



Sunday 23rd August 2026

Trinity 12



Who is the Son of Man?

We will hear this question in our Gospel reading at the 8am and 10am services tomorrow. He could be one of many people, who is he? The answers given by the disciples when Jesus asks this question of John the Baptist, Elijah Jerimaih or other Jewish prophets show that they were not yet set on who Jesus was, and the importance of him. But Peter makes the realisation, about Jesus, he is the first to realise the truth of the man they follow, who they have dedicated their lives to he really is the Messiah, the one sent to save us all.

Peter the rock, who Jesus knows will build his church, a church that will not be overcome by anything. Even though later Peter will deny him, his faith will slip from the rocks, Jesus knows what he will do for better or worse, but he still believes in him. But Jesus wasn't ready for everyone to know, it wasn't the right time. We are lucky that we have always known who Jesus was and still is. We may slip of the rocks of the foundation of our faith at times, we need to remember that Peter did the same, but we can overcome it, however long it takes.

The remembrance of Jesus being recognised for who he is in this passage can be a reminder to us that when the mirror to our faith becomes foggy we can wipe it clean and see the son of man fully being with us whatever happens.

Rev Helen

[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 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

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](#)

Lectonary

This Sunday

Romans 12.1-8 ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))Matthew 16.13-20 ([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

Can you help? Heritage Open Weekend - 12th and 13th September

The weekend of 12th and 13th September is a busy time for St Margaret's as we expect to welcome over 100 visitors to the Heritage Open Days.

Can you spare an hour to welcome these visitors to our magnificent church? No prior experience is needed, just a welcoming smile and a desire to help others enjoy our church. If so, please sign up at the back of church or for further information, please contact: John Grierson 07801 278943 Or john.grierson@btinternet.com

Church opening times:

Saturday 12th, from 9am to 5pm (with Hymns and Pimms from 3pm - please see flyer below)

Sunday 13th, from 1pm to 4pm

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).

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; <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



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

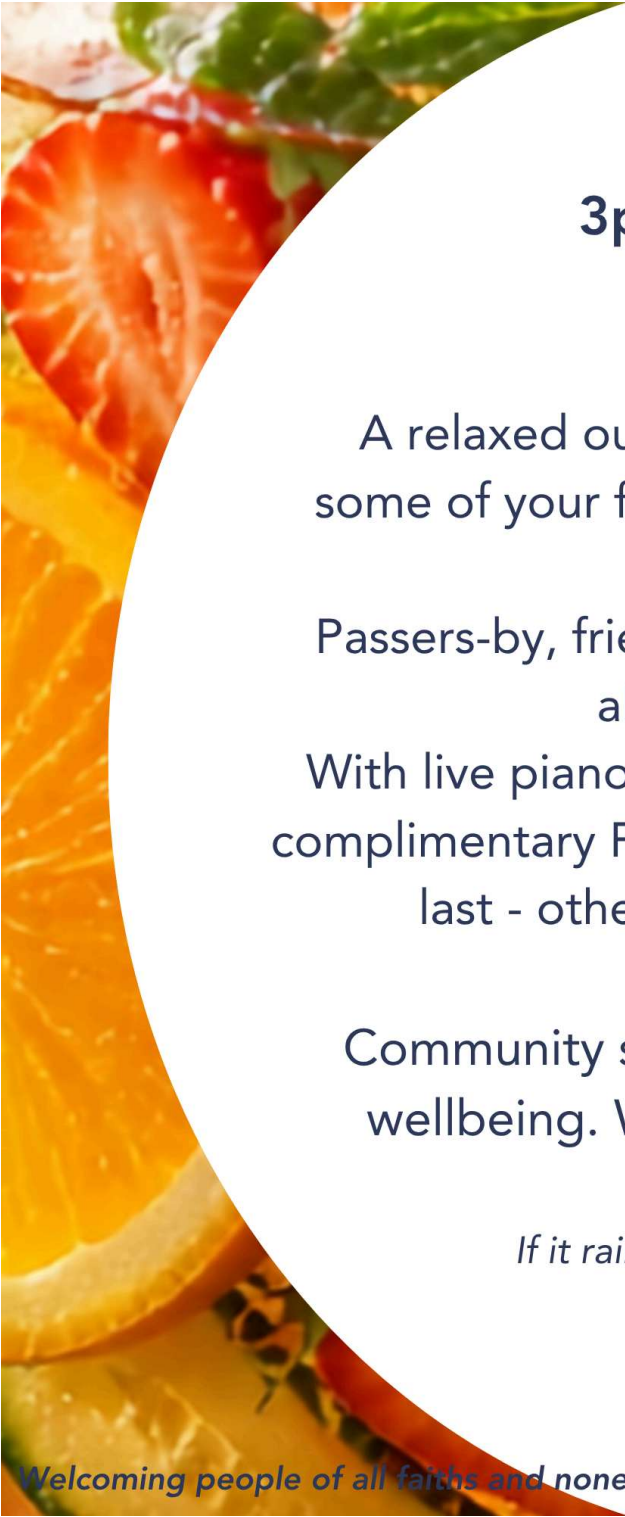
Musicians and Singers
Mondays 7-9pm

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

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





Hymns & Pimms 3pm Saturday 12th 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





Growing Deeper

Thanksgiving

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 Byford Walk, Ellisons Crescent, and Meridian Rise.

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: Have you spotted any water leaks that could be fixed?

Millions of gallons of water are wasted every year because of leaks – not only at home but also by water companies. If you see water in the road when it has been dry or bubbling out of the ground, then report a possible leak to your water company straight away.

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

Forthcoming Services and Events

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

Sunday 6th September

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 8th September

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 9th September

9am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

Friday 11th August

8 am Morning Prayer in church

Saturday 12th September

9am - 5pm Ride and Stride

3pm Hymns & Pimms

Save The Dates

Saturday 26th September -

Together at Harvest in the Church Centre 10 - 11.30am

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 9.30am - 1.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

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>