St.Margaret's Church
IPSWICH

Sunday 8th November 2026
Remembrance Sunday



This Sunday, we remember those who across the generations have served and have fallen. People that we have never met, and for some of us people who we have loved. It is a stark reminder that although battles and wars have been fought, they still continue across our world and it seems like it is as hard today for peace to be brokered between those who are involved in conflict as it was in the past.

When visiting Christchurch Court this week for our monthly communion service Ann Dixon gave me a copy of a poem that her grandson wrote as a child of 12, the words have resonated with me this week as I prepare to lead our 10am service this week where we will welcome those from the uniformed groups who meet in the church centre. Words written by a young person about the costs of war.

Rev Helen

Heroes
To all those who have fought and died,
And to all the wounded by our side
Everyone here would like to say.
Without you we would not see this day
You have risked your lives for the good of others.
You have battled hard to save your brothers.
Thank you for the wonderful gift you have given.
The chance to live and speak these words.
For all to listen
You have experienced the truly unimaginable.
You have persevered where others would crumble.
You completely deserve your place in heaven.
Where you can observe down from where you have risen
But we don't have to endure what you have endured.
You are a hero and can't be ignored.
You are human, just like us.
You went to war because you must.
You had to go; you were not free.

But your actions are engraved in history.
There is no longer a reason to cry.
You will be with us forever, even when we die.
We will soon meet you way up there.
And when we do, our stories we will share.

November 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. *Apologies for those who tried to tune in last Sunday to watch the service, we experienced some unexpected difficulties. There should be livestreaming this week but may be on a static wide angle for most of the service.*

Saturday 7th November
8.30am Men's breakfast

Sunday 8th November

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parade Service - No Café Church this month.
6pm Communion (L)

Tuesday 10th November
8 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11th November
9am School Service TBC
10.45 am Remembrance Day (Cenotaph)
12pm Holy Communion
Friday 13th November
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

Lectionary

This Sunday

8am

1 Thessalonians 14-end (KJV)(NRSVUE)

Matthew 25.1-13 (KJV)(NRSVUE)

10am

John 15.12-17 (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. i.e.,

Church News

please pray for the life of this church as we seek to grow in faith, hope and love

Men's Breakfast TODAY

Come and join Men's breakfast in the Church Centre from 8.30am for bacon rolls and fellowship.

Remembrance Sunday

Come and join us tomorrow for our Parade Service which will finish in time for those wishing to attend the Act of Remembrance in the park. Following the service in the park, Rainbows will be serving up a jacket potato lunch to fundraise to buy presents to be distributed by FIND.



FIND at Christmas: Could we gift Gift Vouchers?

Last year in addition to the usual food parcels, FIND gave out an additional 500 food parcels, including a Christmas Treat bag (pudding, chocolates etc) plus toys and gifts. Team Leader Ellen and her elves wrapped more than 2,000 toys.

Whilst the toys were greatly appreciated, FIND was short of gifts for babies, older children, sensory toys for children with special needs, and boys. They also received some feedback from parents, carers, and social workers. They understand the joy and kindness involved in choosing a toy for a family that has very little and would not want to take that away from anyone. However, they wondered if we might consider donations of Gift Vouchers instead. Vouchers can be from

clothing and sports stores such as Primark, New Look or Sports Direct, or supermarkets that sell toys- such as ASDA, Tesco etc. Then there are gift vouchers that can be redeemed at multiple stores, or nice toiletry sets (deodorant/body wash) that teenage boys and girls love. If toys are preferred, if they can be unisex, then that also helps them get it right.



W.I.N.E 0'Clock

It's not too late to join us at W.I.N.E 0' Clock on Monday at 7.30pm. It's a new venture for Women to encourage each other and join together. For more details please email office.stmagsips@gmail.com.



Children and Families Update

Our second monthly Children, Families and Young People's newsletter is here!
Follow the link below to view it; paper copies will also be in church from this week!
Click here to read the newsletter.

Quiz Night

Please come and join us on Saturday 21st November for a Quiz Night in the Church Centre to raise money for the Church Centre kitchen.
Tickets are £10 per person and include a jacket potato supper. There will also be a bar and raffle!
To sign up please click here (each team member has to sign up individually) or email office.stmagsips@gmail.com with the members of your team, team name and any dietary

requirements such as vegetarian or vegan.



Ipswich service for the Persecuted Church November 2026

The annual in person Service for the Persecuted Church will now be 3 pm on Sunday 22 November 2026 at St Andrew's Church in Britannia Road, Ipswich IP4 5HF (Buses 2, 4, 5, 75/77 have stops close to the Foxhall road end of Britannia Road). Regards, Charles


Confirming Faith
God has called you by name
and made you his own
Bishop Joanne will be leading a Confirmation Service in Ipswich on Sunday 10th January 2027.
Confirmation Preparation at The Vicarage
7.30-9pm Monday 14th December,
Weds 6th January & Weds 13th January 2027
If you are curious and questioning about faith and would like to explore with others what faith means in your life today, do join in. These sessions will prepare you for 'Confirmation' when you will accept for yourself the Christian faith into which may have been baptised/christened into as a child. Not sure if it's for you? Come and see. You can then choose (or not) to be confirmed. We'll be using your questions and material written by Alistair McGrath, with themes likely to include 'Who am I?' scripture & prayer, suffering, Communion, science, sin, mission & evangelism?
To find out more, ask Rev Sarah or Rev Helen
or email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
office.stmagsips@gmail.com
welcoming people of all faiths and none
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Working Garden Party

Come and join us in the Churchyard on Saturday 14th November from 10am for a tidy up of the Churchyard in preparation for the festive period.

Advent 2026

Please see the list below for our different Advent groups that you can join this year. The book we will be looking at is " At Home in Advent " by Gordon Giles. It is available to purchase on Amazon, Ebay, World of Books and Eden.

To sign up to the Zoom advent group please click here.



Christmas 2026

Please see the poster below for all our services happening over the Christmas period. We are also holding a Late Night Advent for Year 5's to Year 11's on Friday 18th December from 7 - 10pm. Advance booking is mandatory. Please see poster for more details and to sign up click here.



Late Night Advent

7-10pm Friday 18th December

A Christmas 'lock in' for young people. Come along and enjoy a Christmas movie, board games, pizza and crafts. We will end with reflective prayers and a thought for the day.

For Year 5's to Year 11's
Free to Attend
Led by Rev Sarah and Rev Helen

You must sign up by 16th Dec using the QR code below or email office.stmagsips@gmail.com

Advance booking is mandatory. No young person to attend without a permission form.

Kindly sponsored by
The Ipswich Blue Coat Foundation

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

St.Margaret's Church
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Growing Deeper

Thanksgiving

For our breakfast for all last Saturday, where we reflected on life, mortality and death and on living lives filled with gratitude and service. We named our fears, faithfully sang songs of encouragement and hope, prayed for those who live in the shadows and for those for whom new life, eternal life, is not far off.

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses and passers-by this week, as we pray for Westerfield Road, Westerfield Court, and Park North.

Support

Remember our Pastoral Team is 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: Could you swap your shower head?

Showers are much better for the planet than baths, but do you have a water -saving showerhead? These shower heads work by restricting the volume of water that they allow to flow through them. Newer models can reduce the volume of water used by half, (30lts on average rather than 60lts) but still provide an enjoyable showering experience! Again, you will save money in the long run as well.

Our thanks to Rev. Stainer for his weekly green tips.

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 15th November

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Communion (L)
6pm Time Out

Tuesday 17th November
8 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 18th November
9am School Service TBC
12pm Holy Communion
Friday 20th November
8 am Morning Prayer in church
Saturday 21st November
8.30am Men's breakfast
7.00pm Quiz night

Sunday 22nd November

8 am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parish Worship (L)
6pm Evening prayer with hymns

Tuesday 24th November
8 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 25th November
9am School Service
12pm Holy Communion
Friday 27th November
8 am Morning Prayer in church
Saturday 28th November
10.00am Together

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.

For everyone working hard to contribute toward Harvest Festival at our church this weekend.**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
Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com
Telephone: 07495 759203

Office
Email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday 9.30am - 1.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm (Office closed Tuesday and Wednesday due to A/L and back open on 16th Oct)
Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

We are taking the opportunity to rationalise email addresses. With immediate effect, please use office.stmagsips@gmail.com for all correspondence. We are still trying to maintain the current office opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 9.30am - 2.30pm but this is not always possible, so 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