



Sunday 10th May, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter



The steps to the Mars Hill, 'The Areopagus', The Hill of the god Ares

In search of God

Friday of this last week was the day on which the church remembers Julian of Norwich. I really enjoy the mystery of her writings. Perhaps the most famous, or at least one of the most readily recited quotes of hers is 'all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'. I hold on to that truth often. Especially this week when the election results in Suffolk reveal deep discomfort, discontent and a desire for change: how we for things to be well.

Luke writes in the book of Acts this week of the time when Paul visited Athens. He joined in the debates and discussions taking place at the entrance to the Parthenon, the Temple of the Acropolis in Athens. There, on the hill of the god of war, he joined others in the political and philosophical conversations of the day. Then, like now, there were two major players: Mars or Ares - Greek or Roman.

We continue to live in a market-place of ideas. The debate continues, selling to us whatever solution or hope or policy will 'make all things well'. Paul brought to the public square that day, a new hope. A hope in the grace and mercy of God. The hope of resurrection in Christ Jesus. Christ, who models the way, the truth and the life. It is only with Christ and in Christ and with all who work for the coming of God's realm in earth as it is in heaven that we can know that all shall be well.

You are a part of the public square. The discussion, the debate. You have purchasing power. You influence friends and neighbours by the choices you make, the words you speak and the way you live. It is in the name of Christ that we are called to serve the common good. In the name of Christ alone, all shall be well.

Rev Sarah

May Prayer Diary

Services this Week

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

BSunday 10th May

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Cafe church
6pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 12th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 13th May

12 pm Holy Communion
7pm Prayer meeting

Thursday 14th May (Ascension Day)

12pm Holy Communion - outside in the churchyard, if weather permits...! Or in the chapel, if raining.

Friday 15th May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 16th May

8.30am Men's Breakfast

We look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's Church. ***Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for weekend services.*** During the week, the children are in school and we cannot use the playground as a car park. 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 4pm.

Click here for Livestreaming

Lectionary

This Sunday

Acts 17.22-31 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

John 14.15-21 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Read in traditional language - King James Version - at the 8am service and from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) at other times.

Church News

Bellringing News

Visiting bellringers

We are welcoming the Suffolk Police Guild of Ringers to ring at St Margaret's Church this week while Café Church is taking place in the hall. How good it is to welcome visitors.

St. Margaret's Christian Aid Week 2026 : 10-16th May

10-16th May is Christian Aid Week, a powerful moment to come together and fight global poverty and injustice. For example, [this project in Nairobi](#), uses urban farming to protect families from hunger, and build a more secure future.

Please consider how you can support Christian Aid week this year. This could be via:

- **Awareness** - read more about Christian Aid projects, and / or share information about them. Watch the short video [here](#) about Christian Aid week; or visit the poster exhibition that Charles Croydon will display at the back of the church during the week. Resources for families will be available.
- **Advocacy** - share information about Christian Aid Week, or Christian Aid projects. Sign Christian Aid's petition [here](#).
- **Giving**. Donate to Christian aid [here](#).
- **Prayer**. Christian Aid ask that we pray that parents living with the stress of food security can access training and tools that will support them to provide for their children.

Repairs to churchyard wall : Impact on church access (26th- 31st May)

We are grateful that Ipswich Borough Council will soon be undertaking some repairs to the churchyard wall near the pedestrian gate and traffic lights on Bolton Lane. We are expecting the work to take place between 26th & 31st May (half-term), during which temporary lights will be in place and access to the churchyard via the pedestrian gate may be affected.



3 - 4.30pm
Sunday 10th May
Let's Walk

***A local walking tour with
 The Very Revd Keith Jones***

How well do you know the neighbourhood?
 How well do you know your neighbour?
 Come and find out more by hearing Keith share
 the history and stories of Ipswich.
 As we walk the paths together we'll get to
 know one another a little more too - and, if you
 can stay afterwards, we'll we share tea and
 cake together in the church.

Choral Communion follows at 6pm.
 No cost. All ages welcome.
 Tap donations for tea and cake if you like.



events.stmagsips@gmail.com
 www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none



Petals : Jason Websmall-Eghan

On Sunday 17th May 2026 I will be taking part in the Hackney Half Marathon to raise money for families and parents who have and continue to suffer from the life-changing loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby. This is a cause quite close to me and my family, and I am doing this in memory of Angel Osakioya Webb-Small Iredia, who was born and fell asleep on 29th May 2025.

Petals are a baby loss counselling charity. The specialist counselling service that they provide is life-changing for parents who have suffered the devastating loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby. They know that these tragic experiences not only result in grief but also in trauma. Their wonderful counsellors are there to help our clients navigate their grief and trauma and to guide them to a place of hope and they have continued to support my family through this tough time.

Supporting this challenge will help them to deliver more vital counselling sessions to other bereaved parents when they need them.

Any support you can give, however small or big, is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/angelhackneyhalf>

Vestry Meeting, APCM, PCC and election results

At our recent Annual Vestry Meeting, Bart Bisbal was elected to the role of Churchwarden. One vacancy remains. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Maggie Conder, Frederike Jacob and George Woodward were elected as St Margaret's lay representatives on the Ipswich Deanery Synod. Anna Geileskey and John Grierson were elected to the Parochial Church Council. There remains one vacancy on the Parochial Church Council.

We are thankful to Peta Lowin for serving on the PCC for the last three years.

At the first meeting of the new PCC on 5th May 2026, Bart Bisbal was elected Vice Chair, John Grierson as Church Treasurer and Lucy Collins (returning from Maternity leave) as PCC Secretary. The PCC Standing Committee (authorised to make occasional or urgent decisions where it is not possible for the PCC to meet) includes the Chair and Vice Chair, Treasurer, Safeguarding Lead (Carl Klug) and Frederike Jacob.

Confirmation

Have you thought about confirmation? Do you think it's for you, or something you might consider? There is likely to be an Ipswich deanery confirmation service taking place in the summer

I'm going to be running some preparation sessions soon (no obligation to be confirmed if you aren't sure!) , so if you are thinking about confirmation, please do speak to me.

Thanks, Rev Helen

Period products for the church and the church centre

In 2025, 21% of women and people who menstruate in the UK are struggling to afford period products, affecting an estimated 2.8 million people.

Over the past 3 years we have had free period products in all the toilets in church and the church centre. We now need a top up, there will be a container at the back of church from this Sunday for a couple of weeks to collect new donations. So if you are able to when you go shopping, please do pick a pack of towels or tampons up and drop them off. For hygiene reasons these need to be separately wrapped so the packs can be spilt and those who need them can take what they need. Thanks so much.

Thy Kingdom Come 2026

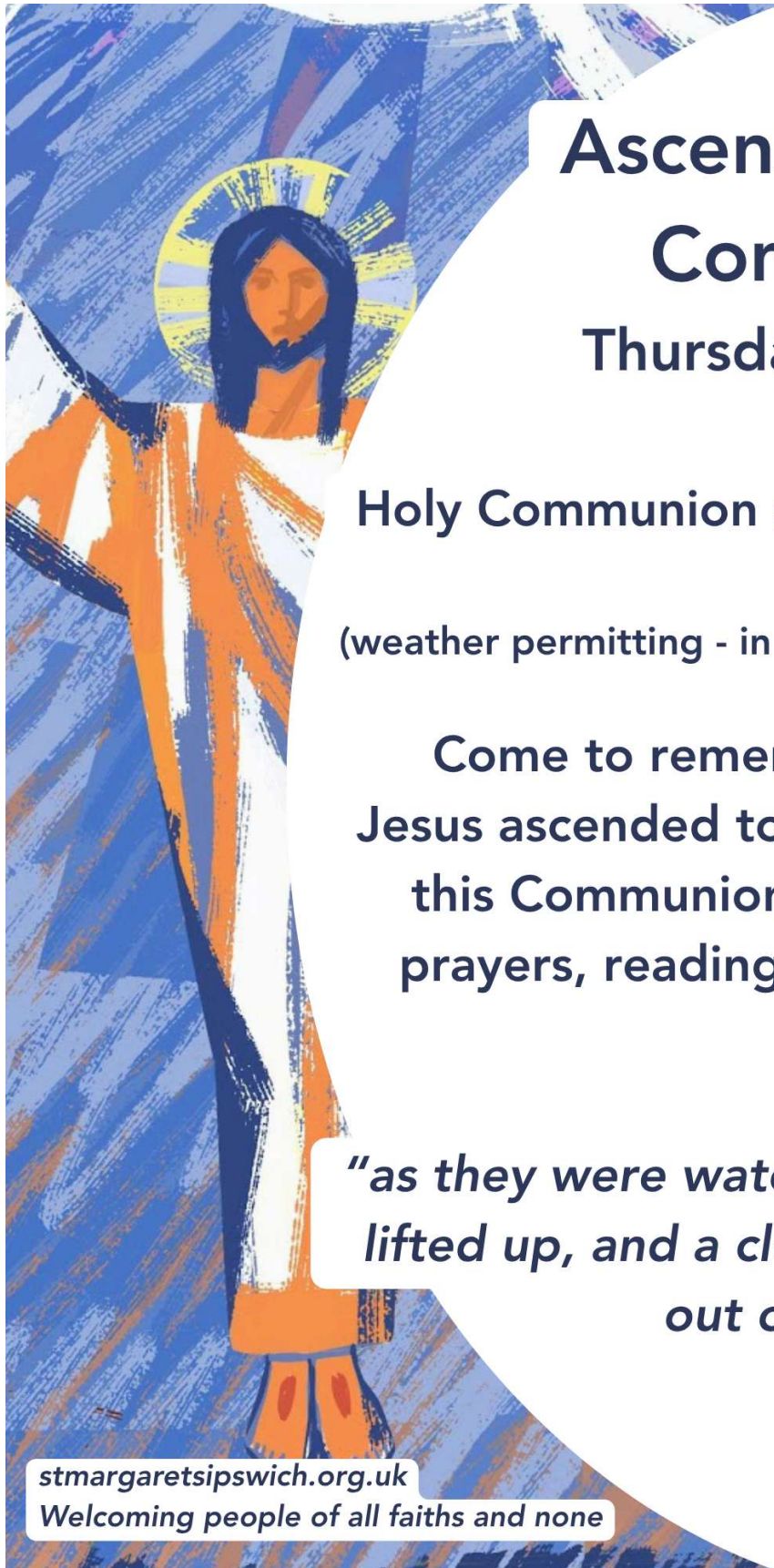


This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him. Over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

Our hope is that as we pray for our five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him.

Find out more here: [Thy Kingdom Come 2026 | Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Resources for *all ages* will be available from the 10th of May, so we can join in with this global prayer movement.



Ascension Day Communion

Thursday 14th May
12pm

Holy Communion service in the
churchyard
(weather permitting - in the chapel if it is
raining).

Come to remember the day
Jesus ascended to heaven with
this Communion service with
prayers, readings and a short
reflection.

*“as they were watching, he was
lifted up, and a cloud took him
out of their sight”*

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Welcoming people of all faiths and none





Sat 6th June

10am - 4pm

Creative Retreat

With refreshments at 10am, the day begins at 10.30am as we worship together, exploring in scripture, poetry and reflection the theme of 'Creation and Creativity'.

Bring your own preferred creative materials (e.g. paint, stitch, photography), use materials provided or join in with two different guided creative sessions: one in the morning and one after lunch. Spend the day with others or reflectively by yourself as we spend time creating in the company of God, the Creator. Christchurch Park offers space to walk and a light ploughman's lunch will be served (£10 booked in advance).

We'll close with worship at 3.30pm during which you will be asked make an offering of something you have created to be displayed in the church throughout the month of June.

Email the office or scan the QR code to book your place.



office.stmagsips@gmail.com
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
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Sat 18th July We're all going on a Summer HolyDay

A grand day out in Bury St Edmunds

We'll make our way there either by train or in cars, arriving at the Cathedral from 10am with friends from Ipswich All Hallows and Landseer Road churches for tea and coffee. At 10.30am we'll worship together in the Lady Chapel before spending the day at leisure, on retreat or joining in with various activities:

- reflective tour with a Cathedral pilgrim guide
- walk the labyrinth
- lunch in Abbey Gardens (bring a picnic/rug)
- explore the ancient abbey ruins
- 2pm in the Cathedral - a special time for families with younger children
- Choral Evensong 3.30-4.15pm

Please register your interest! QR code or go to:
<https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/events/5asvs05>



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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

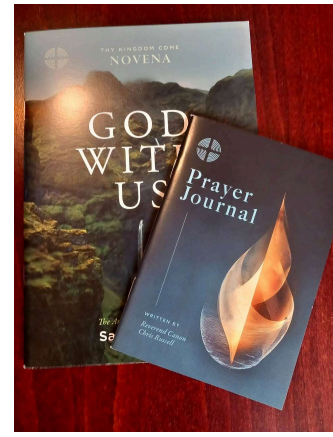
- May 7th** **The Anglia Care Trust; helping and caring for others**
Lisa Miles, Volunteer Development Manager
- May 14th** **The History of the Ipswich Society**
Chris Deverson, Vice-Chair of the Ipswich Society
- May 21st** **The Work of a Hospital Chaplain**

Forum takes a break now until October 2026. But look out for our Summer Outings.

- Oct 1st** **My passion for Uganda**
Alison Brain

Growing Deeper





Thanksgiving

For the joy of the Ipswich Town Football Club fans, at the team getting promoted! For all of the positivity, opportunity, and community-building that this represents - throughout Ipswich and further afield.

For a wonderful mid-week service of Holy Communion at Christchurch Court, and the opportunity to share resources for 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Prayer

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

If you are praying for the war in the Middle East and the continuing war against Ukraine, these words may be helpful:

God of mercy, look with compassion
on all who are affected by the conflict.
Grant insight to hardened hearts,
comfort to the fearful,
protection to those in danger,
and hope to those who are despairing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Please remember we have a box at the back of the church all year round to collect contributions of food and toiletries.

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week : Is there anything you can fix, rather than replace?

Martlesham Repair Hub may be able to help with repairing and fixing things like clothes, electrical or electronic goods, or bikes, crockery and toys. Our neighbour has recently had a mantelpiece clock fixed with their help - it's now working smoothly for the first time in 30 years! For more information and contact details, please click [here](#).

Maddie Horsburgh

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 17th May

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Communion (L)
6pm Time out

Tuesday 19th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 20th May

9am School service
12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 21st May

3.15pm Together

Friday 22nd May

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 23rd May

10am Together Extra - Pentecost

Sunday 24th May

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship (L)
6pm Choral Evensong (L)

Tuesday 26th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 27th May

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 28th May

8pm Complene (Zoom)

Friday 29th May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 30th May

9am - Church breakfast with food and fellowship and faithfilled conversation for ALL

Save the Dates

Saturday 6th June

10am - 4pm Creative Retreat Day in Church including a light lunch.

Saturday 18th July

Day Trip / Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds with friends from All Hallows Church to include a special service in the Cathedral led by the All Hallows and St Margaret's community, the opportunity to explore Bury St Edmunds for fun, picnics and/or reflective retreat time and the chance to finish the day attending Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

Rev Helen will be on a curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds) from the end of May until the beginning of July.

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:**Revd Sarah Geileskey - Vicar**

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

Revd 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.stmagsjps@gmail.com

Telephone: 07990 573258

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

Churchwardens

Bart Bisbal-Poncek

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

Telephone: 07495 759203

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 looking forward to Lucy returning to the church office at the end of July 2026.

We are taking the opportunity to rationalise email addresses. With immediate effect, please use office.stmagsips@gmail.com for all correspondence. We are still trying to maintain the current office opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 9.30am - 2.30pm but this is not always possible, so 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
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), 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)