



Sunday 19th July 2026

St. Margaret's Day



Image: Anna Geileskey 2026

*Living God,
Speak to your Church in this season of listening and
deepen our life in Christ.
As we give thanks for the growth you have begun,
open our hearts to your voice
and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.
Amen.*

This weekend we are celebrating. St Margaret's Day is celebrated in the Western Christian Churches on 20th July, while the Eastern Orthodox Church remembers St. Marina on 17th July. So we are celebrating this weekend, with a HolyDay trip to Bury St Edmunds on Saturday and a special Family Communion Service at 10am on Sunday when we will enjoy music from across the varied worshipping traditions within the St Margaret's community.

As we celebrate this day, we remember.

We remember that the building has evolved over centuries - the heart of which is a sacred space for prayer, for healing and for praise.

We remember the local community, generations past and present who have cared for the church throughout its history.

We remember that the church is the body of Christ, the people of this place who live and reflect God's love into the world.

This weekend we ask ourselves what church is for, and we ask God to remind us why we 'do church'.

Is it because that's just what we do? It is because we have time this week? Is it because things are so bad that we cannot but attend church? Maybe we are here for the music? Or to see friends? Or because we are expected to be there, or have a job to do.

What happens though, when my friends aren't there after all. Or the music wasn't so good. Or the sermon not what was hoped for. Or the churchyard is not tidy enough. Or the people not welcoming enough. Or too welcoming. Or any other myriad of reasons why the church isn't enough...

As our reader, George, often reminds us in the words of William Temple 'The church is the only organisation that exists for the benefit of those who are not yet members'.

We are servants, one to another. The church is a people, a community to love, a mission to serve and a body to build. Servants don't wait for a position to come up or sit in the pew. They are attentive - looking for a need, searching for ways to serve, quietly giving of themselves in service to others. If there is something lacking, be generous in giving.

As we gather this weekend, I wonder, will your service to your church be in the year ahead? And how will St Margaret's serve the community?

Vicar Sarah

July 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 18th July (today)

8.30am Men's breakfast

10-4pm Summer HolyDay / Day Trip/ Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds

Sunday 19th July

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Time out

Tuesday 21st July

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 22nd July

12 pm Holy Communion

Friday 24th July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 25th July

10-11.30am Together Extra in the churchyard, on the theme of light

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 SundayHebrews 12.18-24 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))Matthew 21.12-16 ([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

Summer HolyDay & Men's Breakfast

Both are happening today and it's not too late to join in. Men's Breakfast from 8.30am in the church centre. Daytrip to Bury St Edmunds - programme is here... come and join in as much or as little as time permits.



Summer HolyDay, Saturday 18th July 2026

When	Where	What	Other Ideas
10am	The Edmund Room (upstairs in the Cathedral centre – lift & stairs near the toilets). Trolley to leave picnic chairs.	Arrive and meet people from the other churches. Drinks provided.	Go for a circular (prayer) walk, through the Abbey Gardens, over the footbridge to the other side of the river, right, along the bank of the river Lark (the back of Vinefields) towards the water meadows. Right again, over the footbridge along the cycleway to come back into the old abbey grounds through the carpark into the Great Churchyard.
11am	The Lady Chapel On the right-hand side of the East end of the Cathedral.	A family-friendly service with songs, readings and a thought for the day. Holy Communion with God and one another.	Visit the Cathedral's Treasury.
12-1pm	The Font At the West end near the main entrance to the Cathedral.	Cathedral Guide, Robert Lant leads a reflective tour of the Cathedral & grounds	Go to the tourist information desk in the Cathedral shop and find out more about Bury St Edmunds and things to see in town.
12-1pm	The Yard The enclosed 'Yard' is off the 'garth', the grassed area inside the Cathedral cloister.	A creative 'Forest Church' activity. Eco-friendly. Enjoy God's creation as you let God recreate you in the image of Christ.	Explore the town centre and the medieval grid.
1pm-3pm	The Abbey Gardens Meet near 'The Labyrinth' at the far east End of the old Abbey. If the weather is not good, Edmund Room for lunch, with activities for children and families from 2-3pm in the Learning Hub (next to the Edmund Room).	We enjoy the Abbey Gardens as we meet to eat our picnics, play games, (prayer) walk the labyrinth, catch up and chat with one another or join in with games. Between 2 and 3pm there will be extra activities for younger children and families.	Visit Moyses Hall Museum (near Marks & Spencer) [Adults £5.50, children 6-16 £4]
3pm	The Edmund Room Collect any belongings.	Refreshments before Evensong. Tea/coffee and drinks provided.	Go window shopping, treat a new friend to a coffee or an ice-cream. Can you find a treasure and support the charity shops?
3.30pm	The Quire Where the choir sing at the East end of the Cathedral in front of the High Altar.	Service of Choral Evensong: a reflective service with music (sung by a visiting choir), scripture readings and a chance to reflect at the end of the day. All welcome. If you are more comfortable moving around do join in this service from other areas of the Cathedral.	Visit other churches in town: St Mary's (tomb of Mary Tudor [d.1533]) on the other side of The Great Churchyard or St John's on St John's Street with its gothic architecture.



St. Margaret's Day: Did you know...?

This week / this Sunday, we celebrate St Margaret of Antioch (in modern day Turkey) to whom this church is dedicated. Her Feast Day is the 20th of July. She was one of the most popular medieval saints whose veneration came to England with returning Crusaders. We are one of over 250 churches dedicated to her in England; the most famous being that next to Westminster Abbey. Whether she actually lived is now a matter of doubt.

In what is a common story, she was said to be a devout Christian. When a Roman Governor wished to marry her, he demanded she renounce her religion. Having refused, she was tortured and miraculous incidents occurred. The main one was being swallowed by Satan disguised as a dragon. Her cross irritated its stomach and she emerged from it alive. Consequently the dragon became one of her symbols and she became the patron saint of childbirth.

In her honour two dragons were carved, one in the roof of the church and the other on a window spandrel, by medieval craftsmen. For more information please see under the Tower or [click here](#).



YOU ARE INVITED

to Ringing & Afternoon Tea

We give thanks and celebrate John Girt's faithful service following his retirement from the role of Tower Captain

Sunday, 9th August 2026

2.30pm Come and Ring (or watch/listen)

3.30pm Tea in the Church Centre

5pm Ringing for 6pm Service

John Girt retired from the role of Tower Captain at St Margaret's in April 2026 when Colin Salter was appointed as our new ringing master. All are welcome as we celebrate John and all volunteer ringers, giving thanks for bellringing. Whatever your connection, whether a member of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, a member of the congregation or community at St Margaret's, or just curious to come along, you will be very welcome.

Please RSVP to Tower Secretary, Angie Cable, who will also be pleased to receive offers of food for the Afternoon Tea: angiecable42@gmail.com

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


St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Choir

Please continue to pray for our choir director, Christopher Tinker who remains in the care of the Addenbrookes team. 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

Church centre patio, garden, and flowers

After 16 years of looking after the Church Centre patio, 'garden', and flowers, June and Peter Youngs are stepping down. Over the years, they have worked wonders on an important but unglamorous part of the Centre, making it a pleasant and functional area of benefit to all. Many thanks go to them for their continued efforts over the years - their contribution has been much appreciated by the Church Centre team and our users. This leaves a vacancy for someone with mildly green fingers to volunteer to continue their

good work! If you are wanting to volunteer in this way, do have a word with someone in the church centre committee among whom are included Quentin, Patrick, Alison, Bart and Sheena.

Saturday 25th July - Together Extra - Churchyard Edition!

Do join us next Saturday morning from 10 - 11.30am for a special Together gathering in the churchyard. There will be nature-based activities, storytelling, songs and brunch. If you can, please book in via the link below or just let me know that you will be joining us (if you can, bring a picnic blanket with you)

[Together Extra Churchyard edition 25th July](#)

if the weather is either too hot or raining, we will meet inside the church. Thanks, Rev Helen

Carpet cleaner

This has now been sorted out, thanks to everyone who offered to help with this.

Period products

Another thank you to all those who have supported this, we are now fully stocked for a while and able to provide these much-needed products to those who need them. For more information on period poverty do click [this link](#).

Sunday 26th July - Gracie Collins' baptism

Our church administrator Lucy, with husband Daniel and daughter Gracie will be at the 10am service on the 26th July to celebrate Gracie's baptism - and 1st birthday!

Together, we are listening: Diocesan vision and strategy

Bishop Joanne and team are beginning the process of refreshing the diocesan vision and strategy. This will build on 'Growing in God'. They aim to discern where the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church of England in Suffolk, and where God is leading us. To hear Bishop Joanne talking more about this, please click [here](#). To read more, please click [here](#).

Living God,

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deepen our life in Christ.*

*As we give thanks for the growth you have begun,
open our hearts to your voice
and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.*

Amen.

A series of prayer events will take place across the diocese, focusing on **prayer** and **listening**:

- what are our **gifts**?
- what are our **resources**?
- what are our **challenges**?
- what are the **opportunities** ahead?

One of the prayer events will take place at **St. Margaret's on 28th July**, from **7-9pm**, led by **Archdeacon Sam**.

Vicar Sarah adds 'If we ask these questions of St Margaret's and our church community, how would you answer them?'



Together EXTRA Churchyard Edition

25th July, 10 - 11.30am

***Meet in St Margaret's
churchyard by the church
entrance***

All are welcome

**to this relaxed community for all
ages. Join us for storytelling,
activities, and brunch**

**It's preferable to book on this
session, this can be done via the
QR code or emailing
events.stmagsips@gmail.com**

Family, Faith and Food

Welcoming people of all faiths and none





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

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

 

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Growing Deeper



8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Worship (L), with baptism for Gracie Collins

6pm Choral evensong (L)

Tuesday 28th July

8 am Morning Prayer

7-9pm Archdeacons Prayer Meeting in church - see 'Together, we are listening' above for more information

Wednesday 29th July

12 pm Holy Communion

2 pm Memorial Service - Angela Tenwick RIP

Friday 31st July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 1st August

8.30am Men's breakfast

Sunday 2nd August

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

12.30pm Baptism

6pm Prayer and Praise

Tuesday 4th August

8 am Morning Prayer

3pm Holy Communion Christchurch Court

Wednesday 5th August

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 6th August

8pm Choral Compline

Friday 7th August

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Save The Dates

Sunday 9th August - Afternoon Tea in church, with bell ringing

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

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

Bart Bisbal

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

Telephone: 07495 759203

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 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 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.

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](https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit)