



# St. Margaret's Church

I P S W I C H

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

## **Epiphany Two**

**Sunday 19th January 2025**

### **8am Holy Communion**

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

[Romans 12.6-16](#) and [John 2.1-11](#)

### **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.

[Isaiah 62.1-5](#) [1 Corinthians 12.1-11](#) and [John 2.1-11](#)

***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. The office will be shut Friday 24th Jan and will be open on Thursday 23rd Jan instead.***

[Click here for Livestreamed Services](#)

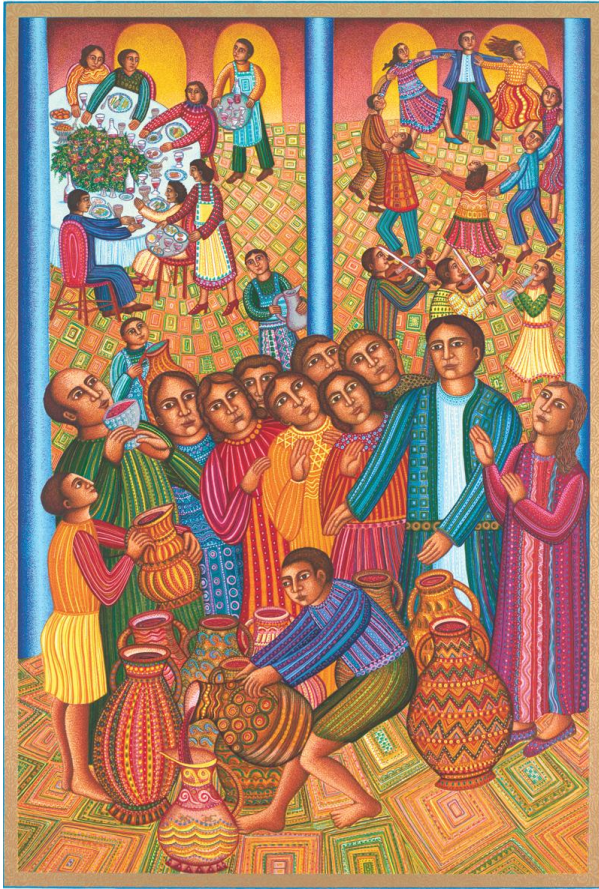
[Click here for the January Prayer Diary](#)



**Eco Tip of the Week**



Switch your electricity supplier so that you support renewable electricity generation rather than electricity made by burning fossil fuels.



## **The Wedding at Cana**

This weekend's gospel reading is another epiphany moment. Like so many epiphany moments, this one too came unexpectedly. As we read the story we see that to Jesus, this was perhaps an unwelcome moment in which he found himself caught up in circumstances beyond his control, in a time and place he might preferred to have avoided.

How does this resonate in our lives? Very often life takes an unexpected turn and we too, find ourselves in circumstances not of our own making or choosing. And yet that's the reality of the situation. In those moments, how might we respond?

The Wedding at Cana teaches us many things, one of which might be that Jesus chose, even in unwelcome circumstances, to reveal something of God to the

world. Perhaps that is something we might hope for and pray about? That whatever circumstances we find ourselves in we can ask ourselves what actions or words or response do we offer, in this moment, that will point others to God?

Jesus did this by turning water into wine that the feast may continue.  
How will your faith this week be shared with others?

### **Revd Sarah**

*Image: Swanson, John August. Wedding Feast, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58581>. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.*

### **Men's Breakfast Today!**

Men's breakfast are meeting at the Cricketers pub in town this morning at 8.30am for anyone that would like to join them.

### **Birdwatch**

Come and join us for a Birdwatch to see how many species of bird we can spot in the Churchyard on Saturday 25th January at 10.30am as part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. There will be refreshments available afterwards.



# Birdwatch

Saturday, 25th January 2025  
10.30-11.30am

Join us for a Birdwatch in the  
Churchyard.

Come and see which birds visit our  
Churchyard. There will be books to  
look up species of any birds you  
spot.

There will also be binoculars but if  
you have any please bring them.

All welcome.



[www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)  
*welcoming people of all faiths and none*



## Crown Him 2025

An opportunity to gather with the Ipswich Christian community to celebrate what God has done in 2024 and seek him for his plans in 2025.



**Crown Him 2025**

Gathering Christians of all ages, to start the year with praise, celebrating God's work, being inspired & responding together.

**25<sup>th</sup> January**

- Where: Burlington Baptist Church, London Road, IP1 2EZ
- When:
  - 6.30pm – to learn about local Christian organisations
  - 7.30pm – for celebration, envisioning, responding

Logos at the bottom: TOGETHER (with icons), IPSWICH IN PRAYER (with power button icon), CYM (in a blue circle), and CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS (with crown icon).

There is an Ipswich Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at 2 pm on Monday 27 January at the University. The outline of the programme is

A Statement of Commitment by the Mayor of Ipswich

What is Holocaust? A brief overview of Genocide

The role of the United Nations

A Bosnian Speaker/Video

A contribution from Northgate High School

A prayer from the Suffolk Jewish Community

A contribution from the Roma Community

A contribution from Martin Simmonds of Suffolk Refugee Support

A contribution from Professor (em) Rainer Schulze

A shared Act of Reflection & Commitment led by Gurmeet Singh Sually

For more information and to register the link is

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/holocaust-memorial-day-2025-tickets-1119085026439?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Awakenings Concert**

St Margaret's are excited to be hosting Suffolk's brand new semi-professional and inclusive vocal ensemble in their inaugural concert: Suffolk Chamber Choir's 'Awakenings'. With a vibrant programme including works by Palestrina, Eric Whitacre, Cecilia McDowall and former St Margaret's chorister, Ben Parry, with support from Suffolk Soul Singers we are promised a wonderful mix of sacred and secular music.

Tickets direct from the choir through the [website](#) or on the door.

Doors open 7.00pm. Unallocated seating.

Drinks and interval refreshments available.

We are also hoping to run a licensed bar during the concert - any volunteers to help with running the bar would be much appreciated. Please email [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com) or speak to Sarah.

**AWAKENINGS**  
Suffolk Chamber Choir  
Dominic Ellis-Peckham

SPECIAL GUESTS  
Suffolk Soul Singers  
Andi Hopgood

Saturday 1st February, 7.30pm  
St Margaret's Church, Soane Street, Ipswich IP4 2BE

Tickets £15.00 / £7.50 - scan QR code or buy on the door



### **Helen Prior-Townsend's Licensing**

Come and join us on Sunday 2nd February to celebrate Helen's licensing during the 11am service.





# Helen Prior - Townsend's Licensing

Sunday 2 February 2025  
11am

Come and join us for Helen's  
licensing during the 11am service.  
We will also welcome Archdeacon  
Rich to the Candlemas service.

All welcome. There will be a  
celebratory fizz and cake  
afterwards.



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## **Diarmaid MacCulloch in Bury St Edmunds**

Acclaimed Historian Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch is to make a return visit to St John's church in Bury St Edmunds on Thursday 6 February to speak about his recent book *Lower than the Angels: A History of Sex and Christianity*, a major new assessment of one of the most controversial topics in history. Few matters produce more public interest and public anxiety than sex and religion. Diarmaid MacCulloch seeks to calm fears and encourage understanding through telling the 3000-year-long tale of Christians and their forbears encountering sex, gender and the family, with noises off from their sacred texts. The message of *Lower than the Angels* is simple, necessary and timely: to pay attention to the glorious complexity and contradictions in the history of Christianity. is not at all complete. Rev Sarah plans to attend if anyone would like to join her there.

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 7.30pm

St John's Church

St John's Street

Bury St Edmunds

IP33 1SN

Admission £12

Tickets available [here](#)

## **Winter Warmer**

Come and join for a winter warmer lunch on Sunday February 23rd at 12.30pm in the Church Centre. Any offers of a pudding and/or help would be appreciated - please sign up at the back of the Church or text Frederike on 07805 192855.



# Winter Warmer

Sunday 23 February 12.30pm  
Church Centre, Bolton Lane

All are welcome to join a winter warmer lunch following the 11am service

Parking will be available on the school playground.

If you would like to join us, please put your name on the list at the back of church, including any dietary needs. Alternatively you can contact Frederike by text on 07805 192855.

Offers of a pudding and/or help with setting up and tidying afterwards would be much appreciated.

Please make a voluntary contribution to the cost - any surplus will support the good work of this church community.

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Rev Helen writes...

Rev Helen is collecting for these two projects. Do bring any donations to church tomorrow or next Sunday or I will be in the parish office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings next week.

From 'Sorting our Suffolk'

If anyone is having a January declutter I have a friend that is looking for wool donations to knit blankets and hats for a special care baby unit. I'll happily pass it on.

From the Moses Project Suffolk

Well 2025 has had a crazy start....we've had referrals for 25 babies in the last 2 weeks alone. We're currently short of the following.....

Breast Pads

Nappy Sacks

Nappy Cream

Baby Socks

Ladies Shampoo

Baby Shampoo

Bath Toys

Ladies Deodorant

Muslins

Rev Helen

### **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 21st January 2025**

8.00am Morning Prayer

**Friday 24th January 2025**

8.00am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 26th January 2025**

08.00am Holy Communion

09.30am Rise and Shine Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

06.30pm Evensong

**Tuesday 28th January 2025**

8.00am Morning Prayer

**Friday 31st January 2025**

8.00am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 2nd February 2025**

08.00am Holy Communion

09.30am Rise and Shine

11.00am Parish 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](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)

The Revd Sarah Geileskey:

[revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Verger administrator [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).



