



St. Margaret's Church

I P S W I C H

A NEW CHURCH YEAR!

This Church Year (Year C) features the Gospel of Luke

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 15th December 2024

8am Holy Communion

A thirty-minute Prayer Book service in traditional language with no music.

[1 Corinthians 4.1-5](#) and [Matthew 11.2-10](#)

9:30am Café Church

Breakfast served in the church centre with conversation, a song and a prayer.

All are welcome.

11.00am Parish Communion

With the choir leading the music, congregational hymns,

Junior Church and refreshments after the service. All welcome.

[Zephaniah 3.14-end](#), [Philippians 4.4-7](#), and [Luke 3.7-18](#)

You can view the livestream of the 11am service [here](#).

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 from 10am to 3pm

***The Church Office (in the Church Centre) is usually open
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm***

[Click here for Livestreamed Services](#)

[Click here for the December Prayer Diary](#)



Be pedantic about your recycling! Think about every item you put in the bin; should it go to landfill? Loo rolls come on card tubes, sweets come in foil or paper wrappers, apple cores can be composted and most packaging can be recycled now

Driving Home for Christmas

I've been singing lots of Christmas Carols over the last week or so when we are only just half way through Advent. It's a reminder that we've both arrived... and yet there's still some way to go... that paradox that means both Christ is with us and Christ will come again.

Paradox surrounds us at Christmas. The eternal Word incarnate found among us as a speechless baby. The Bread of Life laid in a feeding trough. The Light of the World seen at the darkest hour.

GK Chesterton wrote 'Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.'

The last verse of his poem 'House at Christmas' reads:

*To an open house in the evening
Home shall men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.*

Where is home?

A manger and a stable place sufficed.

Is that enough for you, for now, as we travel towards God's house with many rooms, knowing that Christ has gone ahead to prepare the way?

Is there room at the inn for you?

Does the innkeeper know you are coming?

There are those who this Christmas will not know the welcome of a stable and for

whom there will be no refuge whilst others feast from
the security of their castles.

As for me and my house, I will serve the Lord.
(Joshua 24.-5b)

Come and join us at our last Café Church of 2024 this Sunday.

A photograph of a coffee cup and various pastries on a table. The coffee cup is white with a dark rim and sits on a matching saucer. Next to it are several pastries, including donuts and cinnamon rolls, some with powdered sugar. The table is covered with a white, textured tablecloth. The image is partially obscured by a white circular graphic on the right side.

Cafe Church!
This Sunday at
9.30am
in the church centre

All welcome
Coffee, breakfast pastries,
songs and friendship

This month we'll be preparing
for Christmas!

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Church
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Welcoming people of all faiths and none

Come and join Men's breakfast on Saturday 21st December 8.30am for a light breakfast and fellowship in the Church Centre.

Church Decorating



A message from Angie Cable...

We are going to be decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday 21st December from 9.30am.

The car park will be open from then until around 11.30 when I shall lock it. Please come along with your foliage plants etc, (suggest either artificial flowers or ones that last) and we can allocate you a space.

I hope to serve refreshments as well.

Would you like to get involved with singing at St Margaret's?



Our Church Choir is looking for new members, in each voice – sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses welcome, as well as children from age eight onwards

If you are interested or would like some more information, please contact our organist, Christopher Tinker, for more details.

You can phone or text him on 07513 420792 or email: c.tinker@uwclub.net

Alternatively you can speak to him, or any member of the choir, following an 11.00 a.m. Sunday morning service.

Save the Dates!

find Christmas difficult, whatever the reason or circumstance. We have also introduced an accessible daytime Carol Service (with mince pies & hot drinks): easier to join in when the dark nights are long."

Christmas Services

Sunday, 1st at 6.30 pm

Advent Carol Service

Tuesday, 10th at 7.00 pm

Ipswich Lower School

Carol Service

Wednesday, 11th at 7.00 pm

Northgate School Carol Service

Friday, 13th at 3.45 pm

(no parking)

St Margaret's CEVAP

School Carol Service

Weds, 18th at 2.00 pm

(no parking)

St Margaret's CEVAP

Whole School Service

Saturday, 21st at 4.00pm

The Longest Night Service

Sunday, 22nd at 6.30pm

Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday, 23rd at 2.30pm

Accessible Carol Service

Tuesday, 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 pm Crib Service: come dressed for nativity! Angels, shepherds and sheep all welcome at this 30 minute service.

6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight: all generations gathering for this 45 minute service with candles and carols.

11.00 pm 'Midnight Mass': we celebrate the mystery of God's love for all people that draws us back each year.

Wednesday, 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am Festive Family Communion: followed by drinks & nibbles for those who are able to stay.



Parking available in the school playground

Welcoming all people of the parish, the visitors, the curious and the carol singers!



Future services

In addition to the main services at the top of the pew sheet, here are the details of other services taking place

Tuesday 17th December 2024

8.00am Morning Prayer

Friday 20th December 2024

8.00am Morning Prayer

Saturday 21st December 2024

4.00pm Longest Night Service

Sunday 22nd December 2024

08.00am Holy Communion

09.30am Rise and Shine

11.00am Morning Worship

06.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 23rd December 2024

8.00am Accessible Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December 2025

04.00pm Crib Service

06.00pm Carols by Candlelight

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December 2024

19.00am Festive Family Communion

Pastoral Support

Please let us know if you or someone in St Margaret's community is unwell and would like a visit at home or is in hospital - Home Communion can be arranged. [Maggie Conder](#) is our [pastoral care](#) team leader or contact the vicar, [Sarah](#).



Financial Giving

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.

Here are some answers to the practicalities of giving:

- **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.

- **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](#).



John Grierson, Church Treasurer

Contact details

Website: www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk

The Revd Sarah Geileskey:

revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com

The Vicarage, 32 Constable Road, IP4 2UW

07841 687879

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

Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend:

helenptstmags@gmail.com

07540 394179

Helen is a self-supporting ordinand, working full time. Her parish rest day is usually on Tuesdays.

Churchwardens churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

Verger administrator verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

Or telephone 07733 609661 and leave a message.

Items for next week's sheet to the Verger Administrator

(verger.stmagsips@gmail.com), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime**

please. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please [send an email](#) or complete [the form on the website](#).

