



Sunday 20th September 2026

Trinity 16



Is Life Fair?

This week's gospel reading is the one about the workers who were hired late in the day and received a full day's pay, whilst others, hired at the start of the day, received the same wage.

Is it fair?

I can imagine times where many of us have felt a sense of being short-changed in life... when we thought something was due to us. Perhaps at work. From our partner, or in our relationships with friends, parents, or children. We don't need to look far in the world around us to notice too, that life is not fair. We put in place processes and systems to try to ensure equity. We have a sense of community, with social contract that we are taught from a young age. We say please and thank you. Doors are held open for the person behind you. The queue is the queue.

But where you are in the queue makes a difference. Some of us are in the front of the line. Others at the back. For all sorts of reasons. Perhaps we were diverted on our way to the queue. To help a friend or neighbour. By sickness or distress - our own, or another's that we stopped to help.

The story reminds us that God is generous in a world that we have built which is not always fair. When we begrudge God's generosity, criticise or judge, perhaps we need to be reminded where it is that we stand. Near the front? Be thankful you have not had to stand in the heat of the sun all day and share your blessings. At the back? God sees you. God sees why you are there.

And wherever we are in the queue, how are we witnesses to God's abundant generosity?

Perhaps [God is just, not fair](#). After all, we all need our daily bread. Food for thought.
Rev Sarah

September 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 20th September

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Time Out

Tuesday 22nd September

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 23rd September

9am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

3pm Holy Communion Manor Park Care Home

Thursday 24th September

1pm Funeral

Friday 25th September

8 am Morning Prayer in church

Saturday 26th September

9.30-11.00am Decorating the church for Harvest Festival - please see notice from Angie above

10-11.30am Together Extra

2pm Baptism

5- 7.30pm Bring & Share Harvest Supper 'Around the World'

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](#)

Lectioary

This Sunday

Philippians 1.21-30 ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 20.1-16 ([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. i.e.,

Church News

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

Volunteer Request for Fundraising Project

We are looking for a volunteer to help us set up easyfundraising which is a way of turning the everyday online shopping our congregation and supporters into funds for our Church! We are looking for some help setting it up as well as doing some promotion around it. For more information on easyfundraising please click [here](#). If interested please contact Lucy, Church administrator on office.stmagsips@gmail.com.

Children's book of the month - September

As many of you know, in the Pray Ground area at the front of church we have a selection of books in church for children of all ages. Although in my opinion, they can be for adults too - revisiting passages and stories from the Bible in a new way and contemplating them via pictures as well as words is good for the soul! Over the past couple of years, we have been able to buy quite a few new titles through grant funding which has been an exciting thing to be able to do.

Over the next several months I will be choosing one of these books to highlight to everyone, which I hope will lead us on an exploration of new books to read!

This month it's the gorgeous *Found* by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago.

The Lord is my Shepherd. And I am his little lamb. Through words young children can understand, alongside beautiful illustrations that pair perfectly with the text, anyone reading this book can experience the comfort and security of Psalm 23. This book is part of a series that we have other

titles from; each of them is based upon a Psalm and are wonderful to spend time looking at and reading.

If you want to borrow a book for a week or two, please do, just do remember to return it!

Rev Helen

PS If you would like to contribute to the purchase of more up-to-date books for children and young people, do speak to me.

Hospital Visiting and Home Communion

If you are admitted to hospital for planned surgery or indeed, suddenly and unexpectedly, do let us know. The pastoral team and clergy often visit people in hospital, but we can only do so if we know you are there! The chaplaincy team at the hospital are also very supportive - if you would like to see a chaplain do tell the hospital staff and arrangements will be put in place for this to happen. You can email or telephone/text/whatsapp any of the clergy, Rev Sarah, Rev Helen or Reader George, let Lucy in the office know or email the pastoral team. If you can't do this and friend or family member can do this for you, the contact details are all on the St Margaret's website. All the contact details are also at the end of this newsletter, scroll down (or click to download all of the newsletter).

Rev Sarah is aware that there are an increasing number of people now for whom to receive Holy Communion at home from time to time would be helpful - if you think this might be for you, again, do please let the clergy or pastoral team know so that arrangements can be made for either the clergy or a member of the pastoral team to visit and share communion.

Harvest festival church decoration - 26th September

On Saturday 26th September 9.30-11.00am, we will be decorating the church for Harvest Festival. Just turn up on the day with your flowers/ foliage/ vegetable or anything else you wish to use. You will then be allocated a window sill. The car park will be open whilst we are arranging. All arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday October 10th. We look forward to seeing some new arrangers as well as our regular arrangers. Thank you. *Angie Cable*
angiecable42@gmail.com

FIND Update

FIND continues to be exceptionally busy, supporting 8% more children than the previous quarter of the year. They are also supporting more families, and young people leaving care. Their monthly food bill is now around £5,000.

FIND are receiving fewer donations, so all items are gratefully received. They are very short of:

Shower gel
Treats
Size 7 & 8 nappies
Shampoo
Tea
Rice
Fish
Multi surface cleaner
Pasta sauce
Rice pudding
Tinned meat you can heat
Biscuits

UHT milk
Tinned Tomatoes
Baked Beans

Donations of long life items can be made via the box at the back of church.

All fresh items from gardens and allotments can be donated by contacting FIND directly.

Together on Thursdays!

Message from Helen

Dear all

After many prayers, thoughts and discussion, I have decided to end Together on Thursday afternoons, it is not a decision I have taken lightly.

It has been a joy to spend time with each person who came along. We all learnt, grew, and formed close relationships with each other.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help with this gathering and provided such care, attention, and support.

Where things end, others continue and spring into new spaces. I will be continuing to run Together on the 4th Saturday mornings, each month at least until the end of the year. Sarah and I are also working together with others (which could include you!) to use our learning so far, think about the needs of the church community and the wider parish community. We have ideas but want to hear yours as well. If you have a viable idea for a new group, or events for children, families or youth, please do speak to me or email me.

As ever, we can't do anything without help, so if you would be able to help in preparation or at a new group or service, do let me know.

Rev Helen

Together for Harvest - Help and sign up!

I am looking for two or three of volunteers to help with Together on Saturday 26th September in the Church Centre. The session is running from 10- 11.30 am, so I would need volunteers to start at 9.30am and we will be finished by 12pm. Saturday sessions have storytelling, activities and a cold brunch or pastries and fruit.

If you would like to join in with this service, it's helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for catering purposes so do [sign up here](#).

Thanks, Rev Helen



Together at Harvest!

**Saturday
26th September
10 - 11.30am**

*All are welcome to a special
Harvest themed gathering*
of our relaxed community for all
ages. Join us in the Church Centre,
for storytelling, activities, songs,
prayer, all on a Harvest theme
finishing with brunch together
Please book via the QR code or link
below



[Click here to sign up for Together](#)

Creationtide

[Creationtide](#) or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It's part of the Church of England 'Environment' programme. The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on [Ezekiel 47:1-12](#). God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

Creationtide resources and events include:

1) Hope for all creation is a new teaching document articulating the bishops' theological response to the environmental crises. There will be a series of webinars exploring the key themes:



Tuesday 15 September 5:30pm to 6:30pm - The Five Marks of Mission



Tuesday 22 September 5:30pm to 6:30pm - A New Heaven and a New Earth

You can find out how to sign up to all of the webinars and the full document here 🙌

cofe.io/HopeForAllCreation.

2) Eco Church 🏡

Are you interested in the environment, local wildlife or would like to help make our church more eco friendly? Or you may have seen our carbon footprint poster at the back of the church and wondered what it was all about? We have an "eco group" who are looking for some more volunteers to join them. Please contact Maggie Conder on ecochurch.stmagips@gmail.com.

3) Climate Emergency Briefing Film Screening

Watch this space - Inga is arranging a screening of the Climate Emergency Briefing Film, to take place at St. Margaret's [Date TBC]

Harvest Around the World in Food

If you are planning on attending the Harvest Around the World in Food please could you let us know by putting your name on the sign up sheet at the back of the Church or emailing the Church office on office.stmagsips@gmail.com.



The poster is a vibrant, autumn-themed illustration. At the top, a banner of international flags (India, China, Mexico, Jamaica, France) is flanked by pumpkins and autumn leaves. The title 'Harvest Around the World in Food' is written in a mix of cursive and bold, colorful fonts. Below the title, a globe sits on a stand next to a bowl of spaghetti. To the left, a bowl of couscous is shown. A tag on the left reads 'A celebration of food, faith and community' with a heart icon. The event details are listed with icons: a calendar for the date, a clock for the time, a location pin for the venue, a pot for the sharing instruction, and a bottle/glass for the drinks instruction. A speech bubble contains a request for allergy information. The bottom features a heart symbol, the contact email, and another heart symbol. The entire poster is decorated with various food items like samosas, hummus, and grapes, and autumn foliage.

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



Harvest Festival

Sunday 27th September

10am Harvest Parish Worship

A relaxed service led by our musicians with a themed talk and reading

6pm Choral Evensong

with traditional hymns and anthems, a reflective service at the end of a blessed day

All are welcome

Donations for FIND Foodbank

Welcoming people of all faiths and none





Throne of Beauty

***Saturday 17th October
7.30pm***

Pieces by celebrated women composers including Hildegard of Bingen, Judith Weir, Cecilia McDowall, Amy Beach, and others

Adults £16 Under 18's £8
Scan QR code to purchase tickets or buy on the door. Refreshments available.



Welcoming people of all faiths and none





W.I.N.E

7.30pm Monday 9th

November 2026

W.I.N.E 0'Clock

(Women in need of encouragement)

A new venture for women to encourage each other through faith, fellowship and life at pop up events.

Please join us at our first gathering as together we discern direction of future events and activities.

Please get in touch with the office at office.stmagsips@gmail.com for details about the first pop up!

Welcoming people of all faiths and none



Growing Deeper



Thanksgiving

For the tree team from Ipswich Borough Council, and their work caring for our churchyard this week: lifting canopies to create space and let in the light; removing deadwood from the cedar tree; attending to Irish Yew trees that have many more years of life yet which, if left to grow without being shaped would eventually impede access to the church.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Withipoll Street, Cobbold Street, and Hervey 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: Could you consider solar panels?

As the situation in the Straits of Hormuz does not look like being resolved in the near future, oil prices look set to stay high or rise further. This will mean higher electricity and gas prices over the coming year leading to an increase in electricity prices. This might be a good time to look at investing in solar panels if you can. A 4kw solar panel array costs around £6,000 and will take between 8 – 12 years to pay back. After payback, you get 15 to 20 years of largely free electricity. The 0% VAT rate (until March 2027) shortens payback by roughly one year.

Our thanks to Rev. Stainer for his weekly green tips.

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 27th September - Harvest festival

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Worship (L)

6pm Choral evensong (L)

Monday 28th September

9am School Service - Harvest Festival

Tuesday 29th September

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 30th September

9am No School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 1st October

8pm Choral Compline

Friday 2nd October

8 am Morning Prayer in church

Saturday 3rd October

8.30am Men's Breakfast

Sunday 4th October

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 6th October

8 am Morning Prayer

3pm Christchurch Court Holy Communion

Wednesday 7th October

9am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 8th October

8pm Choral Compline (L)

Friday 9th October

8 am Morning Prayer in church

Save The Dates

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 9.30am - 1.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm (Office closed Tuesday 22nd due to A/L)

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

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)