



• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*
Sunday 26th October 2025
 Last Sunday after Trinity



When I was a child, an aunt of mine who was a committed Baptist taught me a little song, the words to which are as follows:

*"Oh, the best book to read is the bible,
 The best book to read is the bible.
 If you read it every day, it will help you on your way.
 Oh, the best book to read is the bible!"*

When God was implanting talents into my DNA as I was formed in my mother's womb, he did rather overlook giving me a decent memory and I have always been in awe of people with encyclopaedic memories, but this brilliantly simple, yet profound ditty has been firmly embedded in my colander of a memory for over six decades!

We will be celebrating Bible Sunday in church this Sunday, a timely reminder that the 'best book to read' continues to be The Bible and that it does help each one of us on our way in life and I pray that you may discover this afresh in your own life. As the Nike advertisement famously says: "Just do it".

Online or in hard copy, just do it – get reading!

George Woodward

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

[October Prayer Diary](#)[November Prayer Diary](#)

Services

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

[Livestreaming](#)

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

9.30 am Rise & Shine (Holy Communion)

11.00 am Morning Worship (L)

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

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.

Now that the clocks are changing, the church will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

Lectionary

This Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

[Ephesians 4.17-end](#)

[Matthew 9.1-8](#)

11am Parish Communion

[Luke 4.16-24](#)

11am Parish Communion

[Isaiah 45.22-end](#)

[Romans 15.1-6](#)

Luke 4.16-24

You may like to enjoy a couple of the hymns that we will be singing together at this service:

- Inspired by Love and Anger (John Bell & Graham Maule, Wild Goose Fellowship, 1987)
- Yet not I, but through Christ in me (City Alight, 2018)

Church News

Men's Breakfast - this morning

8.30am in the Church centre for breakfast and fellowship followed by prayer and worship from 9.30am. Will end in time for you to pop over to the Church at around 10.30am to discuss the 'Refreshing Worship' plans.

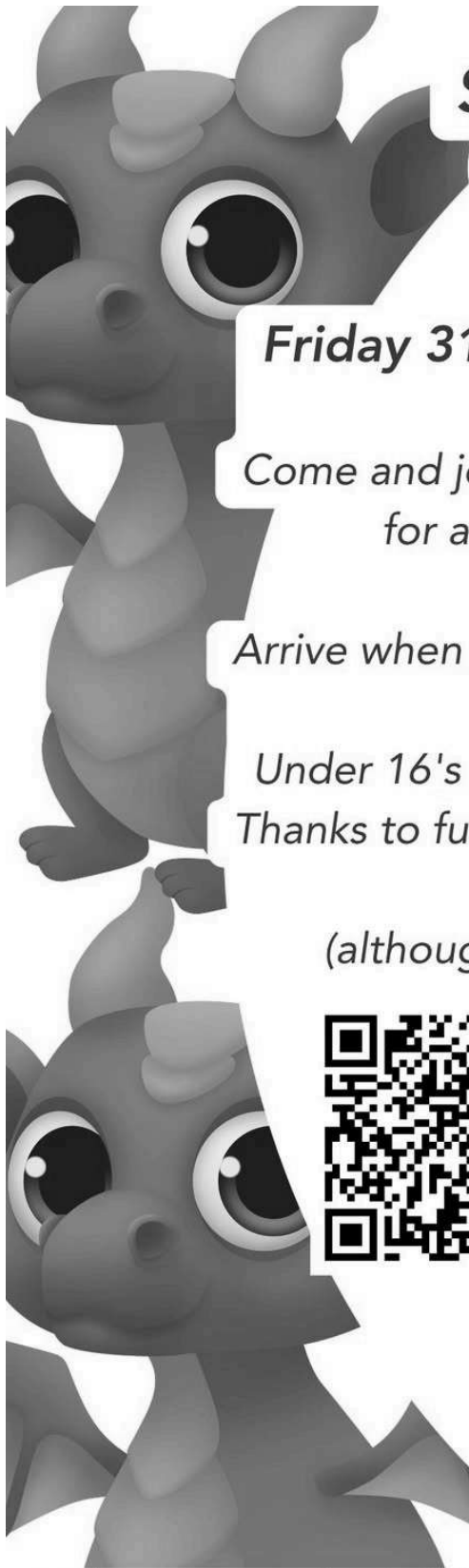
Refreshing Worship: Services Consultation

Thank you for continuing to engage with this period of consultation and prayerful reflection regarding the PCCs plan to refresh the worshipping pattern from January 2026. We have received emails and letters, as well as good conversation about the various ways renewal might be possible. If you have not yet seen or received a copy of the proposals, please email the office or pick up a copy in church. There are lots of opportunities to meet Rev Sarah and perhaps other PCC members to explore the proposals together before the PCC make a final decision in early November.

- o Saturday 25th October 10.30-11.30 am in Church
- o Tuesday 28th October 7.30-8.30 pm in Church Office

Help! All Hallows' Eve. 31st October 2025

As well as welcoming people to our Family Morning, we will also enjoy welcoming people to the vicarage on what is a very busy night of door knocking. We share generous hospitality, welcome people with sweets and make contact with many children and families we might otherwise rarely see. Do pray for this outreach. If you would like to be involved, especially if you are a teenager or small adult willing to wear our 'St Margaret & her dragon' costume, please speak with Rev Sarah.



St Margaret's October Family morning "There be dragons!"

Friday 31st October 10am - 12.45pm

*Come and join us for this morning of activities
for all ages followed by lunch together*

Arrive when you can and leave when you wish.

*Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult
Thanks to funding from the Suffolk community
Foundation this event is free
(although donations to continue this work
are gratefully received)*



*Book via the QR code
for more information email
events.stmagsipswich@gmail.com*



SUFFOLK
Community
Foundation



Welcoming people of all faiths and none

Bishop Joanne moving to Ipswich in late October

Bishop Joanne has written about her move to Ipswich and the beginning of her new ministry among us that will be marked in a special service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 2pm on 24th January 2026. You can find an update on the diocesan website www.cofesuffolk.org
As Bishop Joanne and her family move into this parish, we keep them in our prayers.

PCC meeting

The next PCC meeting will be taking place on 4th November 2025, when the agenda will allow time to review the feedback on the Refreshing Worship proposals. Please pray for the PCC in their work and calling to serve this community.



Seafarers' Woolly Hats

Margaret Llewellyn writes:

The Seafarers Mission in Felixstowe distributes woolly hats to Seafarers. Their large box, usually overflowing is empty, can you help? Details and advice available from Margaret, or on their website www.missiontoseafarers.org

Double knit or 4 ply wool

Size 8 (4mm) Needles

2 oz of wool

Cast on 120 stitches.

Rib (2 plain 2 purl) for 12 inches

Next Row – Knit 2 together to end of the row Purl next row.

Repeat these two rows once more.

Knit 1 row.

Purl 1 row.

Pull thread through all stitches and sew up seam.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) - update

Just over a week ago, the Church of England issued an update on the Living in Love and Faith conversations exploring questions regarding relationships, sexuality and marriage. For some, including 'The Alliance' network, this news has been welcomed. For others, like the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, the Very Reverend David Monteith, the update is painful. You will often hear us say that St Margaret's Church is a place where 'all are welcome'. For LGBTQI+ people this week, those who worship at St Margarets and friends and family members we cherish, it may seem that some might be more welcome at church than others.

The Church of England is a broad church, its tent is pitched widely to include a full spectrum of theological and worshipping traditions and understandings, sometimes in conflict with one another - this is the imperfect church of which we are a part. I hope that we are always committed to practicing repentance as we constantly turn away from our own understanding to seek the face of God: daily striving to love and walk with both God and our neighbour. If you have not recently considered these themes, the LLF material is one way to begin.

The former Bishops of this Diocese, both Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike, and our new Bishop, Joanne, have all expressed their commitment to working for a more inclusive church. It is in response to the latest LLF update that 'Inclusive Church' writes of the dangers of remaining silent and invites ordinary members of local communities to add their name to an open letter to the House of Bishops.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams often explored the idea that unity is best found through noticing those who are not present and by making room for them. I commend this to your prayers and action.

Rev Sarah

From 'Priest-in-Charge' to Vicar

The PCC and the Patrons (Simeons Trustees) have agreed with the Bishop and Archdeacon's proposal that the 'suspension' of the Benefice of St Margaret's Ipswich, be lifted. This is church legal terminology which means that I can be permanently licensed as Vicar of St Margaret's Church. This will take place during a single, 10am service on the morning of Advent Sunday (30th November 2025). Archdeacon Sam will be joining us and I hope that we can begin the new Church year with a great celebration and re-commitment to being God's church in this place at this time.

Lost Property

Here is a picture of everything in the box at the back of the church! If it's not claimed by the end of October, we will donate it to a charity shop.



Inspiring Ipswich - video request!

8th November

We will be mark the end of the Inspiring Ipswich project, giving thanks today for yesterday whilst looking to God for all that is yet to come. You can [register here](#). A super lunch is being organised for all who attend and we have been asked to contribute a short film that shares the story of St Margaret's over recent years. We are hoping that as many people as possible will be willing to be included by appearing on this video saying 'I'm here'... or 'we're here'.

Faithful & Fruitful:

A Celebration of Inspiring Ipswich

Saturday 8 November

10am - 3pm

Colchester Road Baptist Church

RSVP

Scan to book
your free tickets:



Remembering Together

6.30 pm Sunday 2nd November

We gather for a special service to give thanks and to remember those who have died. Whether recently bereaved, remembering from long, long ago, supporting or attending on behalf of a friend or neighbour you will be very welcome.

During the service we will hear readings from scripture and poetry. Names will be read aloud and there will be an opportunity to light candles. Ministers will be available to pray with individuals.

If you would like the name of a loved one remembered during this service, please add their name to one of the hearts in the basket on the table near the entrance to the church.

Even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.

*For as long as you remember me
I am never entirely lost.'*

Fred Beuchner,
Whistling in the Dark (1988)



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



80 YEARS SINCE VE DAY IPSWICH MEN WHO FOUGHT IN WW2



**STORIES OF CAPTURE, ESCAPE,
TRAGEDY AND SURVIVAL**

WHEN
Saturday 8th November
1.0 pm to 4.0 pm

WHERE
SUFFOLK ARCHIVES
The Hold 131 Fore St, Ipswich IP4 1LN

TICKETS

Tickets cost £8

Book online at:

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/>



Find out more about
the men who served
and remember those
who died.

Expert talks and guidance
on researching your own
family's military history

Hear heartfelt stories from
descendants of captured
soldiers

The forgotten story of 67th
Medium Regiment R.A.
T.A., made up of Ipswich
men captured at Tobruk in
1942

Ipswich War Memorial
Project and its growing
digital archive

Exhibition of photos,
letters and personal
testimonies

**SUFFOLK
ARCHIVES**
A SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE

As a follow-on from the wonderful exhibition in church, for VE/VJ Day 80th Anniversary by the Ipswich War Memorial Project, there is a further opportunity to find out more about a relative's war-time life at an event being held at The Hold in Ipswich on Saturday 8th November from 1pm to 4pm. Please note that tickets are only required for the Auditorium talks, not for the exhibition itself.



Parade Service

with members of the St Margaret's Guiding & Scouting movements

9.30 am Sunday, 9th November 2025

A 40-minute service remembering those who
have died in conflict as we reflect on our
commitment in this generation to their much
longed-for legacy of peace and justice.

*This service will conclude in time for those who wish
to attend the Act of Remembrance at 11am in
Christchurch Park, following which the Rainbows will
serve a fund-raising jacket potato lunch in the Church
Centre on Bolton Lane. Cash on the day £10 adults,
£5 children. If you plan to attend, please email
helepeck77@me.com.*



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welcoming people of all faiths and none



St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Save the date! Sunday 9th November 12pm

Dear All

We are the very proud First Constable Rainbows, and we want to keep doing something brilliant, but we need your help. Every year this group of incredible children raise money to go together one evening to a local toy shop and select Christmas presents for children who otherwise wouldn't have much at Christmas (to be distributed by FIND). To raise money for this they are holding a remembrance Sunday event and we would greatly appreciate your support.

On Sunday 9th November 2025 (Remembrance Sunday) from 12
Where Garrett Memorial Hall – Bolton Lane Ipswich

You are invited to join us for a warm welcome, a baked potato, hot drink and lots of fun.

Cost Adults – Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Hot Drink and Cake £10 per person

Children – Half Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Cold Drink and Cake £5 Per person

There will also be games, fudge and crafts so please bring some cash.

To book places please E Mails helepeck77@me.com and confirm numbers (or if you have any questions). Please note payment will need to be cash on the day.

We usually cover all our costs so everything raised will go to put smiles on faces at Christmas

Thank you

1st Constable Rainbows

Hexachordia Concert - Sunday 7th December at 4.00pm

To book your tickets [click here](#), scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com phone or text 078733 609661.



Hexachordia

Heigh-ho, the Holly!

Sunday 7th December 4.00 pm

Music, mirth and merriment for the festive season, as this hour-long concert reveals what Christmas and New Year was like for folk at all levels of society in the 16th & 17th centuries. Come along and hear the Medieval and Tudor origins of today's familiar carols played on the gittern, vielle, crumhorn, lute, viol, recorder and bagpipes.

Complimentary drinks & cake served after the concert. Tickets: £8.00 Standard or £5.00 Concessions. To secure your tickets scan the QR code or contact: office.stmagsips@gmail.com or text/phone: 07733 609661






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

Find us on Soane Street near to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking in St Margaret's VAP School, Bolton Lane, Ipswich, IP4 2BT



Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Belgrave Close, Carlton Way and The Albany.

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.

Gratitude

For all those who attended to the church roof alarm this week - installed a number of years ago as a deterrent to metal theft. There were multiple alerts at all hours of the day and night throughout the week, and so we particularly give thanks for patient neighbours as the alarm disturbed them early on Thursday morning and it was sometime before it could be reset. Hopefully now that repairs are complete the alarm system will be back to its usual self.

If you would like to help with practical care and support in managing and maintaining this beautiful listed building, do let Churchwarden Margaret know.

Social Action

Do not forget to pray for those in authority and lend your voice to the working out of justice and peace by supporting and challenging our politicians. You can follow what is on the agenda each day for both Houses of Parliament: www.whatson.parliament.uk or you can find out more about www.christiansinparliament.org.uk

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night are fast approaching and both can mean buying large amounts of plastic toys, masks and costumes for the children. Why not try to cut down on the plastic this year and see what you can recycle and adapt to make the scary costumes? There is lots of advice on line. Two sites that look good are <https://ethicalbranddirectory.com/how-to-recycle-halloween/> and <https://www.forgerecycling.co.uk/blog/recycling-tips-for-halloween/> but there are many others.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God • Care for Creation • Love Our Global Neighbours

End of October Carbon Footprint Update

The average individual carbon footprint of St Margaret's has increased since reported at the end of August, from 9.23 to 9.51 tonnes of CO2

If you wish to anonymously contribute to this average (which will be reported again at the end of November and in mid December), then please calculate your carbon footprint at home using Climate Stewards calculator which is at the link

<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

and bring in your anonymous answer on a piece of paper to post in a letter box in Church from where the average footprint will be updated. This letter box was on the table by the south door but has been moved to on top of the bookcase by the west wall. . In order to make this calculation easier we will work to the nearest £10 rather than the nearest £1 in Section 6 dealing with Expenditure on services and products. If you have any queries please text mobile number 07777 929122 or email ecochurch.stmagsips@gmail.com

Services Calendar

Sunday 26th October

8am BCP Communion
9.30am Rise & Shine Communion
11am Morning Worship
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Friday 31st October - All Hallows' Eve

8am Morning Prayer in Church

2nd November

8am BCP Communion
9.30am Rise & Shine
11am Parish Communion (All Saints)
6.30pm All Souls Service - Remembering Together
A 45 minute service of poetry, music, meditation and candle-lighting for all who are bereaved or want to remember loved ones. There will be an opportunity for personal prayer and the chance to dwell in words of hope found in the scriptures. All are welcome

3rd November

9am St Margaret's VAP School Service

4th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church

7th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church

9th November - Remembrance Sunday

8am BCP Communion
9.30am Remembrance Day Parade Service
There will be no service at 11am. St Margaret's Church choir will be joined by the Ipswich Minster Choir to sing at the Cenotaph service in Christchurch Park. All are welcome.

11th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church
11am Schools' Service of Remembrance - Christchurch Park Cenotaph
(Note that the civic service will take place alongside the war graves in The Old Cemetery).

12th November

9am St Margaret's VAP School Service

14th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church

16th November - Safeguarding Sunday

8am BCP Communion
9.30am Café Church (Happy 3rd Birthday!)
11am Parish Communion

Forward Dates

7th December 2025

4pm Hexachordia Concert

14th February 2026

Trianon Concert (evening)

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:

Rev'd 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

Rev'd Helen Prior-Townsend - Curate

Email: 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**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

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](https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit)