



Sunday 24th May, 2026

Pentecost



Tongues as of Fire © Jan L. Richardson

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost, the beginning of the church, 50 days after Easter Day, the day that tongues of fire came upon people, the day that all people understood each other, no matter what language they were speaking, no matter where they came from. An extraordinary day, a day of understanding and the sharing of the Holy Spirit who is still with us now.

So this Sunday, let us remember this understanding, let us remember the fire of the Holy Spirit. Not only internally, but also with the clothes we wear, let us join together at whatever service we come to in shades of yellow, orange and red to celebrate this most wonderful of days.

Rev Helen

When We Breathe Together

A Blessing for Pentecost Day by Jan Richardson

This is the blessing
we cannot speak
by ourselves.

This is the blessing
we cannot summon
by our own devices,
cannot shape
to our purpose,
cannot bend
to our will.

This is the blessing
that comes
when we leave behind
our aloneness
when we gather
together
when we turn
toward one another.

This is the blessing
that blazes among us
when we speak
the words
strange to our ears

when we finally listen
into the chaos

when we breathe together
at last.

May 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 24th May (Pentecost)

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Sunday Worship (L)

6pm Choral Evensong (L)

Tuesday 26th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 27th May

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 28th May

8pm Compline (to receive the zoom link please click [here](#))

Friday 29th May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

10am Family morning in the Church Centre. Please click [here](#) to book.

Saturday 30th May

9am - Church breakfast with food and fellowship and faith-filled conversation for ALL, themed around Pentecost. Please sign up using [this link](#).

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 Sunday

Acts 2.1-21 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

John 20.19-23 ([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

Children and Families - Half Term Family Morning 29th May, 10am - 12.30pm

Back for May half term, come along for a morning of activities for all ages, time together and lunch.

As usual, thanks to the Suffolk Community Foundation, this event is free, but donations are always welcome to enable us to continue this work. Please book via the link below:

[Family Morning booking and consent](#)

Church Breakfast for All, 30th May, 9am - 10.30am

Food and fellowship and faith - conversations in the church centre on the theme of Pentecost. On the fifth Saturday of the month, all are welcome. Please [click here](#) to ensure your food is catered for! See you there.

Creative Retreat Day, 6th June, 10am-4pm

A chance to explore faith on the theme of Creation and Creativity during a day at St Margaret's. Details in the poster towards the end of the newsletter or on the website [here](#). To secure your place please register [here](#).

Summer HolyDay, Saturday 18th July 10-4pm

A day out in Bury St Edmunds! With worship, activities and time to explore. Details on the website [here](#) (or later in this newsletter). To register your interest, please click [here](#).

Sound Desk and Live-streaming - Helpers Required

We are in need of more helpers to operate the sound mixer desk and the livestreaming equipment at our services. Please consider how you can help with this - there have been times recently where we have not been able to include those who join the services online. Please speak to Charles Croydon or Stuart Quinton to find out more. Charles will be running a training session on Friday 29th May between 1 and 3pm. Do come along. If this date isn't suitable, please contact Charles on 07854 776870 and he will endeavour to arrange some future sessions. Thank you .

PCC News

- **Gifts in Wills**

Two legacy gifts totalling just over £12,000 were received by the PCC in late 2025/early 2026 that have enabled the PCC to update the **church's music resources** and embark on a project to introduce **purple church vestments/altar frontals** available alongside the Sarum blue in use during Advent and Lent - this we will seek to crowdfund. The church property sub committee will also be reviewing the various fabric projects emerging from the quinquennial inspections to see how best the remainder of the legacy gifts might be used in the mission of this Church. **New hymn books** have been ordered (Ancient & Modern, Songs and Hymns for refreshing worship) - **they have arrived and we'll enjoy them this week!** If you are a crafter and would like to repurpose the old hymnbooks, do let us know. We are grateful to Audrey and Eric Cullingford and the other giver, for their thoughtful gifts. Over 5,000 people each year leave a gift in their will to a Church of England Parish. If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your will, or would like information on will writing or making your will, you can sign up to Insight [here](#) to gain access to these resources [here](#). Without any expectation of a legacy gift, Rev Sarah or treasurer John are also willing to explain how such gifts are best received and put to good use at St Margaret's.

- **Treework in the Churchyard**

Ipswich Borough Council are responsible for the care of the churchyard and Carol Klug has been working with them to review the care of the trees. Faculty permissions have now been received from the Archdeacon to allow pruning and care of the trees to take place once nesting season has concluded. This will include taking the yews on the main church path back to a narrower size to allow clear passage and access. We expect this will take place in September but will confirm nearer the time.

- **Feedback on New Worshipping Pattern**

Rev Sarah and the PCC would welcome your thoughts on how the new worshipping pattern

is settling in. What is going well, what still needs to develop and grow and what might need to stop. You can email your thoughts to office.stmagsips@gmail.com . Rev Sarah will also be in church on Saturday, 29th May at 11am for anyone who wants to pop along, and similarly, those who would like to gather together over coffee after the 10am service on Sunday 31st May. There will also be a chance to meet with George Woodward if you prefer, dates and times to follow - or just catch George for a chat.

Music

It is half term so there is no choir practice this week.

For other musicians and singers among us (including those in the choir who are curious), what about this? Taking place **this afternoon**, and then dates as listed.



**Summer 2026
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'll get together to rehearse and to plan next month's songs, as well as who will play each song/ each service.

We meet in church:

Saturday 23rd May 2.30-4pm
*Rehearsing for 24th May 10am Pentecost Sunday
Worship and 31st May 10am Parish Worship*

Monday 1st June 7-8.30pm
*Rehearsing for 6pm 7th June Prayer and Praise,
10am 14th June Café Church and 28th June 10am
Sunday Worship.*

Monday 29th June 7-8.30pm
*Rehearsing for 6pm 5th July Prayer and Praise,
10am 12th July Café Church and 26th July 10am
Sunday Worship.*

 

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



POSTPONED Repairs to churchyard wall

Ipswich Borough Council have deferred the date for the wall repairs to accommodate the extra traffic expected from the Suffolk Show this week. We'll let you know when there is a new date.

Churches Count on Nature

St Margarets is taking part again this year in Churches Count on Nature

The details have now been finalised for the webinars and bookings are open - click [here](#) for more information. [The first webinar](#), about using iNaturalist to record wildlife, is on 26th May 2026 at 12 noon.

Please keep the date of 10 am Saturday 13 June for Churches Count on Nature in St Margaret's Churchyard.

If you are interested in learning more about the health and social cost of climate change, our Eco group suggest you may like to watch [Prof Hugh Montgomery's 12-minute briefing](#). Aimed at people aged 16+ there is also showing of a 50 minute 2025 film entitled 'The National Emergency Briefing' on 30th May 2026 at 2pm in the Main Lecture Theatre WLT1, University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, [19-21 Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ](#). You will need to register at booking link <https://buytickets.at/ipswichumbrellaclimatehub/2164553>. There is NO cost and there is a structured discussion afterwards.



FIND (Families in Need) Update

FIND continues to be exceedingly busy as the rising cost-of-living impacts more individuals and families. This impact also means that they are seeing much lower quantities of food donations.

Quick facts - during April 2026....

- **For food**
 - FIND distributed 531 food parcels and 1,254 bags for 910 people (supporting 637 adults, and 273 children).
 - 50% of people accessing FIND were based in central or north-east Ipswich (zones within or adjacent to St. Margaret's parish: IP1 = 31%; IP4 = 19%).
 - People were commonly accessing FIND due to very low income (36%); or an income gap e.g., awaiting first wage payment (15%).
- **For other needs**
 - FIND supported 50 referrals (representing 27 adults and 23 children) for needs including duvets (x19), pillows (x16), mattresses (x8), and beds (x6).
 - Other needs included cookers, microwaves, tents, sleeping bags and baby items (toys, buggies, clothing, stairgates).

CAN YOU HELP?

A box is available throughout the year at the back of the church for donations to FIND e.g., long-life food and personal care items. Donations can also be made at East of England Co-Op shops, Waitrose at Futura Park, and Sainsbury's (Warren Heath & Ipswich town centre).

FIND currently need carrier bags and bags for life, soup, cooking oil, tinned tomatoes, long life milk, tea bags, tinned fruit, washing powder, toilet rolls, womens and mens deodorant, shaving foam/gel, size 6 nappies.

FIND is also currently looking for volunteer drivers - please see poster below, and contact them directly for more information.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

NEEDED!



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

JOIN OUR TEAM OF DRIVER VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL



3 HOURS PER WEEK

MILEAGE PAID

MUST HAVE OWN VEHICLE

CONTACT US AT: office@findipswich.org.uk
01473 945624

FIND (FAMILIES IN NEED) IS A REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES (CHARITY NO. 1106050)



Sat 6th June

10am - 4pm

Creative Retreat

With refreshments at 10am, the day begins at 10.30am as we worship together, exploring in scripture, poetry and reflection the theme of 'Creation and Creativity'.

Bring your own preferred creative materials (e.g. paint, stitch, photography), use materials provided or join in with two different guided creative sessions: one in the morning and one after lunch. Spend the day with others or reflectively by yourself as we spend time creating in the company of God, the Creator. Christchurch Park offers space to walk and a light ploughman's lunch will be served (£10 booked in advance).

We'll close with worship at 3.30pm during which you will be asked make an offering of something you have created to be displayed in the church throughout the month of June.

Email the office or scan the QR code to book your place.



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



Sign up for the Creative Retreat Day - 6th June

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Sign up for the Summer HolyDay outing to Bury St Edmunds

Click [here](#) to register your interest. Don't forget to add 'extra' people if you are coming along with others.



Sat 18th July We're all going on a Summer HolyDay

A grand day out in Bury St Edmunds

We'll make our way there either by train or in cars, arriving at the Cathedral from 10.30am with friends from Ipswich All Hallows and Lindbergh Road churches for tea and coffee. At 11am we'll worship together in the Lady Chapel before spending the day at leisure, on retreat or joining in with various activities:

- reflective tour with a Cathedral pilgrim guide
- walk the labyrinth
- lunch in Abbey Gardens (bring a picnic/rug)
- explore the ancient abbey ruins
- 2pm in the Cathedral - a special time for families with younger children
- Choral Evensong 3.30-4.15pm

Please register your interest! QR code or go to:
<https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/events/5asvs05>



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Family Morning

Come and join us for a morning of activities for all ages followed by lunch together

Friday 29th May

10am until 12.30pm

in St Margaret's Church Centre,
Bolton Lane

Arrive when you can and leave when you wish.

Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult

Thanks to funding from the Suffolk Community

Foundation this event is **free**

(although donations to continue this work are gratefully received)

Book via the QR code

for more information email

events.stmagsipswich@gmail.com



Welcoming people of all faiths and none



Growing Deeper



Thanksgiving

For the team coordinating Messy Vintage, and participants at Norwood this week: spring blossom to bring joy, and a sprinkling of confetti as the wind goes over them.

For Rev Helen's ministry, as she begins her curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds). We look forward to welcoming her back at St. Margaret's from the beginning of July.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Chelsworth Avenue, Dorset Close, and Colchester Road.

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 walk, or get public transport?

Half term week for many schools and a chance to spend more time together as a family. This might be a good opportunity to look at ways of travelling for days out without using your car. Trains and buses can be less stressful ways of travelling and can even be cheaper if there are family deals on offer. They certainly burn less fossil fuel and are therefore a greener option. Why not investigate opportunities in your area to travel on public transport this half term?

With thanks to Revd Richard Stainer.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 31st May (Trinity Sunday)

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Worship

Tuesday 2nd June

8 am Morning Prayer

10.30am Communion at Norwood

3.30pm Communion at Christchurch Court

Wednesday 3rd June

9am School service

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 4th June

8pm Choral Compline (L)

Friday 5th June

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 6th June

8.30am - Men's breakfast

10-4pm Creative retreat day in church, including a light lunch. Use [this link](#) to sign up.

Sunday 7th June

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 9th June

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th June

9am School service

12 pm Holy Communion

~~7pm No evening prayer meeting today~~

7pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Bartholmew's Church, 71 Newton Road, IP3 8HQ

Friday 12th June

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Save the Dates

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. Please sign up using [this link](#).

Rev Helen will be on a curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds) from the end of May until the beginning of July.

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.stmagsjps@gmail.com

Telephone: 07990 573258

George's quiet days tend to be Wednesdays and Fridays.

Churchwardens

Bart Bisbal

Email: churchwardens.stmagsjps@gmail.com

Telephone: 07495 759203

Office

Email: office.stmagsjps@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)