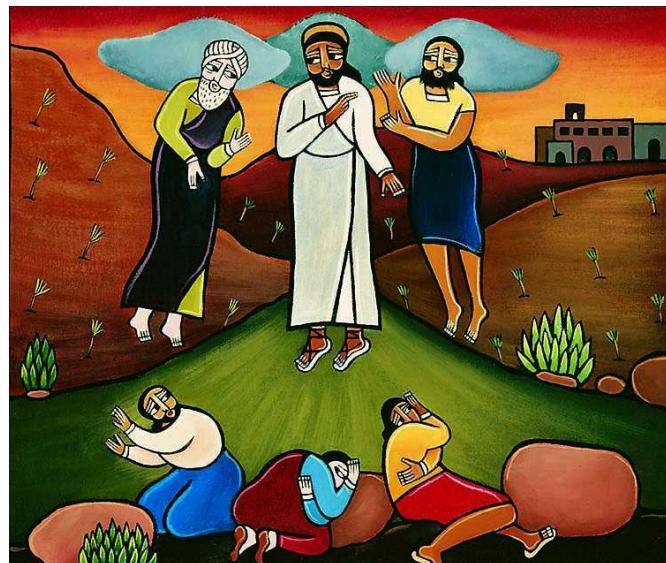




Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 15th February

Sunday Next Before Lent



'Transfiguration' by Laura James (2000)

"You say it best, when you say nothing at all"

I wonder if you're familiar with the rest of lyrics from this country song made particularly famous in 1999 when Ronan Keating released his version of it as part the soundtrack to the romantic movie, 'Notting Hill'? The song sings of the experiential nature of love and of seeing truth revealed without the need for it to be discussed or debated or proven or argued. It just is.

This week we hear the story of 'The Transfiguration'. I remember a conversation, many years ago now, wondering what a wedding couple visiting the church for the first time to hear their banns read would have made of that morning's readings. Jesus going up a mountain and being seen talking to Moses and Elijah, his long dead ancestors, only for arguably his three closest disciples to suggest building them a tabernacle in which to dwell - as if a physical tabernacle might contain them in a particular time or place. You might wonder what to make of it too. Peter's fear leading him to speak and act - to do something to alleviate the discomfort when faced by the unknown and the unfamiliar. Nervous action - keeping busy. Then there's the instruction not to mention the experience to anyone - to stay quiet until after the whole story has been revealed at the resurrection.

Perhaps staying quiet sometimes helps others to see the truth in us. Perhaps we are called to see and understand differently that which we are familiar - as the purpose of the law (Moses) and the words of the prophets (Elijah) take on a new meaning in the light of God's glory - Christ with us.

Perhaps... but only if we have been changed and are willing to continue to be changed by our experience of God. We too are to be transfigured. That process of transfiguration, of prayerfuelled transformation comes through experience: moments of ascent and descent, light and cloud, speech and silence.

We must expect to be challenged whenever we try to confine faith to a time or place or particular experience - either on top of the mountain or in the depths of the valleys. We must look out for the ways our behaviour, our values and our lives are challenged by coming to church, singing God's praise, being with others and the journey and offering our hearts and minds and prayers to God.

Singing 'When you say nothing at all' as a love song to God transforms its meaning. Why not try it? Maybe you'll experience a moment of transfiguration as you ask to see more fully the glory of God at work in and through your life.

Rev Sarah

February 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 15th February

8 am BCP Holy Communion
 10 am Family Communion (L) - we celebrate our choristers and formally admit a new chorister to the choir.
 6 pm Time Out - contemplation and meditation on the theme of transfiguration

If you would like last year's palm crosses to be turned into ashes in preparation for this year's Ash Wednesday services, please ensure you return them to church by Sunday, 15th February.

This Week

Tuesday 17th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday (parking available in school playground)

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing (children and families welcome) followed by Soup Lunch

7pm Contemplative Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 19th February

3.15-5.00pm Together in the Church Centre

Friday 20th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

10am - 12.30pm Friday's for Families Morning in the church centre : [click here to book](#)

Saturday 21st February

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 and on Ash

Wednesday. 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 3pm.

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

Lectionary

This Sunday

2 Peter 1.16-21 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 17.1-9 ([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

Trianon Concert: This afternoon at 4pm



Concert

Saturday 14th February

4.00 pm

A late afternoon concert of string and choral music performed by members of **Trianon Symphony Orchestra and Choir** with the voices from **Ipswich Choral Society** and the **Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society**.

This concert remembers Trianon's co-founder, Chris Green, promoter of the arts and of Ipswich.

Warm drinks will be available afterwards and there will be retiring collection to support the maintenance and general repairs of the historic Grade 1 listed St Margaret's Church.

Soane Street, next to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking available in St Margaret's VAP School,
Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT



www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none



St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Today: Open Table Eucharist at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

5pm Saturday 14th February the first Open Table Eucharist in this Diocese, a service for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome those of any faith or background, every gender identity and sexual orientation. All are welcome, but please respect that this service is created to be a safe, sacred space for those who need it.
<https://stedscathedral.org/events/open-table/>

Churchwarden(s) Vacancies

After four years of dedicated service in the role of lone Churchwarden, Margaret Woodward's time in this role will end at the

Together Community

Rev Helen says 'I am looking for volunteers for our Together Community gatherings on the 3rd Thursday of each month which

APCM. Churchwardens serve in one of the most visible and important roles in a church community and we must discern wisely the people who will take on these roles in this season when the church is growing. Please begin to pray and to look for people across this community with practical and people skills whom God may be calling to serve us in this role. **The Vicar's prayer is that at team of 4 people will emerge who can work well together, with a blend of ages and experiences.** Two named wardens and two dedicated helpers. The role of churchwarden is varied - there are some tasks that must be undertaken, however, it can also be shaped to enable individuals to bring their skills to the role to help St Margaret's continue to flourish and grow. There is some information about [being a churchwarden on the Diocesan Website](#): please speak with Revd Sarah and with Margaret if you would like to explore this.

meets from 3.30pm to 5pm - volunteer times 2.45pm until 5.30pm and our Family Morning on Friday 20th February which is running from 10am until 12.30pm, volunteer times 9.30am until 1pm. If you want to join the team you will need to have completed basic Safeguarding training and have a church DBS. Do speak to me!

Book on our family morning on 20th February! A morning of activities, games, coffee, snacks and lunch! Do pass the word around as well.

[Click here: Fridays for Families booking and consent](#)

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday - 18th February

12pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes followed by Soup Lunch in the church centre
7pm Contemplative Communion with imposition of ashes in Church

Lent Groups

Wednesday lunchtimes: 18th & 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th soup and conversation in the church centre following 12pm Holy Communion in Church.

Wednesday evenings by zoom: 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March at 7pm. You do not need to commit to the whole course and no advance preparation is required so come to all or some of the sessions as you can. If children's bedtimes are challenging - join whatever time you can and leave as you need to. We'll be following a course on the theme of prayer, examining the lives of 5 Old Testament figures who prayed and how that relates to Jesus' prayer life and what that might mean for our prayers. [To register and receive the zoom links, please click here.](#)

Other Lent resources

The Church of England has a range of other resources available that you may like to make use of during Lent, including books and daily reflections through the EveryDay Faith app. [You can find out more here.](#)



Lent Lunches
after Wednesday Holy Communion, 12.30-1.30pm

18th & 25th February,
4th, 11th, & 25th March

Gladwyn Room, Church Centre

A thought for the day accompanies a simple bowl of soup and conversation starters.

All are welcome to gather around the table.

"Food for body and soul"

If you know in advance that you will be attending, for catering purposes please email pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com. The soup served will be gluten-free and vegan. If you have other dietary requirements, please let us know.

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




18th February 2026
Ash Wednesday
12 pm & 7pm
Holy Communion

with the imposition of ashes

Special services to mark the start of Lent as we take to heart the call to reorient our lives towards the love of God. With the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday crosses we are marked with a visible sign of the cross and seek to grow in faith and in devotion to God.

The 12pm service is followed by a soup lunch in the Church Centre

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

events.stmagsips@gmail.com
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welcoming people of all faiths and none

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH
SOANE STREET

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Vermont Crescent, Vermont Road and St Margaret's Street.

Thanksgiving

Messy Vintage are planning their next foray into the community on the theme of love. I wonder which Bible passage you would choose that speaks of love? John 3.16? 1 Corinthians 13? Mark 12.30-31 Deuteronomy 6.5? Romans 8.38-39? Micah 6.8? Something else?



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 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

Time to look at something fundamental – toilet paper. Much of our toilet paper comes in plastic wrappings. Much of it involves the destruction of large areas of forest. If you shop around online you can find toilet paper that is wrapped in paper and is either recycled or made from sustainable bamboo. 'Who Gives a Crap' donates 50% of its profits to NGOs to build toilets and give people access to clean water, and all its products are wrapped in paper. 'Cheeky Panda' produces plastic free bamboo toilet paper. Both are much better for the planet and kind to your bottom! Other products are available so do shop around.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 22nd February

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

Tuesday 24th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 25th February

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service
12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel

Thursday 26th February

8pm Zoom Compline (if you do not already have them, [click here to receive zoom links](#))

Friday 27th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday 1st March

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10 am Family Communion (L)
6 pm Prayer and Praise

Every day this week (Monday-Friday) at 8.30am '[Together We Pray](#)' daily morning prayer across Suffolk broadcast the Bishops' Facebook page will be led by St Margaret's Church. On Tuesday and Friday this will be live from the church at 8.30am. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to join online, or catch up later in the day.

Tuesday 3rd March

8.30 am Morning Prayer in Church (NOTICE CHANGE OF TIME)

Wednesday 4th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing (children and families welcome) followed by
Soup Lunch

Friday 6th March

8.30 am Morning Prayer in Church (NOTICE CHANGE OF TIME)

Saturday 7th March

8.30 am Men's Breakfast

Save the Dates

Sunday, 29th March Palm Sunday

10am Service will begin outdoors with a Palm Procession into Church as we mark Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

Sunday, 26th April

10am Morning Worship with Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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.

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 - Priest-in-Charge

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.stmagsips@gmail.com

Telephone: 07990 573258

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

Churchwardens

Margaret Woodward

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

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 taking the opportunity to rationalise email addresses. With immediate effect, please

use office.stmagsips@gmail.com for all correspondence. The 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.

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>