



## Sunday 16th August 2026

### Trinity 11



*How was it for you.....Wednesday's solar eclipse?*

*For a number of slightly wacky people, a few of whom got their moment of fame on TV, it was an event of cataclysmic significance but, for others, the brief dimming of the light was something of a let-down after all the media hype - no big deal.*

*For me, in the eerie silence and peculiar light in which my garden was briefly bathed, it was a moment to consider the unfathomable enormity of God's creation. Why aren't we all burned to a crisp in an instant by the truly awe-ful power of the sun which the eclipse highlighted as the moon passed between it and the earth? Yet it is that very sun which sustains life here on earth. The writer of the Psalms penned these words: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?"*

*Yes, this Creator God, who made it all, loves each one of us - wacky or indifferent. Come along to church on Sunday and discover why that is.*

*How might it be for you?*

*Lay Minister George*

## August 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 16th August

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Time Out

### Tuesday 18th August

8 am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 19th August

12 pm Holy Communion (No lunch afterwards)

### Thursday 20th August

3.15-5pm Together in the church centre

### Friday 21st August

8 am Morning Prayer in church

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](#)

## Lectiionary

### This Sunday

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 15.21-28 ([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

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



### Last Sunday's ringing and afternoon tea

Shirley and John wish to express their grateful thanks to our Vicar, the P.C.C. and the whole congregation for such an enjoyable afternoon last Sunday. Our thanks extend to all of you who contributed but were unable to attend and to you all for the many years of support which have been given to us.

### A Mission Direct update from Geoff Spiller



A brief update from Zambia. Our first team left just over a week ago, and our next team arrives tomorrow, Tuesday. This is 2 days later than planned, due to problems arranging flights that don't go via the middle east (which are not currently covered by Mission Direct insurance). The weather has been a pleasant 20-25C each day, though more windy and a bit cooler of late.



The projects have been going well thanks to the hard-working team that just left, and our local builders, of

course. Photos show the foundations of one of the 2 nursery classrooms we are building, and we are painting 3 classrooms we built at another school last year. The team also had great fun singing, dancing and playing with children at various schools! Our downtime included a sunset cruise on the Zambezi, near the Victoria Falls.

This year there have been very few power cuts, in contrast to last year when we often only had power for a few hours in the middle of the night. Maybe the forthcoming presidential election might have something to do with that?! We'll know soon after election day, 13 August. Pray that all passes off peacefully.

I'm about halfway through my time in Zambia and I will be back in the UK in early September. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

*For more information, please see the [Mission Direct](#) website - or speak to Geoff when he is back.*

### **Ride and Stride! 12th September 2026**

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.

### **Reflections on Archdeacon Prayer event**

St. Margaret's hosted 69 people for the Archdeacon's prayer event a couple of weeks ago, including members of St. Margaret's congregation, and visiting clergy. The evening was a part of the Diocese refreshing its 'Growing in God' vision. If you were unable to attend the event but would like to share your feedback with the Diocese as part of this process, an online survey is available [here](#), until 28th August (approx length 20m).

### **Summer Family Morning**

After much thought and prayers, we won't be running Family Mornings during this summer holiday. To give people a break and to start to plan for a sustainable future for our specific children and families work, a month without extra events is needed. Thanks to those who said they could help, but now you can relax! Together will be meeting as usual on Thursday the 20th of August, so all are welcome to come along and offers to help will be greatly received.

### **PCC**

Jonathan McNabb has resigned as a PCC member and has joined URC church in Castle Hill. That currently means there are 2 vacancies on the PCC. If you are curious about becoming a PCC member please speak to Bart or Sarah.

### **A job advert from 'Family First', our neighbour on St. Margaret's Street**

*Do share with anyone who may be interested.*

### **We are hiring! Family Worker (Part-Time, Self-Employed)**

Could you be our new Family Worker? We are looking for a compassionate and motivated individual to join our team in a part-time, self-employed role of up to 12 hours per week.

The successful candidate will:

- Understand and support the Christian ethos and values of Family First.
- Have a passion for helping families thrive and build resilience.
- Be committed to making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.
- For more information, an informal discussion, or to request an application pack, please contact: Sarah Stapleton, Service Lead, 07936 008199 [Sarah.Stapleton@familyfirst-uk.org](mailto:Sarah.Stapleton@familyfirst-uk.org); <https://www.familyfirst-uk.org/>

## Choir

Please continue to pray for our choir director, Christopher Tinker who has returned home from hospital to recuperate. 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)



**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

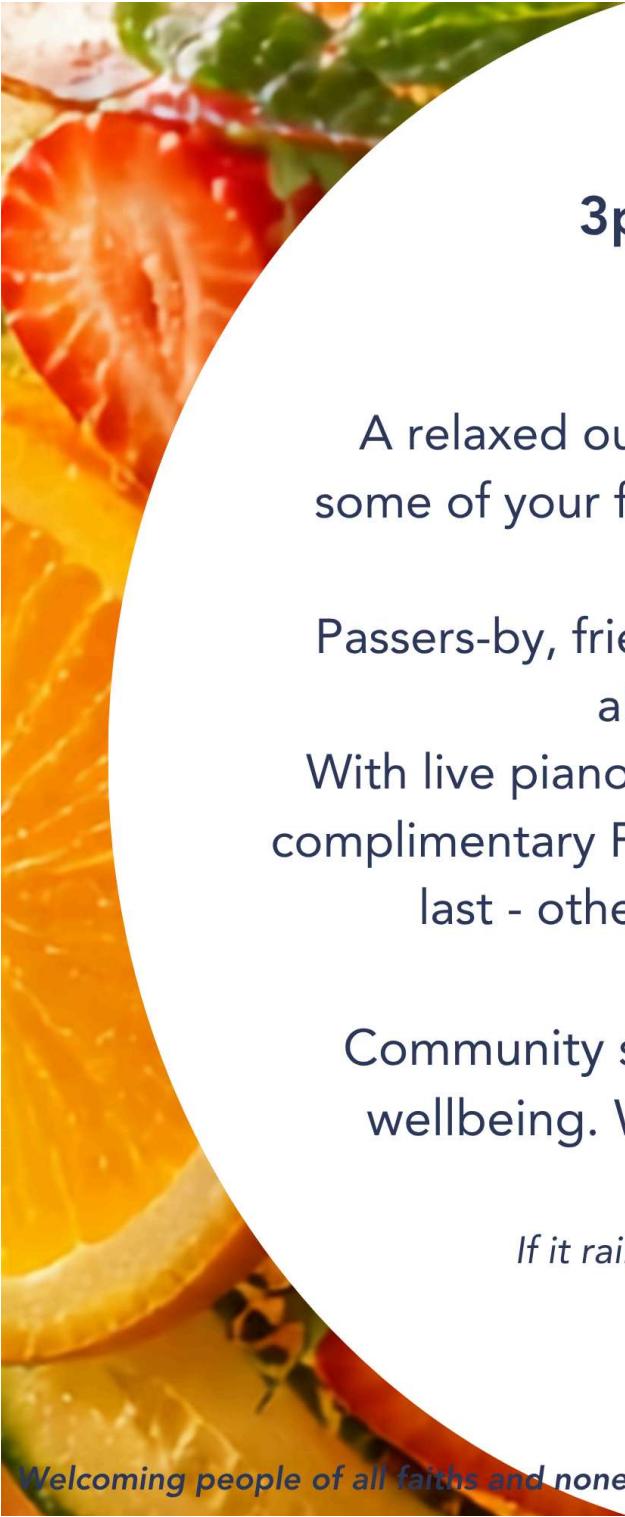
**Musicians and Singers**  
Mondays 7-9pm

- 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.

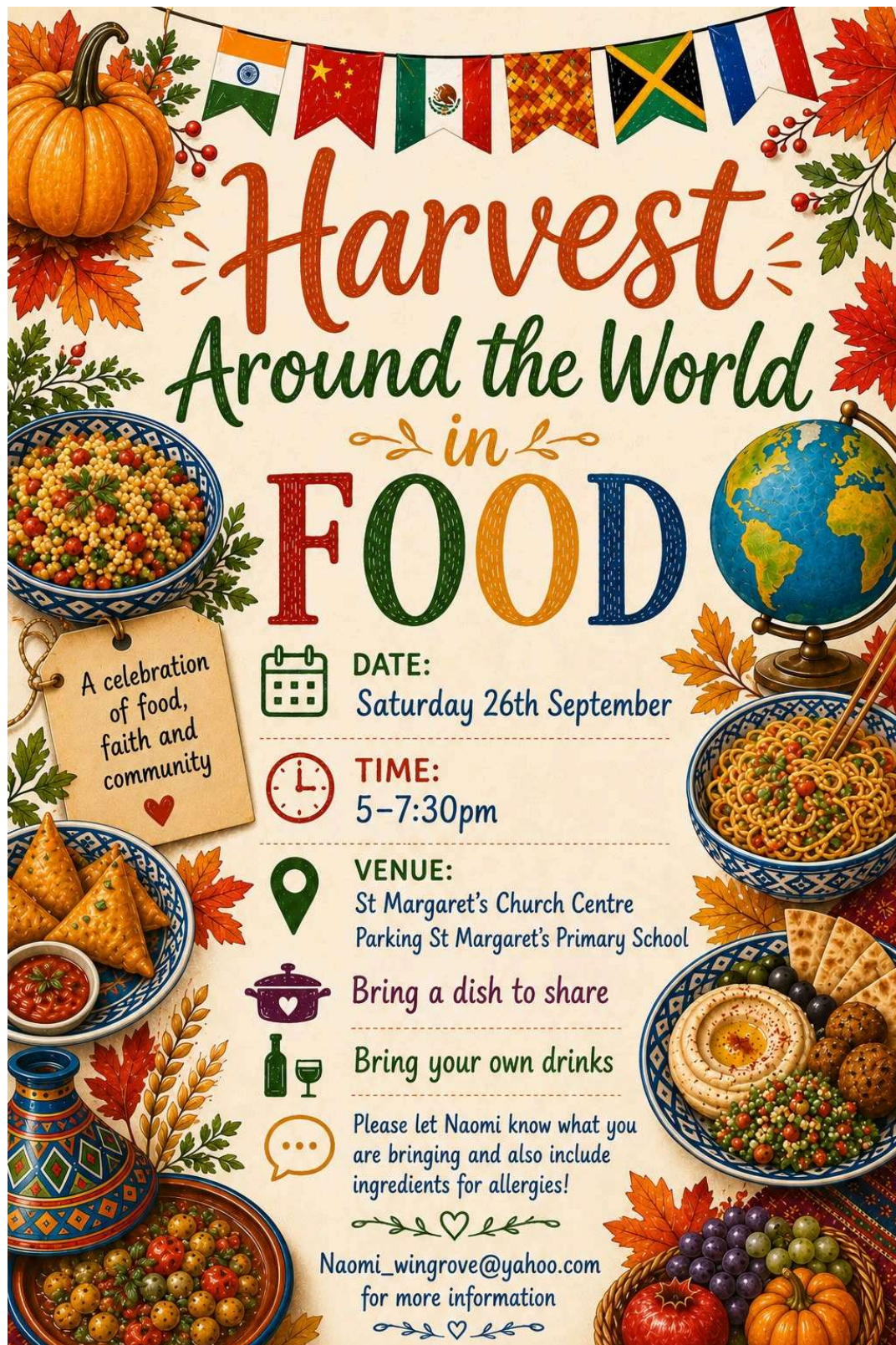
With live piano accompaniment &  
complimentary Pimms (while stocks  
last - other drinks available!)

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*





A vibrant, autumn-themed 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 various food items: a bowl of couscous, a bowl of spaghetti, a bowl of hummus, a bowl of falafel, a bowl of samosas, a bowl of salad, a bowl of grapes, a bowl of pumpkins, a bowl of tomatoes, a bowl of olives, a bowl of pita bread, a bowl of flatbread, a bowl of rice, a bowl of lentils, a bowl of chickpeas, a bowl of kidney beans, a bowl of black beans, a bowl of green beans, a bowl of corn, a bowl of peas, a bowl of carrots, a bowl of celery, a bowl of onions, a bowl of garlic, a bowl of ginger, a bowl of turmeric, a bowl of cumin, a bowl of coriander, a bowl of fennel, a bowl of dill, a bowl of basil, a bowl of parsley, a bowl of cilantro, a bowl of mint, a bowl of lemon, a bowl of lime, a bowl of orange, a bowl of apple, a bowl of pear, a bowl of peach, a bowl of cherry, a bowl of strawberry, a bowl of raspberry, a bowl of blueberry, a bowl of blackberry, a bowl of elderberry, a bowl of goji berry, a bowl of acai berry, a bowl of pomegranate, a bowl of kiwi, a bowl of mango, a bowl of pineapple, a bowl of watermelon, a bowl of cantaloupe, a bowl of honeydew, a bowl of melon, a bowl of squash, a bowl of pumpkin, a bowl of zucchini, a bowl of eggplant, a bowl of bell pepper, a bowl of chili pepper, a bowl of jalapeno, a bowl of habanero, a bowl of serrano, a bowl of Anaheim, a bowl of poblano, a bowl of ancho, a bowl of guajillo, a bowl of pasilla, a bowl of chipotle, a bowl of smoked paprika, a bowl of sweet paprika, a bowl of cayenne, a bowl of black pepper, a bowl of white pepper, a bowl of red pepper, a bowl of green pepper, a bowl of yellow pepper, a bowl of orange pepper, a bowl of purple pepper, a bowl of pink pepper, a bowl of brown pepper, a bowl of grey pepper, a bowl of silver pepper, a bowl of gold pepper, a bowl of platinum pepper, a bowl of diamond pepper, a bowl of ruby pepper, a bowl of sapphire pepper, a bowl of emerald pepper, a bowl of amethyst pepper, a bowl of opal pepper, a bowl of pearl pepper, a bowl of topaz pepper, a bowl of garnet pepper, a bowl of onyx pepper, a bowl of obsidian pepper, a bowl of jasper pepper, a bowl of malachite pepper, a bowl of turquoise pepper, a bowl of lapis lazuli pepper, a bowl of amethyst pepper, a bowl of citrine pepper, a bowl of peridot pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper, a bowl of alexandrite pepper.

**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

## Growing Deeper



## Thanksgiving

Giving thanks for a lively cafe church last Sunday, focused on the story of Peter walking on water - a story of faith, doubt, and trusting in Jesus. For the warm welcome, the music enjoyed, and the discussions and fellowship shared.

For a wonderful afternoon celebrating John and Shirley's long commitment to bellringing and worshipping at St Margaret's last Sunday. For the experienced and brand-new bellringers (and friends of bellringing!) who joined the celebration.

For holidays and time out during August, whether we are away or closer to home.

## Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Devereaux Court, St Margaret's Plain, and Soane Street.

## 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: Are you growing more fresh food than you can use?**

Are your courgettes, cucumbers, soft fruit patches, or fruit trees running away with you? FIND welcome all fresh items from gardens and allotments (and other fresh items, including cheese and butter).

You can donate fresh items via their food bank: 7A Braziers Wood Road, Ipswich IP3 0SP, open **Monday to Friday**: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm.

## Forthcoming Services and Events

**Sunday 23rd August**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Worship (L)

6pm Choral evensong (L)

**Tuesday 25th August**

8 am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 26th August**

12 pm Holy Communion

**Friday 28th August**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

**Saturday 29th August**

9.30am Breakfast for ALL

**Sunday 30th August**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Praise (L)

**Tuesday 1st September**

8 am Morning Prayer

3.30pm Holy Communion Christchurch Court

**Wednesday 2nd September**

8.30am St Margaret's VAP School - Staff Holy Communion

12 pm Holy Communion

2pm Interment of ashes

**Thursday 3rd September**

8 pm Choral Compline (L)

**Friday 4th August**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

**Saturday 5th September**

8.30am Men's breakfast

**Save The Dates**

Saturday 12th September - Ride and Stride / Heritage Open Day and 3pm Hymns & Pimms

Saturday 26th September - Bring & Share Harvest Supper 'Around the World' 5-7.30pm

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, 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](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)