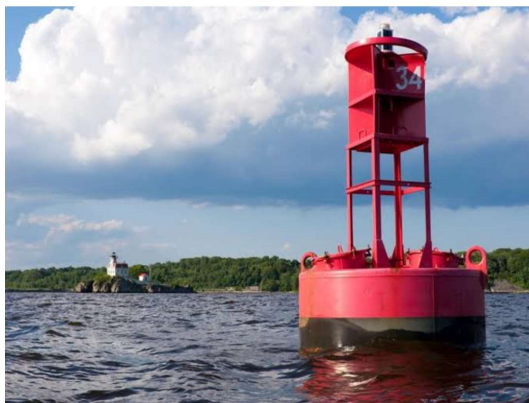




## Sunday 27th September 2026

### Harvest Festival



#### **Keeping on Course - with the doors wide open!**

Marker buoys in a river enable sailors to know where they are and to keep on course and, in a similar way, religious festivals serve as marker buoys for God's church enabling it to keep on course as its seasons come and go. Marker buoys and church festivals give us good cause for thankfulness and celebration!

We'll be celebrating our Harvest Festival at St Margaret's this Sunday, singing with gusto "we plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land" (even though I doubt if anyone in church will have ever ploughed a field in his/her life!), but the next line in this hymn: "it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand" reminds us both of our creator God and the fragility of His creation, as we've been reminded of this summer with heatwaves, drought, hosepipe bans and the

unprecedented number of wildfires.

Harvest is very much a time of thanksgiving but it's also one of repentance (turning around), of saying sorry for our individual/societal neglect of God's created order and of recommitment to making the carbon footprint of our lives as light as possible.

Another famous Harvest hymn, "Come ye Thankful People Come", includes the words "all is safely gathered in, 'ere the winters storms begin" which does rather imply a shutting of the barn doors and a hunkering down for the winter. But let us, this harvest time, do the opposite and throw wide open those barn doors to share with others what we have gathered in and, in doing so, we will be sharing with others the love of God.

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9.8)

George  
Lay Minister

September Prayer Diary

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.

### Saturday 26th September

9.30-11.00am Decorating the church for Harvest Festival - please see notice from Angie above

10-11.30am Together Extra

2pm Baptism

5- 7.30pm Bring & Share Harvest Supper 'Around the World'

### Sunday 27th September - Harvest festival

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Parish Worship (L)

6pm Choral evensong (L)

### Monday 28th September

9am School Service - Harvest Festival

**Tuesday 29th September**

8 am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 30th September**

9am No School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 1st October**~~8pm Choral Compline~~ CANCELLED**Friday 2nd October**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

**Saturday 3rd October**

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](#)

## Lectionary

**This Sunday**2 Corinthians 9.6-end ([KJV](#))([NRSVUE](#))Luke 12.16-30 ([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

**Harvest festival church decoration - 26th September (Today!)**

On Saturday 26th September 9.30-11.00am, we will be decorating the church for Harvest Festival. Just turn up on the day with your flowers/ foliage/ vegetable or anything else you wish to use. You will then be allocated a window sill. The car park will be open whilst we are arranging. All arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday October 10th. We look forward to seeing

some new arrangers as well as our regular arrangers. Thank you. *Angie Cable*  
*angiecable42@gmail.com*



# **Together at Harvest!**

**Saturday  
26<sup>th</sup> September  
10 - 11.30am**

***All are welcome to a special  
Harvest themed gathering***  
of our relaxed community for all  
ages. Join us in the Church Centre,  
for storytelling, activities, songs,  
prayer, all on a Harvest theme  
finishing with brunch together  
Please book via the QR code or link  
below

***Welcoming people of all faiths and none***





The poster is a vibrant, autumn-themed illustration. At the top, a banner of international flags (India, China, Mexico, Jamaica, France) is flanked by pumpkins and autumn leaves. The title 'Harvest Around the World in Food' is written in a mix of cursive and bold, colorful fonts. Below the title, a globe sits on a stand. The central text provides event details: DATE: Saturday 26th September, TIME: 5-7:30pm, and VENUE: St Margaret's Church Centre, Parking St Margaret's Primary School. It also encourages guests to 'Bring a dish to share' and 'Bring your own drinks'. A tag on the left reads 'A celebration of food, faith and community'. At the bottom, it asks guests to let Naomi know what they are bringing and includes the email Naomi\_wingrove@yahoo.com for more information. The background is filled with various food items like quinoa, samosas, hummus, and grapes, along with autumn leaves and a pumpkin.

# 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



# Harvest Festival

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

### 10am Harvest Parish Worship

A relaxed service led by our musicians with a themed talk and reading

### 6pm Choral Evensong

with traditional hymns and anthems, a reflective service at the end of a blessed day

*All are welcome*

*Donations for FIND Foodbank*

*Welcoming people of all faiths and none*



#### Volunteer Request for Fundraising Project

We are looking for a volunteer to help us set up easyfundraising which is a way of turning the everyday online shopping our congregation and supporters into funds for our Church! We are looking for some help setting it up as well as doing some promotion around it. For more information on easyfundraising please click [here](#). If interested please contact Lucy, Church administrator on [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com).

#### 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.

### 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.

### FIND Update

[FIND](#) continues to be exceptionally busy, supporting 8% more children than the previous quarter of the year. They are also supporting more families, and young people leaving care. Their monthly food bill is now around £5,000.

FIND are receiving fewer donations, so all items are gratefully received. I know it's a little way off but FIND are already preparing for Christmas and their wish list is below:

**Chocolates/Sweets**  
**Tubs of chocolates**  
**Boxes of biscuits**  
**Jelly**  
**Pickles**  
**Chutney**  
**Christmas puds**  
**Mince pies**  
**Coffee sachets**  
**Nice packets of biscuits**  
**Sachets of custard**  
**Evaporated milk**  
**Gravy granules/stock cubes**  
**Toiletry gift packs**  
**Vouchers for toys/ presents**

Donations of long life items can be made via the box at the back of church.

All fresh items from gardens and allotments can be donated by contacting FIND directly.

### Creationtide

[Creationtide](#) or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It's part of the

Church of England 'Environment' programme. The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on [Ezekiel 47:1-12](#). God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

### **Eco Church** 🏡

Are you interested in the environment, local wildlife or would like to help make our church more eco friendly? Or you may have seen our carbon footprint poster at the back of the church and wondered what it was all about? We have an "eco group" who are looking for some more volunteers to join them. Please contact Maggie Conder on [ecochurch.stmagips@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurch.stmagips@gmail.com).

### **Climate Emergency Briefing Film Screening**

Watch this space - Inga is arranging a screening of the Climate Emergency Briefing Film, to take place at St. Margaret's [Date TBC]



# ***Throne of Beauty***

***Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
7.30pm***

Pieces by celebrated women composers including Hildegard of Bingen, Judith Weir, Cecilia McDowall, Amy Beach, and others

Adults £16 Under 18's £8  
Scan QR code to purchase tickets or buy on the door. Refreshments available.



***Welcoming people of all faiths and none***





# W.I.N.E

**7.30pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**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 activities.

Please get in touch with the office at [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) for details about the first pop up!

***Welcoming people of all faiths and none***



## Growing Deeper



## Thanksgiving

For our toddler group, who meet each week in the church hall. For the warm welcome, support that is offered, and friendships that are formed in this space.

## Prayer

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

## 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: How do you heat your home?

As nights draw in and temperatures drop, this may be a good time to be thinking about how you might heat your home in the future. Gas and oil are increasingly unsatisfactory options as both emit greenhouse gases. Wood burning stoves, while carbon neutral in one respect, may involve a lot of carbon in transporting the logs to your home. They also pollute the air with particulates that are not good for your health. Heat pumps may be an answer (air or ground sourced). They are not a cheap option, but the long winter months may be a good time to investigate this method of heating. A battery is also worth looking in to, particularly if you have solar panels.

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

## Forthcoming Services and Events

### **Sunday 4th October**

8 am BCP Holy Communion  
10am Family Communion (L)  
6pm Prayer & Praise

### **Tuesday 6th October**

8 am Morning Prayer  
3pm Christchurch Court Holy Communion

### **Wednesday 7th October**

9am School Service  
12 pm Holy Communion

### **Thursday 8th October**

8pm Choral Compline (L)

### **Friday 9th October**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

### **Sunday 11th October**

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

### **Tuesday 13th October**

8 am Morning Prayer

### **Wednesday 14th October**

9am School Service  
12 pm Holy Communion

### **Friday 16th October**

8 am Morning Prayer in church

### **Saturday 17th October**

8.30am Men's Breakfast

### **Save The Dates**

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](#).

For everyone working hard to contribute toward Harvest Festival at our church this weekend. **Contact us:**

**Revd Sarah Geileskey - Vicar**

Email: [revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07495 759203

**Office**

Email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday 9.30am - 1.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm (Office closed Tuesday 22nd due to A/L)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)