a difference to all that we are able to do. If you give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, you will recently have received email correspondence updating you on some planned changes to the scheme, during which their website will not be accessible from 13th - 30th October 2025. If you have any concerns or questions, do contact 07541 707543 or email info@parishgiving.org.uk

Audio-Visual Operators

Important! No one has yet volunteered...

We are looking for additional people to join our small band of audio-visual operators. This worthwhile and vital role could either be manning the sound desk or operating the livestreaming equipment (or both). Full training will be given - it really is easier than it looks! If you are interested, please speak to or email stuart.quinton@ntlworld.com. Thank you.

Rev Sarah adds: recently a few people have connected via the livestream for the first time and have remarked to me just how helpful it is for them not only to worship, but also how the sense of connection has been an important part of feeling better. Sometimes we don't always see the impact of God working through the ways in which we serve. Can you serve quietly in this way? Why not give it a go!

Save the date! Sunday 9th November 12pm

Dear All

We are the very proud First Constable Rainbows, and we want to keep doing something brilliant, but we need your help. Every year this group of incredible children raise money to go together one evening to a local toy shop and select Christmas presents for children who otherwise wouldn't have much at Christmas (to be distributed by FIND). To raise money for this they are holding a remembrance Sunday event and we would greatly appreciate your support.

On Sunday 9th November 2025 (Remembrance Sunday) from 12

Where Garrett Memorial Hall – Bolton Lane Ipswich

You are invited to join us for a warm welcome, a baked potato, hot drink and lots of fun.

Cost Adults – Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Hot Drink and Cake £10 per person

Children – Half Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Cold Drink and Cake £5 Per person

There will also be games, fudge and crafts so please bring some cash.

To book places please E Mails helepeck77@me.com and confirm numbers (or if you have any questions). Please note payment will need to be cash on the day.

We usually cover all our costs so everything raised will go to put smiles on faces at Christmas

Thank you

1st Constable Rainbows

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Dorset Close, Colchester Road, Tuddenham Road.

Support

Remember our Pastoral Team are here to support members of the St Margaret's community whether ill or in need of a friendly listening ear, details can be found towards the bottom of this email.

Gratitude

For the joy of people willing to serve God for a season - we pray for Alison as she takes on the role of Deanery Lay Chair. For Archbishop Designate Sarah in her preparations. We pray too for all who are preparing to move on from roles that they may have held for sometime - for Sarah Hall as she prepares to leave St Augustine's Church as curate to move to Woolpit and Drinkstone.

October Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

A good way to save money and the planet is to try to batch bake in your electric or gas oven. It takes a lot of energy to heat an oven up, but relatively little to maintain the temperature. If you can arrange it so that items are baked or cooked one after the other while the oven is hot, then you will save money and release less carbon.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

12th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion - during this service we celebrate Motun's baptism.

14th October

8.00am Morning Prayer in school

15th October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

16th October

3.15-5.00 Together in the Church Centre

17th October

8am Morning Prayer

19th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Café Church

11am Parish Communion - during this service we welcome Chloe's family and celebrate her baptism.

3.30pm at Pakenham Church, Motun will be confirmed by Bishop Graeme. All welcome.

21st October

8.00am Morning Prayer in school

22nd October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

24th October

8am Morning Prayer

26th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine Communion

11am Morning Worship

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Forward Dates**14th December 2025**

4pm Hexachordia Concert

14th February 2026

Trianon Concert (evening)

Offertory

The life and mission of St Margaret's is financially sustained through generous giving. If you have been giving regularly as part of your practice of gratefully living in God's service, thank you. If you're new to the community, or would like to think about celebrating life in this way, you may find the following helpful: we receive no income from 'The Church'... we are the church! So, thank you – for anything and everything that you are able to give in response to God's generosity.

In church you can give in a couple of ways on the day:

- **Collection plate** – during services a collection plate is sometimes passed among the congregation, but you will more often find it at the South door as you leave or arrive. Do use a yellow envelope if you're a tax payer so gift aid may be re-claimed.
- **Tap giving** – during services a tap giving machine is located on the pillar on the west wall, to the left of the bell tower – do consider tapping your card or device. As well as giving regularly, this is also a good way of offering an occasional additional gift.
- **Regular Giving** – St Margaret's is registered with the [Parish Giving Scheme](#), allowing you to be in control of your giving and to give securely and safely online by Direct Debit.
- **Online giving** – If you wish to make a one-off or extra gift online, you can do so securely via the [Parish Giving Scheme](#).
- **Gift Aid** – if you are a tax payer, St Margaret's can claim back the basic tax you have already paid to the government. To make the appropriate declarations, please speak with the treasurer, [John Grierson](#).

- Leaving a **gift in your will** or making a **donation in memory** of a loved one – no matter how large or small, every gift makes a difference. If you would like to talk about this with someone, in confidence, then please consider speaking with the treasurer, John Grierson or the Vicar, Sarah.

Contact us:

Revd Sarah Geileskey - Priest-in-Charge

Email: revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com

Address: The Vicarage, 32 Constable Road, IP4 2UW

Telephone: 07841 687879

Sarah's rest days are usually Thursday each week and the second Friday of each month

Revd Helen Prior-Townsend - Curate

Email: helenptstmags@gmail.com

Telephone: 07541 707543

Helen's rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.

George Woodward - Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

Email: reader.stmagsips@gmail.com

Telephone:

George's quiet days tend to be Wednesdays and Fridays.

Churchwardens

Margaret Woodward

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office

Email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

Church Office and Contacts during the Church Administrator's period of Maternity Leave

We are taking the opportunity to rationalise email addresses. With immediate effect, please use office.stmagsips@gmail.com for all correspondence. The verger.stmagsips@gmail.com will be monitored until the end of August. There is a plan in place to maintain the current office opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 9.30am - 2.30pm. However, if you have a particular reason for visiting the office, do email ahead of time to confirm.

Pastoral Support: The Pastoral Care Team are a small group of volunteers who try and support people in a variety of situations by offering a listening ear, a helping hand or by providing useful information. Please click [here](#) for more information or contact Maggie Conder at pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com.

Safeguarding: This parish recognises that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities. When there is a disclosure of harm or there are concerns about the welfare of any children, young person or vulnerable adult, all adults in our church community are expected to share their concerns and allegations with one of the following:
Carol Klug - Parish Safeguarding Officer. Email safeguarding.stmagsips@gmail.com

More information on how you can report any safeguarding concerns is available from The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich [here](#)

Newsletter Contents

Please send any items for next week's newsletter to the Church Office (office.stmagsips@gmail.com), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please [complete this form https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit](https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit)