St.Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Sunday 25th October 2026

Trinity 21

Remember the clocks go back!



This weekend I have the pleasure of digging into some of the most wonderful verses in the Bible in three different ways.

Firstly at Together on Saturday morning (we start at 10 am – (if you are reading this before then, do come!)

Secondly, at our 8 am Communion service on Sunday.

Lastly, at our 10 am Sunday Parish Worship and Baptism.

The question Jesus was asked in verse 36 of the Gospel this week, *"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"* gave rise to one of the greatest sentences I believe we have in our faith, found in verses 37 and 38

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. [39] *And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."*

Versions of these words are said week in and week out in our services of Holy Communion.They are words that many people know off by heart; they are words that are central to everything we do.

One word is at the centre of them - LOVE.

It is the greatest thing we can share with ourselves, with each other and with everyone we come across, even if they don't seem lovable. Love can be the most joyous thing in our lives but it can also be hard; it can be something we need to work on. Because God calls us to love all, even the ones we may be at odds with. We are to take love out into this world, and if we can share love from one person to the next, we can change everything.

Rev Helen

October 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. *Apologies for those who tried to tune in last Sunday to watch the service, we experienced some unexpected difficulties. There should be livestreaming this week but may be on a static wide angle for most of the service.*

Saturday 24th October (Today!)
10-11.30am Together in the Church Centre

Sunday 25th October

Remember the clocks go back!
8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parish Worship with baptism (L)
6pm Choral evensong (L)

Tuesday 27th October
8 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 28th October
9am No School Service
12 pm Holy Communion
Friday 30th October
8 am Morning Prayer in church
10am-12.30pm Family morning in the Church Centre
Saturday 31st October
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.

Click here for Livestreaming

Lectionary

This Sunday

Leviticus 12.1-2, 5-8 (KJV)(NRSVUE)

Matthew 22.34-46 (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

This week's newsletter is jam-packed, so do scroll to the bottom, to make sure you're up to date with what's going on! You may need to open the email in your browser to see everything, as some email programmes will truncate it.

Together (Today!)

It's not too late to join us for Together this morning - come and find us in the church centre.



Together

4th Saturday's

10 - 11.30am

24th October - Love

28th November - Advent

All are welcome to a special themed gatherings

Together is relaxed community for all ages. Join us in the Church Centre, for storytelling, activities, songs, and prayer finishing with brunch together

Please book via the links below

October booking

https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/-/forms/lvkjh09s

November booking

https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/-/forms/hhtawa6d

Welcoming people of all faiths and none

St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH



Linda Peall - clergy person with Permission to Officiate

I'm delighted that this week Bishop Joanne has licensed The Reverend Canon Linda Peall as a clergy person with Permission to Officiate. Based here, at St Margaret's Church, Linda has a wide range of ministry skills and experience which she will share not only with us, but also with others across Ipswich and beyond. If you would like to meet Linda and hear about her life and faith do come along to the 6pm Prayer and Praise service on Sunday, 1st November when we'll be hearing more from her as part of our 'This is Our Story' series of services.
Rev Sarah

Pride in Place Grant



As part of the central government funding initiative, working with Ipswich Borough Council, the Property Team and Church Centre Committee have received a grant of £53,167.20 towards the cost of works that will begin this week in the Church Centre. The work includes roof repairs, some window replacements, dry rot treatments and remedial redecorations to enable our work in supporting the wider community through the use of these facilities. Particular thanks to Carol Klug, Quentin Thurtle and Patrick Whitear who, with others, put together the funding application and are managing the works.

Children and Families Update

These can now be found in a new monthly newsletter!

The first edition is available at the link below. There will also be paper copies in church. Feel free to pick one up for yourself or share them with friends; alternatively, feel free to send others the link!
Click here to read the newsletter.
Do share any comments or additions that you think would be useful with Rev Helen.

Help! All Hallows' Eve. 31st October 2026

We look forward to welcoming people at the vicarage on what is a very busy night of door knocking. We share generous hospitality, welcome people with sweets and make contact with many children and families we might otherwise rarely see. Do pray for this outreach. If you would like to be involved, especially if you are a teenager or small adult willing to wear our 'St Margaret & her dragon' costume, please speak with Rev Sarah.



Church photography

We are in the process of updating our GDPR/Photo permissions, so you may see people walking around with a tablet and checking your permissions and details.

Also if any keen photographers would like to take some updated photos for our website, please let us know!

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.

How we got to Church Survey Results

Half the people walked to Church, 29% came by car and 11% car shared, 7% came by public transport, 3% walked and 1 person came by mobility scooter. Thank to all who took part.



To book onto Breakfast for All please click this link…


Remembering Together
3pm Sunday 1st November
We gather for a speical service to give thanks and to remember those who have died. Whether recently bereaved, remembering from long, long ago, supporting or attending on behalf of a friend or neighbour will be very welcome.
During the service we will hear readings from scripture and poetry. Names will be read aloud and there will be an opportunity to light candles. Minsters will be available to pray with individuals.
If you would like the name of a loved one remembered during this service, please add their name to one of the hearts in the basket on the table near the entrance to the Church.
Even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart. For an long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost
Fred Beuchner
Whistling in the Dark (1988)
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
office.stmagsips@gmail.com
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Sunday 8th November 10am
Parade Service
with members of the St Margaret's Guiding & Scouting movements
A 40 minute service remembering those who have died in conflict as we reflect on our commitment in this generation to their much longed for legacy of peace and justice.
The service will conclude in time for those who wish to attend the Act of Remembrance at 11am in Christchurch Park following which the Rainbows will serve a fundraising jacket potato lunch in the Church Centre on Bolton Lane. Cash on the day. £10 adults £5 children. If you plan to attend please email helepeck77@me.com
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
office.stmagsips@gmail.com
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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 activites.
Please get in touch with the office at office.stmagsips@gmail.com for details about the first pop up!
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Bell Ringing
See the tower in action
The ringing platform with its open glass-fronted gallery gives a wonderful insight into the heritage tradition of bell ringing. Come and see the tower in action as we welcome visiting bands of bellringers.
Saturday 14th November: 11.45am - 12.45pm
Visiting Ringers from Saffron Walden
Sunday 22nd November: 1.00-4.00 pm
Visiting Ringers for Full Peal Attempt
Would you like to try?
Rehearsals are usually on Tuesday evenings.
To find out more, please contact
Colin Salter, Tower Captain on 07961 891728 or email
bells.stmagsips@gmail.com.
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
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QUIZ
Saturday 21st November
Quiz Night
St Margaret's Church Centre Bolton Lane
Come and join us for a Quiz Night.
6.30pm arrival for a 7.00pm start.
Parking available in school playground next door.
Tickets £10 per person including a baked potato supper
Teams of 6 - 8 people
Licensed bar and raffle!
Please sign up using the QR code
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
office.stmagsips@gmail.com
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Thursday Forum

at Christ Church
Tacket Street
(next to Cox Lane car park)

Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm
A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm
You are welcome to either or both



Season 2026/2027

Nov 5th	**Fellowship Afloat - A floating Christian Outdoor Centre**	***Sarah Case, Funding Officer***
Nov 12th	**Mercy Ships - Bringing Help and Healing**	***Rod Gibson, Mercy Ships Ambassador***
Nov 19th	**TWAM - Tools with a Mission**	***Philip Wiseman, Volunteer Speaker***
Nov 26th	**Shotley Peninsula in Pictures**	***Ian van der Ende, photographer***

Growing Deeper







Thanksgiving

For a happy and productive autumn Messy Vintage, at Norwood this week: a receptive group with much chat, singing & colouring. Numbers grew through the session! Sun catchers (awaiting the sun!) were great success & easily decorated.

For a light-filled school service, ahead of half term: we reflected on light shining in the darkness, that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the World and some of us lit candles as prayers,

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Kingsfield Avenue, Corder Road, and Gainsborough 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 get creative for Halloween/ Bonfire Night?

Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night are fast approaching and both can mean large amounts of decorations, plastic toys, masks and costumes. Why not try to cut down on the plastic this year and see what you can make, recycle or adapt? There is lots of advice on line. Have a look at https://ethicalbranddirectory.com/how-to-recycle-halloween/ but there are many other sites as well.

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

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 1st November

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Communion (L)
3pm All Souls' Service
6pm Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 3rd November
8 am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Communion Norwood
3.30pm Holy Communion Christchurch Court
Wednesday 4th November
9am School Service
12 pm Holy Communion
Thursday 5th November
~~8pm Choral Compline (L)~~ (Cancelled)
Friday 6th November
8 am Morning Prayer in church
Saturday 7th November
8.30am Men's breakfast

Sunday 8th November

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parade Service - No Café Church this month.
6pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 10th November
8 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11th November
9am School Service TBC
11 am Remembrance Day (Cenotaph)

Friday 13th November
8 am Morning Prayer in church

Save The Dates

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.

For everyone working hard to contribute toward Harvest Festival at our church this weekend.**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 and Wednesday due to A/L and back open on 16th Oct)
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