



St. Margaret's Church

I P S W I C H

Saturday 21st December 2024

4pm Longest Night

A service for all those who find Christmas difficult, whatever the reason.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 2024

8am Holy Communion

Prayer Book service with no music

[Philippians 4.4-7](#) and [John 1.19-28](#)

9.30am Rise and Shine Communion

A service for all ages. A thirty minute interactive Service with Communion. All welcome. Refreshments after the service

11am Morning Worship

With the band leading the music, congregational hymns, Junior Church and refreshments after the service. All welcome.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join this service live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

Sunday's lectionary readings:

[Micah 5.2-5a](#), [Hebrews 10.5-10](#) and [Luke 1.39-45](#)

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

A traditional service of readings, carols and choral music.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

Monday 23rd December 2024

2.30pm Accessible Carol Service

A shorter day-time carol service for those who enjoy music and special atmosphere of Church at Christmas. Warm drinks and mince pies after the service. All welcome. Also suitable for those with dementia and their carers. as with all these services, you are welcome to park in the school playground.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December 2024

4pm Crib Service

Come dressed for nativity!

Angels, shepherds and sheep all welcome at this 30 minute service.

6pm Carols by Candlelight

All generations gathering for this captivating 45 minute service with candles and carols.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

11pm Midnight Mass - The First Communion of Christmas

We celebrate the mystery of God's love for all people.

A service of Holy Communion with the choir.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

Lectionary readings:

[Isaiah 62.6-12](#), [Titus 3.4-7](#) and [Luke 2.1-20](#)

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December 2023

10.00am - Festive Communion

A celebratory service of Holy Communion with the choir and a short sermon.

Drinks and nibbles after the service for those who are able to stay.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

Lectionary readings:

[Isaiah 52.7-10](#), [Hebrews 1.1-4](#) and [John 1.1-14](#)

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 29th December 2024

8am Holy Communion

Prayer Book service with no music

[Galatians 4.1-7](#) and [Matthew 1.18-25](#)

10am Parish Communion

A simple service of Holy Communion with music sung by the choir and junior

church activities for children.

We will endeavour to livestream this service.

To join this service live online or to view the service again, click [here](#)

Sunday's lectionary readings:

[1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26](#), [Colossians 3.12-17](#) and [Luke 2.41-end](#)

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 3pm

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

[Click here for the Livestreaming Services](#)

The Church Office will be closed over Christmas from 23rd December to 3rd January. Normal office hours will commence from week beginning the 6th January. Lucy will be in the office on 27th December and 3rd January from 11.45am - 2.15pm.

Thought for the Day... Christmas.

I wonder if you've received any letters or cards this Christmas? I received particularly encouraging letter from friends: not the usual happy celebrations of success and achievements - rather these words held together everything that this year had brought to them, both joyful times, but also challenging times.

The greatest love letter ever written is that of Emmanuel, God with us. God in human flesh, love among us in a way that we can begin to comprehend. Love in all its vulnerability and fragility, to be cherished and nurtured. A love which demands our full attention. A love which changes our life forever.

This is the love that God longs to share with us. This is the love that God calls us to share in the world.

None of this is easy to comprehend, make sense of... or work out. It is by faith that we learn to accept that we are loved, and in faith that we respond to that love by loving one another.

We will hear the wonderful words of the Howard Thurman poem during our Nine Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday... as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, one particular moment in time, may we always remember that we have the privilege of welcoming God's love into our lives every morning, every day... no need to wish it could be Christmas every day - Christ is in the midst of us. And so we celebrate with joy... and we find ourselves challenged again: how does the Good News of God with us change us and change the world? And are we ready... and as we embrace the child in the manger, we wonder, have we embraced the change?

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,

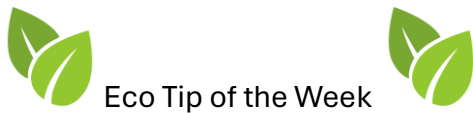
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

How will we respond to the cries of the Christ child in 2025?

Something for us to be thinking about over the 12 Days of Christmas perhaps!

With grateful thanks for all the cards and best wishes that have been received may you know, this Christmas, in a turbulent and unsalted world, may you know the depth of God's peace.

Vicar Sarah



Enjoy the feast of Christmas! Don't forget to recycle your rubbish. Don't waste unwanted presents, find new homes for them through the charity shop or on Ebay.

You can also recycle your Christmas tree with St Elizabeth Hospice and EACH. They will be collecting from homes, businesses and churches on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th January 2025. For more information click [here](#).

Prayer Tree



We have a prayer tree in the Church just inside the entrance. Please come and write your prayers on a tag and put on the tree for loved ones or situations you would like to pray about this Christmas.

The Funeral of Dorothy Bright RIP
10.30am Friday 3rd January 2025

Dot's funeral is taking place in St Margaret's Church at 10.30am. We keep William and Kate in our prayers as they remember their mother over the Christmas season and prepare for her funeral. All who remember Dot and her family are welcome.

Ride and Stride

The final total raised at the Ride and Stride event in September was £193,794.02. Thank you to everyone who took part and all the volunteers who welcomed the riders and striders.

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.

Thursday

Forum

*at Christ Church
Tacket Street* (next to Cox Lane car park)

Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost **12 noon - 1.00 pm**

A short talk **1.10 - 1.50 pm**

You are welcome to either or both



Jan 9th Ipswich is a Heritage Harbour - Cathy Shelbourne, Ipswich Maritime Trust

Jan 16th Leading a Hospital Trust - Nick Hulme, CEO, East Suffolk and North-east Essex NHS Hospital Trust (ESNEFT)

Jan 23rd RABI: helping the Farming Community for 165 years
Lucy Bellefontain, Regional Manager

Jan 30th All About Ipswich; the Work of Ipswich Central - Melanie Willis,
Communications Manager

Feb 6th A Coastal Adventure in Pictures and Clues - Ian van der Ende,
photographer

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. Please contact our Pastoral lead Maggie Conder on pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com or contact the vicar, [Sarah](#).

We hope you won't need any of these helpline numbers...
but if you do find Christmas a difficult time, please reach out
for help.

You're not alone this
Christmas



Text 85258
www.giveashout.org



0300 123 3393
www.mind.org.uk



0300 7729844
www.nopanic.org.uk



0800 58 58 58
www.thecalmzone.net



0808 808 4000
www.nationaldebtline.org



116 123
www.samaritans.org.uk



0808 808 1677
www.cruse.org.uk

Local & National Abuse Support Networks

<http://lighthousewa.org.uk/>

Lighthouse is in Ipswich-based (details of national organisations available – see below)

<https://angliacaretrust.org.uk/services/community-safety/>

Anglia Care Trust work with housing but have Outreach workers for Domestic Abuse.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

Women's Aid have a live chatline: this is the national website

<https://burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk/>

Local Bury St Edmunds women's aid website.

<https://www.leewaysupport.org/>

Although talks quite a bit about Norfolk, they do provide cover in Suffolk.



ChildLine: 0800 1111

ChildLine is a national counselling service for children and young people. If you're a young person and you're worried about something, big or small, you can speak to someone about it by calling ChildLine. childline.org.uk



NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

If you are an adult and you have concerns about a child, you can get free, confidential advice by calling the NSPCC Helpline, available 24hrs a day. nspcc.org.uk



Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999

Freephone helpline for women and girls who have been raped or sexually assaulted. The helpline is open daily 12 – 2.30pm and 7pm – 9.30pm, for advice and support. rapecrisis.org.uk



Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327

Providing help and support for male victims of domestic violence. Calls are free. The helpline is open Mon to Fri, 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. mensadvice.org.uk



Broken Rainbow: 0300 999 5428

Broken Rainbow is the national domestic violence charity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, offering advice, support and referral services to LGBT people experiencing homophobic, transphobic and same sex domestic violence. Helpline is open Mon 2pm – 8pm, Wed 10am – 5pm, Thurs 2pm – 8pm. brokenrainbow.org.uk



Respect: 0808 802 4040

Respect runs a confidential helpline for domestic violence perpetrators (male or female). They offer information and advice to support perpetrators stop their violence and change their abusive behaviours. Helpline is open Mon – Fri, 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. respectphonenumber.org.uk



Revenge Porn Helpline: 0845 6000 459

A dedicated support service for anyone affected by this issue in the UK. Victims come from all backgrounds, male and female, aged 18 – 60. Some incidents are perpetrated by ex partners, some by strangers, via hacking or stolen images. revengepornhelpline.org.uk



The Ferns: 0300 123 5058

24hr Helpline. The Ferns is a SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre). They offer medical care and emotional support to any victim of rape and sexual assault. theferns-suffolk.org.uk



Suffolk Rape Crisis: 0800 0850 520

Local support and confidential advice for women who have experienced rape or sexual assault. Helpline is open Tues and Thurs, 7pm – 9pm. suffolkrapecrisis.org.uk

24-hour

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

The 24/7 freephone National DV Helpline can provide confidential advice for women experiencing domestic abuse, or others calling on their behalf, from anywhere in the UK. They can also point you towards domestic abuse organisations in your area. nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk



Women's Aid:

Women's Aid is the key national charity working to end domestic violence and abuse against women and children. They co-run the National DV Helpline with Refuge. womensaid.org.uk

Future services

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

Friday 27th December 2024

8.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 29th December 2024

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion

Friday 3rd January 2025

8.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 5th January 2025

8.00am Holy Communion
09.30am Rise and Shine
11.00am Parish Communion

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](#).

