



Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 8th February

2nd Sunday Before Lent



Pillars of the Earth by Osnat Tzadok

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

At our 8am and 6pm services this Sunday we will hear the first chapter of the Bible – Genesis 1 plus a few verses from chapter 2 thrown in for good measure. When re-reading this yesterday I was really drawn to the words above – God really saw that his creation was good, the sky, the seas, the land, the animals of the air and sky, then humans, they were all good. He was pleased with his handiwork.

How ever we believe this world was created I am wondering on this rainy Thursday morning whilst I write this if God is looking down and still thinking that his wondrous creation is still good. Does he have the same feeling that he had when the world evolved and became his good creation?

I know there are scary headlines, the news cycle doesn't show the good, and on this racial justice Sunday we need to remember and stand for the good against the issues of injustice that still pollute our society, but what we also need to remember is how we can put more and more good back in. Sometimes adding that good in means standing up against the bad. Being vocal, being more Christ-like, the Christ who did the same. Let's hope that our actions mean that when God looks at our lives in this place that he still thinks it is good.

Rev Helen

February 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 8th February

8 am BCP Holy Communion
 10 am Café Church in the church centre
 (we'll be singing a new song... Christ is Mine Forever More
 6 pm Choral Communion (L)

If you would like last year's palm crosses to be turned into ashes in preparation for this year's Ash Wednesday services, please ensure you return them to church by Sunday, 15th February.

This Week

Tuesday 10th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11th February

9 am School Service
 12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel
 7pm Prayer Meeting in Church : Justice

Friday 13th February

8am 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 Sunday 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 3pm.

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

Lectionary

This Sunday

Genesis 1.1-2.3 (KJV) (NRSVUE)

Romans 8.18-25 (NRSVUE)

Matthew 6.25-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

Thank you

To all who were able to help with last week's shared breakfast and Candlemas pancakes. As our lights were carried over to the church centre, someone commented how doing things differently helps us to understand things differently: 'the moment I stepped out from the church, the light of my candle was blown out - but another christian was there to help me, relight my candle and help to keep the flame alight'. We give thanks that we travel this life and faith together.

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 11th February 7pm

As part of our new pattern of services, a prayer meeting is held in church at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month to which all are welcome (with parking available in the top section of the school playground).

'Peace' was the theme of January's meeting and 'Justice' will be the theme of next Wednesday's. An opportunity to spend 40 minutes or so reflecting and praying about what justice means in a Christian context in the world, the UK, our town & our church and amongst our friends & family members. Do come and join in!

George Woodward (Reader)

Concert: 14th February 4pm

Anna Brennan and Alison Thurtle are coordinating this event - do speak to them if you can help to welcome, serve refreshments or put up promotional posters. Thank you.



Concert

Saturday 14th February

4.00 pm

A late afternoon concert of string and choral music performed by members of **Trianon Symphony Orchestra and Choir** with the voices from **Ipswich Choral Society** and the **Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society**.

This concert remembers Trianon's co-founder, Chris Green, promoter of the arts and of Ipswich.

Warm drinks will be available afterwards and there will be retiring collection to support the maintenance and general repairs of the historic Grade 1 listed St Margaret's Church.

Soane Street, next to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking available in St Margaret's VAP School,
Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT

 www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none

 **St. Margaret's Church**
IPSWICH

Churchwarden(s) Vacancies

After four years of dedicated service in the role of lone Churchwarden, Margaret Woodward's time in this role will end at the APCM. Churchwardens serve in one of the most visible and important roles in a church community and we must discern wisely the people who will take on these roles in this season when the church is growing. Please begin to pray and to look for people across this community with practical and people skills whom God may be calling to serve us in this role. **The Vicar's prayer is that at**

Together Community

Rev Helen says 'I am looking for volunteers for our Together Community gatherings on the 3rd Thursday of each month which meets from 3.30pm to 5pm - volunteer times 2.45pm until 5.30pm and our Family Morning on Friday 20th February which is running from 10am until 12.30pm, volunteer times 9.30am until 1pm. If you want to join the team you will need to have completed basic Safeguarding training and have a church DBS. Do speak to me!'

team of 4 people will emerge who can work well together, with a blend of ages and experiences. Two named wardens and two dedicated helpers. The role of churchwarden is varied - there are some tasks that must be undertaken, however, it can also be shaped to enable individuals to bring their skills to the role to help St Margaret's continue to flourish and grow. There is some information about [being a churchwarden on the Diocesan Website](#): please speak with Revd Sarah and with Margaret if you would like to explore this.

Book on our family morning on 20th February! A morning of activities, games, coffee, snacks and lunch! Do pass the word around as well.

[Click here: Fridays for Families booking and consent](#)

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday - 18th February

12pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes followed by Soup Lunch in the church centre
7pm Contemplative Communion with imposition of ashes in Church

Lent Groups

Wednesday lunchtimes: 18th & 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th soup and conversation in the church centre following 12pm Holy Communion in Church.

Wednesday evenings by zoom: 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March at 7pm. You do not need to commit to the whole course and no advance preparation is required so come to all or some of the sessions as you can. If children's bedtimes are challenging - join whatever time you can and leave as you need to. We'll be following a course on the theme of prayer, examining the lives of 5 Old Testament figures who prayed and how that relates to Jesus' prayer life and what that might mean for our prayers. [To register and receive the zoom links, please click here.](#)

Other Lent resources

The Church of England has a range of other resources available that you may like to make use of during Lent, including books and daily reflections through the EveryDay Faith app. [You can find out more here.](#)

Open Table Eucharist at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

5pm Saturday 14th February the first Open Table Eucharist in this Diocese, a service for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome those 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.
<https://stedscathedral.org/events/open-table/>

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Tuddenham Avenue, Tuddenham Road and Vermont Close.

Thanksgiving

There is so much to be thankful for this week. Compline sung in church again for the first time since before Covid. [You can catch up online \(from 6.30 mins\)](#). On Friday, [a funeral and celebration for the life of Joanna Carrick](#) with remarkable tributes and a call to live out Magnificat.

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

If you live by a sea or river, you can **volunteer** to pick up litter in your local community, thus removing plastics from the waterways and preventing them from getting to the ocean in the first place. There are many organizations you can join, or simply do it on the weekend with your friends and family. Many councils will lend the equipment for a community litter clean – just ask. Every little helps!

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 15th February

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Family Communion (L)

6 pm Time Out - contemplation and meditation on the theme of transfiguration

Tuesday 17th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing (children and families welcome) followed by Soup Lunch

7pm Contemplative Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 19th February

3.15-5.00pm Together in the Church Centre

Friday 20th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

10am - 12.30pm Friday's for Families Morning in the church centre : [click here to book](#)

Saturday 21st February

8.30am Men's Breakfast

Sunday 22nd February

- 8 am BCP Holy Communion
- 10 am Morning Worship (L)
- 6 pm Choral Evensong (L)

Tuesday 24th February

- 8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 25th February

- 9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service
- 12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel

Thursday 26th February

- 8pm Zoom Compline (if you do not already have them, [click here to receive zoom links](#))

Friday 27th February

- 8am Morning Prayer in Church

Save the Dates**Sunday, 29th March Palm Sunday**

10am Service will begin outdoors with a Palm Procession into Church as we mark Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

Sunday, 26th April

10am Morning Worship with Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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.

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>