



Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday



Image: origin unknown

From Hosanna to Crucify!

Palm Sunday and Holy Week. A rollercoaster of emotions. A picture of the reality of life that can change very quickly, and the life of the world around us too. We may not be at war, but we are not at peace as we enter in to Holy Week this year.

In this week that we call 'holy' we experience it all: a sacred meal with loved ones, an unexpected arrest and trial, we witness suffering, injustice and death, we wait, the future unknown. Is it the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?

All of life... lived in just one week.

Every year we read the same scriptures and yet, we hear them differently. Though the story doesn't change, we do. We are not the same people we were when we read them last year. Our world is not the same world as it was last year. There has been a whole year of growth and change, new joys, new sorrows. Yet still the stories we hear this week resonate in our own lives and in the life of the world around us.

This week is a rollercoaster ride, if we enter in to it wholeheartedly. Experience all of it.

We don't know what lies ahead around the bend - we only have now. And today prepares us for all that is to come tomorrow. All that we can know of the future is that God will be with us. So let us choose this week to spend time with God who brings hope, come what may.

[March Prayer Diary](#)

[April 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 29th March - Palm Sunday (clocks go forward)

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Parish Procession (L)

~~6 pm - No evening service~~

This Week

Monday 30th March

7 pm Time Out - Reflection and meditation (30 minutes)

Tuesday 31st March

8 am Morning prayer

7 pm Time Out - Reflection and meditation (30 minutes)

Wednesday 1st April

12 pm Holy Communion (no soup lunch afterward)

7 pm Time Out - Reflection and meditation (30 minutes)

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

7 pm Holy Communion remembering the washing of feet and The Last Supper followed by prayer vigil 'could you not keep watch for one hour?'

Good Friday - 3rd April

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

10 am Good Friday - Café Church with hot cross buns and Walk of Witness from Church Centre to Church

3 pm Good Friday - Tenebrae Service - Fauré's Requiem with candles and the poetry of Andrea Skevington on The Seven Last Words of Christ.

Holy Saturday - 4th April

8.30 am Men's Breakfast

2-4pm in the Church Centre, Gladwyn Room. Reflection, creative response and journaling.

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

8am Service

Philippians 2.5-11 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 21.1-11 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

10am Service

Matthew 21.1-11 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 26.14- 27.1-end ([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

Section to be updated

FIND Foodbank - Supplies Needed

If you are shopping for the food bank this week, as ever, much gratitude. Tea, soup and drinking chocolate are currently in short supply - so if you're in a position to top up the shelves, your gifts would be gratefully received. Thank you.

Parish Share - Thank you from the Diocese

We have received a huge thank you for all we give to enable God's mission to be resourced across this Diocese. A new guide explains how parish share is used: almost 81% supports parishes by providing and supporting lay and ordained ministers alongside essential practice services and resources including safeguarding training and advice, newsletters and training opportunities.

If you'd like to receive the weekly diocesan eNews, [sign up here](#).

To see the new Parish Share Guide, pick up a copy in church or [download an electronic copy here](#).

Installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury at Canterbury Cathedral

This Wednesday, 25th March 2026, the new Archbishop will be installed in Canterbury Cathedral. Television coverage on BBC1 starts at 2.30pm, with the service beginning at 3pm. Our Vicar will be attending the service. Do keep Archbishop Sarah and the whole church in your prayers.

Confirmation

Have you thought about confirmation? Do you think it's for you, or something you might consider? The Cathedral is holding a Diocese Confirmation Service on the 3rd of May, and there is likely to be an Ipswich deanery confirmation service taking place later in the year.

I'm going to be running some preparation sessions soon (no obligation to be confirmed if you aren't sure!) , so if you are thinking about confirmation, please do speak to me.

Thanks, Rev Helen

Spring Clean - 28th March 9.30 am-12 pm

Please come and lend a hand to spring clean the church and sort out the cupboards. Plenty of jobs so pop in for half an hour or come all morning. Please don't rely on someone else doing this - many hands will make light work. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. You might even be entrusted with the extra long feather duster that reaches to the clerestory windows.

Rev Sarah

Easter Lilies

Angie Cable writes

"Easter is a time when we traditionally remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. It has become our tradition that we have an Easter Lillies arrangement on the altar and if anyone would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please put your money clearly marked "EASTER LILLIES" in an envelope and put it in the collection. Please do not give to Angie, it needs to go to our Church Treasurer, John Grierson. We would like to receive your donations before Palm Sunday 29th March please. Thank you."

PCC Meeting Tuesday 24th March at 7pm

The next (and last) meeting of the current Church Council will be taking place in the Church Centre at 7pm on Tuesday, 24th March. On the agenda for discussion will include the Accounts for the year ending 2025, the consultation on the reorganisation of the three Archdeaconries in this Diocese, Admission to Communion for children, some reflection on Living in Love and faith and prayers of blessing for couples in same sex relationships for use during services.

After four years in the role, this will be Margaret Woodward's last meeting as our churchwarden as she stands down at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April 2026.

Please have a word with Rev Sarah if you are thinking about joining in with this important aspect of our church life.

Easter Church Decorating

We will be decorating our Church ready for Easter Sunday on Saturday 4th April from 9.30 until 11.30. The car park will be open for our use.

Please bring your greenery, flowers, plants etc to Church and you will be allocated a space on the day. We look forward to seeing our regular arrangers and hope that we will be welcoming some new arrangers, there is always someone to help, so please don't let that stop you from coming along and giving it a go. I was told by a very good Church flower arranger many years ago, "that it doesn't matter what it looks like, God knows it was done with love". I have never forgotten that.

All arrangements must be cleared on or before Saturday 18th April.

Thank you for your continuing support and look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Angie Cable

Annual Parochial Church Meeting APCM - Sunday 26th April 2026 10am

Last year our annual parish church meeting was woven into our worship, meeting before God, giving thanks for all that has happened over the last year whilst prayerfully committing ourselves to serve God and neighbour in the coming year. This time it will include:

- Vestry Meeting : the election of up to 2 church wardens for the year ahead - ideally St Margaret's Church needs a warden team to oversee many aspects of the management, maintenance and ministry of St Margaret's Church. Wardens (and helpers) will be commissioned by Archdeacon Sam at a special service at St Bartholomew's on Wednesday 10th June at 7pm.
- APCM :
 - the election of 3 Deanery Synod representatives to serve for 3 years. They will also be members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council). These three people will represent St Margaret's at the three Deanery Synod meetings each year and will be eligible to vote in the Diocesan elections to General Synod later in the year (note anyone on an electoral roll can stand for General Synod).
 - the election of 3 PCC members to serve for 3 years (one vacant role with John Grierson and Peta Lowin having served for a 3 year term).

To be eligible to vote and to stand for election, or to nominate others, you must be on the electoral roll. If you have come to St Margaret's over the last year or so, or have moved into the parish, you will need to complete an application form.

All the forms you need will be at the back of the church from Sunday, 22nd March. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please email the church office.

Reports for the APCM

The agenda and papers for the APCM, including last year's church accounts, will be published Saturday 11th April. If you usually write a report for the APCM, please ensure it is sent to revsarageileskey@gmail.com before Easter. Many thanks!



Ringling the Changes

April 2026: the end of an era

Following eons of dedicated and faithful service to the ringing, teaching and maintenance of bells at St Margaret's Church, John Girt will soon be retiring from the role of Tower Captain / Ringing Master. Though Roger Coley has ably assisted of late, he will not be taking on this role, so the search is now on for someone new.

In due course there will be an opportunity to thank both John, and Shirley for her support.

Please commend this to your prayers: that the bell tower's ringing and teaching facilities along with the newly refurbished handbells will continue to ring to God's glory.

The Bellringers are already thinking about 'what next'. If you are interested in finding out more please speak with John Girt, Tower Captain on 01473 724858 or revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com 07841 687879.

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St. Margaret's Church
I P S W I C H



Journey through the Cross

Palm Sunday to Good Friday

Palm Sunday 29th March

8am BCP Holy Communion Service

10am Palm Sunday Service walking from Christchurch Park (Mansion) or begin in church

Mon 30th, Tue 31st March & Weds 1st April

7pm in Church: Time Out

Thirty minutes of reflection and contemplation as we travel from Palm Praise to Passover & Passion..

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7pm Holy Communion followed by optional vigil.

"Will you keep watch for just one hour?"

Good Friday 3rd April

10am-11am Café Church (Church Centre).

2-3pm 'The Last Hour': 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' with the music of Fauré's Requiem.

Holy Saturday 4th April

2pm-4pm Following a short reflection, a chance to rest, pray, wait, journal, create, or write in response to the emptiness of Holy Saturday.

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Greater love hath no one than this; that he lay down his life for his friends.

Palm Sunday

10am 29th April 2026

You have a decision to make.

Begin in the park, on the green in front of Christchurch Mansion as we receive palms and offer prayers in worship. We then follow the cross to the church, praising and singing Hosanna to the King of Kings as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding on a colt.

Or, begin the service in church with prayers, hymns and readings as palm crosses are blessed.

We all join together in the church to stage The Passion - what happened in the days after Palm Sunday?

Refreshments will be served after the service.

All Welcome.

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Mon 30th & Tue 31st
 March & Wed 1st April 2026

Time Out

7-7.30 pm Contemplation
 reflection and meditation

Thirty minutes daily for three days.

A brief reflection.

Space for music.

Space for poetry.

Space for image.

Space for silence.

Space for prayer.

Space for meditation.

Space for contemplation.

Space to hear and to receive God's Word.

All Welcome.

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St. Margaret's Church
 IPSWICH
 SOANE STREET



2nd April 2026

Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

followed by one-hour prayer vigil

A new commandment I give to you. As I have loved you, you also should love one another.

We see humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist at Christ's Last Supper with the disciples and the perfection of Christ's loving obedience which begins in the

Garden of Gethsemane:

'could you not watch with me one hour?'

With readings, prayers, music, Communion and the stripping of the church of all decoration.

All are called. All are welcome.

*Love
one
another.*

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Come and Sing

Fauré's Requiem

Good Friday, 3rd April 2026

Rehearse in Church from 12.00 pm

Good Friday Service 2pm-3pm

We'd love you to fill this beautiful church with your voice on this most sacred of days.

Directed by Dr Christopher Tinker (St Margaret's Church) and accompanied by organist Amanda Lockyer.

Parking in St Margaret's School, Bolton Lane.

Bring your lunch.

Wear all black concert dress.

To secure your place: c.tinker@uwclub.net

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3rd April 2026

Good Friday

10-11am Café Church

with optional silent walk to Church
for prayer & reflection.

We gather for hot cross buns and conversation
in the Church Centre. Songs, activities...
an opportunity to reflect on the momentous
events of Good Friday.

At around 10.50, for those who would like to
join in we will then walk together in near silence
from the Church Centre, to the Church -
carrying the cross that bears the name
Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

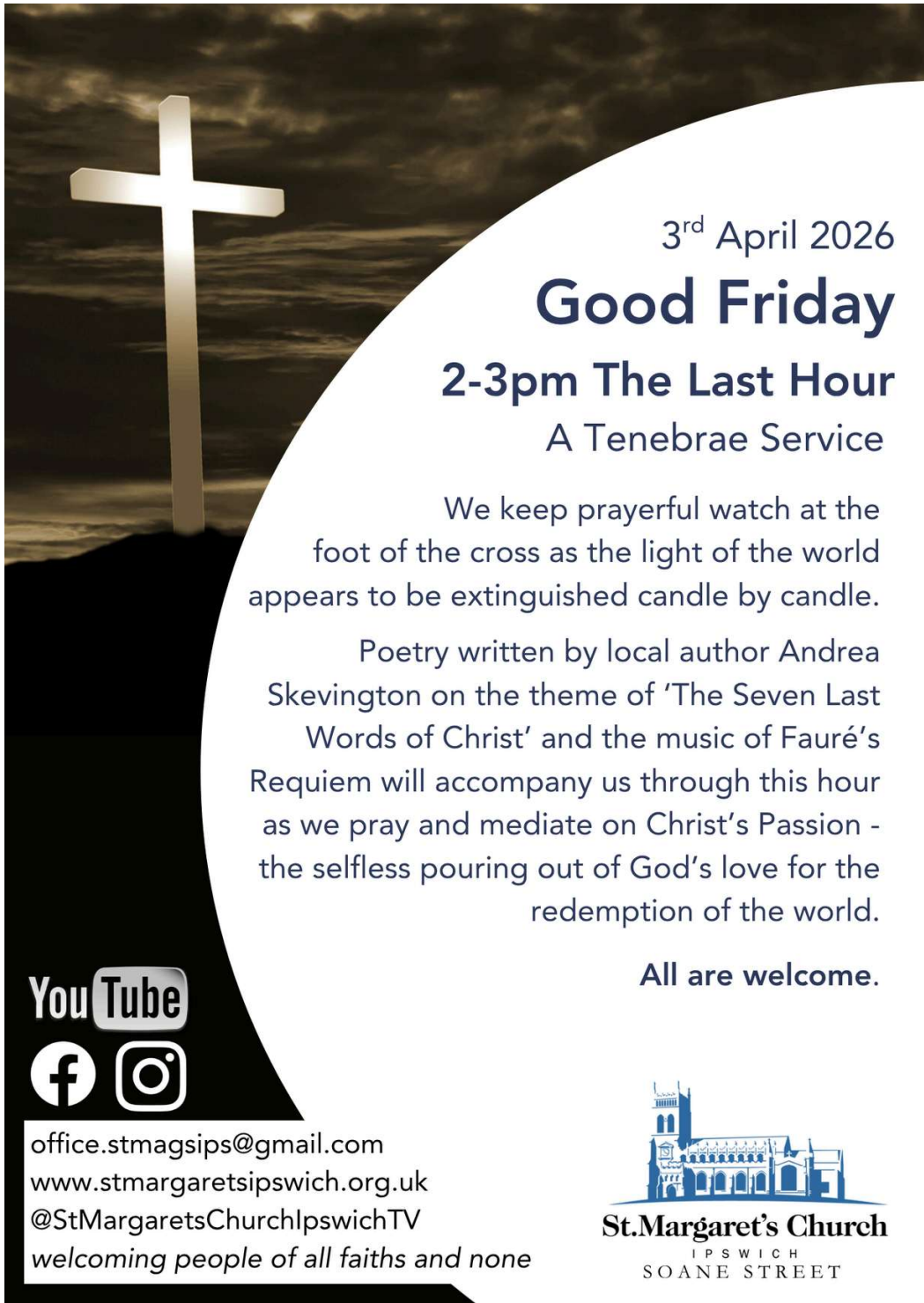
All are welcome.

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3rd April 2026

Good Friday

2-3pm The Last Hour

A Tenebrae Service

We keep prayerful watch at the foot of the cross as the light of the world appears to be extinguished candle by candle.

Poetry written by local author Andrea Skevington on the theme of 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' and the music of Fauré's Requiem will accompany us through this hour as we pray and meditate on Christ's Passion - the selfless pouring out of God's love for the redemption of the world.

All are welcome.

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Holy Saturday

4th April 2 - 4 pm

The middle time, a quiet space
in the Church Centre,
Gladwyn Room

Following the devastation of Good Friday
and the joy of Easter Sunday why not come
and spend some quiet time during the
in-between time of Holy Saturday.

We will start with a short address, then have
time to reflect, in our own ways.
Do bring your own journals, books or
projects, there will be materials and
refreshments available too.

We will end with a short discussion and
prayers

For more information, contact or speak to
Rev Helen helenptstmags@gmail.com.

events.stmagsips@gmail.com
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St. Margaret's Church
IPSWICH
SOANE STREET

Easter Sunday Daybreak Service

5th April 2026 at 6.15am
outside in the churchyard

We gather around a fire in the churchyard garden to welcome the Light of the World and to light the Paschal Candle.

We hear the gospel reading of Mary's encounter with 'The Gardener'.

We fling wide the doors of the church to celebrate the resurrection!

We sing praises.

We rejoice with prayers of thanksgiving.

We share breakfast together:
hot drinks and and bacon sandwiches.
vegan and gluten-free food available.

All Welcome!

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5th April 2026

Easter Sunday Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

6.15am Daybreak Service

We gather around a fire in the churchyard garden to welcome the Light of the World and fling wide the doors of the church to celebrate the resurrection! Service followed by coffee and breakfast, including bacon sandwiches.

8am Holy Communion

A 30-minute said Communion service in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer. All welcome.

10am Festive Communion

With fabulous Easter hymns, music led by the choir and the service followed by refreshments and an egg hunt we will celebrate and give thanks that Christ is Risen!

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN IPSWICH TOWN CENTRE



ECUMENCIAL CHRISTIAN WALK OF WITNESS: April 3rd 2026

Meet 9.45 at Museum Street Methodist Church:
(Black Horse Lane entrance)
a silent yet prayerful walk of witness,
(along Westgate Street and Tavern Street)
stopping for Bible readings, prayers and hymns,
(including on Cornhill)
ending 10.45 at ChristChurch Tacket Street.

Everyone is warmly invited to be part of this witness.

Growing Deeper





Thanksgiving

For Messy Church this week - giving thanks for Norwood and Park Manor communities. We give thanks for these activities and pray for the team who bear the joys and sorrows of being with friends and comforting staff and one another in their losses.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Kettlebaston Way, Bildeston Gardens and Brettenham Crescent.

If you are praying for the war in the Middle East and the continuing war against Ukraine, these words may be helpful:

God of mercy, look with compassion
on all who are affected by the conflict.
Grant insight to hardened hearts,
comfort to the fearful,
protection to those in danger,
and hope to those who are despairing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Support

Remember our Pastoral Team are 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 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

Plastic straws take 100 – 500 years to break down in the environment so why not swap to bamboo straws which can be re-used and thrown in the compost heap when you want to dispose of them. If you enjoy sipping your drink through a straw, bamboo is the eco-friendly alternative to plastic.

With thanks to Revd Richard Stainer for his weekly tips.

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

- 6.15 am Daybreak service
- 8 am BCP Holy Communion
- 10 am Family Communion
- ~~6 pm no evening service~~

Tuesday 7th April

- 8 am: Morning Prayer
- 3.30pm: Christchurch Court Communion

Wednesday 8th April

- 12 pm Holy Communion
- 7 pm Prayer Meeting

Friday 10th April

- 8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday 12th April

- 8 am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Café Church

Tuesday 14th April

- 8 am: Morning Prayer
- 3.30pm: Christchurch Court Communion

Wednesday 15th April

- 12 pm Holy Communion
- 7 pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday 16th April

- 3.15 - 5 pm: Together (in the Church Centre)

Friday 17th April

- 8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 18th April

- 8.30-10.30 am Men's Breakfast (in the Church Centre)

Save the Dates

Saturday 6th June

10am - 4pm Creative Retreat Day in Church including a light lunch.

Saturday 18th July

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.

Rev Helen will be on a curate placement with Lark Valley and North Bury Team in Thingoe Deanery (combining part of the town and surrounding villages of Bury St Edmunds) from the end of May until 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 - Priest-in-Charge

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

Margaret Woodward

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

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 taking the opportunity to rationalise email addresses. With immediate effect, please use office.stmagsips@gmail.com for all correspondence. The verger.stmagsips@gmail.com will be monitored until the end of August. There is a plan in place to maintain the current office opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 9.30am - 2.30pm. However, 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>