



# Sunday 19th April, 2026

## Third Sunday of Easter



*Image: source unknown*

### **Were not our hearts burning within us?**

One of the bible readings in our 10.00 Family Communion service on Sunday is the familiar story of 'the Road to Emmaus' where the resurrected Jesus joins two deeply disheartened disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus, about seven miles away. They don't recognise him but listen intently as he explains to them 'the things about himself in all the scriptures' and, when they part company after Jesus has made himself known to them, they hurry back to their fellow disciples in Jerusalem saying to one another "were not our hearts burning within us while he was opening the scriptures to us?".

Think for a moment of a time in your life when your 'heart has burned within you'. Passing my driving test, meeting the person who was to become my wife, being present at the birth of my two children, and Ipswich Town getting promoted to the Premier League(!) feature on my own list of 'heart -burning' moments. Then multiply that by a hundred and you might be getting somewhere close to how those two disciples would have felt on the Road to Emmaus when they encountered the risen Lord Jesus 'who died that we might be forgiven, saved by his precious blood' (words from the 19th century Easter hymn, There Is A Green Hill Far Away) . He died that YOU might be forgiven – good news to gladden your heart!

George

Lay Minister

[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 19th April

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

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

*Revd Helen (last week) and Revd Sarah (this week) are helping to cover the 10.30 am Communion services at All Hallows' Church.*

### 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 by Zoom. We use the same Zoom link each month - please use [this link](#) to sign up.

### Friday 24th April

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.

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

## Lectionary

**This Sunday**

**8am service**1 Peter 1.17-23 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))**10am service**Acts 2.14a,36-41 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))Luke 24.13-35 ([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.

## Church News

**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

**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 also both 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](#). There you will find 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!**

### **Local talk, 'The Abbey of St Edmund Reborn'**

Date/ Time: 9th July 2026, 7pm

Venue: The Hold - Home of Suffolk Archives, Ipswich, IP4 1LR

Cost: Free, with online registration required for tickets

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, West Suffolk Council, and English Heritage have submitted a bid for £9.8million to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for the 'Abbey of St Edmund Reborn' project.

Speakers from English Heritage will be presenting information about the planned project, which aims to reunite the 60-acre site, conserve fragile ruins, and create new visitor facilities, including an accessible route.

For more information and to book, visit <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/>



# 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*





**OPEN TABLE**  
Come as you are

# Open Table

## Eucharist

This service is for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome people 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.

**Sunday 19 April at 5.00 pm**

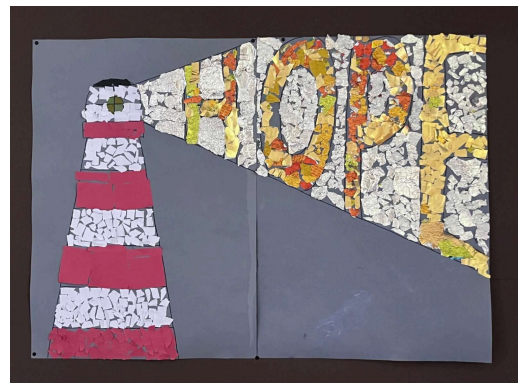
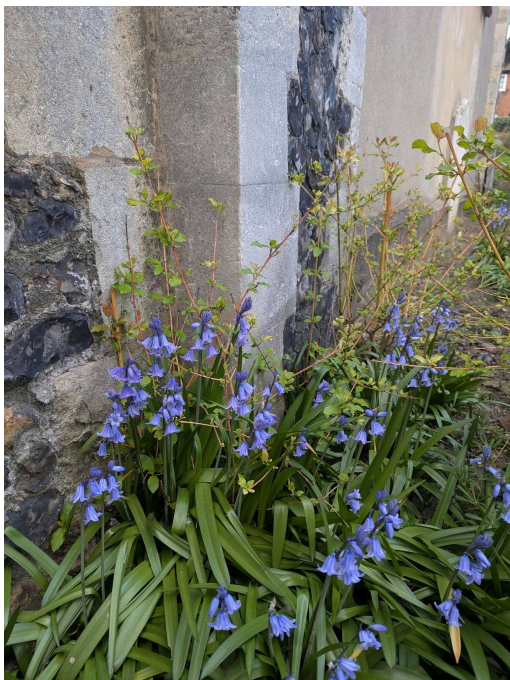
**in the Lady Chapel**

St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral





## Growing Deeper



### Thanksgiving

For our cafe church last Sunday: songs, thought-provoking discussions, and crafting an eye-catching new banner on the theme of 'living in hope'. For everyone involved with food, drinks and refreshments at St. Margaret's, ensuring our services and events are such welcoming places to be. For fellowship after our Wednesday communion service, and our Together community, which met to focus on 'knowing Jesus in a new way'.

### Prayer

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

Pray also as the Bell Ringers meet this week to discuss the Tower Captain vacancy and as the Fellowship and Events sub committee gather to plan for the summer and beyond.

*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: Stop feeding garden birds for the warmer weather**

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have released new advice, asking wildlife-lovers to take down bird feeders from 1st May until the 31st October. They advise that feeding birds may harm them during the warmer months, as feeders may be a hotspot for bird diseases. Please see more information [here](#).

... Instead of watching birds around your window, balcony, or garden this week, why not see what wildlife you can spot in a new place? St Margaret's churchyard and Christchurch Park both host loads of species - some more frequent in parks and green spaces than others (cormorants, anyone?!).

*Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.*

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

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## **Forthcoming Services and Events**

**Sunday 26th April**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Sunday Worship (L) including Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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

### **Sunday 3rd May**

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Parish Praise

### **Tuesday 5th May**

8 am Morning Prayer

3.30pm Christchurch Court Communion

### **Wednesday 6th May**

9 am St. Margaret's School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

### **Thursday 7th May**

8pm Choral Compline (L)

### **Friday 8th May**

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### **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>