



*Weekly news, readings and prayers*

## **Sunday 7th December**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**



#### **Peace**

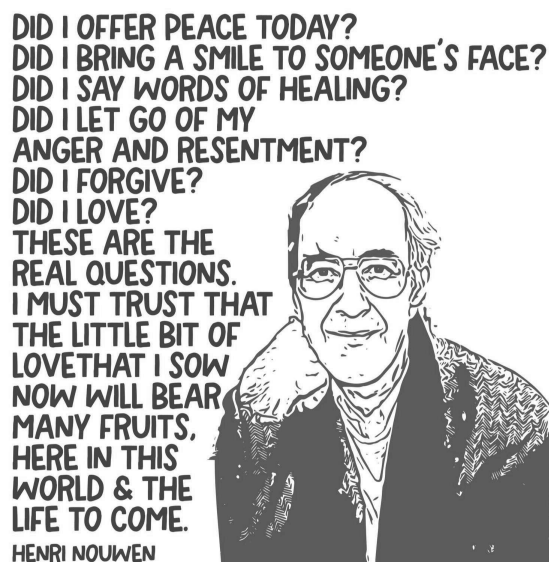
As we journey into this second week of Advent, the week dedicated to Peace, the words from the lectionary's Old Testament reading from Isaiah really stuck with me:

*The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

I wonder if we are doing the same? It isn't just those places in the world that we hold in our hearts and pray for peace for, though we should not forget them – Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the democratic republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda and others. It is those closer to home as well.

I wonder if I can lay down our own differences with those whom we don't agree with? Can I lie with the wolf and the leopard? As with many things, this is difficult, but concentrating on Peace with all, not just those at a distance, are actions that can make a positive difference in our everyday lives as we walk with one another.

I was reminded of this when I saw this quote from Henri Nouwen earlier this week.



## December Prayer Diary

## Services

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

**8 am** BCP Holy Communion

**9.30 am** Rise & Shine - with reflective Advent Story

**11 am (L)** Parish Communion.

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 will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

Livestreaming

## Lectiionary

### This Sunday

**8 am BCP Holy Communion**

Romans 15.4-13

[Luke 21.25-33](#)

**9.30 am Rise & Shine**

[Matthew 3.1-3](#)

**11.00 am Parish Communion**

[Isaiah 11.1-10](#)

[Romans 15.4-13](#)

[Matthew 3.1-12](#)

## Church News

**Services from January 2026: Sundays 8am, 10am & 6pm: Wednesdays 12pm**

Click [here for all the details of the outcome of the Refreshing Worship consultation process](#). The services from January 2026 are all set out inside the Christmas leaflets, so do take a copy home to put on your fridge.

**Today: Saturday 6th December**

**8.30-10.30 Men's Breakfast** - in the church centre. Food and fellowship followed by worship. No charge - give as you can on each occasion. To join the Men's Breakfast WhatsApp group, please email the [church office](#) with your name and mobile number, or speak with George Woodward, Adam Geileskey or Richard Jackson.

**Thank you**

For the prayers and participation in last week's service, and the post-service party when I was licensed as vicar. There are no photos - we were too busy celebrating! However I am still enjoying the flowers... and we Geileskeys all enjoyed the chocolates! Thank you from Revd. Sarah.

**Christmas Cards**

For those who enjoy writing and receiving cards... yay! Others struggle to keep up, for all sorts of valid reasons. We also create a lot of paper to be recycled. If you are sending cards to church family members, please use the trays in the shelves at the back of the church - in alphabetical order by surname. Please check your initial regularly - especially if you are newer to the community... you never know, there may be a card there for you.

If you would like to send electronic '[Christmas Greetings to the Church Community](#)' - send an [email to the office](#) and we will compile a special Christmas Card newsletter with all the messages and pictures you contribute (greetings to be received by no later than Monday 22nd December). Finally, please save your Christmas cards - in the new year we will be collecting them all up to gift to All Hallows Church who will re-use them in the making of Christmas Cards for next year, which they sell to raise funds.

**Advent Calendars**

We are reading a chapter of Luke's gospel every day - if you prefer to listen instead of read, you can find recordings uploaded to the church [Facebook page](#) daily between 1st and 24th December. If you have not yet collected an 'Advent in a Bag' for children and families do pick one up from church. There are a few left as almost 50 have now been shared. Thanks to the Cornerstone

group and Rev Helen for preparing them for us.



**Advent Zoom  
Group - Gospel of  
Luke  
Tuesdays 9th &  
16th Dec. at 7.00pm**

To book your place [click here](#), scan the QR code (once registered you should receive an email via churchsuite with all the zoom login details). Alternatively, contact the church office by email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) phone or text 07833 609661. Don't worry if you can't make it every week. Join in when you can.

### On the Move

This week John and Helen Elliston have moved to live closer to family - thought this has meant moving away from their Church family here at St Margaret's. At the back of the church you will find a 'New Home' card that we would invite everyone to add their name and a few words to. We keep them in our prayers for this new beginning for them and their family as they continue to live life in faith, trusting in God's hope and knowing love.



**Advent Breakfast - Saturday 13th December 9.00-10.30am  
All Welcome**

To book your tickets [click here](#), scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) phone or text 07833 609661. No charge - donations on the day as you are able.

### Gifting to FIND



Ann Whitear will be taking as many food and toiletries gifts to the FIND food bank ready to pack Christmas hampers. Please ensure any **FIND gifts** you would like to give are in the box at the back of the church by the **end of Sunday, 14th December**. If you, or someone you know, are in need of support from organisations like FIND, please speak discretely with Revds Sarah or Helen, Maggie Conder (Pastoral Lead), or ask Ann Whitear how to access FIND support.

FIND are always very grateful to receive gifts - writing to us to thank us for the Harvest Gifts and feedback from Ann Whitear who volunteers there regularly reminds us how important these donations are. Thank you for anything you can do to support this work - there will be some among us who, at times in our lives, have relied on the generosity of others.

### Decorating the Church for Christmas



The Church will be open for decorating on Saturday 20th December. The car park will be open from 9am to 12pm. If you are arranging flowers/windows and you need containers from the cupboard, please do come before 9.45am as Gill Barton needs to leave the Church at 10am and the flower cupboards may not be accessible after that. Please just come and decorate a window of your choice!

**You must remove your decorations as soon as possible after Sunday, 4th January**

**please.** Thank you for continuing to support Angie Cable and Gill Barton in decorating the church. Special thanks indeed to Gill and Andrew, for the many years they have quietly prepared and installed the Advent Wreath, including this year!



### Church Christmas 'To Do' List: HELP!

Christmas celebrations don't just happen without some preparation! Will you help with the following please? If you don't get a chance to speak to the person mentioned below, drop an [email to the church office](#) and we'll put you in touch!

- Finish delivering the Christmas leaflets
- Set up the Nativity Scene in the children's area (Bethlehem on the notice board and dressing up/costumes to explore the story) - ask Maggie Conder or Margaret Llewellyn how to help.
- Put up the prayer/care Christmas tree - thank you to the mystery team that have already dressed one of the Christmas trees! ask Rev Sarah how to help.
- Set up the wicker crib scene in nave sanctuary. Ask Rev Sarah how to help.
- Be a steward for any of these services: Ask Stuart Quinton how to help
  - 10th at 7pm, Northgate School.
  - 18th at 2pm, St Margaret's Primary School.
  - 23rd at 11am, Headway Carol Service.
  - Christmas Eve 4pm, Crib Service
  - Christmas Eve 6pm, Carols by Candlelight Service
  - Christmas Eve 11pm, Midnight Mass/First Communion of Christmas
  - Christmas Day 10am, Festive Family Communion
- Put candle trails on the churchyard pathways for Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight services - ask Frederike Jacob how to help [Frederike has done this in the past]
- Be on the coffee rota and offer refreshments on Christmas Day following the 10am service - ask Adam Geileskey what's involved.
- Decorate the church pillars with net lights and greenery (will involve careful use of a ladder) - ask Rev Sarah how to help.

If there's anything not on this list that you think it would be good to do and you can make happen, please speak with Rev Sarah.

Forsake what is past, live in the present, prepare for the future.



What's on? Sign up at...  
[www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)  
 welcoming people of all faiths and none



# Advent

**from fear to hope**  
 a new Church year begins

*Read a chapter of Luke's Gospel every day*  
*Take-away JOY Advent-in-the-bag*

**Sunday 30th November 10am Family Communion**

We welcome Archdeacon Sam to license Revd Sarah as 'The Vicar'. Celebratory nibbles after the service.

**Sunday 30th November 6.30pm Advent Carol Service**

A choral service with Advent carols, readings and poetry.

**Tuesdays 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec at 7-8pm Zoom Advent Group**

Sign up for reflection and discussion on Luke's Gospel.

**Sunday 7th Dec 4-5pm Heigh-ho: Holly! Hexachordia Concert**

Medieval instruments play carols. Music, mirth, merriment, hot drinks and cake. Tickets £8/£5 in advance or on the door.

**Saturday 13th Dec 9-10.30am Advent Breakfast**

In the Church Centre: sign up for food, fellowship and worship.

**Thursday 18th Dec 3.15ish-5pm Together for Advent**

In the Church Centre: reflective storytelling, activities and a meal for everyone. Especially child-friendly, though all are welcome.

**Saturday 20th Dec 9-11am Decorate for Christmas**

Bring local foliage & decorations and we'll find you a space. Eco-friendly and 'oasis-free' as much as possible please!



## CANCELLED

**Hexachordia Concert - Sunday 7th December at 4.00pm**

Sadly this concert will not now go ahead following the news this week that lutist and trio-member Tony Scheurigger has died. As we give thanks for his life and for the gift of music, our prayers are with Jane, his wife and also with the third member of the trio, Sarah Doig.



# Hexachordia

## Heigh-ho, the Holly!

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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



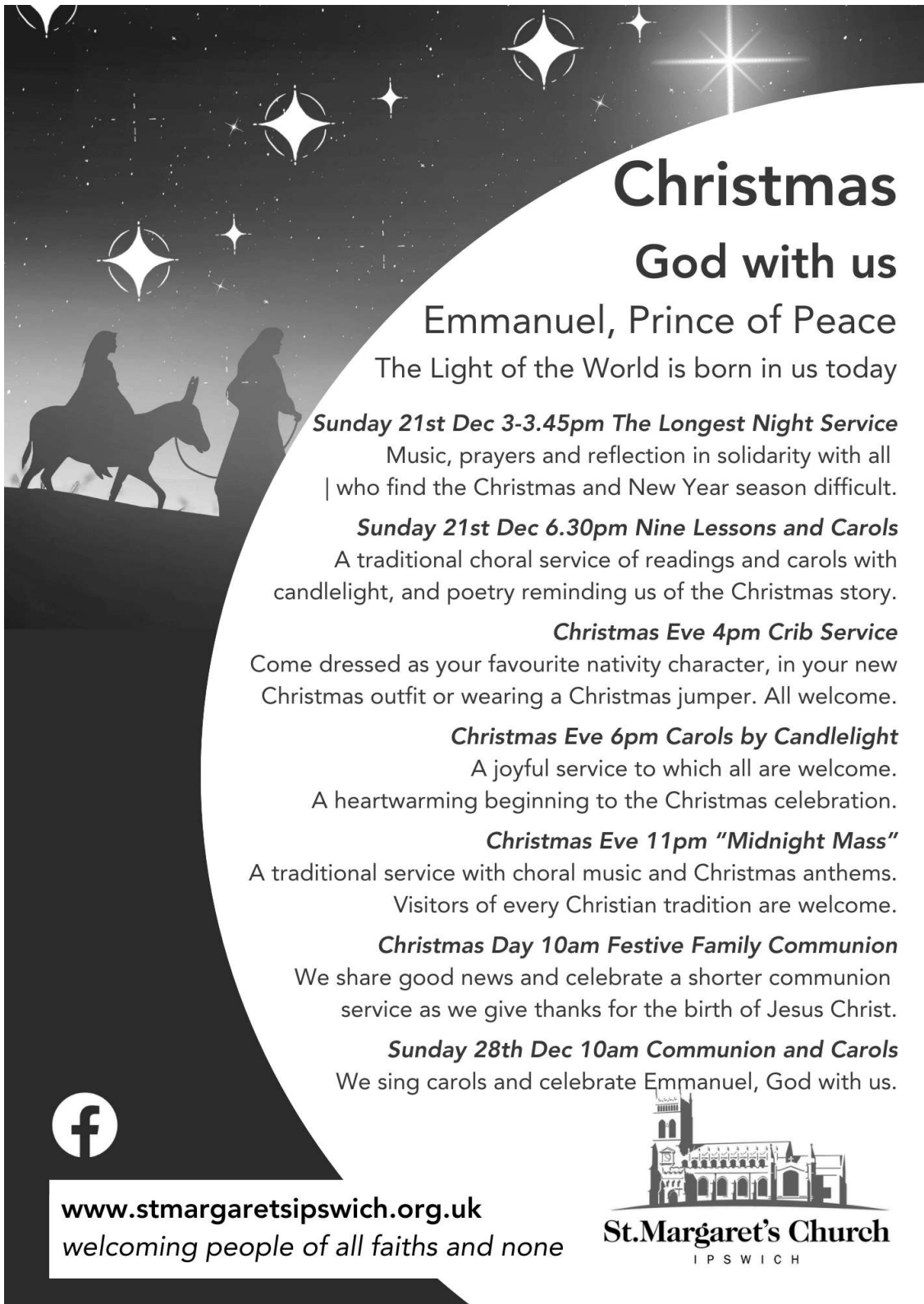
Find us on Soane Street near to Christchurch Mansion.  
Parking in St Margaret's VAP School, Bolton Lane, Ipswich, IP4 2BT





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





# Christmas

## God with us

### Emmanuel, Prince of Peace

The Light of the World is born in us today

**Sunday 21st Dec 3-3.45pm The Longest Night Service**  
Music, prayers and reflection in solidarity with all  
| who find the Christmas and New Year season difficult.

**Sunday 21st Dec 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols**  
A traditional choral service of readings and carols with  
candlelight, and poetry reminding us of the Christmas story.


**Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service**  
Come dressed as your favourite nativity character, in your new  
Christmas outfit or wearing a Christmas jumper. All welcome.

**Christmas Eve 6pm Carols by Candlelight**  
A joyful service to which all are welcome.  
A heartwarming beginning to the Christmas celebration.


**Christmas Eve 11pm "Midnight Mass"**  
A traditional service with choral music and Christmas anthems.  
Visitors of every Christian tradition are welcome.

**Christmas Day 10am Festive Family Communion**  
We share good news and celebrate a shorter communion  
service as we give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Sunday 28th Dec 10am Communion and Carols**  
We sing carols and celebrate Emmanuel, God with us.



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

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



# Community Carol Services

We welcome friends and neighbours  
to celebrate Christmas with us.



**Wednesday 10th December 7pm**  
**Northgate School Carol Service**

Students, staff, governors and families  
gather for this annual celebration.  
Arrive early - all are welcome.



**Thursday 18th December 2-3pm**  
**St Margaret's VA Primary  
School Carol Service**

Pupils and families from Y3-Y6 are all  
welcome to this special service where  
the pupils will lead us in music,  
readings and prayer.



**Tuesday 23rd December 11.30am**  
**'Headway' Carol Service**

The Headway community gathers to  
celebrate a special Christmas service.  
All friends and supporters welcome.



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



# 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*



### Season 2025/2026

- Dec 4<sup>th</sup>**     **Has the Church of England passed its 'use by' date?**  
*Father John Thackray*
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**    **Seasonal Music**  
*The Belstead Singers; conductor Jenny Jones*
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**    **Food, Singing and Readings to celebrate Advent and Christmas**
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**     **Hearing dogs for Deaf People**  
*Malcolm Taylor and guest, with dog*



BOOK NOW

# Christmas Afternoon Tea

Join us for a festive fundraising afternoon tea at Venue 16 in Ipswich with Christmas songs from Pop Chorus!  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
£30pp - 14:00-16:00pm

VENUE 16  
Weddings - Events - Restaurant

Cancer Support  
Suffolk

pop Chorus

Buy tickets at...  
[www.cancersupportsuffolk.co.uk/events](http://www.cancersupportsuffolk.co.uk/events)

Member of the St Margaret's congregation, Victoria Wyatt, is involved in this event and invites you to join in, as you can.

## Growing Deeper

### Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Anglesea Road, Ivy Street, Broughton Road, Holly Road and Paget Road.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.whatson.parliament.uk) or you can find out more about [www.christiansinparliament.org.uk](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk)

## Growing Greener

### Green Tip of the week

Try to avoid buying plastic tat for stocking fillers. Your family will appreciate more sustainable gifts such as ethically sourced chocolate bars (particularly if they are Fairtrade). If you have time, they would also appreciate any edible gifts you can make yourself.

*We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.*

**Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours**

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## Services Calendar

### Sunday 7th December

8am BCP Communion  
9.30am Rise & Shine  
11am Parish Communion

### 9th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

### 10th December

7pm Northgate School Carol Service

### 12th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

### 13th December

9am-10.30am Advent Breakfast for all church members - do see above to sign up

### Sunday 14th December

8am BCP Communion  
9.30am Rise & Shine  
11am Parish Communion

### 16th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

### 17th December

9am St Margaret's School Service

### 18th December

2pm St Margaret's School Carol Service  
3.15-5pm Together - a service with story telling, craft and a shared meal for all in the Church Centre. No charge for the meal - give as you can.

### 19th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

### Sunday 21st December

8am BCP Communion  
9.30am Café Church  
11am Parish Communion  
3pm Longest Night Service - in solidarity with those who find Christmas a difficult time  
6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

### Forward Dates

**14th February 2026**

4pm Trianon Concert

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:reader.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07990 573258

**George's quiet days tend to be Wednesdays and Fridays.**

## Churchwardens

Margaret Woodward

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

## Office

Email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) for all correspondence. The [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Frederike Jacob is our assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer

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](mailto: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)