



- *Weekly news, readings and prayers*
Sunday 14th September 2025
13th Sunday after Trinity - Holy Cross Day



Apart from the signage, it's easy to imagine this scene of old... years ago, centuries ago. This is where, again, people will gather over the course of this weekend, celebrating community through the Heritage Open Weekend, welcoming children and their families to care for creation as Revd Dr Karen Smith shares her story 'Abbey & Eddie at Bingham Palace', eating together, cycling, walking and welcoming through the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride, singing together and raising a glass to community, to communion, to connection.

This week, again, our news is a reminder of how important to cherish and to nurture the ordinary things in life - friends and neighbours, to welcome those passing through, to care for those in need, for those who are fearful. All of this builds the common good. It's also an outward sign of an inner, invisible love. The love of God. Though we may each have different personal views or experiences in life, as followers of Christ's way we long for the healing and wholeness of the world in which we live, that this earth and all people may live life to the full. Together, in sickness and in health... bearing with one another, caring for one another and creation. We can only do that if we are willing to spend time together with one another and with God. Fun and fellowship. Prayer and Worship. In an uncertain world, God's love is one of the few certainties on which we can depend. Even when it doesn't always feel like it. Community can carry us, walk with us when we barely dare to hope, believe or take the next step.

It's all happening this weekend... if it's been a while since you've connected with church, with God, come and see. Others have, over the years. Invested time, in faith. You'll be very welcome. People of all faiths and none. Always.

Rev. Sarah, Priest-in-Charge

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

11.00 am Parish Communion (L)

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.

Lectionary

This Sunday

For a long time we have been connecting you each week to scripture readings via a US-based site, www.BibleGateway.com which is now no longer accessible from the UK and European Union. The links to this week's readings are via www.bible.com which give you the chapter, so you'll need to look for the particular verse(s).

8am BCP Holy Communion

[Galatians 3.16-22](#)

[Luke 10.23-37](#)

11am Parish Communion

These are the lectionary readings for Holy Cross Day

[Numbers 21.4-9](#)

[Philippians 2.6-11](#)

[John 3.13-17](#)

Church News

8.30am Today! Men's Breakfast

In the Church Centre... will you be one of the dozen or more people sharing conversation, fellowship, food and worship together this morning? Hot drinks and bacon rolls from 8.30am. Worship from 9.30am... ish.

Today!

Ride & Stride, Heritage Open Weekend and Community Open Day

We are grateful to the Inspiring Ipswich Project for sponsorship of our Community Open Day event. Join in at any point. Revd Sarah says 'I am especially grateful for all those involved in the many activities taking place this weekend... cyclists, welcomers, story-tellers, singers and cooks. I pray the weekend will be a blessing to all involved as we celebrate community and our connection with one another: living, revealing and experiencing something of God's love for all people in this sacred place, in word, music and community service.

With thanks to St Margaret's VAP School - parking is available for today's activities.

New phone number for Rev Helen

Please update your contacts lists: Rev Helen's new number for calls, texts or WhatsApps is 07541 707543

6th - 14th September : National Week of Prayer

If you'd like to visit the 24/7 prayer room at Holy Trinity Hall, Back Hamlet Ipswich is open, as it says, 24 hours a day. You can sign up for a particular slot, or pop in.

Further info from <https://www.24-7prayer.com/weekofprayer/>

Sign up link <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/8c5c69>

Together Community

I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help at the Together Community in September and October. The dates and times are:

- Thursday 18th September between 3pm and 5.30pm
- Saturday 27th September between 10.30am and 1pm
- Thursday 17th October between 3pm and 5.30pm

Help is needed either helping to heat and serve food (which is prepared beforehand) and wash up in the kitchen or be on hand to welcome people in the hall and provide friendship and chat during the sessions. Now the new school year has started we are hoping that more parents/carers and children will be able to join us. To run this community safely we do need at least one person in the kitchen and 1 in the hall at all times and ask that people have completed the Church of England's Basic Safeguarding training which can be done online in about an hour via the link below [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal](#). If you have any questions please do speak to me.

Thank you, Rev Helen

Audio-Visual Operators

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!

13th - 14th September

Ride & Stride, Heritage Open Weekend and Community Open Day

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Pop-up Café
10.30am - 3.30pm (ish!)
Saturday 13th September

As part of our first Community Open Day & to coincide with the Ipswich Heritage Open Weekend & Suffolk Historic Churches Trust's Ride & Stride event, a pop-up café will be serving hot drinks, cake & bacon rolls.

No charge
Donations appreciated

www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH



Community Open Day
Saturday 13th September 2025

'Abbey & Eddie at Bughingham Palace'
We welcome author, Revd Dr Karen Smith for a morning of story-telling in the churchyard & making bug hotels for young children & their families. Book via the QR code

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride
Welcoming cyclists & walkers visiting Ipswich churches (10am-4pm)

Lazy-Saturday Drop-in Café
Bacon rolls & home-made cakes served late morning onwards.
No charge - donations welcome.

Heritage Open Weekend
Heritage and Eco activities for all ages to enjoy as you visit St Margaret's Church and Churchyard (Sunday too) (10am-4pm)

Outdoor sing-along: 'Hymns & Pimms'
Pimms and other drinks served (3.30pm-4ish).

www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none

For details email: events.stmagisps@gmail.com

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH



Hymns & Pimms
3.30pm Saturday 13th September

A relaxed outdoor singalong of some of your favourite songs and hymns. Passers-by, friends and family will all be very welcome.

With live piano accompaniment & complimentary Pimms (while stocks last - other drinks available!) we hope for sunny weather and a joy-filled end to our first ever Community Open Day.

Community singing is good for wellbeing.
Why not come and give it a try!
If it rains we'll be in the church!

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welcoming people of all faiths and none

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Harvest Festival Weekend

27th & 28th September 2025

We will be supporting the FIND Foodbank: donations of non-perishable food a toiletries will be very gratefully received.

Saturday morning:

9.30 am we will be decorating the church for harvest...

A note from Angie Cable:

HARVEST FESTIVAL CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating our Church for Harvest Festival on Saturday 27th September from 9.30 am.

The Church car park will be open for our use.

Please just turn up with flowers/plants/vegetables etc and you will be given a space to decorate.

We look forward to seeing some new friends as well as our regular decorators.

All arrangements will then need to be cleared on or before 11th October.

Thank you all for continued support.

11am-12.45 pm A special, weekend opportunity to worship 'Together', meeting in the church centre with lunch provided. The **'Together'** worshipping community usually meet after school on the third Thursday of the month - so this is an opportunity for those who have not yet experienced **'Together'** to join in. If you would like to know more, speak with Revd Helen for details.

Saturday afternoon:

3.30 pm George Woodward to be licensed as a Lay Minister (Reader) at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. You are welcome to attend the service, or join the Cathedral's livestream.



Harvest Celebration

Sunday 28th September 2025

10am Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Family Communion with Junior Church.

11.15am The Wonder of Creation
Congregation members share experiences of God's good earth in words & pictures: including the Antarctic & Tanzania.
In church with activities for children & young people.

12.30pm Bring & Share Lunch
In the Church Centre, Bolton Lane: to book places for you & your guests & to arrange your contribution, speak to Frederike Jacob in church or text on 07805 192855.

6.30pm Choral Evensong
With traditional hymns and anthems,
a reflective service at the end of a blessed day.

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welcoming people of all faiths and none


St. Margaret's Church
I P S W I C H

Social Justice Campaign

Christian Aid

If you would like to lend your voice to Christian Aid's 'Restore' Campaign which explores the way in which the pursuit of climate justice tackles poverty, you can find out more on their website by clicking [here](#). Information is available about writing to your MP or signing the Christian Aid petition.

PCC & Deanery Synod Meetings & UoS Freshers' Fair

Apologies! The next Deanery Synod meeting is not until October, when your reps, George Woodward, Frederike Jacob and Maggie Conder will be there. 10th September was a meeting of Clergy Chapter in Ipswich Deanery - Revds Sarah and Helen attended and we shared with colleagues that we are looking forward to the University of Suffolk freshers' fayre on the afternoon of 30th September when we will be glad to meet new students and let them know how to connect with church. Meanwhile, the PCC is meeting will on Tuesday, 16th September 2025.

Thursday

Forum

at Christ Church
Tacket Street (next to Cox Lane car park)

Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm

A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both



Season 2025/2026

- Sep 25th **The Eyes of the Few**
Graham Murchie, Trustee, Bawdsey Radar Trust
- Oct 2nd **Ipswich Minster**
Rev Tom Mumford, Vicar
- Oct 16th **Ipswich Central and All About Ipswich**
Melanie Willis, Communications Manager
- Oct 23rd **SIFRE (Suffolk Interfaith Resource)**
Cynthia Capey
- Oct 30th **Two Months in Thailand: a Grandparent's Journey**
Elene Marsden

www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk
Twitter at @ThursdayForum and Facebook: ThursdayForumIpswich

Did you Know?

Medieval Carvings

As part of the Heritage Weekend an exhibition of the main subject of each of the medieval carvings above the clerestory windows has been placed on the display boards under the tower. A copy of the display can be found on the church website:

<https://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Spandrel-Pics-For-Website.pdf>

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Fonnereau Road, Old Foundry Road, Neale Street and Claude Street.

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 Penguins and Puffins - the new children at St Margaret's Primary school who spent their first full day in school on Thursday. We give thanks for all of the new families, and the parents who dropped off their children and dropped in to church for an hour to meet us and one another over coffee and cake. For Cornerstone - caring for the youngest by sorting out toys... and caring for the worshipping community by preparing for Café Church next week (21st September at 9.30am)

September Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

Christian Climate Action has declared this a National Day of Climate Prayer. If you believe in the power of prayer then you can find out more

at <https://christianclimateaction.org/2025/06/06/national-day-of-climate-prayer-for-our-church/>.

At its centre, the day will involve us praying that the Church of England moves to exemplify radical and transformative Christian living in the face of climate collapse. This could be the week you take the opportunity to spread the word amongst your neighbours and friends about climate change and the need for action.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

13th September

3.30pm 'Hymns and Pimms' in the Churchyard

14th September

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion

16th September

8am Morning Prayer (in school)

17th September

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

18th September

3.30pm 'Together' in the Church Centre

19th September

8am Morning Prayer

21st September

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Café Church

11am Parish Communion

23rd September

8am Morning Prayer (in school)

24th September

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

26th September

8am Morning Prayer

28th September - Harvest Festival

8am BCP Communion

10am Harvest Festival : note change of service time!

Forward Dates


St Martin in the Fields

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](#).

8th November

We 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](#).



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.

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)