

Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 27th April 2025
Easter 2

Labels

I wonder what labels you have been stuck with in life? The quiet one? The crazy one? The unreliable one? The foolish one? The serious one? The funny one? Perhaps you have carried a label since childhood? Maybe you like the labels you have been given?

This week we hear about doubting Thomas. Click The one who has been stuck with this label for a long time. A label which has often been looked upon as a failing. A shortcoming. Everyone else believed.

We live in a world where 'certain' faith is dangerous. Whenever humanity claims to know the mind of God we can find ourselves in dangerous territory. Certainty can lead to fundamentalism. Certainty drives us towards a rules-based practice of faith. Humanity deciding who is 'out' and who is 'in'.

Thomas' doubt is healthy. But Thomas is so much more than doubt. Thomas is also honest. Courageous. Tenacious. Thomas knows his ignorance. Thomas asks questions to learn more. Thomas' self-awareness is an example to us all.

What labels would you give yourself? 'A follower of the way' perhaps?

I wonder if others would label you in that way? Rev Sarah

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 **9.30am** Rise and Shine Communion

11.00am Morning Worship with Baptism (L)

6.30pm Evensong 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 from 10am to 4pm.

Lectionary

This week **8am BCP Holy Communion** [1 John 5.4-12](#) [John 20.19-23](#) **11am Morning Worship**
[Exodus 14](#) [John 20.19-end](#) **06.30pm Evensong** [Jeremiah 15.15-end](#) [Hebrews 11.32-12.2](#)

Church News

Easter Decorating *A message from Angie Cable* THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING ARRANGERS. Thank you to all who came and decorated the Church for Easter. A particular thanks to our Mother and Toddlers group who did an amazing display of daffodils, sheep and clouds for our porch, it looked wonderful.

All arrangements must be cleared on or before **Saturday 3rd May**

please. All flowers and foliage can be disposed of on the compost heap at rear of Church near wall leading to the mansion. Any oasis used must be taken home and put into your black bins, do not leave anything for others to clear up. Thank you to you all.

Palm Sunday : 9.30am a circle of palms in the church : 11am service ending outside and a call to Ride On in Majesty in pursuit of peace and justice : Film night - Of Gods and Men : Maundy Thursday : a shared meal at 'Together' : Holy Communion with stripping of the altars : one-hour prayer vigil in 'The Garden of Gethsemane' : Good Friday café church: the cross carried on the streets : reflective contemplation and Godly play in church : Stainer's Crucifixion : Holy Saturday - preparing the church for Easter Day : Sunrise Service and breakfast in the churchyard : a prayerbook communion service : Festive Communion - combining the 9.30am and 11.00am congregations together at 10.00am. Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

To Angie's thanks, I would add my thanks to everyone involved in Holy Week and Easter: flower arrangers, musicians, stewards and AV team, readers, prayers and ringers, all who catered, café church folk and worship leaders from St Margaret's Primary school for their stained glass window art-work.

I would welcome your feedback about Holy Week and Easter this year. What was your experience? What went well? What might we change or do differently to this next year?

Send me an email don't put it off, do it now! Thank you, Rev Sarah. **Electoral Roll**

Many thanks to those who have filled out our electoral form online already. We still have a number of you who were on the electoral roll last year who have yet to fill in the form. Please click the button below for the form. There are also some paper copies at the back of the Church. Ideally we would like the forms to be filled in electronically, if you need any help please call in to the office anytime during office hours

before 9th May

, listed at the bottom of the newsletter, and our administrator Lucy will be happy to help you fill it in. Any questions to Lucy Collins, Electoral Roll Officer at

verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

Rev Sarah has a list of names to check-in with at church this week and next week... so don't leave without completing your form!

Hexachordia 3rd May 7pm, Friends of St Margaret's 16th May 7.30pm

Please see the events below for details of these two events! A wonderful evening of medieval music and an evening learning more about how people faith in previous generations shaped the building that we worship in today. All welcome - bring friends!

Women's Voices 2025 Event Women's Bodies We will meet Bathsheba, Anna, Mary and others, to explore the Abused Body, the Disabled Body, the Aged Body, the Nurturing Body and the Suffering Body. A day event led by The Revd Canon Dr Liz Shercliff and The Revd Dr Kate Bruce

21st June, 10.30am – 4pm St John the Evangelist church, St John's St. Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

Book below: [Women's Voices](#), [Women's Bodies - Insight CofE](#)

[Suffolk](#) for more information contact Revd Ali Miller teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

Bring your own lunch ~ Drinks provided

Electoral Roll Form

Growing Deeper

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Tuddenham Avenue and Norfolk Road.

We give thanks and pray for community connections:

- For the worship leaders at St Margaret's Primary School who are handing over responsibilities from the oldest Yr6 pupils to a new team in Yr5.
- For communities at Park Manor Care Home, Norwood, Christchurch Court and Tudor Court. For Messy Vintage services and new mid-week communion services beginning to take place.
- For those who care for the churchyard.

April Prayer Diary

May Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Eco Tip of the week

It takes 450 years for a plastic water bottle to breakdown into microscopic pieces. It will never fully biodegrade. They can't actually be recycled, only down-cycled. They are easily replaced with a metal bottle which you can keep and refill from the tap

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 **Tuesday 29th April** 8.00am Morning Prayer in school **Wednesday 30th April**

Messy Vintage at Norwood Holy Communion at Park Manor **Friday 2nd May** 8am Morning Prayer

Saturday 3rd May

7.00pm [Hexachordia Concert](#)

, early music trio, Hexachordia, presents a celebration of the English garden in music and words. £7.50 on the door. Do come.

Sunday 4th May 8.00am BCP Holy Communion 9.30am Rise and Shine

11.00am Parish Communion **Upcoming Friday 16th May**

7.30pm St Margaret's Friends': all welcome as we learn about the medieval carvings with David Evans. Refreshments and nibbles, all welcome. Please bring binoculars with you to see the carvings up close and in detail.

Sunday 25th May *Note change of service time*

10.00am Combined Service and Annual Parish Church Meeting

Rev Sarah is praying for God's calling to people to actively serve the St Margaret's Community as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and as this church's Charity Trustees.

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 **agift in your will** or making **adonation 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](#) for more information or contact Maggie Conder at tpastoralteam.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

Lucy 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.