



Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 6th April 2025

Lent 5

A Reflection from Rev Sarah

Fragrant Feet

In this week's Gospel reading, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Theologian and preacher Debie Thomas, says this about the occasion:

Is Mary's gift lavish? Yes. Is it "useless" in the practical-minded economy Judas brings to the table? Yes. Is it efficient, orderly, or logical? No. And yet Jesus cherishes and blesses it. As writer Mary Gordon puts it: "In the moment of the washing of the feet, Jesus insists that beauty matters: that the aesthetic can take precedence over the moral." Think about it this way: in times of peril, pain, or trouble in your own life, what has comforted you the most? What has carried you through? The platitudes of a pragmatist? Or the lavish and "useless" gestures of someone who loves you?

Mary recognizes the importance of meeting the world's brokenness, cynicism, and pain with priceless, generous beauty. Even as death looms, she chooses to share what is heartbreakingly fragile and fleeting: a fragrance. A sensory gift. An experience of beauty. Her perfume is her protest. Her scented hands are her declaration. In anointing Jesus in beauty, she declares that the stench of death will *not* have the last word in our lives — the last word will belong to the sweet and sacred fragrance of love.

We'll explore more about this story together in Church on Sunday morning - a story that will prepare us in these last days of Lent to enter in to Holy Week, and to walk with Christ in faith, a life through death.

Services

Livestreamed services are marked (L). Please use the button below to view services at the times given or catch up at anytime. Apologies there was no livestream last Sunday, there was an issue with one of the devices so we were unable to livestream.

Livestreaming

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

09.30 am Rise and Shine

11.00am Parish Communion (L)

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 is open daily from 10am to 4pm.

Lectionary

This week

8am BCP Holy Communion

[Colossians 3.12-17](#)

[Matthew 13.24-30](#)

11am Parish Communion

[Isaiah 43.16-21](#)

[Philipians 3.4b-14](#)

[John 12.1-8](#)

Church News

Spring Clean

Come and join us for a spring clean of the Church and grounds on 12th April from 9.30am as we get ready for Summer. Please bring any gardening tools, gloves, bags for rubbish etc.

Leaflets

We still have a few bunches left of the Easter leaflets that need to be delivered. When you're next in Church if you could the last few to deliver round the streets near you it would be very much appreciated.

Easter Lilies

Message from Angie Cable...

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 13th April please. Thank you.

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll is a list of the Church community. Any lay person who is baptised, over 16 years of age and residing within the Church parish or who has regularly worshipped here for more than six months can join the Roll. Each year the Roll is updated but this year EVERYONE must re-enrol. **Notice is hereby given that application for enrolment for the Church Electoral Roll is due by 9th May 2025.** The new Roll will be published by the Church and will take effect on 25th May 2025. Those on the current roll will receive an email next week will have hopefully recieved an email inviting you to fill out a form. For those who weren't on the current roll and would like to be included on this year's roll please email verger.stmagsips@gmail.com to be sent an application form or **click the button below**. There will also be some paper copies at the back of the Church on the table by the entrance with a box to put completed ones in. Ideally we would like the forms to be filled in electronically, if you need any help please call in to the office anytime during office hours **before 9th May**, listed at the bottom of the newsletter, and our administrator Lucy will be happy to help you fill it in. Any questions to Lucy Collins, Electoral Roll Officer at verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

[Electoral Roll Form](#)

Growing Deeper

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Tuddenham Road and Tuddenham Avenue. Please also pray for our first Easter Explorers Holiday club which takes place next week in the Church Centre.

We give thanks and pray for community connections:

- Our penultimate soup lunch 'have a beautiful and terrible Lent'
- Our service of Holy Communion at Christchurch Court. One person remarked ' I haven't felt as peaceful as this in a long time'

As we remember those who have recently died in the faith of Christ, we pray also for all who mourn.

- Eileen Harper

April Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Eco Tip of the week

Leaving part of your garden to grow wild can help pollinating insects, like bees, thrive.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Calendar

Anything underlined you can click and it will take you through to the website for more information

This Week

Tuesday 8th April

8.00am Morning Prayer (School)

Wednesday 9th April

2.30pm Cornerstones Friendship Group (Church Centre)

Friday 11th April

8.00am Morning Prayer (Church)

Saturday 12th April

9.30am Church/Garden Spring Clean

10am - 1pm Suffolk Guild of Ringers - Full Peal

Sunday 13th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine with Palms and Procession

11.00am Parish Communion with Passion Reading

Holy Week & Easter 2025

Wednesday 16th April

1.15pm Funeral at Ipswich Crematorium of Eileen Harper RIP

7.30pm Movie Night Exploring theology through film. Bring a friend, a pew cushion and popcorn.

Thursday 17th April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion followed by optional silent prayer vigil.

Good Friday

10-11.30am Café Church

12pm Come and Sing - calling all SATB singers to rehearse Stainer's Crucifixion for:

2-3pm Service: The Last Hour Stainer's Crucifixion

Easter Sunday

6.30am Daybreak Service

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Festive Easter Communion

Looking Forward

Saturday 3rd May

7.00pm Hexachordia Concert, more details to follow...

Sunday 25th May

10.00am Combined Service and Annual Parish Church Meeting

Rev Sarah is praying for God's calling to people to actively serve the St Margaret's Community as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and as this church's Charity Trustees.

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:

The Revd Sarah Geileskey

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

Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend

Email: helenptstmags@gmail.com

Telephone: 07540 394179

Helen is a Curate, working full time. Her rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.

Churchwardens

Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office

Email: verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

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

Lucy Collins - Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. Email verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

More information on how you can report any safeguarding concerns is available from The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich [here](#)

Items for next week's sheet to the Verger Administrator (verger.stmagsips@gmail.com), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please send an email or complete the form on the website.