



## Sunday 28th June 2026

### Trinity 4



#### **'Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie'**

This is the title of the late African-American poet Maya Angelou's first book of poetry published in 1971. The phrase is drawn directly from her poetry which in this collection uses the physical agony of intense thirst as a powerful metaphor for deep longing and survival, her work exploring themes of oppression, racism, misogyny and abuse. Another famous quotation attributed to her is along the lines of 'they may not remember what you said, but they'll remember how you made them feel', a reminder that compassion and empathy must always come first, before teaching, peace, justice or resurrection.

I offered glasses of cold water to those who happen to knock on my door this week, in this heat it was a kind and obvious thing to do. Compassionate too. No doubt many of you will have done the same. They didn't all accept the offer, but I hope it made them feel appreciated, cared for.

Our gospel reading this week calls on us to offer a cup of cold water in Jesus name to the little ones around us. Those most in need. Those most vulnerable. Refreshing water. Life giving water. Water that we begin to appreciate in new ways as more than ever we are experiencing the consequences of climate change and the reality of what many of our neighbours across the world have been living with for some time, including friends in our link diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. Does it take a heatwave to bring us to our senses? Perhaps we need to reprove the ice-bucket challenge of a few years ago, then raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, now instead to

shock us not only into greater compassion for all God's people but also greater compassion for the planet that God has entrusted to our care.

Vicar Sarah

[June Prayer Diary](#)

[July 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.

### Sunday 28th June

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Worship (L)

6pm Choral Evensong (L)

### Tuesday 30th June

8 am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 1st July

9am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

### Thursday 2nd July

8pm Choral Compline (L)

### Friday 3rd July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### Saturday 4th July

8.30am Men's Breakfast in Church Centre

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

Romans 6.12-23 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 10.40-42 ([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

## Music News

### Make a Joyful Noise! This Monday

Do you play an instrument or enjoy singing? Come along and join in - the next session will take place in church on the **29th June, from 7- 8.30pm**. For more details email [music.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:music.stmagsips@gmail.com)

## Choir

Please keep in your prayers our organist and choir director, Christopher Tinker, whose initial surgery to treat pancreatic cancer went according to plan. We are looking forward to Amanda Lockyer joining us regularly while Christopher is recuperating, with John Cooper and Theo Geileskey helping out from time to time. Choir practice where possible will 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](mailto:music.stmagsips@gmail.com)

## Ipswich Music Day

We are again hosting musicians as part of the free music festival across Christchurch Park on Sunday 5th July 2026. Please refer to the flyer below for more information. This year we plan to serve refreshments to raise money for Church funds. It would be lovely to offer cakes with the drinks; please contact Alison if you could provide a cake or offer help on the day. Many thanks Alison. [alisonthurtle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonthurtle@hotmail.co.uk)

## 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?'**

## Archidiaconal Boundary Review

In the Church of England structures, St Margaret's Church is a 'single parish benefice'. We are one of 12,500 individual charities that make up the Church of England. We have a relationship with The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the national Church of England (including General Synod - elected by members of Deanery Synods) and The Charity Commission.

A 'Benefice' may consist of one or more parishes which are governed by a Parochial Church Council (PCC).

A group of Benefices form a Deanery (with people elected by PCCs to meet as a Deanery Synod)). A group of Deaneries form an Archdeaconry, with a number of Archdeaconries forming a Diocese, of which there are 42 in the Church of England. Clergy members of Diocesan Synods are elected by clergy, non-ordained (lay) members of Diocesan Synod are elected by lay members of Deanery Synod). With the exception of the Lowestoft area which is in Norwich Diocese, the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich largely covers the civic County of Suffolk, itself divided into boroughs, districts, towns and parishes.

In Suffolk there are three Archdeaconries: Suffolk, Sudbury and Ipswich. Ipswich is unique in the Church of England - there is currently only one deanery in the Archdeaconry of Ipswich. The archidiaconal boundaries are currently being reviewed with the expectation that by the end of this year, our Bishop will redistribute the existing 16 deaneries, around 120 stipendiary clergy and other ministers, 480+ churches and 680,000+ people more equitably among the three Archdeacons.

If you have any thoughts or observations you would like to share with the Vicar about this we can make sure they are part of the process that determines the new boundaries.

## Pentecostal Pray-ers

Remember that our lay reader George is gathering names of those who are interested in engaging with a prayerful push to pray. We have a good number signed up already but George hasn't yet reached his prophetic 50 pray-ers. Do email him at [reader.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:reader.stmagsips@gmail.com) to find out more.

Rev Sarah

## Feedback following the changes to our worshipping pattern

Thank you to those of you who shared your thoughts and observations regarding the new worship pattern that was introduced in January. The PCC will give it further thought when they meet in July. In the meantime, given the low numbers attending, I will no longer be running a monthly zoom compline service

on the fourth Thursday of the month and the Wednesday evening prayer meeting is also stopping with immediate effect.

Rev Sarah



**OPEN TABLE**  
Come as you are

# Open Table

# Eucharist

This service is for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome people of any faith or background, every gender identity and sexual orientation.

All are welcome, but please respect that this service is created to be a safe, sacred space for those who need it.

**Sunday 28 June at 5.00 pm**

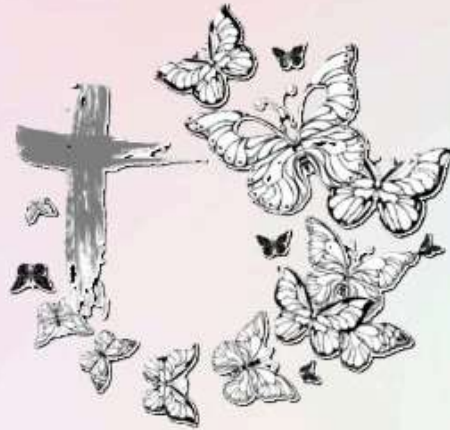
**we are pleased to welcome Bishop Joanne to this service**

St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



# **United in Solace and Grace**

Sunday 28 June 4pm



**A reflective service for survivors of abuse,  
supporters and professionals.**

**We do not ask why you come**

Holy Trinity Church  
Back Hamlet  
Ipswich  
IP3 8AJ

If you would like more information contact  
Ali 07955 279983



# Ipswich Music Day

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

We love being a venue for this free event in the Ipswich calendar.

**1pm**  
Welcome and Introduction

**1.10-1.55pm**  
South Suffolk Youth Jazz

**2.05-2.35pm**  
Ipswich Choral Society

**2.40-3.10pm**  
Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

**3.15-3.45pm**  
Felixstowe Harmonies

**3.50-4.35pm**  
Martlesham Brass

office.stmagsips@gmail.com  
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk  
*welcoming people of all faiths and none*



**St. Margaret's Church**  
IPSWICH

### Summer HolyDay, Saturday 18th July 10-4pm

A day out in Bury St Edmunds! With worship, activities and time to explore. Details on the website [here](#) (or later in this newsletter). To register your interest, please click [here](#).



# Sat 18<sup>th</sup> July We're all going on a Summer HolyDay

## A grand day out in Bury St Edmunds

We'll make our way there either by train or in cars, arriving at the Cathedral from 10.30am with friends from Ipswich All Hallows and Lindbergh Road churches for tea and coffee. At 11am we'll worship together in the Lady Chapel before spending the day at leisure, on retreat or joining in with various activities:

- reflective tour with a Cathedral pilgrim guide
- walk the labyrinth
- lunch in Abbey Gardens (bring a picnic/rug)
- explore the ancient abbey ruins
- 2pm in the Cathedral - a special time for families with younger children
- Choral Evensong 3.30-4.15pm

Please register your interest! QR code or go to:  
<https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/events/5asvs05>

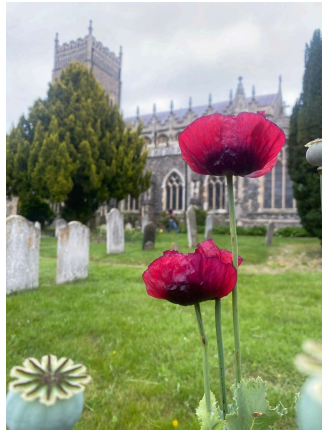


office.stmagsips@gmail.com  
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk  
*welcoming people of all faiths and none*



## Growing Deeper





## Thanksgiving

Giving thanks for health and emergency services in our community, and the ways both have looked after our community in the recent heatwave. Giving thanks for our beautiful church building, for the cool sanctuary it provides during hot weather and for the children of St Margaret's Primary school for whom the church became a cool classroom space this week.

## Prayer

Praying for all candidates preparing for ordination at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday, 27th June.

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Wootton Drive, Henley Road, and Henley 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 : Make more use of 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 5th July

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

## Tuesday 7th July

8 am Morning Prayer  
 3pm Communion at Christchurch Court

## Wednesday 8th July

9am School service  
 12 pm Holy Communion  
~~7pm Prayer meeting~~

## Friday 10th July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

## Sunday 12th July

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

## Monday 13th July

School concert - all day

## Tuesday 14th July

8 am Morning Prayer

## Wednesday 15th July

9am School service  
 12 pm Holy Communion followed by soup  
 2pm School service - Leaver's service

## Thursday 16th July

3.15-5pm Together

## Friday 17th July

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

## Saturday 18th July

8.30am Men's breakfast  
 10-4pm Summer HolyDay / Day Trip/ Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds with friends from All Hallows Church to include a special service in the Cathedral led by the All Hallows and St Margaret's community, the opportunity to explore Bury St Edmunds for fun, picnics and/or reflective retreat time and the chance to finish the day attending Choral Evensong in the Cathedral. Please sign up using [this link](#).

Rev Helen will return from curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds) at the beginning of July.

# 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](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.stmagsjps@gmail.com](mailto:reader.stmagsjps@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07990 573258

**George's quiet days tend to be Wednesdays and Fridays.**

## Churchwardens

Bart Bisbal

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

Telephone: 07495 759203

## Office

Email: [office.stmagsjps@gmail.com](mailto:office.stmagsjps@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](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>