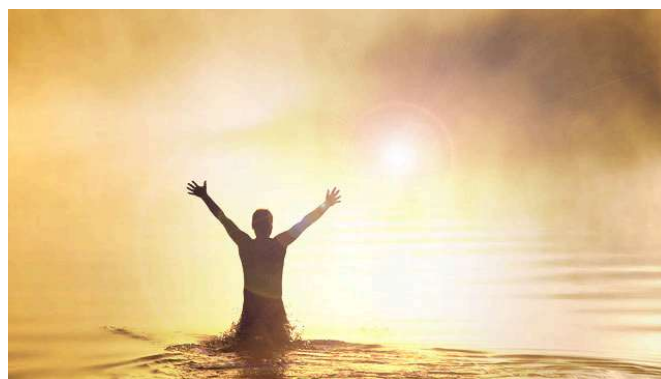




Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 1st March

Lent II



“Have you been spiritually reborn?”

In the recent past, many people described themselves as born-again Christians giving their lives to Jesus. More specifically, in evangelical spaces, I vaguely remember Billy Graham coming to Ipswich and heard stories of people giving themselves to Jesus and being born again in large arenas and stadiums.

But how does this relate to us now? In the Gospel reading we will hear this Sunday Jesus talks to Nicodemus about this exact thing. “No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above”. Faith can transform us and during this time of Lent where we are focused on the wilderness, whatever that looks like to each of us. Going deeper in our understanding, our reading, our prayer life and our spiritual journey, hopefully changing ourselves in ways that transform us well past this period of time.

Spiritual change is possible, looking at our patterns of life whoever we are. Embedding new habits that evolve through times such as Lent. Doing something that is meaningful and challenging. Taking ourselves into the wilderness, sitting ourselves in a space with God and seeing what happens. What we are led to and how we can give ourselves over to God in our way of life can mean that the start of a spiritual re-awakening can begin.

Rev Helen

March 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 1st March

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

This Week

Every day this week (Monday-Friday) at 8.30am 'Together We Pray' daily morning prayer across Suffolk broadcast the Bishop's 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.

Information videos will be shared by the Diocese about us this week so do look out for those on Facebook and through the Diocesan You Tube page. You can enjoy the first one [here](#).

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 followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

Thursday 5th March

8 pm Choral Compline (L)

Friday 6th March

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

Saturday 7th March

8.30 am 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](#)

Lectiionary

This Sunday

Romans 4.1-5 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

John 3.1-17 ([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

Lent 2026

Lent Groups

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

Wednesday evenings by zoom: March 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.](#)

Audio-Visual Workshop: 7th March in church 10-12 pm

There is a **livestream training** session planned on the morning of **Saturday, 7th March** (10am-12pm) if you would like to find out about live-streaming or sound please email av.stmagsips@gmail.com or speak to anyone of the current team: Ed, Stuart or Charles.

Together Extra! 14th March 10-11.30 am and beyond

Together is venturing into a new space - meeting bi-monthly on Saturday mornings as well as our regular 3rd Thursdays.

Together - Extra will meet on Saturday mornings between 10 am and 11.30 am, and will include a brunch at the end.

The dates for this year are as follows -

14th March, 23rd May, 25th July, 26th September, 28th November

It is preferable to book on Saturdays; the link is below.

[Together Extra - Saturday.](#)

Eco Footprint

If you would like to anonymously contribute to the average carbon footprint of St. Margaret's, then you can calculate it at home using the link <https://climatestewards.org/offset>

There is a letterbox on top of the bookcase at back of church close to the kitchen. Now is the time to measure our individual home carbon footprint so the 2026 reduction can be measured. Thank you for taking the time to do this. It is part of the caring for our planet.

Maggie Conder ECO group

Coffee Rota

Help! Maggie Conder has just ordered four huge boxes of coffee to keep us refreshed following our services. This is excellent news. Less good news is that there are lots of gaps on the coffee rota. If you're newer to church, it's a good way of getting to know people, without having to talk to them too much! If you want to give it a try, why not offer to lend a hand one Sunday morning, before you decide to put your name on the rota?

Mothering Sunday Posies - Friday 13th March (afternoon, details TBC)

I'm on the look out for a few people who might be able to lend a hand on the afternoon of Friday 13th March to put together some posies for Mothering Sunday. If this is something that you think you can help with, please let me know.

Rev Sarah

Spring Clean - 28th March 9.30 am-12 pm

Please come and lend a hand to spring clean the church and sort out the cupboards. Plenty of jobs so pop in for half an hour or come all morning. Please don't rely on someone else doing this - many hands will make light work. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. You might even be entrusted with the extra long feather duster that reaches to the clerestory windows.

Rev Sarah

Easter Lilies

Angie Cable writes

"Easter is a time when we traditionally remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. It has become our tradition that we have an Easter Lillies arrangement on the altar and if anyone would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please put your money clearly marked "EASTER LILLIES" in an envelope and put it in the collection. Please do not give to Angie, it needs to go to our Church Treasurer, John Grierson. We would like to receive your donations before Palm Sunday 29th March please. Thank you."

Good Friday - 12-3 pm Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem

We are **hoping** to sing Faurés Requiem on Good Friday. You do not have to be a regular member of the choir to join in - you turn up and sing on the day, although good prior knowledge of the music and/or an ability to sight sing (to a degree) is needed. If you would like to know more, please speak to our organist and choir director, Christopher Tinker or [email him](#).

Room for all parts, SAB... but especially T!

If this is not for you but you know someone who might be interested, please tell them!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN IPSWICH TOWN CENTRE



ECUMENCIAL CHRISTIAN WALK OF WITNESS: April 3rd 2026

Meet 9.45 at Museum Street Methodist Church:
(Black Horse Lane entrance)
a silent yet prayerful walk of witness,
(along Westgate Street and Tavern Street)
stopping for Bible readings, prayers and hymns,
(including on Cornhill)
ending 10.45 at ChristChurch Tacket Street.

Everyone is warmly invited to be part of this witness.



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.

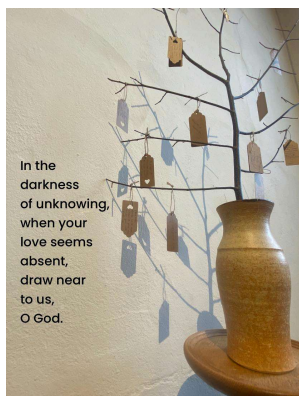
 

events.stmagsips@gmail.com
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none



St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH
SOANE STREET

Growing Deeper



Thanksgiving

Messy Vintage were at Norwood this past week, spreading the love. Lenten prayers have been offered in the chapel with the Primary School service this week reflecting on the importance of a wilderness season: with Christians and Muslims fasting in various ways. In the office this week, much joy as new sail flags have arrived: with the bunting and these flags our presence in the community should be even more visible.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Kingsfield Avenue, Corder Road and Gainsborough Road.

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

Plastic pollution and climate change are **two sides of the same coin**: plastic production, as it is created from fossil fuels, contributes greatly to the climate crisis. Reduce the use of disposable plastic cups, plates, cutlery and bottles. For example, bring your own reusable bottle to work and a reusable coffee cup for your morning take-away.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 8th March

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10 am Café Church (in the Church Centre)
6 pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 10th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

No 7pm prayer meeting in church this month - meeting online by Zoom for Lent Group

Friday 6th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 14th March

10 am Together Extra in the Church Centre

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

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

Tuesday 17th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 18th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

Friday 20th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 21st March

8.30 am Men's Breakfast in the Church Centre

Save the Dates**Sunday, 29th March Palm Sunday**

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

Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1st April

7 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Engage with Holy Week through Film and Prayer

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

7 pm Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion remembering the washing of feet and The Last Supper, followed by prayer vigil 'could you not keep watch for one hour?'

Good Friday - 3rd April

10 am Good Friday - Café Church with hot cross buns and Walk of Witness from Church Centre to Church

3 pm Good Friday - Fauré's Requiem (subject to sufficient singers being available)

Easter Sunday - 5th April

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

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