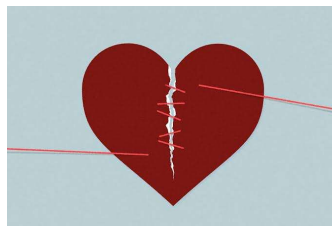




# Sunday 13th September 2026

## Trinity 15



### Forgiveness - a Sonnet by Malcom Guite

*Forgive as we forgive:* the prayer you give us,  
 Comes home so close yet radiates so far.  
 We set the limits on our own forgiveness;  
 As generous or grudging as we are.  
 The wounds we give and take in all our weakness,  
 The injuries that smoulder, burning slow,  
 The sins that others visited upon us,  
 Are ours to hold or utterly let go.

You tell the story of the wretched debtor,  
 The one forgiven everything he owed,  
 Who then exacted payment, to the letter,  
 From one who could not bear the given load.  
 Oh lift my given load that I, forgiven,  
 Might give away forgiveness, free as heaven.

Forgiveness is the lectionary theme for this Sunday. It's rarely as simple as a child's 'sorry'. Who is being forgiven? By whom? Where's justice? Who's been hurt and by whom? Sometimes the complexities of confession, naming that which needs attending to... and absolution... God's reordering of life, takes time. Generations, even. As a Church Commissioner I've been part of the conversations about Project Spire that recognises that chattel enslavement is the source some of the Church of England's historic endowment funds. There's deep work to be attended to. Malcom Guite's sonnet is a start, a meditation on the line from the Lord's prayer - forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who've sinned against us.

Forgive, seventy-times-seven. Is there an end to forgiveness? Is there an end to grace?

Rev Sarah.

Looking forward to seeing you in the churchyard today at 3pm for Hymn and Pimms!  
I'll be speaking about Project Spire... and other things too, during the 6pm service tomorrow.

## September 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.

### Saturday 12th September

9am to 5pm Heritage Open Weekend / Ride and Stride

3pm Hymns and Pimms in the churchyard (weather permitting! If it rains we will be in the church)

### Sunday 13th September

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Cafe church

1pm to 4pm Heritage Open Weekend

6pm Choral communion (L)

### Tuesday 15th September

8 am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 16th September

9am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

### Friday 18th September

8 am Morning Prayer in church

### Saturday 19th September

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.

### ***Parking during the school holidays.***

*Please note that the 'top' car park is out of action as the wall repairs take place during the school holidays and there is skip on the disabled parking space. If you need help to park your car or with wheelchair assistance, do let us know.*

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

## Lectionary

### This Sunday

Romans 14.1-12 ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 18.21-35 ([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. i.e.,

## Church News

**please pray for the life of this church as we seek to grow in faith, hope and love**

### Heritage Open Weekend - 12th and 13th September (Today and tomorrow!)

The weekend of 12th and 13th September is a busy time for St Margaret's as we expect to welcome over 100 visitors to the Heritage Open Days.

Can you spare an hour to welcome these visitors to our magnificent church? No prior experience is needed, just a welcoming smile and a desire to help others enjoy our church. If so, please sign up at the back of church or for further information, please contact: John Grierson 07801 278943 Or [john.grierson@btinternet.com](mailto:john.grierson@btinternet.com)

Church opening times:

Saturday 12th, from 9am to 5pm (with Hymns and Pimms from 3pm - please see flyer below)

Sunday 13th, from 1pm to 4pm

### Ride and Stride! 12th September

This annual event is taking place on Saturday 12 September, on the first day of the Heritage Open Days weekend. Why not put on your walking boots or pump up your bicycle tyres and head out to visit other churches?

We would also be grateful for volunteers to welcome visitors and to countersign their sponsorship forms. Could you spare an hour on Saturday 12th September, please? We need 2 people to cover each hour from 9am-5pm. A sign up sheet and sponsorship forms are available at the back of the church. For further details about the Ride and Stride, please contact. Richard Jackson - 07768 113497.

### Roof carvings - Heritage Open Weekend



The new presentation for Heritage Day looks at the roof carvings in some detail. The display is in the tower area. In addition, a photographic record of all the carvings is available on the mirror trolley. The presentation can be found at: [stmargaretsipswich.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Roof-Truss-Carvings-display-Heritage-actual.pdf](http://stmargaretsipswich.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Roof-Truss-Carvings-display-Heritage-actual.pdf).

A full photographic record of the carvings on the roof beams has also been made. The photographs are split into four file sections looking at - the [north](#) and the [south](#) end of the beams from the east side (standing with your back to the Altar) and the [north](#) and the [south](#) end of the beams from the west side (standing with your back to the tower). Beam 1 is at the east end of the nave and beam 11 at the west end. - David Evans

### Hospital Visiting and Home Communion

If you are admitted to hospital for planned surgery or indeed, suddenly and unexpectedly, do let us know. The pastoral team and clergy often visit people in hospital, but we can only do so if we know you are there! The chaplaincy team at the hospital are also very supportive - if you would like to see a chaplain do tell the hospital staff and arrangements will be put in place for this to happen. You can email or telephone/text/whatsapp any of the clergy, Rev Sarah, Rev Helen or Reader George, let Lucy in the office know or email the [pastoral team](#). If you can't do this and friend or family member can do this for you, the contact details are all on the St Margaret's website. All the contact details are also at the end of this newsletter, scroll down (or click to download all of the newsletter).

Rev Sarah is aware that there are an increasing number of people now for whom to receive Holy Communion at home from time to time would be helpful - if you think this might be for you, again,

do please let the clergy or pastoral team know so that arrangements can be made for either the clergy or a member of the pastoral team to visit and share communion.

### Harvest festival church decoration - 26th September

On Saturday 26th September 9.30-11.00am, we will be decorating the church for Harvest Festival. Just turn up on the day with your flowers/ foliage/ vegetable or anything else you wish to use. You will then be allocated a window sill. The car park will be open whilst we are arranging. All arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday October 10th. We look forward to seeing some new arrangers as well as our regular arrangers. Thank you. *Angie Cable*  
[angiecable42@gmail.com](mailto:angiecable42@gmail.com)

### Choir

Please continue to pray for our choir director, Christopher Tinker who is recuperating. Amanda Lockyer is with us over the summer. Choir practice will usually continue on Thursday evenings, 7-8pm. If you have any queries about music in the meantime, or are thinking about joining or re-joining the choir, do email [music.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:music.stmagsips@gmail.com)

### Together for Harvest - Help and sign up!

I am looking for two or three of volunteers to help with Together on Saturday 26th September in the Church Centre. The session is running from 10- 11.30 am, so I would need volunteers to start at 9.30am and we will be finished by 12pm. Saturday sessions have storytelling, activities and a cold brunch or pastries and fruit.

If you would like to join in with this service, it's helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for catering purposes so do [sign up here](#).

Thanks, Rev Helen

### Creationtide

[Creationtide](#) or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It's part of the Church of England 'Environment' programme. The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on [Ezekiel 47:1-12](#). God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

Creationtide resources and events include:

**1) Hope for all creation** is a new teaching document articulating the bishops' theological response to the environmental crises. There will be a series of webinars exploring the key themes:



Tuesday 15 September 5:30pm to 6:30pm - The Five Marks of Mission



Tuesday 22 September 5:30pm to 6:30pm - A New Heaven and a New Earth

You can find out how to sign up to all of the webinars and the full document here 🙌

[cofe.io/HopeForAllCreation](https://cofe.io/HopeForAllCreation).

### 2) Eco Church 🏡

Are you interested in the environment, local wildlife or would like to help make our church more eco friendly? Or you may have seen our carbon footprint poster at the back of the church and wondered what it was all about? We have an "eco group" who are looking for some more volunteers to join them. Please contact Maggie Conder on [ecochurch.stmagips@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurch.stmagips@gmail.com).

### 3) Climate Emergency Briefing Film Screening

Watch this space - Inga is arranging a screening of the Climate Emergency Briefing Film, to take place at St. Margaret's [Date TBC]

### Make a Joyful Noise

Save these dates - though please NOTICE THE CHANGE for September. The Hustings for the General Synod Election in this Diocese are taking place at St Margaret's on Monday 14th September. This meeting is for the electorate who have received an email invitation from the Diocese inviting them to register to attend. As such **Make a Joyful Noise** will now practice on **Wednesday 16th September from 7pm** in church. Do come along!



musicians & singers

## Make a Joyful Noise

offer your instrument and/or your voice  
in singing songs of praise to God

We enjoy a wonderful variety of music at St Margaret's and long for all musicians and singers in this community to share their God-given musicality. Each month we get together to rehearse and arrange the music for our services.

**Choir**  
Thursdays 7-8pm

**Musicians and Singers**  
Mondays 7-9pm

- 27<sup>th</sup> July - rehearsing for Aug. & start of Sept.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026
- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2026
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2027
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027

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





## Hymns & Pimms 3pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

A relaxed outdoor singalong of  
some of your favourite songs and  
hymns.

Passers-by, friends and family will  
all be very welcome.

With live piano accompaniment &  
complimentary Pimms (while stocks  
last - other drinks available!)

Community singing is good for  
wellbeing. Why not come and  
give it a try!

*If it rains we'll be in the church!*

*Welcoming people of all faiths and none*





# Together at Harvest!

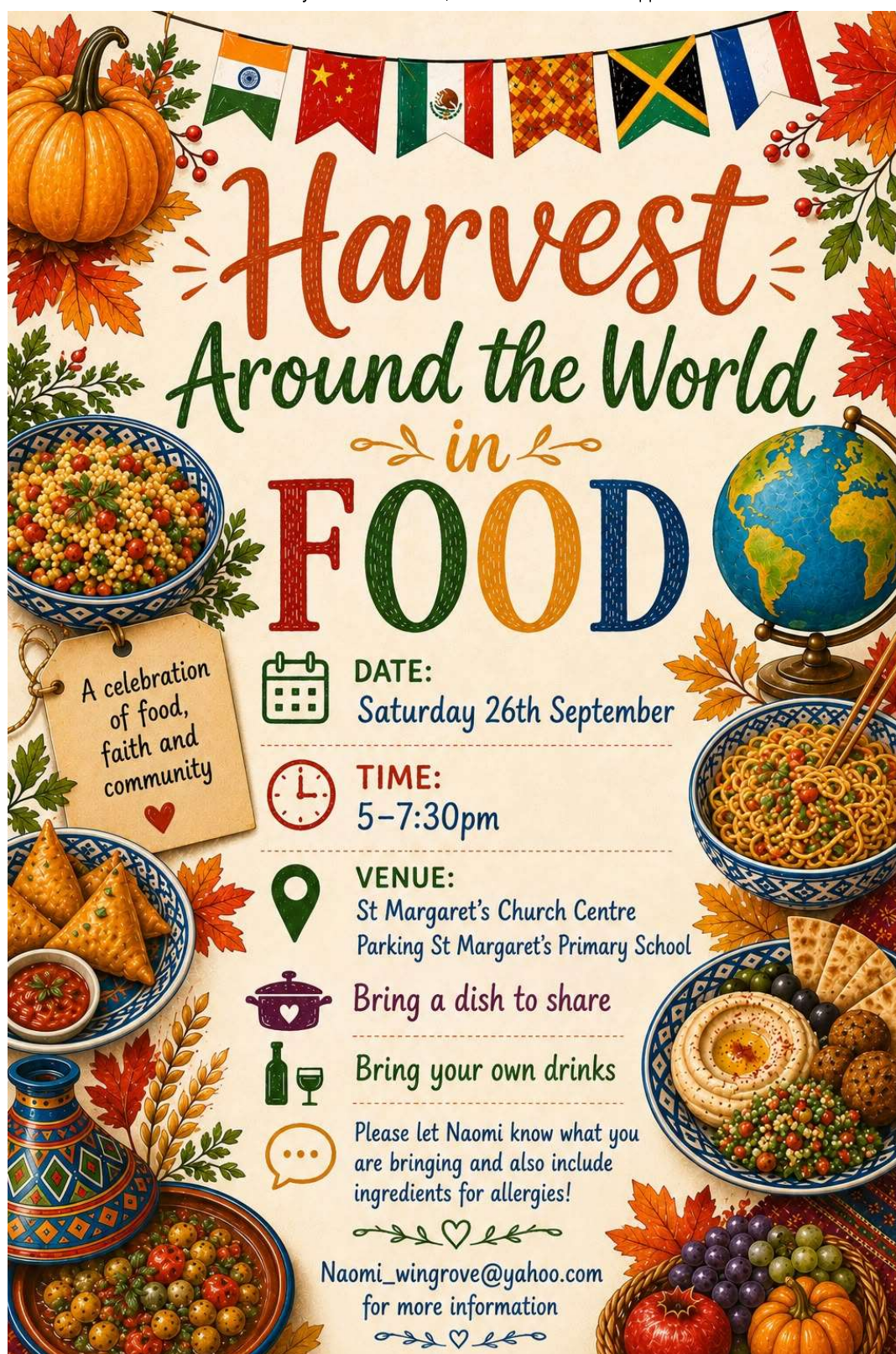
**Saturday  
26<sup>th</sup> September  
10 - 11.30am**

*All are welcome to a special Harvest themed gathering* of our relaxed community for all ages. Join us in the Church Centre, for storytelling, activities, songs, prayer, all on a Harvest theme finishing with brunch together. Please book via the QR code or link below

*Welcoming people of all faiths and none*



[Click here to sign up for Together](#)



A vibrant, hand-drawn poster for a community event. The title "Harvest Around the World in Food" is written in a mix of orange, green, and blue fonts. The word "in" is in a small, cursive font. The word "FOOD" is in large, bold, multi-colored letters. The poster is decorated with autumn-themed illustrations: pumpkins, leaves, a globe, and various international dishes like spaghetti, hummus, and samosas. A banner at the top displays flags from India, China, Mexico, Jamaica, and France. A tag on the left reads "A celebration of food, faith and community" with a heart symbol. The event details are listed in the center: DATE: Saturday 26th September, TIME: 5-7:30pm, and VENUE: St Margaret's Church Centre, Parking St Margaret's Primary School. Below the venue, it says "Bring a dish to share" and "Bring your own drinks". A speech bubble icon is followed by the text "Please let Naomi know what you are bringing and also include ingredients for allergies!". At the bottom, the contact information "Naomi\_wingrove@yahoo.com for more information" is provided, flanked by heart and leaf motifs.

# Harvest Around the World in FOOD

A celebration  
of food,  
faith and  
community

 **DATE:**  
Saturday 26th September

 **TIME:**  
5-7:30pm

 **VENUE:**  
St Margaret's Church Centre  
Parking St Margaret's Primary School

 **Bring a dish to share**

 **Bring your own drinks**

 Please let Naomi know what you  
are bringing and also include  
ingredients for allergies!

Naomi\_wingrove@yahoo.com  
for more information



# **Harvest Festival**

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

### **10am Harvest Parish Worship**

A relaxed service led by our musicians with a themed talk and reading

### **6pm Choral Evensong**

with traditional hymns and anthems, a reflective service at the end of a blessed day

***All are welcome***

***Donations for FIND Foodbank***

***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 2026/2027

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**     **My passion for Uganda**  
*Alison Brain who supports children and young people there*
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup>**     **East Anglian Air Ambulance: a special appeal**  
*Supporter Engagement Team*
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**    **What does a High Sheriff do, and how do you become one?**  
*Gulshan Kayembe, High Sheriff of Suffolk*
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>**    **Kabuki Theatre; vibrant Japanese dance-drama**  
*Evelyn Bailey*
- Oct 29<sup>th</sup>**    **Georgia: Challenges and Rewards**  
*Ann Fox*

[www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk)

## Growing Deeper

### Thanksgiving

For our stewarding team, and their work in welcoming everybody into church. For everybody who provides a warm welcome to St. Margaret's in other roles.

### Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Hayhill Road, Christchurch Street, Christchurch Court and Cobbold Mews.

## Support

Remember our Pastoral Team is 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 September

The United Kingdom has had its hottest summer on record, according to provisional statistics from the Met Office. The mean temperature in the south and east was about 3C above the normal, with the City of London recording an average daily temperature above 28C in July (that includes night time temperatures). This is in line with evidence that summers are getting hotter and drier because of climate change.

What is notable about this summer is how long-lasting and widespread the heat has been - with temperatures widely meeting heatwave criteria on five separate occasions. Accompanying this has been significantly drier weather than the norm in the centre, south and east of the UK. There are a number of reasons why this summer has been so warm and dry.

1. High pressure has regularly been overhead, meaning long spells of dry, calm, sunny weather.
2. The dry ground has also helped temperatures to climb.
3. Less of the Sun's energy has been used in evaporating moisture leaving more to heat the ground and the air.
4. A marine heatwave has also played a part with sea temperatures in parts of the UK up to 3C above normal at times, reducing the usual cooling effect around the coast.

However, scientists are clear that climate change is making our summers hotter and drier. 9 of the last 10 summers (2016-2025) have brought temperatures above the long-term norm.

The number of very hot days with temperatures above 30C (86F) has more than trebled in the most recent decade compared with the 1961-1990 average. This year's heat looks set to knock the infamous summer of 1976 out of the UK's five warmest on record - meaning the five hottest summers will all have occurred since the year 2000.

As this pattern looks set to continue we need to be thinking about how we can mitigate the effects of high temperatures on people and food production.

*Our thanks to Rev. Stainer for his weekly green tips.*

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## Forthcoming Services and Events

### **Sunday 20th September**

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

### **Tuesday 22nd September**

8 am Morning Prayer

### **Wednesday 23rd September**

9am School Service  
12 pm Holy Communion

### **Thursday 24th September**

1pm Funeral

### **Friday 25th September**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

### **Saturday 26th September**

9.30-11.00am Decorating the church for Harvest Festival - please see notice from Angie above  
10-11.30am Together Extra  
2pm Baptism  
5- 7.30pm Bring & Share Harvest Supper 'Around the World'

### **Sunday 27th September - Harvest festival**

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

### **Monday 28th September**

9am School Service - Harvest Festival

### **Tuesday 29th September**

8 am Morning Prayer

### **Wednesday 30th September**

9am No School Service  
12 pm Holy Communion

### **Thursday 1st October**

8pm Choral Compline

### **Friday 2nd October**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

**Saturday 3rd October**

8.30am Men's Breakfast

### Save The Dates

Saturday 17th October - 'Floetry' - a concert performed by Suffolk Chamber Choir

Saturday 21st November - Quiz Night

## 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

Bart Bisbal

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

Telephone: 07495 759203

### Office

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

Office Hours: Tuesday 9.30am - 1.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

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. 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](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)