



Annual Review 2024

Reports and supporting information for the APCM taking place on Sunday, 25th May 2025 at 10.00 at St Margaret’s Church.

To be read alongside the document ‘St Margaret’s Church Annual Report and Accounts year ending 31st December 2024’.

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Welcome to St Margaret's annual review which contains information on many aspects of Church life, some of which you may not even be aware of. We hope you enjoy reading about all the things that happen in the life and work of St Margaret's and it may even inspire you to join in the various happenings at St Margaret's.

Electoral Roll Report

Electoral roll was 156 and is now 117. There are 38 resident out of parish and 77 resident in parish. 2 names have been hidden for safeguarding purposes. The Electoral Roll has been displayed for the required period at the back of church.

Church Centre Report

At the end of 2024 there were some staff changes to the centre which are continuing to be looked at while the Church Centre Committee work out how best to support the centre users across the week.

Many works were undertaken in the Centre which included:

- Fire Risk Assessment
- New Fire Panel
- Fire Extinguisher Check
- Annual Boiler Service
- PAT Testing
- Gutter Check

William Dickin was approached by Church Centre committee to undertake ad hoc repairs in the centre, which he agreed to, and has already completed some of the minor repairs on the list such as leaking tap and reattaching a curtain. There are a few more major projects which a company will need to be bought in for such as polishing the hall floor and repainting. There are also some potential issues with the centre such as damp patches but PCC have agreed to a survey of the Church Centre so any issues will be highlighted and an action plan will be put in place for any works that need to be done.

Alison and Quentin Thurtle have sorted the opening and closing rotas during the holidays in the centre as the clubs and groups are mainly term time only.

The Church Centre Committee is made up of:

- Andrew Peck
- Margaret Woodward (Churchwarden representing the Church)
- Alison Thurtle
- Quentin Thurtle
- Sheena Lloyd

Church Wardens Report

This will be verbally given at the APCM meeting

Deanery Synod Report

This will be verbally given at the APCM meeting

Property Sub Committee Report

Since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held in April 2024, St. Margaret's has made significant strides in improving its facilities and community offerings:

In May 2024, the church completed an extensive audio-visual and broadband project. This initiative has enhanced our ability to host various events and reach a broader audience through improved technology.

The Faith, Hope, and Charity west window was renovated in August 2024. This stunning stained-glass window was carefully removed, restored to its former glory, and expertly reinstalled, allowing its vibrant colours and intricate designs to be enjoyed once again.

The essential work outlined in the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) Report – mentioned in the 2024 APCM report – focused on critical masonry, stonework, and repointing. This work was completed in September 2024. The comprehensive restoration has not only preserved the church's structural integrity but also enhanced its aesthetic appeal. The next QI is expected to take place on May 1, 2025.

Also in September, the church clock received much-needed repairs, with the total cost generously covered by a grant from the Belstead Galzoni Charitable Settlement.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is very thankful for this financial support, which emphasises the importance of community-oriented contributions. The PCC is currently focused on the Church Centre and conducting a condition survey to identify short- and medium-term updates and repairs, and potential funding opportunities.

With the 2024 projects successfully completed, St. Margaret's church is delighted to have opened its doors for a range of recitals and concerts. These events have been warmly embraced by our local community, fostering a renewed spirit of engagement and celebration within the church and beyond.

Report written by Carol Klug

Treasurers report

Please see separate annual report and financial statements 2024

Music at St Margaret's: The Music Group and Band

The Music Group has continued to play for the 9.30am services throughout the year, led for most of the year by Liz Alexander on the piano. In September 2024, after 15 years in the role, choosing music and nurturing the group, Liz decided the time had come to focus her musicianship at St Mary le Tower, singing more regularly with the women's voices in the choir and starting a choir for younger primary school children. Liz's contribution to church life over the years has been very significant. Though she has moved on, Liz is still a parishioner and is willing to help as needed.

During the course of the year we have also welcomed a new young guitarist to the group and are pleased that Marley is finding his feet. In 2025 we hope for a new pianist to find their way into the group and to find a way to practise regularly together, not just turning up to play on Sunday mornings.

Anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to join in.

The Band continues to play on the morning of the fourth Sunday of the month, led by David Ruddock. The size of the band varies from month to month and welcomed 'home' former members who joined in at Christmas.

Report written by Revd Sarah Geileskey

Choir Report

The choir has remained fully occupied with weekly rehearsals and services, and singing Choral Evensong every fourth Sunday of the month.

The size has expanded largely due to further new junior choristers, and those who were with us last year were formally admitted to the choir during a morning service. Always a welcoming and friendly group, the choir continues to attract members and along with junior choristers we have just welcomed a new soprano.

Highlights have included the annual Remembrance Sunday gathering in Christ Church Park, an additional Remembrance service in church to mark All Souls, the Advent Carol Service, the Christmas Carol Service, and a 'Come and Sing' performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday 2025. The latter was rehearsed and then performed on the same day, with a total of thirty singers in our choir stalls, some of whom had travelled from as far as mid-Norfolk. We continue to welcome additional singers to the monthly Choral Evensongs, and intend to build upon previous 'Come and Sing' events which have included The Armed Man and Fauré's Requiem.

Several anthems have been learned from a new volume, copies of which were bought from the Royal School of Church Music, to whom we remain affiliated. We are also varying the communion setting of the Gloria, Santus and Acclamations, continuing with my own setting written for this choir some years ago, and also singing a setting by previous organist at St Margaret's, John Parry.

At a time when parish choirs are generally considered to be in decline, and the inclusion of children becoming rarer, it is important to recognise the wonderful loyalty of our choir members who rehearse and sing week by week, remaining steadfastly supportive of our services.

Report written by Christopher Tinker

Messy Vintage Report

Some years ago, Gill Jackson started this Mission project, which aims to share the love of God with the elderly residents of two local Nursing Homes. She encouraged five friends to join her. Once a month three or four people visit Norwood and two or three go to Park Manor to spend time with those who wish to attend. Norwood is a bigger home where 20 to 25 people regularly join in, whereas at Park Manor numbers vary from 10 to 12. We are always assisted by a member of staff.

Our visits last between one and a half and two hours and consist of an introduction, a bible reading, a prayer, and a hymn which are closely related to a simple craft activity. A recent visit for instance, was based on the parable of the lost sheep. We said a prayer, sang The Lord is my Shepherd, and the residents made sheep which involved lots of cotton wool, glue, felt tips and laughter.

Occasionally, when someone is not well enough to join the group, we visit them in their own room, to have a chat and say a prayer.

We are frequently told by the staff that the residents look forward to our visits and the feeling is mutual. We unanimously agreed to continue the work Gill started.

Report written by Frederike Jacob

Bellringers Report

In May last year the bells were serviced and some slight adjustments made to the fittings. This was done by Nicholson's Engineering who installed the bells in March 2018 and who have an agreement to do this annually.

Apart from the normal practice evenings and serviced ringing there was little other ringing until last November when we had visits from other groups of bell ringers, the local Brownies and a peal band. In December there was an extra ringing for Advent Sunday and the Christmas services. The bells were also rung, as each year, as part of the Ipswich Christmas ringing on the Saturday prior to Christmas.

This year we have rung, with assistance from loyal helpers, for funeral services of two church members. The local Girl Guides have also attended part of a practice evening and during February one of the Suffolk Guild of Bell Ringers' committees used St. Margaret's as a venue for their meeting.

During April we held a short business meeting to appoint some of our ringers to carry out various tasks. Other groups have rung a Quarter Peal and also a full peal. In May we expect to be visited by a band of bell ringers from Essex

Over the past year we have much appreciated the faithful support for both service ringing and practice evenings given us by some ringers from the Minster. We have also received regular visits by people from other churches who are learning to ring bells - they say they learn more from us than at their own church and they also appreciate the friendly welcome that they receive. We have two 'learners' of our own who are progressing well and we would be delighted to have more recruits willing to learn these ancient skills. In fact, if St Margaret's bells are to be kept ringing, we need more people to come forward to learn - why not try a new skill?

Report written by John Girt

Charities for the Needy Report

At various times between 1616 and 1923 twelve kind and generous parishioners left money in their wills to found charities for the relief of poverty among the residents of Ipswich. These small charities were amalgamated in 1967 and are now administered by a group of Trustees to include the Vicar, churchwarden, two I.B.C councillors and two people nominated by the church. The current clerk, Jean Grierson, receives grant requests from social workers and housing officers etc. for items such as school uniform and washing machines. Grants are paid out of the yearly dividends of the invested bequests. In 2024 a total of 28 individuals and families were helped with grants ranging from £40 to £200.

Report written by Jean Grierson

Disability Access Report

At the 16th October 2024 PCC meeting Margaret Woodward and Jonathan McNabb were appointed as disability champions for St. Margaret's church to address the challenges that disabled people face and help build an inclusive church and place of belonging. The role of disability champions includes shaping policy and practice and consult with the diocese, the national church and other agencies to help build good practice.

Margaret Woodward, Charles Croydon and I met at the church on 16 November 2024 to carry out a survey of disability issues facing the church using as a tool the Removing Barriers toolkit developed by the charity Through the Roof.

The Removing Barriers toolkit divided the main areas of consideration into the following:

- The Message You Give;
- Having a Culture of Disability Inclusion;
- Arrival and Welcome;
- Enabling Everyone to Take Part and
- Belonging, Discipleship and Growth.

The next stage for our work as disability champions is to review the results of the survey via consultation with interested parties write a report to be presented to the PCC to determine what needs to be done to improve access for disabled people at St. Margaret's.

Report written by Johnathan McNabb

Eco church Report

In the autumn of 2024, the vicar and churchwarden had moved in principle towards St Margaret's becoming an Eco Church. Under John Grierson's leadership a working group produced a suggested road map for St Margaret's which the PCC considered on 16.10.23. They gave the formal commitment for St Margaret's to join the Eco Church scheme and appointed Maggie Condor to lead a small Eco Church team to complete (with the help of others when needed) the ARocha Eco Church survey. This baseline survey is to find out what's already going on, where improvements are needed and what can be done.

The survey is divided into 5 areas:

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Church Buildings
- Management of Church Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

The Eco Church team has met six times and organised small steps. They have appointed a leader for each of the five areas initially to lead on answering the survey questions for each area.

On 3.12.24 the PCC approved our Environmental Policy with four specific actions intended to be taken to achieve objectives. The first was that we will complete the ARocha Eco Church Survey (2024-2025) and produce a five year action plan (2026-2030).

We need your help please with carbon footprints! There has been a 40% increase in the gas used to heat our Church in 2024, so we want to know the average individual carbon footprint. Those wishing to contribute should calculate their carbon footprint at home using Climate Stewards calculator which is at the link

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

and bring in their anonymous answer on a piece of paper to post in a letter box in Church from where the average footprint will be updated.

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The Eco Church team members are Maggie Condor, Jonathan McNabb and Charles Croydon

Report written by Charles Croydon

Fellowship and Hospitality Report

Organising social events at St Margaret's is a joyful task. Sharing food over lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, a quiz or a picnic, or having refreshments at a concert and after a church service brings the community together and it is such a wonderful opportunity to serve, and to share the love of God with our neighbours and friends. We hope that 2025/6 will bring many more opportunities to do this.

	Social Events St Margaret's 2024-25
15 th June	St Margaret's Summer Fete. This was a really popular afternoon, beautifully coordinated by Gill Jackson who was supported by a small team. It was run at low cost and most of the attractions were homemade. We received lots of positive feedback. We had some really good raffle prizes and the event raised just over £1000.
29 th June	Celebration tea for Helen PT.'s Ordination A really joyful bring and share event. 60+ people attended.
7 th July	Ipswich Music Day
July	St Margaret Day celebration lunch
25 th August	Gainsborough Quartet Concert
15 th September	Heritage Open Day
22 nd September	Harvest bring and share lunch. 50 people signed up for this.
18 th October	Friends of St Margarets Meeting
23rd November	Quiz night. We provided baked potatoes and chili for 90 people. This was another popular event, We established that 90 is the maximum number for similar, sit-at-tables and catering events. There was a bar and a raffle and together with tickets @ £ per person we raised just over £1000.
26 November	We hosted a Deanery Lunch: we catered for 14 participants and served Soup, bread and desserts.
17 th January	Guides sleepover in church
25 th January	Birdwatch in churchyard
1 st February	Concert Chamber Choir and Soul Singers concert Well attended and very well received. We provided a bar and took a percentage of the ticket sales.

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23 rd February	Winter Warmer: we made soup and bread for 60 people, 50 attended. The dessert was provided by several parishioners. Approx £45 surplus after costs
March/April	Lent Soup Lunches
5 th April	First Aid Course

Report written by Frederike Jacob

Flower Arranging Report

There is not much to report this year. We have continued to do our three festivals, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We welcomed a few new arrangers who joined us. We hope they continue to come along and join in with the fun.

We still need people to join us on the committee, we are a very small band of enthusiasts who try very hard to keep our Church looking beautiful.

If anyone feels they could join us (we only meet once or twice a year) then do let me know and I would be happy to speak to you.

Thank you to everyone who comes along and supports us, we are grateful.

Thanks also to our wonderful Mother and Toddler group who decorate the porch so beautifully for us, it is great to have them join with us.

Report written by Angie Cable

Heritage Group Report

Current Members - Ann Woodings and David Evans

PCC Liaison - Margaret Woodward

The Heritage group was set up to fulfil one of the requirements of the HLF grant:

That there was an inclusive explanation of the history of the church in various forms (guide books, bat boards, time line etc) and the stimulation of further research into more detailed aspects of people and events which would be added to a dedicated Heritage section on the (also required) new website.

This undertaking has continued and encompasses not only particular benefactors of St Margaret's and the reaction of our parish to national events but also the work of Parish Council from the C17th to fulfil its obligations.

Through the past year we have produced seven new pieces of work which have been published on the website:

- Holy Trinity Fare
- The Pelican Pews
- The Red House and its Pew
- St Margaret of Antioch – including photos of the various dragons in the roof
- The St Christopher painting and its relation to the new roof

- The reason for there being no WWII memorial in the church
- The contribution of the church and the general population to The Poor Relief.

In addition, a further major piece of work on the loss of our medieval heritage; the role of Dowsing and others has been readied for publication in the weeks after Easter.

A further print of the “walk-about” guide and the purchase of the fine art files for this and the main Guide has been successfully completed.

The Group produced, as usual, the display for the Heritage Open Weekend – this year taking the theme of Old and New views of the church.

The Group has provided advice on the proposed redesign of the website.

Currently we are pursuing a view of the social history of the church and its involvement with the poor, apprentices, Bastards, Schooling and the provision of bread.

In addition, we are looking at the provision of the current pulpit, together with the reuse of the old pulpit and also the “new” reredos screen.

We are investigating the possibility of some of the original medieval glass still being in existence. Further research is required.

We will continue providing vignettes of notable characters in the history (up to 1900) of the church. To this end we have been looking at various wills held in The Hold.

The group is also giving a lecture to The Friends of St Margaret's next meeting on “Medieval carvings hidden in the spandrels of St Margaret's Church”.

All of this, plus general research, gives us the opportunity to build a picture of the community of St Margaret's through the centuries: its characters, trades, changes etc. all of which will be placed on our Heritage website.

Report written by David Evans

Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral care is an umbrella which covers all aspects of our church life from Toddler group through to care homes.

We have met 4 times since last AGM. We were a team of 6 but now we are 3, so will be inviting some people to think about if they feel a calling to this valuable service to God in our community.

As a church we have said goodbye to Ann Glass who died the end of last year who in the past came with her son Andrew. Audrey Cullingford who died in January and who had been a member of the MU for many years. And sadly we all said goodbye to Gill Jackson in April who was a member of the Pastoral team and we give thanks for the work she did in the care homes with Messy Vintage and her organisation of a service at Christmas with mince pies and refreshments for those who could not attend the mainstream services.

In May, 2 of the pastoral team attended a day session organised by St. Elizabeth Hospice on “Compassionate Conversations”. In January 4 of the team attended a training course run by

the Diocese for 6 sessions once a week "Enhancing Pastoral Ministry" which highlighted some very good standards to follow when giving pastoral care.

A vital part of the work has been keeping in touch with people and offering help where needed and just being present in their lives. Friendship is a great restorer. Phyl Bathgate has kindly donated some cards which we are able to use for different occasions. One of our congregation recently moved into a care home in Witlesham and we wish them a comfortable place to call home.

The Rev. Sarah was able to take a small communion service into Christchurch Court which was much appreciated by the residents who are not able to come to a church service.

The Cornerstone group which evolved from MU meet once a month which is a good meeting place for company and conversation and at Christmas donated little presents and cards they had made to Talitha Koum.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Pastoral Team for their kindness and compassion to all they meet through this ministry.

Report written by Maggie Conder

Safeguarding Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is required to report on how well it is safeguarding people and confirm that we are following the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The PCC can confirm that we are meeting this requirement.

The Church of England invests significant money and resources in safeguarding throughout the whole church. This effort is meant to clarify that safeguarding is not just about protecting children. The Church of England's initiative called "Promoting a Safer Church," encourages all churches to share their commitments to safeguarding. At St. Margaret's, we support and share these commitments.

These commitments are to:

- Promote a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults.
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons.
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk.

Safeguarding Progress since April 2024 APCM

We are making progress in our safeguarding culture with increased vigilance and a willingness to complete training.

What have we done to improve Safeguarding?

The Safeguarding officers (SOs) continue to work through the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard, with a particular focus this year on Safer Recruitment. Position descriptions have been completed for employees and a full set of policies for our employed and volunteer members of the church is nearing completion. Safeguarding policies continue to be reviewed and updated regularly.

What have we done to promote Safeguarding?

Our church has a dedicated safeguarding noticeboard and we highlight safeguarding in our weekly newsletter. This summer, we also held a dedicated Safeguarding Service. Safeguarding posters with contact details of safeguarding officers are in all St Margaret's toilet cubicles. There is still more to do, and we encourage everyone to feel comfortable coming forward with any concerns.

Training Completed

40 people safeguarding trained / 4 people pending 5 people Domestic Abuse Awareness trained 1 trained in Safer Recruitment / 1 pending 6 Leadership level trained DBS - 22 checked / 4 pending We still need to encourage more individuals to participate in training.

Update on safeguarding cases since APCM in April 2024

Where there have been concerns for individuals/families within the church, these have been highlighted initially at clergy level and then later in safeguarding review meetings between the clergy, Parish SO and SOs. Some cases considered to be pastoral in nature rather than safeguarding were supported by the Pastoral Team. Some cases were escalated to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers or police for advice and support. Since our last APCM, a further 15 further safeguarding concerns have been recorded.

Report written by Carol Klug

Toddler Group Report

The Toddler Group is thriving, averaging just over 20 children each week, and is now running during throughout the school holidays, when older brothers and sisters are welcomed up to the age of 6.

Craft activities are organised each week, usually by Carol Klug and decorations are made for the church porch for Christmas and Easter.

The parents set up the hall in the Church Centre from 9am ready for 9 30am start, but there is a shortage of volunteers for this job and only a few people are happy to lead the singing at the end of the morning, but an extrovert is usually found!

For many years the teas, coffees snacks and most importantly biscuits are organised by members of the church who kindly sign up each week and I am very grateful for the continuing support.

The group is self funding , £1 50 is paid by every "family" group and any profit after expenses is paid to the church.

It is very good that the Rev Helen Prior Townsend is able to come to the group most weeks.

Report written by Margaret Llewellyn

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