



Weekly news, readings and prayers Sunday 25th May

2025 Easter 6



This week, forty days will have passed since we celebrated Easter Sunday together. Ascension Day is this coming Thursday, when we mark the moment the resurrected Christ rises again and ascends into heaven: God incarnate, God with us is no longer physically visible in earth, in human flesh. Revd Helen will be leading prayers and readings for Ascension Day in the Lady Chapel on Thursday at 12.30pm. The school playground will be open for parking. Do come and join in - all are welcome.

Meanwhile tomorrow we will hear the story in Ezekiel of new life in dry bones - a story of resurrection. A story which echoes the promise of new beginnings: as the former things pass away we behold the new things that God is doing with us and among us. We will look back at the former things on Sunday morning as we worship together and give thanks for 2024. In so doing we will behold the presence of the risen Christ among us as we wonder:

- who Jesus is calling us to be as individuals and as a community
- how Jesus is calling us together as individuals and as a community to be the visible body of Christ in this time and place
- what Jesus is calling us to do as individuals and as a community

In all things we can be grateful of God's faithful presence, both seen and unseen. Pray today for God's will to be done that in the coming year, Christ might be raised up through us; that the flesh and bones of this community might be continually revived for all to see the invisible Christ made visible again.

Revd Sarah

PSMen's Breakfast this morning

, 8.30am in the Church Centre. Breakfast by Richard and an opportunity to catch up with one another followed by Adam's guiding hand at 9.30am-ish through prayers, spiritual sharing and worshipful reflection together.

Services

Livestreamed services

are marked (L). Please use the button below to view services at the times given or catch up at anytime.

Livestreaming

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am

Morning Worship with Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings followed by optional short said service of Holy Communion and or refreshments with cake. We will not be live-streaming this service. Music today will be provided members of the choir, band, music group and 'visiting' organist (Theo).

As it is half term, many of the choir are taking a break. As such, there is **no service of Choral Evensong** this week.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's Church.

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 for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 4pm.

Lectionary

This Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion [James 1.22-27](#) [John 16.23b-33](#) **10am Morning Worship**
[Ezekiel 37.1-14](#) [John 5.1-9](#) **Ascension Day - Thursday 29th May**
12.30pm Service of Prayers and Readings [Daniel 7.9-14](#) [Acts 1.1-11](#) [Luke 24.44-end](#)

Church News

Morning Worship, Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please take a couple of minutes to read this section carefully.

Our first call is to be faithful followers of Christ that come together as a worshipping community and so this year we are trying a new thing: bringing together the business and the busy-ness of the ministry that God is working through us in this place into a prayerful, worship-setting. For an hour or so together we will remember 2024, giving thanks and praise to God for all that has been as we offer ourselves and all that we have in God's continued service. We will prayerfully choose from among our number those whom we will elect as Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members. All of the background information is available on the

[website](#)

: there are also some paper copies at the back of the Church as well. Please do look at them as we will not be reading them in full in church.

As well as receiving statutory reports from the Churchwarden and Vicar, details of the church accounts, property, safeguarding and hearing from our Deanery Synod Representative we will think about how we order ourselves as a community. We currently have vacancies for 2 Churchwardens (to serve a 1-year term of office), 2 Deanery Synod Representatives (to serve for the remaining 1 year of this current Synod triennium) and up to 8 members of the PCC. There is still time for you to consider standing for election - do please pray for those willing to serve in this way and those who will take up these roles.

For your awareness there has been an update this year to the [Church Representation Rules \(2025\)](#) with an election required when:

- there are more candidates than vacancies for each role (M9.4)
- there are fewer candidates than vacancies for each role but someone at the meeting moves a resolution that a vote be held on the proposition that, in the case of each candidate, that that candidate could be elected (a YES/NO vote) (M9.3)
- the vote is by a public show of hands unless one more more people request a ballot - in which case the ballot paper is to be signed on the back by the eligible voter (M9.7)

To be eligible to vote your name must be on the Church Electoral Roll: there will be an opportunity to correct 'errors or omissions' (M1.5(4a)) so please check your eligibility and [ensure your name is on the published roll](#) (there is also a printed copy of the electoral roll names on the blue board by the kitchen in Church) - if not you will need to complete that form as you arrive. In the event of an election, the presiding officer is the Chair of the APCM (Priest-in-Charge) who is required to announce the results as soon as is practicable (M12.1). Clergy are not eligible to vote. Depending on the numbers of candidates standing and the complexity of voting, it may not be possible to declare the outcome during the meeting, in which case the results will be shared by email, published on the church notice board and included in next week's newsletter.

[Here you can download](#)

nomination forms for PCC Members, Deanery Synod Representatives and Churchwarden. There are paper copies of these forms in church.

Ascension Day - Thursday 29th May, 12.30-1.00pm

Prayers and readings for Ascension Day - the school playground will be open for car parking. Do come as we reflect on the risen Christ's disappearance from sight and what that means for those of us who follow and make visible Christ's way in our lives and in this generation. This day marks the beginning of the nine days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost as we pray Thy Kingdom Come - you might like to use the prayer resources on the theme of

[The Lord's Prayer](#) as part of your daily practise of prayer.

Family Activity Morning - Friday 30th May, 9.30am-12.30pm

During the morning there will be activities for all ages, coffee, tea, snacks and we will end with lunch together. To help with planning, please book

[here](#) or if you have any questions please email events.stmagsips@gmail.com

. All welcome. Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult.

Stitchers Required! Red Altar Frontal

A large contemporary red altar frontal has been gifted to St Margaret's with the hope it can be re-purposed for use at the nave altar, with the remnants used to make stoles, a pulpit drop, burse and veil. It would be wonderful to think this could be achieved in time for Pentecost Sunday, 8th June. We hope to divide up the various projects between members of the congregation. If you have excellent machine and needlework skills and would like to be a part of this, please let

[Rev Helen](#) know.

Confirmation Service - Sunday 15th June, 3.30pm

Bishop Graeme will be joining us for our confirmation service on Sunday 15th June. Prep sessions for confirmation are underway, for more information please contact

[Rev Sarah](#).

Hearing Loop

Just to remind all hearing aid users in church that there is a hearing loop available during all services. This will send amplified sound direct to hearing aids and cut out any background noise that is present. Aids should be switched to the 'T-Coil' programme in order to make use of this facility. Should you have any questions or need to be shown how to use the loop, please speak to the sound desk operator.

Growing Deeper

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

We give thanks and pray for community connections:

- Sing [a new song](#) (taster)
sung by St Margaret's Primary School at their Wednesday worship... coming to soon to Rise & Shine worship!
- For Messy Vintage at Park Manor - may we be the flowers flourishing in God's fields.

May Prayer Diary

June Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Eco Tip of the week Help keep track of wildlife by [submitting your wildlife sightings](#).

Revd Sarah recorded a male stag beetle in the vicarage garden just this week.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Calendar

Anything underlined you can click and it will take you through to the website for more information

This Week Thursday 29th May

12.30pm Service with prayers and readings for Ascension Day in the Lady Chapel

Friday 30th May 8.00am Morning Prayer

9.30am-12.30pm Family Activity Morning in the Church Centre

Sunday 1st June 08.00am BCP Holy Communion 09.30am Rise and Shine 11.00am Parish Communion

Upcoming Sunday 15th June 3.30pm Deanery Confirmation Service with Bishop Graeme

Wednesday 18th June 1.00pm Marriage of James and Alisha

Sunday 29th June 10.00am Holy Communion - following her ordination as a priest the day before at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, we welcome Revd Helen to preside at her first service of Holy Communion and Revd Canon Stuart Batten to preach. Please save this date to come and support and celebrate with Helen.

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:

Email: revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com

Address: The Vicarage, 32 Constable Road, IP4 2UW

The Revd Sarah Geileskey Telephone: 07841 687879**Sarah's rest days are usually****Thursday each week and the second Friday of each month** **Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend** Email:helenptstmags@gmail.com Telephone: 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** Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com **Office** Email: verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

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](mailto:atpastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com) for more information or contact Maggie Conder at atpastoralteam.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.comLucy Collins - Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. Email verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

More information on how you can report any safeguarding concerns is available from The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

[here](#)

Items for next week's sheet to the Verger Administrator (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.