



*Weekly news, readings and prayers*

## Sunday 14th March

### Lent IV - Mothering Sunday



*Image by Gretchen Passantino 2003*

#### ***“God our Mother” by Allison Woodard***

To be a Mother is to suffer; to travail in the dark, stretched and torn, exposed in half-naked humiliation and subjected to indignities for the sake of new life.

To be a Mother is to say, *“This is my body, broken for you,”* and, in the next instant, in response to the created’s primal hunger, *“This is my body, take and eat.”*

To be a Mother is to self-empty, to neither slumber nor sleep, so attuned You are to cries in the night—offering the comfort of Yourself and assurances of *“I am here.”*

To be a Mother is to weep over the fighting and exclusions and wounds your children inflict on one another; to long for reconciliation and brotherly love and—when all is said and done—to gather all parties, the offender and the offended, into the folds of your embrace and to whisper in their ears that they are Beloved.

To be a Mother is to be vulnerable—to be misunderstood, railed against, blamed for the heartaches of the bewildered children who don't know where else to cast the angst they feel over their own existence in this perplexing universe

To be a Mother is to hoist onto your hips those on whom your image is imprinted, bearing the burden of their weight, rejoicing in their returned affection, delighting in their wonder, bleeding in the presence of their pain.

To be a Mother is to be accused of sentimentality one moment, and injustice the next. To be the receiver of endless demands, absorber of perpetual complaints, reckoner of bottomless needs.

To be a Mother is to be an artist; a keeper of memories past, weaver of stories untold and visionary of lives looming ahead.

To be a Mother is to be the first voice listened to, and the first disregarded; to be a Mender of broken creations, and Comforter of the distraught children whose hands wrought them.

To be a Mother is to be a Touchstone and the Source, bestower of names, influencer of identities; Life giver, life shaper, empath, healer, and Original Love.

Mothering Sunday. Traditionally the day when we find our way back home to 'Mother Church'. With all the joys and complexities of this day we choose to gather together to worship God, to be fed with spiritual food and drink and to encourage one another as followers of Christ.  
Peace be with you.

Rev Sarah

March Prayer Diary

## Services this Week

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

### Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Family Communion (L)

6 pm Time Out - a service of meditation and contemplation

### This Week

#### Tuesday 17th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

#### Wednesday 18th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

#### Thursday 19th March

3.15 pm Together in the Church Centre

**Friday 20th March**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

**Saturday 21st March**

8.30 am Men's Breakfast in the Church Centre

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

***Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for weekend services.*** During the week, the children are in school and we cannot use the playground as a car park. Please drive slowly and carefully through the gates. We are grateful for our partnership with the school.

The church will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

## Lectionary

**This Sunday**Exodus 2.1-10 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))John 19.25b-27 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#)) : read at all services

Read in traditional language - King James Version - at the 8am service and from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) at other times.

## Church News

**Together Extra! TODAY.****14th March 10-11.30 am and beyond**

Together is venturing into a new space - meeting bi-monthly on Saturday mornings as well as our regular 3rd Thursdays. Together - Extra will meet on Saturday mornings between 10 am and 11.30 am, and will include a brunch at the end.

The dates for this year are as follows -

14th March, 23rd May, 25th July, 26th September, 28th November

It is preferable to book on Saturdays; the link is below.

[Together Extra - Saturday.](#)

**Lent 2026****Lent Groups**

**Wednesday lunchtimes:** 18th & 25th - soup and conversation in the church centre following 12pm Holy Communion in Church.

**Wednesday evenings by zoom at 7pm :**

18th Esther 4.9-17 - Communal Prayer

25th Daniel 6.10-22 - Constant Prayer

You do not need to commit to the whole course and no advance preparation is required so come

to all or some of the sessions as you can. If children's bedtimes are challenging - join whatever time you can and leave as you need to. We'll be following a course on the theme of prayer, with speaker Bishop Philip North of the Diocese of Blackburn, who will be examining the lives of 5 Old Testament figures who prayed, reflecting on how that relates to Jesus' prayer life and what that might mean for our prayers. We will use the same zoom link each week: [if you have not already registered and received the link, please click here](#).

### Other Lent resources

The Church of England has a range of other resources available that you may like to make use of during Lent, including books and daily reflections through the EveryDay Faith app. [You can find out more here](#).

### Confirmation

Have you thought about confirmation? Do you think it's for you, or something you might consider? The Cathedral is holding a Diocese Confirmation Service on the 3rd of May, and there is likely to be an Ipswich deanery confirmation service taking place later in the year.

I'm going to be running some preparation sessions soon (no obligation to be confirmed if you aren't sure!), so if you are thinking about confirmation, please do speak to me.

Thanks, Rev Helen

### PCC Meeting 24th March

The next (and last) meeting of the current Church Council will be taking place in the Church Centre at 7pm on Tuesday, 24th March. On the agenda for discussion will include the Accounts for the year ending 2025, Admission to Communion for children, some reflection on Living in Love and faith and prayers of blessing for couples in same sex relationships for use during services. After four years in the role, this will be Margaret Woodward's last meeting as our churchwarden as she stands down at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April 2026.

In next week's newsletter there will be information about how to stand for election to the church council, how to vote in the elections and the various roles that are vacant.

Please have a word with Rev Sarah if you are thinking about joining in with this important aspect of our church life.

### Spring Clean - 28th March 9.30 am-12 pm

Please come and lend a hand to spring clean the church and sort out the cupboards. Plenty of jobs so pop in for half an hour or come all morning. Please don't rely on someone else doing this - many hands will make light work. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. You might even be entrusted with the extra long feather duster that reaches to the clerestory windows.

Rev Sarah

### Easter Lilies

Angie Cable writes

"Easter is a time when we traditionally remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

It has become our tradition that we have an Easter Lillies arrangement on the altar and if anyone would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please put your money clearly marked "EASTER LILLIES" in an envelope and put it in the collection. Please do not give to Angie, it needs to go to

our Church Treasurer, John Grierson. We would like to receive your donations before Palm Sunday 29th March please. Thank you.”

### **Easter Church Decorating**

We will be decorating our Church ready for Easter Sunday on Saturday 4th April from 9.30 until 11.30. The car park will be open for our use.

Please bring your greenery, flowers, plants etc to Church and you will be allocated a space on the day. We look forward to seeing our regular arrangers and hope that we will be welcoming some new arrangers, there is always someone to help, so please don't let that stop you from coming along and giving it a go. I was told by a very good Church flower arranger many years ago, "that it doesn't matter what it looks like, God knows it was done with love". I have never forgotten that.

All arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday 18th April.

Thank you for your continuing support and look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Angie Cable

### **Good Friday - 12-3 pm Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem**

We are **hoping** to sing Fauré's Requiem on Good Friday. You do not have to be a regular member of the choir to join in - you turn up and sing on the day, although good prior knowledge of the music and/or an ability to sight sing (to a degree) is needed. If you would like to know more, please speak to our organist and choir director, Christopher Tinker or email him.

Room for all parts, SAB... but especially T!

***If this is not for you but you know someone who might be interested, please tell them!***

### **Internship and Volunteering Opportunities in Christian Communities**

You may be wondering about spending some time in a christian community - living a different way of life as you serve God and neighbour. Worth Abbey and Iona both offer opportunities - do take a look if you are curious. If you are younger and thinking about doing something different when you finish full time education, you might be interested in exploring some of the possibilities on offer through the Church of England website.

***If this is not for you but you know someone who might be interested, please tell them!***

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN IPSWICH TOWN CENTRE



### **ECUMENCIAL CHRISTIAN WALK OF WITNESS: April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026**

**Meet 9.45 at Museum Street Methodist Church:**  
(Black Horse Lane entrance)  
**a silent yet prayerful walk of witness,**  
(along Westgate Street and Tavern Street)  
**stopping for Bible readings, prayers and hymns,**  
(including on Cornhill)  
**ending 10.45 at ChristChurch Tacket Street.**

Everyone is warmly invited to be part of this witness.



## Lent Lunches after Wednesday Holy Communion, 12.30-1.30pm

18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February,  
4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> March

Gladwyn Room, Church Centre

A thought for the day accompanies a simple bowl of soup and conversation starters.

All are welcome to gather around the table.

*"Food for body and soul"*

If you know in advance that you will be attending, for catering purposes please email [pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com).

The soup served will be gluten-free and vegan. If you have other dietary requirements, please let us know.



[events.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:events.stmagsips@gmail.com)  
[www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)  
*welcoming people of all faiths and none*



## Growing Deeper

### Thanksgiving

For the group of women who gathered together on Friday afternoon to prepare Mothering Sunday posies. For the Together community, as Rev Helen leads them meeting every third Thursday and on Saturdays. For those who take care of our church buildings - the outside light to the north door was repaired this week and the churchyard is regularly attended to by two members of the congregation.

## Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Westerfield Road, Westerfield Court and Park North.

*If you are praying for the war in the Middle East and the continuing war against Ukraine, these words may be helpful:*

God of mercy, look with compassion  
on all who are affected by the conflict.  
Grant insight to hardened hearts,  
comfort to the fearful,  
protection to those in danger,  
and hope to those who are despairing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 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.

## Social Action

Please remember have a box at the back of the church all year round to collect contributions of food and toiletries.

# Growing Greener

## Green Tip of the week

Are you still using clingfilm in your kitchen? There are now many alternatives which work as well and mean that less plastic is thrown away. Some of these are plastic, but not single use. There are plastic and cloth tops for bowls and jars which seal them beautifully and can be used again and again. Plastic boxes of various sizes are available for storage and again will last for a very long time. 'Lakeland' and the 'Ethical Superstore' both have a number of alternatives to clingfilm which are worth investigating..

*With thanks to Revd Richard Stainer for his weekly tips.*

**Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours**

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## Forthcoming Services and Events

### Sunday 22nd March

8 am BCP Holy Communion  
10 am Parish Worship (L)  
6 pm Choral Evensong (L)

**Tuesday 24th March**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

**Wednesday 25th March**

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

**Thursday 26th March**

8 pm Compline by Zoom - we use the same zoom link each month. Sign up [here](#).

**Friday 27th March**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

**Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday (clocks go forward)**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Parish Procession (L)

No evening service

**Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st March & Wednesday 1st April**

7 pm 30-45 minutes: Engage with Holy Week through Film and Prayer

**Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday**

7 pm Holy Communion remembering the washing of feet and The Last Supper followed by prayer vigil 'could you not keep watch for one hour?'

**Good Friday 3rd April**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

10 am Good Friday - Café Church with hot cross buns and Walk of Witness from Church Centre to Church

3 pm Good Friday - Fauré's Requiem (subject to sufficient singers being available)

**Save the Dates****Easter Sunday - 5th April**

6.15 am Sunrise Service

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Prayer and Praise

**Sunday, 26th April**

10am Morning Worship with Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Saturday 6th June**

10am - 4pm Creative Retreat Day in Church including a light lunch.

**Saturday 18th July**

Day Trip / Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds with friends from All Hallows Church to include a special service in the Cathedral led by the All Hallows and St Margaret's community, the opportunity to explore Bury St Edmunds for fun, picnics and/or reflective retreat time and the chance to finish the day attending Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

Rev Helen will be on a curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds) from the end of May until the beginning of July.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.stmagsjps@gmail.com](mailto:reader.stmagsjps@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07990 573258

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

## Churchwardens

Margaret Woodward

Email: [churchwardens.stmagsjps@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsjps@gmail.com)

## Office

Email: [office.stmagsjps@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsjps@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](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) for all correspondence. The [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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 or call 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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding.stmagsips@gmail.com)  
Frederike Jacob is our assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer

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](mailto: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>