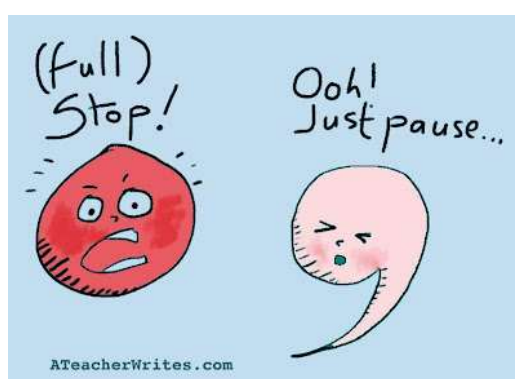




Sunday 26th July 2026

Trinity 8



People who keep the Sabbath live all seven days differently

For some, this week has been the start of the summer holiday season. Schedules have changed. Grandparents' lives are busier as energetic grandchildren delightfully remind us we are in a different season of life. Parents juggling childcare. Queues at airports. Activity cancelled in favour of a change of pace or a different view. Getting away from it all. We make our plans. We hope for an August rest. An August rest will prepare us to embrace September with either the return to 'normality' or to take an actual holiday, just to get over the holidays.

If our lives were a single sentence, sabbath rest would be found in the commas. The pauses. The chance to draw breath. To reflect on the goodness of God and to pay attention to the rest that is restorative. Sabbath is to pay attention differently. Sacred rest is not a full stop but a chance to reflect on how we are living in God's love and how we prioritise God in all things.

This weekend we will be hearing in our Gospel reading six short parables. And a question. Have you understood all this? Sabbath space in the day to day and from week to week and in seasons of the year helps us to practice that question regularly - Have I understood? Where God is in my life? What is God doing within me, for me and through me?

Let us not be so busy being on holiday that we find ourselves putting a full stop on faith, cancelling our time for prayer and reflection, our church fellowship, or our service to others. Instead, as we pay attention to our need for physical, mental, emotional, social, sensory, creative and spiritual

rest in this season where the pattern of life is different, may we find refreshment and new ways of understanding.

Vicar Sarah

July Prayer Diary

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.

Saturday 25th July (today)

10-11.30am Together Extra in the churchyard, on the theme of light

Sunday 26th July

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Worship (L), with baptism for Gracie Collins

6pm Choral evensong (L)

Tuesday 28th July

8 am Morning Prayer

7-9pm Archdeaconry Prayer Meeting in church - see 'Together, we are listening' above for more information

Wednesday 29th July

12 pm Holy Communion

2 pm Memorial Service - Angela Tenwick RIP

Friday 31st July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 1st August

8.30am Men's breakfast

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](#)

Lectioary

This Sunday

Romans 8.26-end ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52 ([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

Saturday 25th July (Today) - Together Extra - Churchyard Edition!

Do join us next Saturday morning from 10 - 11.30am for a special Together gathering in the churchyard. There will be nature-based activities, storytelling, songs and brunch.

If the weather is either too hot or raining, we will meet inside the church. Thanks, Rev Helen

Sunday 26th July - Gracie Collins' baptism

Our church administrator Lucy, with husband Daniel and daughter Gracie will be at the 10am service on the 26th July to celebrate Gracie's baptism - and 1st birthday!

Alison Thurtle reflects on the HolyDay trip...

Many thanks to Sarah for organising this memorable day in the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds.

A group from St Margaret's gathered together for coffee with All Hallows and Lindbergh Road Community Church, which gave us an opportunity to chat with them about their church life and make new connections. After coffee, we gathered in the Lady Chapel for a gentle and restorative communion service which evoked a real sense of peace.

I then chose to take part in a reflective pilgrimage tour of the Cathedral building, expertly led by one of their volunteers. Amongst many other things, I learned why there is a wolf sculpture in the Cathedral precinct! We enjoyed a spot of lunch in the town, while others had a picnic in the Abbey Gardens with outdoor activities.

After tea at 3pm, we all joined together again for Choral Evensong in the Cathedral Quire, where a visiting choir from Florida accompanied by the Cathedral organ, led us with their wonderful singing - so uplifting, joyful and inspiring.

The walk back to the car through the stunning Abbey Gardens, rounded off a relaxed, informal and spiritual day.



YOU ARE INVITED

to Ringing & Afternoon Tea

We give thanks and celebrate John Girt's faithful service following his retirement from the role of Tower Captain

Sunday, 9th August 2026

2.30pm Come and Ring (or watch/listen)

3.30pm Tea in the Church Centre

5pm Ringing for 6pm Service

John Girt retired from the role of Tower Captain at St Margaret's in April 2026 when Colin Salter was appointed as our new ringing master. All are welcome as we celebrate John and all volunteer ringers, giving thanks for bellringing. Whatever your connection, whether a member of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, a member of the congregation or community at St Margaret's, or just curious to come along, you will be very welcome.

Please RSVP to Tower Secretary, Angie Cable, who will also be pleased to receive offers of food for the Afternoon Tea: angiecable42@gmail.com

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


St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Summer Family Morning

After much thought and prayers, we won't be running Family Mornings during this summer holiday. To give people a break and to start to plan for a sustainable future for our specific children and families work, a month without extra events is needed. Thanks to those who said they could help, but now you can relax! Together will be meeting as usual on Thursday the 20th of August, so all are welcome to come along and offers to help will be greatly received.

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

Together, we are listening: Diocesan vision and strategy

Bishop Joanne and team are beginning the process of refreshing the diocesan vision and strategy. This will build on 'Growing in God'. They aim to discern where the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church of England in Suffolk, and where God is leading us. To hear Bishop Joanne talking more about this, please click [here](#). To read more, please click [here](#).

Living God,

*Speak to your Church in this season of listening and
deepen our life in Christ.*

*As we give thanks for the growth you have begun,
open our hearts to your voice
and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.*

Amen.

A series of prayer events will take place across the diocese, focusing on **prayer** and **listening**:

- what are our **gifts**?
- what are our **resources**?
- what are our **challenges**?
- what are the **opportunities ahead**?

One of the prayer events will take place at **St. Margaret's on 28th July**, from **7-9pm**, led by **Archdeacon Sam**.

Vicar Sarah adds 'If we ask these questions of St Margaret's and our church community, how would you answer them?'



Together EXTRA Churchyard Edition

25th July, 10 - 11.30am

***Meet in St Margaret's
churchyard by the church
entrance***

All are welcome

***to this relaxed community for all
ages. Join us for storytelling,
activities, and brunch***

***It's preferable to book on this
session, this can be done via the
QR code or emailing
events.stmagsips@gmail.com***

Family, Faith and Food

Welcoming people of all faiths and none





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



A vibrant, autumn-themed poster for a community event. The title 'Harvest Around the World in Food' is written in a mix of orange, green, and blue fonts. The word 'in' is in a small, orange script. The word 'FOOD' is in large, bold, multi-colored letters. The poster is decorated with various food items: a bowl of colorful salad, a bowl of spaghetti with meat sauce, a plate of samosas, a plate of hummus and pita, a bowl of grapes, and a bowl of pumpkin seeds. There are also autumn leaves, a pumpkin, and a globe. A banner at the top features flags from India, China, Mexico, Jamaica, and France. A tag on the left says 'A celebration of food, faith and community' with a heart icon. The event details are listed in the center: DATE: Saturday 26th September, TIME: 5-7:30pm, VENUE: St Margaret's Church Centre Parking St Margaret's Primary School. Below this, it says 'Bring a dish to share' and 'Bring your own drinks'. At the bottom, it asks 'Please let Naomi know what you are bringing and also include ingredients for allergies!' and provides the email 'Naomi_wingrove@yahoo.com for more information'.

Harvest
Around the World
in
FOOD

A celebration of food, faith and community

DATE:
Saturday 26th September

TIME:
5-7:30pm

VENUE:
St Margaret's Church Centre
Parking St Margaret's Primary School

Bring a dish to share

Bring your own drinks

Please let Naomi know what you are bringing and also include ingredients for allergies!

Naomi_wingrove@yahoo.com
for more information

Growing Deeper



Thanksgiving

Giving thanks for our HolyDay trip to St Edmundsbury Cathedral last Saturday, with friends from All Hallows church, and Lindbergh Road Community Church. For our St. Margaret's Day celebrations last Sunday, and the rich musical life of our church: choir, band, organ, bellringing, and singing in the Rwandan worshipping choral tradition.

Thanks too, to those working on the church centre during the school holidays. High level cleaning, 'hedge maintenance' and many other tasks being attended to. We are hoping to hear if we have been successful in a grant application as roof repairs and other more complex maintenance tasks have also been organised, with tenders in and contractors on standby

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Constitution Hill, Dale Hall Lane, and Samuel Court.

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 use your microwave or air fryer?

Why not make more use of your micro-wave and air fryer rather than your conventional cooker. Many of us just use the micro-wave to heat up a drink or to defrost something, but they can do so much more and save you money. They use much less electricity for the same effect and therefore you are also saving the planet.

With thanks to Revd Richard Stainer.

Loving God • Care for Creation • Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 2nd August

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Communion (L)
12.30pm Baptism
6pm Prayer and Praise

Tuesday 4th August

8 am Morning Prayer
3pm Holy Communion Christchurch Court

Wednesday 5th August

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 6th August

8pm Choral Compline

Friday 7th August

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday 9th August

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Cafe church
6pm Choral communion (L)

Tuesday 11th August

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 12th August

12 pm Holy Communion

Friday 14th August

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Save The Dates

Sunday 9th August - Afternoon Tea in church, with bell ringing
Saturday 12th September - Ride and Stride / Heritage Open Day and 3pm Hymns & Pimms
Saturday 26th September - 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, 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)