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*Weekly news, readings and prayers*

Sunday 9 March 2025

Lent 1

### **A Reflection from Rev Sarah**

Rev Helen preached powerfully at Ash Wednesday's service of Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes, reminding us that the purpose of the Lenten season is to make our preparations to meet with the risen Christ at Easter.

We will be exploring this in a number of ways: during our services in the coming weeks we will reflect again on how our baptism is the start of the journey through the wilderness of life, how fasting, prayer and almsgiving and tends to many forms of poverty as we connect with Kagera and the Bishop's Lent Appeal, whilst also wondering on Mothering Sunday about the mothering 'Church' in our lives. There will be conversations at Lent Lunches and an invitation to practice prayer in a variety of different ways in our Lent Groups.

There are our own personal preparations too - perhaps a book to read, a retreat or a pilgrimage walk, or a spring clean of 'the stuff of life' as we plan for that day when our Easter encounter will be with the risen Lord for all eternity.

As we travel through Lent, may we find blessing in the dust of Ash Wednesday and in the dustiness of the wilderness that can sometimes be our experience of this earthly life together.

'Blessing the Dust' by Jan Richardson.

## 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** Holy Communion

**9.30 am** Rise and Shine

**11.00 am** Parish Communion with Baptism  
(this service will not be livestreamed)

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 from 10am to 3pm.

## Lectiionary

### This week

**8am BCP Holy Communion**

[2 Corinthians 6.1-10](#)

[Matthew 4.1-11](#)

**11am Parish Communion**

[Deuteronomy 26.1-11](#)

[Luke 4.1-13](#)

## Church News

## Easter Lilies

Message from Angie Cable...

Easter is a time when we traditionally remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. It has become our tradition that we have an Easter Lillies arrangement on the altar and if anyone would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please put your money clearly marked "EASTER LILLIES" in an envelope and put it in the collection. Please do not give to Angie, it needs to go to our Church Treasurer, John Grierson.

We would like to receive your donations before Palm Sunday 13th April please. Thank you.

## Gill Jackson

We continue to hold Richard and all of the family in our prayers following Gill's sudden illness and peaceful passing last Saturday (1st March 2025). Any cards or words of condolence not sent directly can be left in the A-Z trays at the back of the church and we will ensure they reach the family. Funeral details will be shared as soon as they are known.

## Perennials in the Churchyard

Next Saturday morning, 15th March, from 9.30am. Perennial planting! Join Malcolm and others in the churchyard - bring working clothes and tools... and any split perennials from your garden.

## Did you know?

DID YOU KNOW that the church has always been involved in supporting the poor of the parish? When Henry VIII confiscated the church's wealth in 1536 this support was interrupted. In 1572 the parish was instructed to raise taxes for the relief of "poore people".

Records for 1574 show that the parish collected 93d (old pence) from 36 people and distributed 107d (old pence) to 27 individuals.

*More details can be found on the heritage boards under the tower or click [here](#)*

## Growing Deeper

What can we give thanks for over the last couple of weeks?

Bird boxes erected in the churchyard.

A new 'Lent' focus board in the children's area of church.

Girl Guides bellringing - and keen now to care for an area of the Churchyard.

Praying for our community: this week we pray for Bransbury Gardens, Cemetery Road, Finchley Road & Hayhill Road

As we remember those who have recently died in the faith of Christ, we pray also for all who mourn.

John Eastoe

Gill Jackson

## March Prayer Diary

# Growing Greener

### Eco Tip of the week

Each year in the UK we create 7 million tonnes of food waste from our homes. If thrown in the bin and sent to landfill, this waste releases methane - a green house gas 25 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. By sending it to recycling instead, reduces its environmental impact and enables the food to be turned into soil fertiliser.

Loving God - Care for Creation - Love Our Global Neighbours

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## Calendar

Anything underlined you can click and it will take you through to the website for more information.

### This Week

#### Tuesday 11th March

8.00am Morning Prayer in School

7.30-9.15pm [In person Lent Group](#) Five sessions exploring prayer

#### Wednesday 12th March

12.30-1.30pm: [Lent Lunch](#) Soup and Conversations Starters

2.30-4pm: Cornerstones Group (Church Centre) Friendship, tea and chat.

7.30-8.30pm [Online Lent Group](#) Five sessions exploring prayer

#### Friday 14th March

8.00 Morning Prayer in Church

**Saturday 15th March**

8.30-10.30am: Men's Breakfast - Bacon Rolls, faith and fellowship.

9.30-10.30am: Perennial Planting in the Churchyard

10.30-2.30pm: Being a Grandparent of Faith - do join in.

**Sunday 16th March**

8.00am: BCP Holy Communion

9.30am: Café Church in the Church Centre

11.00am: Parish Communion

**Upcoming****Tuesday 18th March**

8.00am Morning Prayer in School

**Wednesday 19th March**

12.30-1.30pm: Lent Lunch Soup and Conversation Starters

7.30-8.30pm Online Lent Group Five sessions exploring prayer.

7.30-9.15pm In person Lent Group Five sessions exploring prayer

**Thursday 20th March**

3.30-5.30pm Together New way of gathering to learn about God, especially for children and families.

**Friday 21st March**

8.00am Morning Prayer in Church

**Sunday 23rd March**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine Communion

11.00am Special Service

Lent Appeal Bishops Kagera Fund

**Monday 24th March**

7.30-9.15pm Zoom Lent Group Five sessions exploring prayer

**Tuesday 25th March**

8.00: Morning Prayer in School

12.30-1.30pm: Lent Lunch Soup and Conversation Starters

**Wednesday 26th March**

11.00 Funeral - John Eastoe RIP

7.30-9.15pm In person Lent Group Five sessions exploring prayer

**Friday 27th March**

8.00am Morning Prayer in School

**Saturday 29th March**

8.30-10.30: Men's Breakfast - Bacon Rolls, faith and fellowship.

8.45-1.00pm: Deanery Conference - [Every Day Discipling](#)

**Sunday 30th March**

One morning service all together

10am [Mothering Sunday Service](#)

**Save the Date****Saturday 5th April**

10-11.30am Free [First Aid Training](#)

**Saturday 12th April**

Suffolk Guild of Ringers - Full Peal 10am-1pm

Church/Garden Spring Clean morning - many hands make light work details to follow

**Wednesday 16th April**

7.30pm [Movie Night](#) Exploring theology through film

**Holy Week & Easter 2025****Thursday 17th April**

7.30pm [Maundy Thursday](#).

**Good Friday**

10-11.30am [Café Church](#)

12pm [Come and Sing](#) - calling all SATB singers to rehearse Stainer's Crucifixion for:

2-3pm Service: The Last Hour [Stainer's Crucifixion](#)

# 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.

Here are some answers to the practicalities of giving:

- **Collection plate** – during services a collection plate is sometimes passed among the congregation, but you will more often find it at the South door as you leave or arrive.
- **Tap giving** – during services a tap giving machine is located on the pillar on the west wall, to the left of the bell tower – do consider tapping your card or device. As well as giving regularly, this is also a good way of offering an occasional additional gift.
- **Regular Giving** – St Margaret's is registered with the [Parish Giving Scheme](#), allowing you to be in control of your giving and to give securely and safely online by Direct Debit.

- **Online giving** – If you wish to make a one-off or extra gift online, you can do so securely via the [Parish Giving Scheme](#).
- **Gift Aid** – if you are a tax payer, St Margaret's can claim back the basic tax you have already paid to the government. To make the appropriate declarations, please speak with the treasurer, [John Grierson](#).
- Leaving a **gift in your will** or making a **donation in memory** of a loved one – no matter how large or small, every gift makes a difference. If you would like to talk about this with someone, in confidence, then please consider speaking with the treasurer, [John Grierson](#) or the Vicar, [Sarah](#).

## Contact us:

### The Revd Sarah Geileskey

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**

### Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend

Email: [helenptstmags@gmail.com](mailto:helenptstmags@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07540 394179

**Helen is a Curate, working full time. Her rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.**

### Churchwardens

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

### Office

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

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

## 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)

Lucy Collins - Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. Email [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com)

More information on how you can report any safeguarding concerns is available from The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich [here](#)

Items for next week's sheet to the Verger Administrator (verger.stmagsips@gmail.com), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please send an email or complete the form on the website.

