

Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 30th November First Sunday of Advent



Behold I am making all things new!

I imagine many of you will be familiar with the first part of Minnie Louise Haskins' 1908 poem entitled 'God Knows', but what about the second part? It's worth reflecting on as we begin a new church year and enter into the Advent season.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will Is best. The stretch of years Which wind ahead, so dim To our imperfect vision, Are clear to God. Our fears Are premature; In Him, All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

Revd Sarah

November Prayer Diary

December Prayer Diary

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 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Family Communion - We welcome Archdeacon Samantha for The Licensing of Revd Sarah Geileskey as Vicar

6.30pm Advent Carol Service - with candlelight, carols and anthems, scripture and poetry.

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 will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

Lectionary

This Sunday
8 am BCP Holy Communion
Romans 13.8-14
Matthew 21.1-13
10 am Family Communion & Licensing of Vicar
Isaiah 2.1-5
Matthew 24.36, 42-44

Church News

Click here to jump to information about the Refreshing Worship changes to services and services times taking place from January 2026.

Scroll down too for information about Advent and Christmas.

Today: Saturday 29th November

11.00-12.45 Together - in the church centre. A service with reflective story telling, creative response and food. Especially suitable for children and their families though of course, all are welcome.

From 'Priest-in-Charge' to Vicar: 10am Advent Sunday 30th November We look forward to this service as a celebration of the life of St Margaret's Church as we begin a new church year and a new season, preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with u.. It will be such a joy to see everyone gathering together.



Christmas Leaflet Delivery

Thank you for prayerfully walking throughout the parish to distribute the Christmas leaflets. Do check if there are any more that you can take home from Church with you to deliver and do share them among friends and neighbours further afield too. If you don't yet have a copy for 'your fridge', they include the new service times from January 2026.

The leaflet posted through the vicarage door included a personal and helpful reminder for the Vicar!



Advent Calendars

...of sorts... this year we'll be reading a chapter of Luke's gospel every day - keep an eye on our <u>Facebook page</u> daily between 1st and 24th December to read along.

There are also Advent Bags for children and families to collect from church with a special activity for each week of advent so do pick one up while stocks last. Thanks to the Cornerstone group and Rev Helen for preparing them for us.

Christmas Sparkle

If your child is in reception classes at St Margaret's School there is an opportunity to drop in to the Church Centre for a cuppa and catchup on Tuesday - ask Pippa Jacob or Rev Helen for details.





Advent Breakfast - Saturday 13th December at 9.00am

To book your tickets <u>click here</u>, scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: <u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u> phone or text 07833 609661.



Advent Zoom Group - Gospel of Luke Tuesdays 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec. at 7.00pm

To book your tickets <u>click here</u>, scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: <u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u> phone or text 07833 609661.

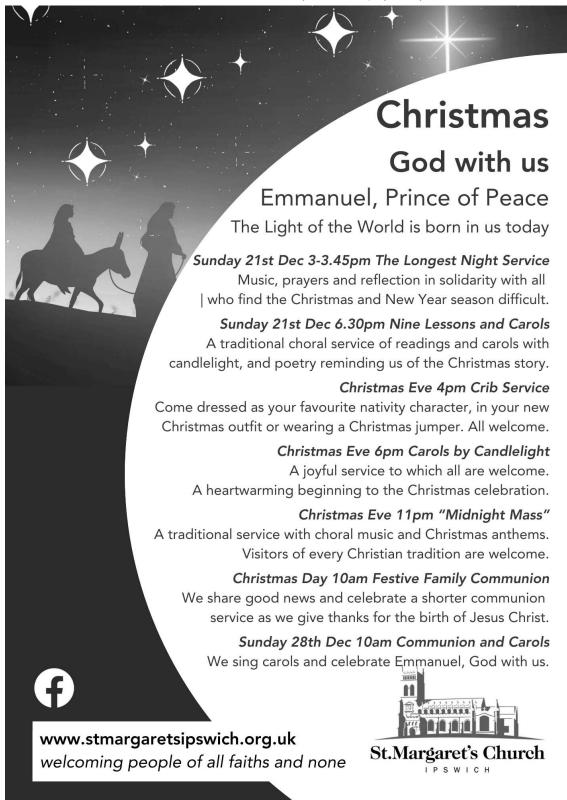


CANCELLED

Hexachordia Concert - Sunday 7th December at 4.00pm

Sadly this concert will not now go ahead following the news this week that lutist and trio-member Tony Scheurigger has died. As we give thanks for his life and for the gift of music, our prayers are with Jane, his wife and also with the third member of the trio, Sarah Doig.









Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both



Season 2025/2026

Dec 4th Has the Church of England passed its 'use by' date?
Father John Thackray

Dec 11th Seasonal Music

The Belstead Singers; conductor Jenny Jones

Dec 18th Food, Singing and Readings to celebrate Advent

and Christmas

Jan 8th Hearing dogs for Deaf People

Malcolm Taylor and guest, with dog



Member of the St Margaret's congregation, Victoria Wyatt, is involved in this event and invites you to join in, as you can.

Refreshing Worship: 2026 Service Patterns

Following reflection and discussion at PCC Meetings in February, June and September 2025 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been considering changes to the worshipping

pattern at St Margaret's Church. The PCC spent October 2025 listening to the church and wider community before meeting on 4th November 2025 to finally discern a new pattern of worship to be introduced from January 2026.

Six (6) opportunities for conversation and listening took place in person, with more than twenty (20) emails received and numerous informal conversations. Helpful feedback was received from over 35 individuals, some representing households and families, thus increasing the numbers of people who actively joined in the conversation. Revd Sarah also attended both choir and bell ringing practices. The feedback across the board was thoughtful and varied, though understandably sometimes contradictory. At all times the conversation was carefully considered, often with regard for the needs of others. The listening has informed adjustments to the PCCs original proposals.

During their deliberations the PCC recognised that a refreshed pattern of worship will not meet every individual's preference and that it will take time for the changes to settle in. Members of the PCC remarked on the willingness to welcome change, particularly the number of individuals who recognised the sacrificial need to make space for others and to find ways of worshipping together more often. It is hoped that the refreshed worshipping patterns will allow those worshipping at St Margaret's now, and those who will join in the coming weeks and years, to grow younger, to grow in spiritual depth and to grow in number. We continue to keep all of this in our prayers.

Revd Sarah

Priest-in-Charge & Chair of PCC 8th November 2025

Printed copies of this will be available in church from Sunday 9th November, with accompanying notes. Sunday services will take place at 8am, 10am and 6pm. Midweek Worship will include a weekly 12pm service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays. Children & families are welcome to all services — those marked * are usually particularly well received. For people who prefer a quieter, less noisy environment — the services marked + are usually well received.

Sunday Morning Worship

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5th Sunday			
	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month			
8 am	Holy Communion + according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). A service in traditional language with readings from The Authori							
(services 35	Version (King James Version) of the Bible in accordance with the Church of England's published version of the 3-year Revised Commo							
minutes)	Lectionary							
10 am (services no longer than 1 hour)	Family Communion * Iivestreamed A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church' returning from the church centre to receive Communion and to share learning. The choir sing an introit, the Eucharistic prayer responses and lead an alternating choir/ congregational-led Gloria. Opening and closing hymns are accessible to the whole church family. There are 2 readings with a gradual hymn. Prayers of healing / anointing with oil during distribution of Communion. Refreshments follow after the service.	Café Church * In church centre Breakfast is served from 10am. Gathering around tables with singing, prayers, activities to explore faith and going deeper faith-conversations. Closing prayer and song. Occasional informal Communion. With appropriate seating and picnic blankets, where possible Café Church will take place in the churchyard in summer months.	Family Communion * livestreamed A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church' returning from the church centre to receive Communion and to share learning. The choir sing an introit, the Eucharistic prayer responses and lead an alternating choir/ congregational-led Gloria. Opening and closing hymns are accessible to the whole church family. There are 2 readings with a gradual hymn. Refreshments follow after the service.	Sunday Worship * Beginning by sharing God's peace with one another, we sing, hear readings and tell the stories of faithful living. With a deeply reflective story followed by prayers of intercession, the service concludes with a blessing. Refreshments follow during which time ministers will be available for individual prayer and a discussion group open to all will explore the service themes more fully.	Parish Praise * Livestreamed A morning service with gathering prayers and confession, 2 readings, a talk and prayers of intercession. This service will either include Holy Communion or a Baptism. There will be a focus on singing during this service, and a short talk. Refreshments follow after the service.			

Sunday Evening Worship

	1st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5th Sunday
	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month
брт	Prayer & Praise * A service with contemporary worship songs, the possibility of extended prayers and an exploration of scripture and faith through a talk, an interview or a visiting speaker. This informal service will last 45 minutes.	Choral Communion + livestreamed A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church in a bag' for young people in the pew. This service will last just over an hour. The choir sing an introit and the Kyries/Gloria (in season). There are 3 readings with a sung psalm before the Gospel reading.	Time Out + A 45-minute service of prayer, meditation and contemplation in the Celtic, Taizé or similar style with occasional informal Communion.	Choral Evensong + livestreamed A 40-minute service of sung Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). With hymns, psalms, readings and a short sermon, this choral service is an opportunity to prayerfully and meditatively reflect at the end of the day.	

Weekday Worship

Monday	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5		
Quiet day							
Tuesday							
8am (30 mins)	Moming Prayer + D	aily Prayer according to th	ne pattern of Common Worshi	p: a said service with praye	rs, psalms and readings.		
3.30pm	[Holy Communion at Christchurch Court]						
Wednesday							
9am	[School Service during term time]						
12pm (35 mins)	Holy Communion + A weekly spoken service using the 'red' Common Worship Communion books (in nave or chapel). Includes a 'thought for the day'. On the first Wednesday of the month, prayers for healing and wholeness will be included, along with the offer of priestly anointing with oil. As this community grows, there will be opportunities for people to join in readings and leading prayers.						
7pm (up to 45 mins)		Prayer Gathering + A chance to explore prayer and to pray.					
Thursday							
3.15/3.30 after school (approx. 90 minutes)			Together * Church Centre Songs and prayers, Godly Play, activities and a shared warm meal.				
8pm (20 minutes)	Compline + livestreamed Night prayers sung by the choir.			Compline + zoom An online service of night prayer.			
Friday							
8am (30 mins)	Morning Prayer + D	aily Prayer according to th	ne pattern of Common Worshi	p: a said service with praye	rs, psalms and readings.		
Saturday		No.					
8.30am	Men's Breakfast		Men's Breakfast				
(90 minutes)	Food and fellowship followed by worship		Food and fellowship followed by worship				

Notes on the outcomes of Listening Conversations

- 1. Times of services will be simple and consistent, in a reliable pattern. Services on Sunday will take place weekly at 8am, 10am and 6pm throughout the year. The 10am services that include Holy Communion will usually last no longer than 1 hour, others will last 45 minutes. Services of 30 minutes will take place at 12pm on Wednesdays every week. Other services will be monthly, where possible beginning 'on the hour'.
- 2. Services will usually follow the Church of England's Common Worship 3-year cycle of lectionary of readings based on the Revised Common Lectionary. At the 8am service the readings will be read in traditional language from the Authorised King James Version, with the corresponding appointed collect prayer for the day also in traditional language (the same collect in traditional language will be sung at Evensong). At other services, the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) will usually be read. On occasion, an alternative translation may be used instead (e.g. International Children's Bible, The Message or similar).
- 3. Four Sunday mornings throughout the year (usually on either the 4th or 5th Sundays of the month) will be appointed as dates for baptisms during 10am Sunday Worship. In future, where there is a clear missional need, stand-alone baptism services may also be arranged by agreement with clergy.
- 4. A few years ago, the PCC explored the possibility of 'Admitting Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation', concluding then it was not a necessary step. The PCC will review this decision.
- 5. A team of carefully discerned and trained people will be needed to ensure continued provision of prayers 'for healing and wholeness'/prayer ministry during services. This will take time to grow and so the ministry will begin with licensed ministers only.
- 6. Bells will continue to ring before services on Sunday mornings, except for the 2nd Sunday of the month (Café Church), when worship will usually be in the Church Centre.
- 7. Preaching at Sunday Morning Services will offer a mix of traditional sermons, interviews or reflective storytelling. Sunday Evening Services in the choral tradition will include a '5-10 minute' sermon.

8. Music

- a. The choir & organ will lead the music provision weekly at at least one of Sunday Worship services. In addition, midweek Choral Compline will return (a short, 20-minute service of night prayer) will be sung once a month.
- b. Further conversations have yet to take place with members of the band and music group in the coming weeks to work out who can be available when, before finalising the provision of live music for other services.
- c. Some services will include videos and/or recorded music.
- 9. Children & Families
- a. Children and families who have joined St Margaret's Church over the last couple of years spoke candidly of the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere they value at St Margaret's Church. Particularly, they were clear that the inter-generational worshipping experience benefits both children and adults alike as we learn from one another and grow with one another, not only on Sundays, but also in continued prayer, reflection and conversation during the week.
- b. Further conversations will be taking place to refresh 'Junior Church', including choosing a new name for this aspect of the refreshed worshipping pattern.
- 10. Livestreaming

- a. Following the conversations about 'Junior Church', further conversations may need to take place about which elements of livestreamed services will include images, and which parts of the service will show an 'alternative' camera shot (as is currently the case to preserve privacy when receiving Holy Communion).
- b. The volunteer team remains very small. Further volunteers are welcome to learn. Where volunteers are available, we will endeavour to stream at least one service every Sunday, either morning or evening.

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Wooton Drive, Henley Road and Henley Court.

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

Do not forget to pray for those in authority and lend your voice to the working out of justice and peace by supporting and challenging our politicians. You can follow what is on the agenda each day for both Houses of Parliament: www.whatson.parliament.uk or you can find out more about www.christiansinparliament.org.uk

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

If you find you have to run the tap for a while to get hot water, then why not use the water to fill a small watering can and instead of wasting the water you can water your houseplants. Of course, this is not a good idea if you have a water softener as the salt could damage the plants.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

End of the Month Carbon Footprint update

The average individual carbon footprint of St Margaret's is 9.51 tonnes of CO2

If you wish to anonymously contribute to this average, then please calculate your carbon footprint at home using Climate Stewards calculator which is at the link

https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/

and bring in your anonymous answer on a piece of paper to post in a letter box in Church from where the average footprint will be updated. This letter box is on top of the bookcase by the west wall. In order to make this calculation easier we will work to the nearest £10 rather than the nearest £1 in Section 6 dealing with Expenditure on services and products. If you have any queries please text to mobile number 07777 929122 or emailecochurch.stmagsips@gmail.com

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

29th November

11am-12.45pm Together for Advent - in the Church Centre

Sunday 30th November

8am BCP Communion

10am Family Communion with the licensing of Revd Sarah as 'The Vicar'

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

2nd December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

10.30am Revd Helen leading Holy Communion at Norwood

3.30pm Revd Sarah leading Holy Communion at Christchurch Court

3rd December

9am St Margaret's School Service

5th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

6th December

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

Sunday 7th December

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion

9th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

10th December

7pm Northgate School Carol Service

12th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

13th December

9am-10.30am Advent Breakfast for all church members - do see above to sign up

Sunday 14th December

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion

Forward Dates

14th February 2026

4pm Trianon Concert

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 <u>Parish Giving Scheme</u>, 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 <u>Parish Giving Scheme</u>.
- 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, <u>John Grierson</u>.

• 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, <u>John Grierson</u> or the Vicar, <u>Sarah</u>.

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

 ${\it Email:} \ \underline{helenptstmags@gmail.com}$

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

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 <u>here</u> for more information or contact Maggie Conder at <u>pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com</u>.

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. hen 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 <u>here</u>

Newsletter Contents

Please send any items for next week's newsletter to the Church Office (<u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u>), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please <u>complete this form https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit</u>