

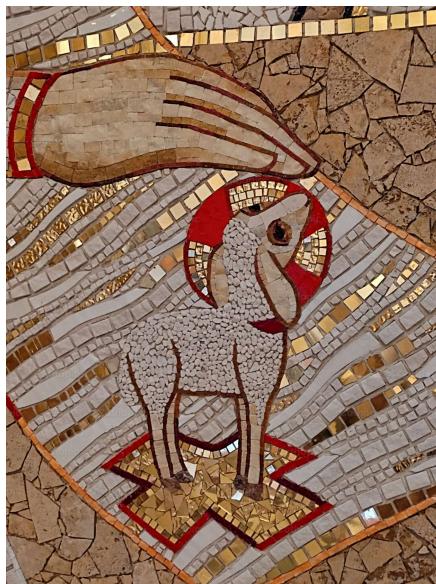


Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 18th January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Week of Prayer for Christian unity



In the Gospel reading for this Sunday we hear about Jesus and the first disciples, this is part of verse 36 “as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’” I wonder if we notice Jesus walking past us? Whether we see him in those we walk past, or in the changing seasons, or through something we might be reading. Do we notice him walking through our lives or do we just carry on walking without seeing him? Whether we are oblivious to his presence or just not in the right frame of mind for him.

I am currently reading a book called “How to Winter” and one of the suggestions given by the author is to take notice of our surroundings more during this time of year, to see the beauty that we might miss if we just go round thinking winter is just dark, cold, wet and horrible. Just by stopping and noticing what is actually going on can change our perspective.

I wonder if by stopping for a moment we might see where Jesus is walking in our lives. Taking a breath in this world that tells us we should be busy and on the go all the time, take a moment, see where what he is trying to show us and then change our faith for the better, 1 degree at a time.

Rev Helen

January 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 18th January

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10 am (L) Family Communion
6 pm Time Out [45 mins] a reflective service with contemplation and meditation

This week

Tuesday 20th January

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 21st January

9 am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by a soup lunch in the Church Centre Gladwyn Room

Thursday 22nd January

8 pm Compline - Night Prayer by zoom. [Click here to register and receive the zoom link.](#)

Friday 23rd January

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 24th January

10-11.30am Together Christingle (Church Centre)

2pm - St Edmundsbury Cathedral livestream - The Enthronement of The Right Reverend Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell as Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

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

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for Sunday 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

1 Corinthians 1.1-9 (KJV) (NRSVUE)John 1.35-42 (KJV) (NRSVUE)

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

Taking Down the Christmas Decorations : Tidying Jobs - Help Please

There are still two Christmas trees to be taken down! Help! If you can pop into church this week to do this, please speak with Rev Sarah.

Together - Christingle 24th January

Together Christingle, next Saturday, we are running a special Together Christingle gathering in the Church Centre from 10 - 11:30 am. We will be finding out more about Christingles, making them, and having a pastry and fruit brunch with each other - all welcome!

So enough oranges are bought, it is preferable if you book onto this via the link below

[Together - Christingle Celebration](#)

I am also looking for 3 volunteers to help out, so do speak to me if you are able to do this

Thanks

Rev Helen

Christmas Cards - recycling

Please save your Christmas cards - there is a box at the back of the church to gather them all up to gift to All Hallows Church who will re-use them in the making of Christmas Cards for next year, which they sell to raise funds. Those that All Hallows cannot use will be recycled.

Visitors from Biharamulo, Kagera and Lweru

Bishop Vitalis, Bishop Darlington and Bishop Godfrey arrive this week ready to support Bishop Joanne as she is licensed as our new Diocesan Bishop. Adam Geileskey is arranging their programme - it is already quite full, but there may be opportunities for some or all of them to spend some time with us at St Margaret's, learning about ordinary Suffolk life. Do speak with Adam if you have a spare room, might like to host for a meal or join them for a walk to chat about life in Suffolk. Wouldn't it be lovely to have more invitations than their programme permits!

Bishop Godfrey of Lweru Diocese will be worshipping with us next Sunday.

Licensing of Revd Sarah Hall as Curate-In-Charge

Our former Reader/Licensed Lay Minister has sent us an invitation to her licensing service on 23rd February. RSVPs by 30th January.

We keep Sarah and Phil in our prayers as they move to Woolpit.

The Benefice of Woolpit & Drinkstone

The Churchwardens of the parishes of St Mary's, Woolpit and All Saints', Drinkstone warmly invite you to

the Licensing of the Reverend Sarah Hall as Curate-in-Charge
by the Rt Revd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
on Monday, 23rd February 2026, at St Mary's, Woolpit at 7.30pm
followed by a wine reception

*Clergy/LLM's are invited to robe in the
 Village Institute [IP30 9QH] opposite the Village Pump*

*Please RSVP by Friday 30th January 2026
 indicating if you are staying for the reception (and if you are robing)
 to: rev.sarah.hall@gmail.com*

*Please pray for Sarah and the people of Woolpit & Drinkstone parishes
 at the start of this new chapter together*

Cornerstone

In this winter season we will be joining together in church at 12pm every third Wednesday for Holy Communion, followed by a soup lunch and conversation in the church centre afterwards.

John & Helen Elliston

John and Helen Elliston would like to say they are extremely grateful to the congregation and MU past members who sent them good wishes signing the cards we had at back of church. They will keep them in their possession. It was most kind of everyone and they appreciate it enormously. They were absent from church for much of last year as Helen's alzheimers became worse and had to take the decision to move to sheltered accommodation in Gt. Finborough nearer to one of their daughters who can pop-in most days. They have been their just over a month and are gradually settling in, though Helen is finding it disorientating in new surroundings. They value our prayers as they navigate this new way of life.

PCC Meeting

The PCC is meeting this Wednesday 21st January at 7.00pm in the Church Centre. Please keep them in your prayers. As well as the standing items on the agenda, everything from finance to property, to eco church, safeguarding, fellowship and events, the church centre and others, the agenda includes:

- Reflecting on where God is at work among us, especially over Christmas and with the start of the new worshipping pattern.
- Gratitude for two recently received gifts in wills.
- Considering the Admission of Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation
- An update on conversations taking place in the national church with regard to Living in Love and Faith, Prayers of Love and Faith (public prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and asking for God's blessing of same-sex couples)
- An awareness of the Annual Church Parochial Meeting (APCM) - the meeting when the community elects Church Wardens as the whole church gathers to elect PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives

Churchwarden(s) Vacancies

After four years of dedicated service in the role of lone Churchwarden, Margaret Woodward's time in this role will end at the APCM. Churchwardens serve the community in one of the most visible and important roles in a church community and we must discern wisely the people who will take on these roles in this season when the church is growing. Please begin to pray and to look for people across this community with practical and people skills whom God may be calling to serve us in this role. The Vicar's prayer is that at team of 4 people will emerge. Two named wardens and two dedicated helpers. The role of churchwarden is varied - there are some tasks that must be undertaken, however, it can also be shaped to enable individuals to bring their skills to the role to help St Margaret's continue to flourish and grow. There is some information about [being a churchwarden on the Diocesan Website](#): please speak with Revd Sarah and with Margaret if you are curious.

Remembering those who have died

We remember and give thanks for Jo Carrick who died on Monday following a short illness. As Co-founder and Creative Director of The Red Rose Chain theatre, many have been the tributes to Jo as people give thanks for her life and work. Jo's husband, David and son, Ted, are in our prayers.

Crown Him 2026

Gathering Christians of all ages to start the year with praise, celebrating God's work and inspired to enter into all that He has for this town.

Saturday 24th January

- Where: St Francis' Church, Hawthorn Drive, IP2 0QQ
- When:
 - 6.30pm – to learn about local Christian organisations
 - 7.30pm – for celebration, envisioning and responding

Concert: 14th February 4pm

Anna Brennan and Alison Thurtle are coordinating this event - do speak to them if you can help to welcome, serve refreshments or put up promotional posters. Thank you.



Concert

Saturday 14th February

4.00 pm

A late afternoon concert of string and choral music performed by members of **Trianon Symphony Orchestra and Choir** with the voices from **Ipswich Choral Society** and the **Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society**.

This concert remembers Trianon's co-founder, Chris Green, promoter of the arts and of Ipswich.

Warm drinks will be available afterwards and there will be retiring collection to support the maintenance and general repairs of the historic Grade 1 listed St Margaret's Church.

Soane Street, next to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking available in St Margaret's VAP School,
Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT

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

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Barnaby Gardens, Cemetery Road, Finchley Road and Hayhill Road.

Thanksgiving

We are grateful this week for the arts and culture as we give thanks for Red Rose Chain and other theatre groups in Ipswich and we look forward to the Trianon / Ipswich Chamber Choir/ Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society concert at St Margaret's, we thank God for musicians and story tellers who help us to explore and experience life and faith in different ways.

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

How do you get around?

We so easily forget to switch off appliances when we have finished with them. The computer stays on all day, the programme finishes and we leave the television on. It is so easy to do. Yet, simply turning off your appliances and gadgets when you're not using them, will save you thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Do make sure you turn them off completely and not just leave them on stand-by!

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 25th January

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

Tuesday 27th January : Holocaust Memorial Day

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 28th January

9 am School Service
12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by a soup lunch in the Gladwyn Room

Friday 30th January

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 31st January

9.30am "Breakfast for All" in the Church Centre. [Click here](#) to confirm your dietary requirements.
All welcome - £ a donation.

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10 am (L) Family Communion with light procession and Candlemas Pancakes after the service.
6 pm Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 3rd February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

3.30 pm Christchurch Court Communion

Wednesday 4th February

9 am School Service

12 pm Lunchtime service in the Chapel

Thursday 5th February

8 pm Choral Compline (L) - Night Prayers sung by the choir - all welcome to attend the church for this 20 minute service at the end of the day.

Friday 6th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Forward Dates

Saturday 28th January 2026

The Confirmation of Election of The Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury is taking place at St Paul's Cathedral today.

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

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 - CurateEmail: 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: 07990 573258

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 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.

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

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), 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>