



# St. Margaret's Church

I P S W I C H

*This Church Year (Year C) features the Gospel of Luke*

## **Second Sunday Before Lent**

**Sunday 23rd February 2025**

### **8am Holy Communion**

A thirty-minute Prayer Book service in traditional language with no music.  
[2 Corinthians 11.19-31](#) and [Luke 8.4-15](#)

### **9:30am Rise and Shine Communion**

A service for all ages. A thirty minute interactive service. All welcome. Refreshments after the service

### **11.00am Morning Worship**

With the choir leading the music, congregational hymns and Junior Church. All welcome.  
[Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end](#), [Revelation 4](#) and [Luke 8.22-25](#)

*You can view the livestream of the 11am service [here](#).*

### **6.30pm Choral Evensong**

with Revd Sarah Gelleskey preaching  
'A 45-minute long peace-inducing church service in which the song of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the even point between the active day and restful night' (description from the Choral Evensong Trust). With prayers, hymns, choral music and a short reflection, all are welcome.

[Genesis 1.1-2.3](#) and [Matthew 6.25-end](#)

**Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park during these services.**

Please drive slowly and carefully through the gates. *(we are grateful for our partnership with the school)*

**The church is open daily from 10am to 3pm**

**The Church Office (in the Church Centre) is usually open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm.**

[Click here for Livestreamed Services](#)

[Click here for the February Prayer Diary](#)

[Click here for the March Prayer Diary](#)



### **Eco Tip of the Week**

Switch to eco cleaning products which biodegrade in the sewerage system and don't damage aquatic life in our rivers and seas. They also contain less harmful chemical for us too.



The power of the Kingdom of God.

If you input '**power**' into the word search tool on BibleGateway.com, you'll discover the word appears no less than 441 times in the NRSV Bible – considerably more than 'disciples' (265) or 'healing' (194) or 'prayer' (252) or 'forgive' (132).

In modern day parlance, 'power' generally seems to be used in a negative sense of someone exerting power or control over someone else, subjugating them – brought into sharp focus this week by the power, it seems, that Donald Trump intends to exert over Ukraine, a country already reeling from its illegal invasion by another power, Russia.

In contrast however, the word 'power' is generally used in the Bible in a **positive** context: for the good of people not their harm nor the self-interest of whoever wields the power.

How then do we, as individuals, exercise any power that we might have over others? It could be in the context of something as trivial as the 'power' of my familiarity with 'my' church which I keep to myself rather than share with a visitor to make them feel welcome and at ease.

Try to be aware, this coming week, of any situation in which you find yourself where you're in a position of power over another – it may just be in terms of being more knowledgeable than them about something - and be aware of how you exercise that power and try, consciously, to intend it for good, for the sake of God's kingdom.

**George Woodward**  
Lay Minister-in-training

We are refreshing the newsletter and the first edition of the new style will be sent out on Saturday 1st March so please don't be alarmed if it looks different, it is not a scam. The new format, we hope, will enable people to access everything going on at St Margaret's in an easier and clearer way.



Ipswich Minster is hosting a vigil, organised by the Ukrainian community, to mark the 3rd anniversary of the full scale invasion of Ukraine on 23rd February. Proceedings will begin at 2.45pm on the steps of the Town Hall, followed by a procession to Ipswich Minster and a service of Evensong which you may or may not also choose to attend.

**Winter Warmer**

Not too late to come and join us tomorrow for our winter warmer lunch tomorrow at 12.30pm in the Church Centre.



**Winter Warmer**  
**Sunday 23 February 12.30pm**  
**Church Centre, Bolton Lane**

All are welcome to join a winter warmer lunch following the 11am service

Parking will be available on the school playground.

If you would like to join us, please put your name on the list at the back of church, including any dietary needs. Alternatively you can contact Frederike by text on 07805 192855.

Offers of a pudding and/or help with setting up and tidying afterwards would be much appreciated.

Please make a voluntary contribution to the cost - any surplus will support the good work of this church community.

[www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)  
*welcoming people of all faiths and none*



**Funeral Friday 28th February 1pm Wendy Rollins RIP**

With her colleagues from Ipswich Hospital joining via livestream we join with Wendy's family and friends in giving thanks for her life as we pray too, for all those who now grieve. All are welcome.

We are looking forward to the renewal of the electoral roll this spring and will use the opportunity to update the systems we use to communicate with the church community, as well as to securely hold data and to introduce online booking for some of the events and activities that we hope to undertake through Rev Helen's appointment and work among the wider local community. More details will follow in March!

**Ash Wednesday**



**1st March 2025**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**12.30pm Holy Communion**  
 with the imposition of ashes

A special service to mark the start of Lent as we take to heart the call to reorient our lives towards the love of God. With the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday crosses we are marked with a visible sign of the cross and seek to grow in faith and in devotion to God.

***Holy God, holy and strong,  
 holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.***

Other services taking place in Ipswich today:  
 Ascension Church (IP1 6AN) at 10.00am  
 Ipswich Minster (IP1 3BE) at 6.30pm  
 St Mary & St Botolph (IP6 9PS) at 7.30pm

**Remember  
 you are  
 but dust  
 and to dust  
 you shall  
 return.**

 

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 IPSWICH  
 SOANE STREET

#### **Palm Crosses and Ash Wednesday**

Please remember to return your palm crosses from last year so that we can prepare the ash for this year's Ash Wednesday's service. Palms collected by the end of Sunday 2nd March will be turned to ash and mixed with oil ready for the 12.30pm Service on 5th March.

#### **Lent Lunches**



## Lent Lunches

**12.30-1.30pm Wednesdays**  
March 12th, 19th, Tuesday 25th  
April 2nd, 9th  
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 [pastoral.stmags@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.stmags@gmail.com).  
The soup served will be gluten-free and vegan. If you have other dietary requirements, please let us know.

 

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### Grandparents' Day

Saturday 15 March 10.30am – 2.30pm | St John's Church, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 4QE

'What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith?' This event, organised by the Mothers' Union but open to non-members, is designed to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. Join us to feel supported, encouraged and affirmed as a spiritual influencer to your grandchildren through a programme of worship, key speakers and small group workshops.

[Free tickets available here.](#)



**It's time to register for the up-coming Ipswich Deanery Conference ...**

**'Every Day Discipling'  
on Saturday 29 March 2025**

Come and be inspired by our keynote speaker, Emma Buchan, Head of Churches and Networks Support in the national Vision and Strategy Team; as well as celebrating where we are seeing God at work and another round of great workshops ... all starting with bacon butties from 8.45am!

**Who is it for?**

**Everyone** in an Ipswich Deanery Anglican Congregation. Spaces are available for children aged 4-11 years with parents/carers attending the conference.

**How do I sign up?**

Please register using the Eventbrite link below. You will be asked to identify your church community and to let us know any specific dietary requirements. If you are bringing your children, please ensure that you register each child with their own child ticket

[Eventbrite Link](#)

'Together' begins on Thursday 20th March: 3.30-5.30pm in the Church Centre: food for the soul and food for the body. Please keep this in your prayers and share with friends, neighbours and family.



Look out for something new...  
***Together*** is starting soon!

A new way of gathering to learn about God, especially for children & their families stories, activities, prayer and food!

to be on the list to find out more email [events.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:events.stmagsips@gmail.com)

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**Mothering Sunday**



# Mothering Sunday

## 30th March 2025

10am Mothering Sunday Service  
3pm Silent Prayer

**10am Family Communion Service**  
We come home to Church on this Mothering Sunday, giving thanks for those who have mothered us. With Junior Church activities, a thought for the day, flowers to share and refreshments after the service we gather to break bread around the Communion table.

**3pm Silent Prayer**  
For some, today is a difficult day. Thirty minutes of stillness in the company of God and one another: candle lighting, a listening ear and personal prayer if needed.

 

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### Future services

*In addition to the main services at the top of the pew sheet, here are the details of other services taking place*

Tuesday 25th February 2025 8.00am Morning Prayer  
Friday 28th February 2025 8.00am Morning Prayer  
08.00am Holy Communion  
09.30am Rise and Shine  
Sunday 2nd March 2025 11.00am Parish Communion  
Tuesday 4th March 2025 8.00am Morning Prayer  
Friday 7th March 2025 8.00am Morning Prayer  
08.00am Holy Communion  
09.30am Rise and Shine  
Sunday 9th March 2025 11.00am Parish Communion with Baptism

### Pastoral Support

Please let us know if you or someone in St Margaret's community is unwell and would like a visit at home or is in hospital - Home Communion can be arranged. [Maggie Conder](#) is our [pastoral care](#) team leader or contact the vicar, [Sarah](#).



### Financial Giving

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.

Here are some answers to the practicalities of giving:

- **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.
- **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](#).



John Grierson, Church Treasurer

### Contact details

Website: [www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)

The Revd Sarah Geileskey:

[revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com)

The Vicarage, 32 Constable Road, IP4 2UW

07841 687879

Sarah's rest days are usually Thursday each week and the second Friday of each month

Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend:

[helenptstmags@gmail.com](mailto:helenptstmags@gmail.com)

07540 394179

Helen is a Curate, working full time. Her rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.

Churchwardens [churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Vergers administrator [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Or telephone 07733 609661 and leave a message.

Items for next week's sheet to the Vergers Administrator ( [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com)), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please [send an email](#) or complete [the form on the website](#).