



## Sunday 12th April, 2026

### Second Sunday of Easter



*Photo: Helen Prior-Townsend*

#### **Doubting?**

I wonder if any of us are feeling a bit like Thomas at the moment? Are we doubting God? Do we need to really see before we believe?

Whilst away with my family this week, walking along a beach in Norfolk I really felt the presence of God with me. With the news the previous night, I woke up with trepidation on Wednesday morning, almost not wanting to look at my news app on my phone, what had happened overnight?

Had the threats of President Trump been seen through? I was relieved when a new ceasefire had come into force. My prayers this week have been that this will hold and new ways of securing peace across Iran, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine can be found. That sunny beach brought me closer to God, the peaceful sounds of the waves, the playing children and barking dogs gave an insight of what the world can be like.

I have been moved by Pope Leo's words this week, his call to prayer and unwavering determination, he will not give up, like Jesus not giving in to those who persecuted him, showing himself to be a man of God and a man of integrity, even in the most scary of moments, we can see that we can do the same.

I invite everyone to continue to pray for peace over these coming weeks. I will be in the church at 5pm on Saturday for an hour, praying this, a quiet time, but a time of purpose. Praying with hope and determination that peace will prevail, do join me if you can.

Revd Helen

April 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.

### Sunday 12th April

8 am BCP Holy Communion  
10 am Café Church in the church centre  
6 pm Choral Communion (L)

### Tuesday 14th April

8 am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 15th April

9 am St. Margaret's School Service  
12 pm Holy Communion followed by soup lunch in the church centre (3rd Wednesday)

### Thursday 16th April

3.15 pm Together in the church centre

### Friday 17th April

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### Saturday 18th April

8.30 am 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

#### 8am Service

Acts 2.14a, 22-32 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

John 20.19-end ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

#### 10am Service

1 Peter 1.3-9 ([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

### Parish Share - Thank you from the Diocese

We have received a huge thank you for all we give to enable God's mission to be resourced across this Diocese. A new guide explains how parish share is used: almost 81% supports parishes by providing and supporting lay and ordained ministers alongside essential practice services and resources including safeguarding training and advice, newsletters and training opportunities. If you'd like to receive the weekly diocesan eNews, [sign up here](#).

To see the new Parish Share Guide, pick up a copy in church or [download an electronic copy here](#).

### Confirmation

Have you thought about confirmation? Do you think it's for you, or something you might consider? The Cathedral is holding a Diocese Confirmation Service on the 3rd of May, and there is likely to be an Ipswich deanery confirmation service taking place later in the year.

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

### Decorating church and clearing

Thank you to all who came along Easter Saturday and decorated the Church for us. It looks amazing. It was lovely to have some new friends join us as well.

A gentle reminder that all arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday 18th April. Flowers and foliage can go onto compost heap at the rear of the churchyard, or can be taken home and put into brown bins. Please do not leave for others to clear up. Thank you.

Angie Cable

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting APCM - Sunday 26th April 2026 10am

Last year our annual parish church meeting was woven into our worship, meeting before God, giving thanks for all that has happened over the last year whilst prayerfully committing ourselves to serve God and neighbour in the coming year. This time it will include:

- Vestry Meeting : the election of up to 2 church wardens for the year ahead to take care of aspects of Maintenance, Management and the Ministry of the church. Wardens (and helpers) will be commissioned by Archdeacon Sam at a special service at St Bartholomew's on Wednesday 10th June at 7pm.
- APCM :
  - the election of 3 Deanery Synod representatives to serve for 3 years. They will also be members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council). These three people will represent St Margaret's at the three Deanery Synod meetings each year and will be eligible to vote in the Diocesan elections to General Synod later in the year (note anyone on an electoral roll can stand for General Synod).
  - the election of 3 PCC members to serve for 3 years (one vacant role with John Grierson and Peta Lowin having served for a 3 year term).

To be eligible to vote and to stand for election, or to nominate others, you must be on the electoral roll. If you have come to St Margaret's over the last year or so, or have moved into the parish, you will need to complete an application form.

All the forms you need to stand for election are at the back of the church. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please email the church office.

### Reports for the APCM

The agenda and papers for the APCM, including last year's church accounts are [now available on the website](#).

The reports that have been received are now available on the website, including an Agenda and the draft minutes of last year's APCM, as well as the independently examined and PCC-approved accounts for the year ending December 2025.

If you usually write a report for the APCM and have not yet done so, please ensure it is sent to [revsarageileskey@gmail.com](mailto:revsarageileskey@gmail.com) as soon as possible please. Many thanks!



# Ringling the Changes

## April 2026: the end of an era

Following eons of dedicated and faithful service to the ringing, teaching and maintenance of bells at St Margaret's Church, John Girt will soon be retiring from the role of Tower Captain / Ringing Master. Though Roger Coley has ably assisted of late, he will not be taking on this role, so the search is now on for someone new.

In due course there will be an opportunity to thank both John, and Shirley for her support.

Please commend this to your prayers: that the bell tower's ringing and teaching facilities along with the newly refurbished handbells will continue to ring to God's glory.

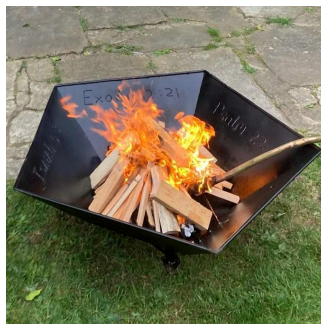
The Bellringers are already thinking about 'what next'. If you are interested in finding out more please speak with John Girt, Tower Captain on 01473 724858 or [revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com) 07841 687879.



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



## Growing Deeper



## Thanksgiving

For our Easter Sunday services, and everybody who contributed towards these.

For so many of our community attending the 10am service on Easter Sunday morning. The church was alive with old friends and new - all eager to join together, to celebrate Jesus, our risen Lord. We celebrated, and sang (and budged up and shared orders of service!). Alleluia, alleluia indeed.

## Prayer

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

*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- Big Green Challenge for April

When did you last see a hedgehog? They used to be regular garden visitors but now they are in trouble. Since 2000, the UK has lost between 30% and 75% of its rural hedgehogs. Cars, pesticides, strimmers and climate change have all taken their toll.

We can all do our bit to help hedgehog recovery:

- Hedgehogs eat a variety of food including common garden bugs such as caterpillars, beetles, earwigs and worms. If you leave piles of wood and leaves, areas of bare earth and areas of dense shrubs then all these bugs should thrive and become a food source of hedgehogs.
- Hedgehogs need places to sleep as well as eat. So create dark shaded areas where they can shelter and nest build. Low, denser shrubs or hedges are ideal for them You could also

install a hedgehog house in a quiet, sheltered spot with plenty of deciduous tree leaves and twigs nearby for bedding.

- Hedgehogs are vulnerable during hibernation. As you clear up your garden in the spring check carefully there are no hedgehogs in the leaf litter. Be vigilant if you are mowing or strimming. If you do have wilder areas, leave them undisturbed – hopefully you'll have some contented hedgehogs in there.
- You and your neighbours may be able to make a hedgehog highway. A 13x13cm gap in or under the fence or wall will ensure hedgehogs can get in and out, and a network of these holes becomes a hedgehog highway. This means hedgehogs can get to compost heaps, log piles and ponds in different gardens.

*With thanks to Revd Richard Stainer for his weekly tips.*

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

## Forthcoming Services and Events

### **Sunday 19th April**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Time Out (service of meditation and reflection on the theme of Resurrection)

### **Tuesday 21st April**

8 am: Morning Prayer

### **Wednesday 22nd April**

9 am St. Margaret's School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

### **Thursday 23rd April**

8 pm Compline (zoom)

### **Friday 24th April**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### **Sunday 26th April**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Sunday Worship (L)

6pm Choral evensong (L)

### **Tuesday 28th April**

8 am Morning Prayer

### **Wednesday 29th April**

9 am St. Margaret's School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

### **Friday 1st May**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### **Saturday 2nd May**

8.30 am Men's Breakfast

## 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](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**

**Revd 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)