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• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*

Sunday 5th October 2025

16th Sunday after Trinity



The stone cathedra of St Augustine at Canterbury Cathedral.

The Church of England has designated The Right Reverend and Most Honorable Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. Following the announcement at the Canterbury Cathedral, Bishop Sarah's first words were 'Thank you'. Followed by, 'shall we pray?'. You can hear her speech [here](#).

Our first calling, as Bishop Sarah recognises in herself, is 'to follow Christ, to know him and to make him known in the world'. As members of the community of St Margaret's Church, we seek daily to live in this way, gathering to worship, to pray, to serve and to be sent out to live and work in the name of love, to the glory of God.

Isaiah 43.19 says, 'Behold I am doing a new thing'.

I confess I did not for one moment expect a woman to be announced as the new Archbishop. I feared the church would not have the courage to take this step and I have found myself filled with prayerful tears. For some, tears of grief are being shed at this news, others' tears are overflowing with joy.

I give thanks for Bishop Sarah's willingness, like Mary, to say 'Yes, Lord' to the costly invitation to bear the Good News. I pray for her in the face of insults and criticism. I give thanks for the reminder that my hope is in God alone as we seek to love one another and our neighbour.

In her speech, Bishop Sarah also said, 'in an age that craves certainty and tribalism, Anglicanism offers something quieter, but stronger.'

As part of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Church made up of millions of fallible human beings, no church is perfect. No decision will be pleasing to everyone. This is true of the Church of England and of our small corner of it here in Ipswich. Yet by the grace and mercy of God, we do have something quiet and strong to invite the world to participate in. To choose daily the way of the cross, a way of living where in our differences and diversity, all are welcome in God's name as we seek to love one another and serve the common good.

I pray we may always have courage and wisdom to discern and act on the right thing, not the easy thing. Never by my will Lord, but yours.

Vicar Sarah

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

11.00 am Parish Communion (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.

The church is open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 4pm.

Lectiionary

This Sunday

www.BibleGateway.com is accessible again to European users.

8am BCP Holy Communion

[Ephesians 3.13-end](#)

[Luke 7.11-17](#)

11am Parish CommunionHabakkuk 1.1-4 & 2.1-42 Timothy 1.1-14Luke 17.5-10

Church News

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.***George Woodward writes:*

My two-year course to become a Licensed Lay Minister (or Reader) at St Margaret's reached its conclusion last Saturday afternoon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral when Norman Conder addressed Bishop Graeme, formally 'sponsoring' me for the role and Rev Sarah placed a blue Reader's scarf around my neck. I feel well and truly licensed!!

Thank You so much to the family that is St Margaret's Church for your support and prayers throughout my training and **Thank You** for the cards, gifts, emails, WhatsApp messages, texts, phone messages and spoken words of good wishes and **Thank You** too to all those who gave up their Saturday afternoon to go to the cathedral to support me in person - a special occasion, the memory of which I will always treasure.

One of the promises I made as part of my licensing was to promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world and especially among those who I will be serving - *you!!* It's a pretty big undertaking but my response of: 'by the grace of God, I will' says it all. Please continue to pray for me as I will for you.

Rev Sarah adds: George will soon be using a new church email address - so keep an eye out for the update, coming soon!

What's on this week?

Tuesday at 10am **Norwood Communion** service for residents and their friends and family.
3.30pm **Christchurch Court Communion** service for the community, their friends and family. 7-9pm **Bellringing Rehearsal** - come and try your hand!

Wednesday in the Church Centre 2.30-4pm **Cornerstone** meets - coffee, cake and conversation for all who would like to join in. **Deanery Synod** meets at St Thomas' Church, Ipswich. Pray for lay representatives Maggie Conder, Frederike Jacob and George Woodward as they meet at 7pm to elect a new lay chair to continue the legacy of Gill Jackson's work. With presentations from the Diocesan Church Buildings and Mission & Ministry team and a reflective conversation with Archdeacon Sam entitled 'Past-Present-Future', an Open Meeting of Deanery Synod will formally begin at 7.30pm - if you would like to attend, you are welcome and we are asked to advise the secretary in advance of those who will be joining in - so do let Rev Sarah know if you plan to attend.

Thursday 7pm-8.30pm **Choir Practice**

Saturday 8.30am-10.30am **Men's Breakfast** in the church centre.

What has changed since Inspiring Ipswich?

After six years, the Inspiring Ipswich project is reaching the closing stages: this includes visitors from Brendan Research visiting to evaluate the impact of the project. We may welcome them in the pew over the next few weeks - if you find yourself chatting to them over coffee after the service, do share your thoughts on the project, its impact and legacy.

8th November

We 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](#).



Faithful & Fruitful:
A Celebration of Inspiring Ipswich

Saturday 8 November
10am - 3pm
Colchester Road Baptist Church

RSVP
Scan to book
your free tickets:



Revd Sarah Hall

We are delighted to hear that our former Reader, Sarah Hall, has been appointed to the post of Curate in Charge of Woolpit & Drinkstone. Sarah and Phil will be moving to Woolpit early in the new year. We continue to give thanks for the way in which God calls people to serve his church and pray for Sarah and Phil as they prepare to leave Ipswich to faithfully serve God in this new place.

Job Vacancies

We are trying again to recruit some administrative support to help with the smooth running of the church whilst Lucy is on maternity leave - closing date for applications is Sunday, 19th October 2025. In addition, with grant funding from Suffolk Community Foundation Rev Helen is hoping to recruit casual Holiday Club Workers to assist with the running of children's activities and events - there is no closing date for these roles. If you are interested in either vacancy, please email hr.stmagsips@gmail.com for more details.

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.



Harvest Festival Thanks

To all who decorated the church for harvest, thank you. The church is open for decorations to be removed and stored or composted as needed. Harvest Gifts from the Church and Primary School were delivered to FIND on Monday morning. Thank you to Patrick and Ann Whitear for transporting them, and to Ann for her continuing volunteering with FIND. If you would like to, you can still make a cash donation [directly here](#).



The Church Gives - Final Call

Each year, as a church, we make donations to local and international organisations carrying out God's mission in various ways. We have £1,500 to allocate between these three causes:

- Mission Direct : congregation member Geoff Spiller accompanies people giving practical support to improve local facilities in Zambia
- Growing Hope : one of our neighbours, Holy Trinity Church in Ipswich, is looking to work with Growing Hope to set up a space for children with additional needs and their families. They are looking for prayerful and financial support with a view to starting in 2026.
- Christian Mission Society : we have long been supporting a couple working in an environment that requires their names not to be shared or published on social media or through newsletters like this. We can, however, quietly continue to support them prayerfully and financially.

There are tokens in the jars... but not many! They have been left another weekend and will be counted on Monday so that the funds can be distributed quickly to the beneficiaries.

**St Martin
in the
Fields**



Can These Bones Live?

Disability, wilderness, hope and God

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 October 2025

14th annual conference on disability and church

St Martin-in-the-Fields, London and online
BSL • Captions

Details and Registration
<https://CanTheseBonesLive.eventbrite.co.uk>

Exploring experience of wilderness & how hope grows.

With talks, workshops, groups, art, theology, liturgy. Hybrid event - on site & online. You do not have to travel to London! You can join online.

Entry by donation. Details [here](https://CanTheseBonesLive.eventbrite.co.uk).

Sunday 19 October - the conference programme is 14.30 - 16.30 - Film screening: Defiant Lives A special screening of this award-winning documentary which tells the story of the disability rights movement in the UK, US and Australia. Followed by panel discussion. Onsite and online, with options for captions and audio description.

If you just want to watch this film you can do so anytime for free at the link

[Home | Defiant Lives](#)

Theology, Churches & the Mainstreaming of the Far Right

Revs Sarah and Helen are hoping to stream this webinar on the big screen in church: Wednesday 15th October at 7pm: [Theology, Churches & the mainstreaming of the far right](#). All are welcome to join. If people wish to respond, there will be a 30 minute opportunity for reflection and conversation in church at the end of the webinar with the evening ending at 9pm.

**THEOLOGY, CHURCHES
& THE MAINSTREAMING
OF THE FAR RIGHT**

THIS EVENT EXPLORES HOW FAR-RIGHT NARRATIVES ARE ENTERING MAINSTREAM DEBATES ON IDENTITY AND NATION, AND THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS. WE'LL DISCUSS HOW THEOLOGICALS AND CHURCHES, INCLUDING THOSE OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN CARIBBEAN HERITAGE, CAN RESPOND.

SPEAKERS

DR KRISH KANDIAH OBE
DR CHRIS SHANNAHAN
DR CAROL TOMLIN
DR AARON WINTER

HOSTED BY PROFESSOR ROBERT BECKFORD
THEOLOGIAN, BROADCASTER, AUTHOR

SIGN UP NOW!

7PM, 15 OCTOBER 2025
ONLINE EVENT

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

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

Parish Giving Scheme

A heartfelt thank you from me to all of you who give regularly to St Margaret's Church. Every little regular gift really does make such a difference to all that we are able to do. If you give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, you will recently have received email correspondence updating you on some planned changes to the scheme, during which their website will not be accessible from 13th - 30th October 2025. If you have any concerns or questions, do contact 07541 707543 or email info@parishgiving.org.uk

Audio-Visual Operators

Important! No one has yet volunteered...

We are looking for additional people to join our small band of audio-visual operators. This worthwhile and vital role could either be manning the sound desk or operating the

livestreaming equipment (or both). Full training will be given - it really is easier than it looks! If you are interested, please speak to or email stuart.quinton@ntlworld.com. Thank you.

Rev Sarah adds: recently a few people have connected via the livestream for the first time and have remarked to me just how helpful it is for them not only to worship, but also how the sense of connection has been an important part of feeling better. Sometimes we don't always see the impact of God working through the ways in which we serve. Can you serve quietly in this way? Why not give it a go!

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Bromswell Road and Chelsworth Avenue.

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 the joy of attending the University of Suffolk Community Fayre this week - for good conversations with people of all faiths and none. For posters taken by students to be displayed in their halls of residence. That students new to Ipswich will soon settle into a fruitful stage of life.



October Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

If your sewing skills are limited there are usually good repairers and tailors in your local town who can do more complicated alterations for you at a reasonable price. Again, getting clothes that fit better means that you wear them more. Also, a good invisible mend can extend the life of a garment considerably. Check out your local tailor and give that favourite dress or pair of trousers a new lease of life!

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

5th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11.00am Parish Communion

7th October

8.00am Morning Prayer in school

8th October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

10th October

8am Morning Prayer

12th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion - during this service we celebrate Motun's baptism.

14th October

8.00am Morning Prayer in school

15th October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

17th October

8am Morning Prayer

19th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Café Church

11am Parish Communion - during this service we welcome Chloe's family and celebrate her baptism.

3.30pm at Pakenham Church, Motun will be confirmed by Bishop Graeme. All welcome.

Forward Dates

14th 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.

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 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)