



St. Margaret's Church

I P S W I C H

This Church Year features the Gospel of Mark

The Fourth Sunday of Easter **Sunday 21st April 2024**

8am Holy Communion

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

[1 Peter 2.11-17](#) and [John 16.16-22](#)

9:30am Church Cafe

With breakfast served from 9.30am, an opportunity to gather in the church centre to enjoy fellowship, food and a thought for the day. All welcome.

11am Parish Communion

With the choir leading the music, congregational hymns and refreshments after the service: an opportunity to worship and to enjoy fellowship.

We will be using the new audio-visual equipment again this week so please still do bear with us as we get used to the new system. You should be able to join the livestream [here](#).

Sunday's lectionary readings:

[Acts 4.5-12](#) and [John 10.11-18](#)

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park during these services

(for which we are grateful to the school).

The church is open daily from 10am to 4pm

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

What's New this Week?

If you choose not to read to the end you'll miss information about a Summer

Fête, summer dates for your diary, World Mission speakers, workshops with John Bell (Iona Community), a forthcoming Churchyard Working Party, exciting news about scaffolding, updates on the silent auction for the pew and so much more!



Suffolk Sheep

'I know my own and my own know me.'
John 10.14

Sheep are not known for their intelligence. Sheep tend to wander. Sheep get lost easily. Sheep have little sense of direction. Sheep graze peacefully for hours, but when food and security is scarce they become restless and unsettled. A sheep is prized and precious, no different to any other sheep yet special to the shepherd. Sheep follow the voice of their own shepherd. When a sheep is 'cast down' it needs help to get up: a 'cast' sheep is a sorry sight, lying on it's back, feet in the air, frantically flaying, lashing out without success. Everything sticks to a sheep and they attract debris like velcro. Sheep must be sheared: not a terribly dignified or pleasant process - but necessary and liberating to be fleeced of the hot, heavy, tick-ridden, burden.

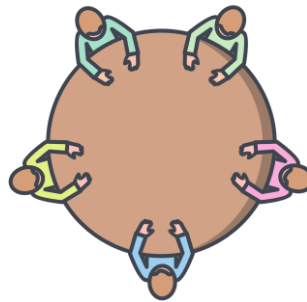
I wonder how clever you really are? I wonder where you are wandering - as individuals and as a church community. Are you lost or without direction? Or unsettled and restless? Whose voice are you listening to? Your own? God's voice? How do you know it is God speaking to you? How do you know you're not hearing what you want to hear rather than what God is trying to say to you? What are you

flailing about? Whose help do you need? What is clinging to your velcro: any debris?
Patterns of behaviour or thinking that fall short of Christ's hope for you or damage
others around you? And when were you last shorn? If it was recently - have you got
over the shock? Or has it set you free to gambol like a young lamb? Perhaps it is
close to shearing time again?

These are the kinds of wonderings I pray through regularly.
As you pray, perhaps you might choose to join me.

Vicar Sarah

Annual Parochial Church Meeting



The ACPM is taking place in the Church at 12.30pm on Sunday 28th April.

Churchwarden Margaret has approached a number of folk to bring together a series of brief written updates on various areas of church life and activity during 2023. Thank you to those who have written them. Along with the ACPM agenda, the 2023 Church Accounts and the 2023 Electoral Roll have been published two weeks in advance of the meeting. Please see link below to access the documents (there are some hard copies at the back of the church)

<https://stmargaretsipswich.org.uk/church-life/apcm-2024/>

Margaret Woodward is willing to serve a third successive year as churchwarden should she be elected.

Sarah Milner will finish serving as PCC Secretary after the APCM.

Tim Lockington, Richard Jackson and Melanie Quinton are coming to the end of their three year terms of office so, with vacancies that have been carried we are now looking to appoint up to six PCC members. Candidates standing must be nominated and seconded by someone on the electoral roll.

Nomination forms are available at the back of the Church.

AV Project



City Fibre installing broadband into the church this week.

Thank you for the encouraging feedback that was received following last Sunday's services and continued thanks to Andy Turpin, Stuart Quinton and Steve Roberts for the time they've dedicated to the project. Members of the sound team are about to embark on their training too, so thanks again for all the time you commit to serving the community in this way.

The hearing loop has now been fully extended into the church so if you are a hearing aid user you should be able to sit anywhere in the church. Over the next few weeks it would be really helpful if you could sit somewhere different to

usual to help us to test the loop does work and please send us any feedback.

The loop also goes into the Lady Chapel but due to the configuration of the cabling it might be disproportionately louder so please don't be surprised if this is the case and again, please send us any feedback.

Speakers have now been extended into the choir and we will continue to livestream: **this week using our new broadband link, rather than relying on the 4G network.** Please see the links at the top of the page to access the livestream.

Meanwhile, the two projectors in the side aisles are still awaiting lenses and we hope this will be completed in early May.

For those who have seen the system in action and have been moved to make a donation towards the cost of the installation... thank you! Treasurer John Grierson is always pleased to hear from anyone considering making a donation to a particular project or church activity.

Coffee Rota



We have many wonderful volunteers within the church and we are looking for some extra volunteers to join the rota to serve coffee on a Sunday after the services.

If you can volunteer, even if it's just once in a while, please speak with Maggie Conder, or sign up on the rota at the back of church and ask someone else whose name you see on the rota to share their coffee wisdom with you.

Busy week

It's been a big and busy week for the church.

First of all City Fibre have installed broadband into the church which is very exciting. This will hopefully improve experiences for our church community, provide a steady connection for the live-streaming as well as simplifying the management of our tap giving machine, our CCTV internet connection and, eventually the way in which we use the computer to share slides and information during services.

Then we had some boiler maintenance which is a yearly job to help keep our Church and Church Centre running efficiently and as effectively as possible.

A big thank you too, to Malcom, Philip and others who are picking up the pace with gardening and making the grounds for us to look at for Spring/Summer. Do join in with the working party on 11th May to lend a hand.

We are also very much looking forward to the Quinquennial works beginning in May.

All of this in addition to the usual pattern of services, 420 children in the church singing 'The Wise Man Built his House Upon the Rock'!



Church Pew for Sale

One of our church pews is for sale that had to be taken out for the new AV system.

We are selling the pew via a silent auction with bids in sealed envelopes.

The pew measures 2060mm wide and will be in the church office to view. To arrange a viewing and/or drop in sealed bids please drop into the church office.

Lucy works Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-2.30pm in the office.

The bids will open immediately and close on Monday, 6th May 2023. Bids will be opened on the morning of Tuesday, 7th May .

In the vintage shop at Laurel Farm on the Henley Road there is currently a very similar pew for sale for £250 so you might be able to grab a bargain!





Men's Breakfast

Saturday 27 April

8.30-9.30 Food

9.30-10.30 Prayer & Worship

Church Centre, Bolton Lane

Food, friendship and faith: gather for a bacon sandwich, toast and hot drinks. Enjoy conversation and catching up with friends. Then leave if you need to... or stay for prayer and worship.



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Church Maintenance Stone & Masonry Repairs

13 May to 2 August 2024

Six years after our architect's last building inspection we are pleased to be carrying out much needed repairs to the stonework and masonry. Works to the tower are located close to memorials: contractors are aware to work with care in this area. Churchyard planting will see some changes: the laurel and bay growing against the tower will be removed to reduce damp in the base of the tower and some other planting temporarily removed. We expect to see scaffolding on the south and east of the church, the south and west faces of the tower.

We hope to keep the church open daily as usual between 10am and 4pm.

*Any queries please email
verger.stmagsips@gmail.com
or call 07733 609661*



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Outdoor Working Party

Churchyard and Church Centre
Saturday 11 May 2024
9.30am-12.30pm

An opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and the chance to be together and to work together. We will tend to some tasks in the churchyard as well as levelling the ground outside the rear entrance to the church centre following the demolition of the social club.

Bring gardening tools and gloves, wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. If you're planning to join in for an hour or two, or the duration, please sign up at the back of church or send an email so that we can coordinate refreshments!

Email: verger.stmagsips@gmail.com or call 07733 609661



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Come & Sing with John Bell



of the Iona Community &
the composer of '*Will you
come & follow me*' & '*Jesus
Christ is waiting*'.

at St John the Baptist church, Orwell Rd,
Felixstowe, IP11 7PW

on Saturday 8th June 10am -4pm

£25 per person – includes tea, coffee & cake but please bring your
own lunch. Please visit www.larkriseretreats.org.uk for details and to
book or call Catherine Bond or Jane Pearse on 01394 284213.



World Mission

11am Morning Worship

Zambia : Sunday 28 April

India : Sunday 23 June

Tanzania : Sunday 28 August

We welcome visiting speakers



Mission Direct
Building hope, bringing change



**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



DIOCESE OF KAGERA
Anglican Church of Tanzania



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

Financial Healthcheck

I wonder how you've been getting on, thinking and praying about this? Adam and I made our pledge this week. How about you?

There is lots of information at the end of this weekly newsletter about how you can give in response to God's generosity and in support of the ministry and mission in this place. Without regular giving, we would not survive as a church family.

If you've not taken one of the leaflets home, there are some available at the back of the church - do pick one up and remember that it all adds up!

Thanks, Vicar Sarah.

Prayerful action: how shall I help?

Planned Giving:
If you do not yet give regularly through the parish giving scheme, please prayerfully and sincerely consider the possibility.
If you already give regularly, is your gift keeping pace with your and the church's circumstances?
Through the parish giving scheme, as circumstances change you can easily amend the amount that you give.
Is this something to consider today?
If you are a taxpayer, have you signed a Gift Aid declaration form enabling the church to turn your £1 into £1.25?

Occasional Giving:
Make an occasional unexpected gift of gratitude, just because you can! It's easy to 'forget' that God is involved when money regularly goes straight from your account.
Gift in support of a particular project, a fundraising event, a significant life event or an area of church activity.
Pledge a % of your estate by making a gift in your will.

Practical action: next steps...
You can arrange regular and one off gifts to St. Margaret's Church by scanning the QR code or visiting the Parish Giving Scheme website: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/pswich-st-margaret-ipswich/
For other ways to give, please contact Dave Scott
dave.scott4@btinternet.com
01473 251025



Funding our Parish for the Future

Dear Friends,
This church is blessed with a generous and supportive community. Since I arrived here almost a year ago, many people have told me about their connection with this place and many more recognise the potential of St Margaret's. It is a privilege for us all to belong to such a vibrant church at the heart of the community. I long to see this richly gifted community flourish in faith, serving one another, energised and equipped to share the good news of God's love.
The PCC and I are working hard to put down good roots; taking decisions to implement overdue capital projects (including accessing grant funding) whilst improving safeguarding, governance, communication and employment practices. Administration is a gift of the Holy Spirit!
As we build for the future we need to stabilise our finances in what we all know is a difficult financial environment. As such, the PCC has developed this opportunity for us all to review our individual commitment to both occasional gifting and regular giving. Together, through the grace of God's abundant provision to us we will build on firm foundations as we see God's kingdom come in this place.


I commend this information to you for your prayerful action.
Revd Sarah


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St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35

Where does the money come from?

Parish churches receive no direct funding from the government or The Church of England.

St Margaret's relies upon the generous financial support of the congregation, all those who support the heritage of their local church and those from the wider community who value the work of the church.

It costs around £150,000 to resource St Margaret's each year; this is before anything is set aside for long-term maintenance or a rainy day.

In a parish of 3,600 households, just over 70 currently give regularly through tax-efficient planned giving, historically raising about 60% of annual income. The remainder has to come from church centre lettings and fundraising.

Budget projections

The PCC is working out what is needed in order to maintain the current levels of church activity and mission... estimated income for 2024 already looks lower than likely expenditure and that's before putting aside any savings for future repairs and maintenance.

Minor change major impact!

The annual impact soon adds up!

If 90 people committed to give each week an extra:

£1 (the cost of a small chocolate bar) = £4,680

£2 (the cost of a takeaway coffee) = £9,360

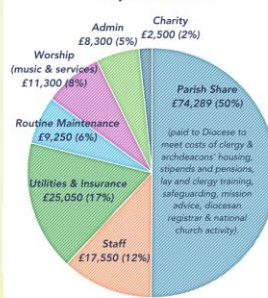
£4 (a packet of crisps & a pint of beer) = £18,720

£7.50 (the cost of a bottle of wine) = £35,100

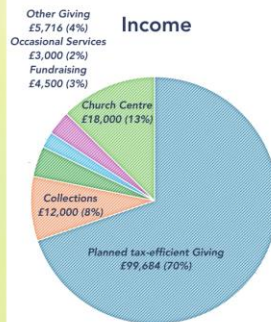
This may not be possible for everyone. But it will be for some. And if you're not yet giving regularly: making a habit of regular giving helps the church to focus its energy on mission, not money.

2024 Draft Budget

Expenditure



Income



Our Vision

To be a lively, loving, welcoming and inclusive church, valued by all. A church without walls: loving God and loving neighbour. People led by the Spirit, following the way of Christ Jesus.

Our Mission

To offer worship to God that is accessible to all: the young and the young at heart, the life-long faith-full, the curious and those who have lost their way. To reach out in loving service to children, families, young people and the elderly: caring for the world and all God's people through community building and social action.

Our Giving


Gratitude and giving go together. We give out of gratitude for what we have already received from God. To all who give regularly and sacrificially to support the work of God and this parish, even in these difficult financial times **THANK YOU!**

Our Future

St Margaret's has long dreamed of supporting a dedicated children & families worker. We have a history of working among the most vulnerable. Let's train & equip more people in their calling to God's ministry. The church centre longs to be used to its potential and we have work to do on inclusion.

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life and love freely given through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Help us to be generous in response, supporting St Margaret's to serve you in proclaiming your good news afresh in this generation. Amen.



**God has called
you by name and
made you his own**

Confirmation Service

11am Sunday 2nd June 2024

Confirmation Prep at The Vicarage

7-9pm Weds 8th, 15th & 22nd May

If you are questioning faith and would like to explore with others also working out what faith means for them today, join in: you do not have to be 'confirmed' at the end of it! We'll use new material, so repeat attendance is possible.

Themes include 'Who am I?' What about scriptures & prayer? Communion? Social Justice? Repentance? Mission & Evangelism?

*Please tell church administrator
Lucy if you hope to attend:
verger.stmagsips@gmail.com*



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St. Margaret's Church
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Summer Fête

Saturday 15 June 2-4 pm
Church Centre, Bolton Lane

Stalls, games, tea and cakes!
Something for everyone to enjoy.

Would you or the church group or team you
belong to like to run a stall?
Contact Gill Jackson for details.

gill.jackson@alongsideyou.com
tel. 07747 006116

*With grateful thanks to St Margaret's CEVAP School for
allowing the use of the school playground for parking.*



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Summer 2024

Useful Diary Dates

April

Sunday 28th 11am: Mission Direct speaker followed by 12.30pm: Annual Meeting (APCM)

May

Saturday 11th 9.30-12.30: churchyard working party

Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd: Confirmation course
To be confirmed: children's holiday club sessions

June

Sunday 2nd 11am: Confirmation Service

Saturday 15th 2-4pm: Church Fête

Sunday 23rd 11am: Church Mission Society speaker

Saturday 29th Ordinations at the Cathedral (by invitation) followed by afternoon tea for all in the church centre to welcome our new curate.

July

Sunday 7th Ipswich Music Day: afternoon concerts

Sunday 14th We celebrate St Margaret's Day before the holidays begin.

August

To be confirmed: children's holiday club sessions

Sunday 25th 11am: Link Diocese of Tanzania speaker followed at 3.00 pm a concert by The Gainsborough Quartet



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Future services

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

...

Sunday 21st April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Café Church in the Church Centre

11.00am Parish Communion

Tuesday 23rd April

8.00am Morning Prayer in St Margaret's School

Friday 26th April

8.00am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday 28th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine Communion

11.00am Morning Worship with guest speaker Geoff Spiller

6.30pm Choral Evensong

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 and she currently has ordination formation training on most Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

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](#).

