



Sunday 3rd May, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Art work from Bible, Art

Jesus the Way to the Father

This week's Gospel reading from John we read how Jesus is comforting his disciples, showing them that they can still continue to have faith and promised that he was preparing a way for them.

Faith in what they have not seen, a continuing message to us now. We do not have to have seen to believe. We have so much evidence of Jesus in the New Testament, and there are many historical writings which he is written about. We haven't seen him, but we know he existed, we know what he said, we know what happened.

We, like so many Christians, Jews and Muslims, have not 'seen' God. Yet we still believe. Hard evidence isn't needed for us to know. Whether our faith is solid place or on a rocky road. It happens to all of us. Someone asked a group that I was part of this week, "What percentage is your faith at that moment?". A hard question, I know that my 'faith percentage' changes, one day I can feel so close to God and another I feel far away. That is fine, that is normal, all of us journey in faith in such different ways. That is what that person was demonstrating by asking that question.

We are so blessed to have readings such as this one; it might not be a one-off reading or hearing, and we may decide to hold it with us for a longer time. John's words can be difficult to get around. Do remember as Jesus was comforting his disciples, he can still comfort us now, as he was then and still is the way to the Father, and as we know him, we will also know the Father.

Rev Helen

May 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 3rd May

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Parish Praise

Sunday morning a Vintage Car Rally is taking place and may affect the roads around the church.

Tuesday 5th May

8 am Morning Prayer

3.30pm Christchurch Court Communion

Wednesday 6th May

9 am St. Margaret's School Service

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 7th May

8pm Choral Compline (L)

Friday 8th May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

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](#)

Lectioary

This Sunday

Acts 7.55-end ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

John 14.1-14 ([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

Bellringing News

Visiting bellringers

We are welcoming the Suffolk Police Guild of Ringers to ring at St Margaret's Church next Sunday morning, 10th May, while Café Church is taking place in the hall. How good it is to welcome visitors.

New Tower Captain - Colin Salter

Following a recent meeting of the Tower Team, we are also pleased to announce that Colin is taking on the role of Tower Captain at St Margaret's. You can spot Colin here, among the ringers, standing behind John and Shirley Girt to the left hand side of the picture.

If you're interested in finding out more about bell ringing at St Margarets (rehearsals on Tuesday evenings from 7pm), do be in touch with Colin (bells.stmagsips@gmail.com)



Confirmation

Have you thought about confirmation? Do you think it's for you, or something you might consider? There is likely to be an Ipswich deanery confirmation service taking place in the summer 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

Period products for the church and the church centre

In 2025, 21% of women and people who menstruate in the UK are struggling to afford period products, affecting an estimated 2.8 million people.

Over the past 3 years we have had free period products in all the toilets in church and the church centre. We now need a top up, there will be a container at the back of church from this Sunday for a couple of weeks to collect new donations. So if you are able to when you go shopping, please do pick a pack of towels or tampons up and drop them off. For hygiene reasons these need to be separately wrapped so the packs can be spilt and those who need them can take what they need. Thanks so much.

3 - 4.30pm
Sunday 10th May
Let's Walk
A local walking tour with
The Very Revd Keith Jones

How well do you know the neighbourhood?
 How well do you know your neighbour?
 Come and find out more by hearing Keith share
 the history and stories of Ipswich.
 As we walk the paths together we'll get to
 know one another a little more too - and, if you
 can stay afterwards, we'll we share tea and
 cake together in the church.

Choral Communion follows at 6pm.
 No cost. All ages welcome.
 Tap donations for tea and cake if you like.

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



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

Petals : Jason Websmall-Eghan

On Sunday 17th May 2026 I will be taking part in the Hackney Half Marathon to raise money for families and parents who have and continue to suffer from the life-changing loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby.

This is a cause quite close to me and my family, and I am doing this in memory of Angel Osakioya Webb-Small Iredia, who was born and fell asleep on 29th May 2025.

Petals are a baby loss counselling charity. The specialist counselling service that they provide is life-changing for parents who have suffered the devastating loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby. They know that these tragic experiences not only result in grief but also in trauma. Their wonderful counsellors are there to help our clients navigate their grief and trauma and to guide them to a place of hope and they have continued to support my family through this tough time.

Supporting this challenge will help them to deliver more vital counselling sessions to other bereaved parents when they need them.

Any support you can give, however small or big, is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/angelhackneyhalf>

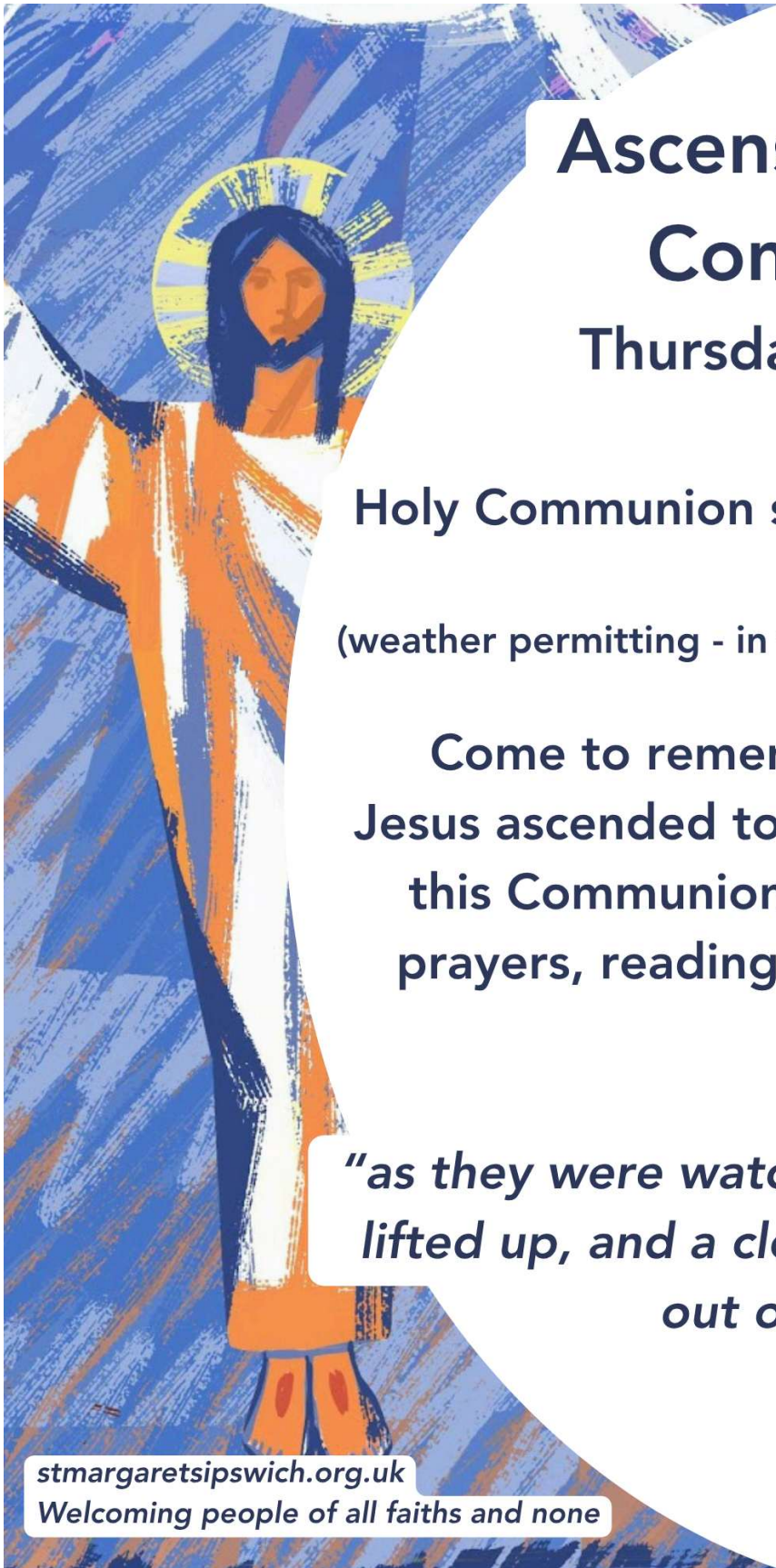
Thy Kingdom Come 2026



This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him. Over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places. Our hope is that as we pray for our five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him.

Find out more here: [Thy Kingdom Come 2026](#) | [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Resources for *all ages* will be available from the 10th of May, so we can join in with this global prayer movement.



Ascension Day Communion

Thursday 14th May

12pm

Holy Communion service in the
churchyard
(weather permitting - in the chapel if it is
raining).

Come to remember the day
Jesus ascended to heaven with
this Communion service with
prayers, readings and a short
reflection.

*"as they were watching, he was
lifted up, and a cloud took him
out of their sight"*

stmargaretsipswich.org.uk

Welcoming people of all faiths and none





Sat 6th June

10am - 4pm

Creative Retreat

With refreshments at 10am, the day begins at 10.30am as we worship together, exploring in scripture, poetry and reflection the theme of 'Creation and Creativity'.

Bring your own preferred creative materials (e.g. paint, stitch, photography), use materials provided or join in with two different guided creative sessions: one in the morning and one after lunch. Spend the day with others or reflectively by yourself as we spend time creating in the company of God, the Creator. Christchurch Park offers space to walk and a light ploughman's lunch will be served (£10 booked in advance).

We'll close with worship at 3.30pm during which you will be asked make an offering of something you have created to be displayed in the church throughout the month of June.

Email the office or scan the QR code to book your place.



office.stmagsips@gmail.com

www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk

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Local talk, 'The Abbey of St Edmund Reborn'

Date/ Time: 9th July 2026, 7pm

Venue: The Hold - Home of Suffolk Archives, Ipswich, IP4 1LR

Cost: Free, with online registration required for tickets

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, West Suffolk Council, and English Heritage have submitted a bid for £9.8million to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for the 'Abbey of St Edmund Reborn' project.

Speakers from English Heritage will be presenting information about the planned project, which aims to reunite the 60-acre site, conserve fragile ruins, and create new visitor facilities, including an accessible route.

For more information and to book, visit <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/>



Sat 18th 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 10am with friends from Ipswich All Hallows and Landseer Road churches for tea and coffee. At 10.30am 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>



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Thursday

Forum

at Christ Church
Tacket Street (next to Cox Lane car park)

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

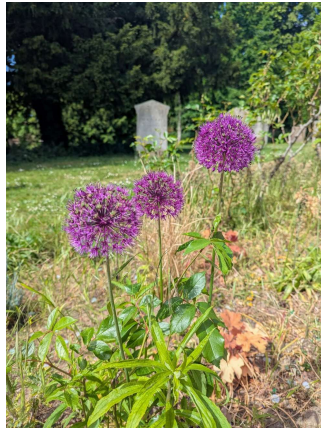
Season 2025/2026

- May 7th** **The Anglia Care Trust; helping and caring for others**
Lisa Miles, Volunteer Development Manager
- May 14th** **The History of the Ipswich Society**
Chris Deverson, Vice-Chair of the Ipswich Society
- May 21st** **The Work of a Hospital Chaplain**

Forum takes a break now until October 2026. But look out for our Summer Outings.

- Oct 1st** **My passion for Uganda**
Alison Brain

Growing Deeper



Thanksgiving

For our successful APCM woven into our worship last Sunday, and all of the positive actions and conversations arising from it.

For the sunshine this week.

For a lovely morning with our Toddler Group, who kicked-off 'Insect Month' on Friday - brilliant artwork, depicting bugs on leaves in God's creation!

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for St. George Street, and the High Street.

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 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 : Is there anything you can grow to eat?

One way to soak up some carbon, or remove food miles, is to grow things to eat. There's lots that you can grow indoors on a sunny windowsill - lots of herbs love heat, including basil, rosemary, thyme, oregano, and coriander. These will grow from seed, or you may be able to buy a plant from a supermarket and keep it growing - leaving a few leaves on the plant, and keeping it watered.

If you have a balcony, yard, or garden, it's warm enough now to plant lots of different edible crops - potatoes, onions, salad leaves, and carrots will all grow in pots, or in the ground! Out and about in Ipswich, we've recently spotted some clever uses of space, e.g., people using front paths to grow tomatoes and potatoes in buckets.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 10th May

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Cafe church

6pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 12th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 13th May

12 pm Holy Communion

7pm Prayer meeting

Thursday 14th May (Ascension Day)

12pm Holy Communion

Friday 15th May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 16th May

8.30am Men's breakfast

Sunday 17th May

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Time out

Tuesday 19th May

8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 20th May

9am School service

12 pm Holy Communion

Thursday 21st May

3.15pm Together

Friday 22nd May

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 23rd May

10am Together Extra - Pentecost

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 - Vicar

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**

Bart Bisbal-Poncek

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)