



Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 17th August 2025

9th Sunday after Trinity

Of Faith and Valour

I spent a few moments the other day reading about some of the men & women who died in World War Two, who form part of the 'Be Ye Men of Valour' exhibition that's on in church until 25th August, and, for some inexplicable reason, the lyrics of a contemporary worship song 'Men of faith rise up and sing', which will be familiar to some of you, came into my head.

I don't doubt that many of these 'men of valour' were also 'men of faith' and how real the faith of those who believed in a God of resurrection must have been for those who were potentially facing their own death in WW2. But, for others, that faith will have been tested beyond breaking point as how could a loving God allow such slaughter on an industrial scale?

One of the readings at our 11.00 service on Sunday, from the book of Hebrews, engages with this challenging five-letter word - FAITH. Is it something we have in abundance or is it as small as a mustard seed, one of the smallest of allseeds? Do come along to the 11.00 service or tune into the livestream and, paraphrasing the 'Surprised by Joy' title of an excellent book by C.S.Lewis, be open to being 'Surprised by Faith'.

George Woodward, lay minister in training

Services

Livestreamed services are marked (L). Please use the button below to view services at the times given or catch up at anytime.

Livestreaming

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

9.30 am Café Church in the Church Centre (Garrett Memorial Hall), Bolton Lane

[if you remember, please bring a photograph of yourself or your family with you]

11.00 am Parish Communion

*There will be no Junior Church at the 11am service on either
Sunday 17th of August*

Sunday 24th of August

However, there will be Junior Church in a bag, which will contain a story and activity. You will be able to find the bags with the sides-people (the volunteers who hand out the books at the start of the service) at the back of the church. Thank you for being so understanding, Junior Church will be up and running again soon on Sunday the 31st of August, looking forward to seeing you all then!!

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 for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 4pm.

Lectionary

This Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Luke 15.11-32

11am Parish Communion

Jeremiah 23.23-29

Hebrews 11.29-12.2

Luke 12.49-56

Church News

Be Ye Men of Valour: Exhibition marking the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2

Saturday 9th - Monday 25th August

'Be Ye Men of Valour' marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Ipswich War Memorial project launched this important exhibition on Friday, 8th August and it continues through until the end of the Bank Holiday weekend. Do make time to browse the many stories of the Ipswich families still living with the consequences of war.

29th August 9.30-12.30pm

Family Activity Mornings (Church Centre) Morning of activities for all ages followed by lunch together. 1st, 15th and 29th August. With Suffolk Community Foundation funding, these events are free to attend (although donations to continue this work are gratefully received). To register your place, email events.stmagsips@gmail.com

3.30pm Sunday 31st August

Marriage Blessing - Jason and Jamais

Our sincere congratulations to Mr and Mrs Webbssmall-Eghan who were recently married! You will know them better as Jason and Jamais who regularly attend the 9.30 and the 11.00am services with their daughter Rae. There will be a special service of blessing with prayers for their marriage taking place at 3.30pm on Sunday 31st August to which **everyone is welcome**. Do come and support them prayerfully on this special day, the anniversary of the day on which Jamais' grandparents were married at St Margaret's - they too will be here to mark the occasion. Tea and cake will be served following the service - if you would like to help with this, please speak with Maggie Conder.

Men's Breakfast

Is taking a break for most of August... back again in the Church Centre on Saturday 30th August at 8.30am.

Welcoming Visitors on Weekdays

Richard Jackson is keen to extend the welcome to people popping in to the church during the week by occasionally offering hot drinks and a listening ear. If this is something that you might be interested in helping with by working alongside Richard and others, please let Rev Sarah know.

Primary School Bangers

Remember this month there is no service of Choral Evensong on the fourth Sunday.... instead at 6.30pm Rev Helen will be leading a service that enjoys a lot of old school favourites. 6.30pm, Sunday, 24th August.

Housing Request

Final opportunity to respond:

We have been approached by a mature student (25 years old) due to take up an apprenticeship at the Hospital in the autumn (DBS checks and hospital references available) - they are looking for accommodation. They describe themselves as 'a quiet and serious person, I get on better with older people and it will be my first time living away from home. I am hoping to find someone who, for a fair rent, would be happy to have me in their home. I drive and would be very willing to help with shopping and errands etc. and to help around the home'. Let Rev Sarah know if you might be interested in this.

Ride & Stride, Heritage Open Weekend and Community Open Day

Save the dates: 13th-14th September. More details to follow.

Ride and stride (Saturday) - if you want to bike around Ipswich (or further afield) visiting churches and raising sponsorship for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, sign up or speak with Richard

Jackson or Sarah Boggis (Sarah is seeking sponsorship for signing people in as they visit us!) and we are thankful to Sue who has volunteered to ride and raise funds for St Margaret's.

Heritage Open Weekend (Saturday and Sunday) - with activities and an opportunity to look around the church with new eyes and church members to welcome you. ***John Grierson is looking for welcoming volunteers for Saturday and Sunday afternoon - do let him know if you would like to help.***

'Abbey and Eddie at Bugingham Palace' on Saturday morning we welcome author Revd Dr Karen Smith to share a story and build bug hotels (for young children and their families).

Drop in Café from mid morning with coffee/tea and cake and bacon sandwiches (served over 'brunch' time. Volunteers for bakes - please speak to Rev Helen!

3.30pm Hymns and Pimms in the churchyard (other drinks available)

Love Thy Neighbour

St Thomas' Church, Ipswich

One of our neighbouring churches is holding a musical event to which you are all invited. This is one way we can support one another in our wider mission to make God's love known across Ipswich. People often come and go between different church communities in different times and seasons... so supporting our neighbours is always a good thing to do.

Love Thy Neighbour

Family First Fun Day

One of our neighbouring churches is holding a musical event to which you are all invited. This is one way we can support one another in our wider mission to make God's love known across Ipswich. People often come and go between different church communities in different times and seasons... so supporting our neighbours is always a good thing to do.



Growing Deeper

Prayer

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

Gratitude

Savers Specs Update - Thank you!

Together, you've donated *165 pairs* of glasses for Kagera, Tanzania — from old prescription lenses to shiny new reading specs. Every pair will be cleaned, repurposed, and matched to new owners by Dr Ethan, bringing clearer vision (and bigger smiles!) to people who need it most.

We give thanks and pray for congregation member Geoff Spiller and his work with Mission Direct in Zambia. Last week Geoff wrote:

We've had a team here for 2 weeks, which tends to be all-consuming! They returned to the UK yesterday morning, so I have a bit more free time until the next team arrives next Sunday. The electricity situation has been challenging too, we've mostly had power from 10pm to 5am, which is difficult for keeping in touch. This morning, I was up at 3am when power came and it's just gone off at 5am, while I was typing this email!

Anyway, all that said, I've been keeping well and all is going fine here. The projects have been going well, we're building nursery classrooms for a local school and also painting a toilet block we built last year at another school. I've attached a couple of photos. We also take the team to visit a number of partners, working with children living on the street, visiting homes of vulnerable families and serving lunch at a school in a shanty town.

Have you thought about joining in with this work - could you be part of a volunteer team visiting for two weeks? You could fundraise to cover the cost of your trip! Just a thought.



August Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Eco Tip of the week - recycled from last week and the week before!

Reuse or recycle unused clothing.

Revd Sarah Hall (formerly a reader at St Margaret's but now a curate at St Augustine's regularly takes men's clothing to HMP Warren Hill. New or lightly used men's clothing, clean and in very good condition will be accepted. Until the end of August there will be a box at the back of church in the coffee area, near the FIND food bank box, should you wish to rehome a few items of unused (or outgrown) clothing.

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.

Join in daily with Morning Prayer from across Suffolk live at 8.30am or click any time during the day to catch up. You do not have to have a Facebook account to join in - just click on the link <https://www.facebook.com/share/15aAbJZnN6/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Services Coming Up

Sunday, 17th August

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Café Church : ***please bring a photograph of you or your family with you!***

11.00am Parish Communion

Thursday, 21st August

Together! Meets in the Church Centre from 3.15pm, starting at 3.30pm for Bible storytelling, reflection and creativity time plus a meal with each other.

Friday, 22nd August

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday, 24th August

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise and Shine Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

6.30pm 'Primary School Bangers' - a service celebrating the songs we sang in assembly and at school.

Friday, 29th August

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday, 30th August

12.30pm The Marriage of Jacob and Nataliya

Sunday, 31st August

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise and Shine

11.00am Parish Communion

3.30pm Marriage Blessing for Jason and Jamais

Save the Dates

6th - 14th September : National Week of Prayer

Revd Susan Allison (St Helen's and the Waterfront Churches) writes:

Dear friends,

24/7 Prayer have an amazing goal for as many churches accross the globe to pray from 1st - 7th September andd I would like to invite you and your prayerful church families to join us across Ipswich to fill the 24/7 prayer room at Holy Trinity Hall, Back Hamlet Ipswich.

If each church took a specific time slot, say, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24 hrs (at your discretion and choice), booking it out on the link below, it would be fantastic.

Imagine Ipswich blanketed in prayer from all denominations, in unity for the town and beyond.

Please be part of this venture,

Further info from <https://www.24-7prayer.com/weekofprayer/>

Sign up link <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/8c5c69>

13th and 14th September : St Margaret's Community Celebration

Ride and Stride and Heritage Open Day, in the morning we welcome Revd Dr Karen Smith, bringing her story alive for children 'Abbey & Eddie Visit Bugingham Palace', refreshments offered

to the community (perhaps even a BBQ) and tables and chairs to sit outside and enjoy the environment, our history and beautiful heritage.

If you would like to be involved in this event, please speak with Revd Helen.

Click here for more details about cycling or walking as part of the Ride and Stride event. If you look carefully at the pictures, you might even see Sarah Milner (from the 8am congregation) who is involved in coordinating this even across Ipswich. Thank you Sarah.

27th September

Morning: Decorating the Church for Harvest

3.30pm George Woodward to be licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

28th September

10am Combined Service - Harvest Festival

Harvest Lunch will follow the service. Details to follow

6.30pm Choral Evensong for Harvest

8th November

10am-3pm Faithful and Fruitful

We mark the end of the Inspiring Ipswich project, giving thanks today for yesterday whilst looking to God for all that is yet to come. You can [register here](#).

14th December

4pm Hexachordia Concert

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: 07540 394179

Helen's rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.

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 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

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)