



Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 8th March

Lent III



“There’s a Hole in my Bucket”

There’s a hole in my bucket. It’s a holey bucket. Or is it a holy bucket? Or a whole bucket of life-giving water that restores life to make us whole again. Holey, Holy, Wholly.

The story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well is our gospel reading this week - in the heat of the day, thirsting for life itself, Jesus spends time with a woman that others wouldn’t even pass the time of day with. Many had given up on her. Despaired of her.

It can be challenging to on to hope in this wilderness season of Lent, in the wilderness of this world with only the occasional glimpses of life in earth being as it is heaven. Despair comes all too readily.

Yet we are people of hope. Even in the desert we find the occasional oasis. I hope that this Sunday you might find hope among people in this faith community. Come along to a service - 8am, Café Church in the church centre at 10am, or Choral Communion at 6pm. You’ll be very welcome. And you may find refreshment in a surprising place, or among the most unexpected people. At a well. Or among those the world seems to have given up on.

It will be good to worship with you. And pray for you too - whether you're there, or not.

Rev Sarah

March 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 March

- 8 am BCP Holy Communion
- 10 am Café Church (in the Church Centre)
- 6 pm Choral Communion (L)

This Week

Tuesday 10th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11th March

- 9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service
- 12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre
- No 7pm prayer meeting in church this month - meeting online by Zoom for Lent Group*

Friday 13th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 14th March

- 10 am Together Extra in the Church Centre

We look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's Church.

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for *Weekend services and on Ash Wednesday*. 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

- Exodus 17.1-7 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#)) : read at 6pm Choral Communion
- Romans 5.1-11 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#)) : read at 8am, Café Church and 6pm
- John 4.5-42 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#)) : read at all services

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

Men's Breakfast - today, Saturday 7th at 8.30am in the Church Centre

Do go along if you can.

Together Extra! 14th March 10-11.30 am and beyond

Together is venturing into a new space - meeting bi-monthly on Saturday mornings as well as our regular 3rd Thursdays.

Together - Extra will meet on Saturday mornings between 10 am and 11.30 am, and will include a brunch at the end.

The dates for this year are as follows -

14th March, 23rd May, 25th July, 26th September, 28th November

It is preferable to book on Saturdays; the link is below.

[Together Extra - Saturday](#)

St Margaret's Primary School

It was a delight this week when, with worship leaders from the primary school, Rev Helen live-streamed [Morning Prayer to the Bishops' Facebook page from the school's Rainbow Room](#).

The older children that form the school choir are performing as part of St Andrew's Rushmere Sunday Concerts series at 3pm on Sunday afternoon (8th March 2026) - you are welcome to go along to support them.

Lent 2026

Lent Groups

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

Wednesday evenings by zoom at 7pm :

11th Ezekiel 37.1-14 - Hopeful Prayer

18th Esther 4.9-17 - Communal Prayer

25th Daniel 6.10-22 - Constant Prayer

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, with speaker Bishop Philip North of the Diocese of Blackburn, who will be examining the lives of 5 Old Testament figures who prayed, reflecting on how that relates to Jesus' prayer life and what that might mean for our prayers. We will use the same zoom link each week: [if you have not already registered and received the link, 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](#).

Eco Footprint

If you would like to anonymously contribute to the average carbon footprint of St. Margaret's, then you can calculate it at home using the link <https://climatestewards.org/offset>

There is a letterbox on top of the bookcase at back of church close to the kitchen. Now is the time to measure our individual home carbon footprint so the 2026 reduction can be measured. Thank you for taking the time to do this. It is part of the caring for our planet.

Maggie Conder ECO group

Diocesan Synod meeting this morning

The meeting is taking place in Stowmarket and the agenda includes an update following the recent General Synod meeting, further updates on the Kagera Diocesan link, a debate on Living in Love and Faith (including prayers in church for those in same-sex relationships) and a discussion exploring better support and appreciation of chaplaincy work across the diocese.

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."

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

Good Friday - 12-3 pm Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem

We are **hoping** to sing Faurés Requiem on Good Friday. You do not have to be a regular member of the choir to join in - you turn up and sing on the day, although good prior knowledge of the music and/or an ability to sight sing (to a degree) is needed. If you would like to know more, please speak to our organist and choir director, Christopher Tinker or [email him](#).

Room for all parts, SAB... but especially T!

If this is not for you but you know someone who might be interested, please tell them!

Internship and Volunteering Opportunities in Christian Communities

You may be wondering about spending some time in a christian community - living a different way of life as you serve God and neighbour. [Worth Abbey](#) and [Iona](#) both offer opportunities - do take a look if you are curious. If you are younger and thinking about doing something different when you finish full time education, you might be interested in exploring some of the possibilities on offer through the [Church of England website](#).

If this is not for you but you know someone who might be interested, please tell them!

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.



Lent Lunches after Wednesday Holy Communion, 12.30-1.30pm

18th & 25th February,
4th, 11th, & 25th March

Gladwyn Room, Church Centre

A thought for the day accompanies a simple bowl of soup and conversation starters.

All are welcome to gather around the table.

"Food for body and soul"

If you know in advance that you will be attending, for catering purposes please email pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com.

The soup served will be gluten-free and vegan. If you have other dietary requirements, please let us know.



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



Growing Deeper

Thanksgiving

Together we Pray across Suffolk was a joy to lead. We give thanks for all those who joined with St Margaret's in praying daily together. The magnolia tree in the churchyard is in full bud - it won't be much longer until those magnificent blooms open this year.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Constable Road, George Frost Close and Parkside Avenue.

If you are praying for the escalating conflict in the Middle East, these words may be helpful:

God of mercy, look with compassion
on all who are affected by the present 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 pollution and climate change are **two sides of the same coin**: plastic production, as it is created from fossil fuels, contributes greatly to the climate crisis. Reduce the use of disposable plastic cups, plates, cutlery and bottles. For example, bring your own reusable bottle to work and a reusable coffee cup for your morning take-away.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10 am Family Communion (L)
6 pm Time Out - a service of meditation and contemplation

Tuesday 17th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 18th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service
12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

Thursday 19th March

3.15 pm Together in the Church Centre

Friday 20th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 21st March

8.30 am Men's Breakfast in the Church Centre

Sunday 22nd March Mothering Sunday

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Parish Worship (L)

6 pm Choral Evensong (L)

Tuesday 24th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 25th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Soup Lunch in the Church Centre

Thursday 26th March

8 pm Compline by Zoom - we use the same zoom link each month. Sign up [here](#).

Friday 27th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

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

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

Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1st April

7 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Engage with Holy Week through Film and Prayer

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

7 pm Maundy Thursday - 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

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

3 pm Good Friday - Fauré's Requiem (subject to sufficient singers being available)

Easter Sunday - 5th April

6.15 am Sunrise Service

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Family Communion (L)

6pm Prayer and Praise

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.

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)