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• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*
Sunday 21st September 2025
14th Sunday after Trinity



The chapel at Clare Priory

As this electronic newsletter drops into your Inbox, I expect to be on the second day of a silent retreat at Clare Priory in West Suffolk in preparation for my licensing in St Edmundsbury Cathedral next Saturday (27th) as a Lay Minister at St Margaret's.

A weekend of reflective silence is a luxury afforded to few of us given the busy lives we lead - even those of us who are retired! - but drawing closer to God in prayer does not need to be an activity that takes days to achieve, like my retreat will be, prayer can be done in minutes or even seconds!

Do we perhaps pigeon-hole God into times - such as church services - when we draw closer to him? It's a pity if we do because Jesus's promise to each one of us in Matthew 28:20 is to be with us ***always*** - 24/7. So let Him accompany you on your daily life Monday to Sunday, however

exciting or mundane it might be, and talk with him as you go. As I say, it can be done in seconds: in praise or gratitude, or in seeking His help with the tough things in life.

Prayer is the very warp and weft of the Christian life, let's not limit it to 'special occasions' like church services or silent retreats but, instead, follow St Paul's directions in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica and "pray without ceasing".

George Woodward

Very nearly a minster with the Bishop's license to lead services and preach.

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

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

Lectionary

This Sunday

For a long time we have been connecting you each week to scripture readings via a US-based site, www.BibleGateway.com which is now no longer accessible from the UK and European Union. The links to this week's readings are via www.bible.com which give you the chapter, so you'll need to look for the particular verse(s).

8am BCP Holy Communion

[Galatians 5.16-24](#)

[Luke 17.11-19](#)

11am Parish CommunionAmos 8.4-71 Timothy 2.1-7Luke 16.1-13

Church News

Thank You!**Ride & Stride, Heritage Open Weekend and Community Open Day**

An enormous thank you to the very many volunteers who were involved in welcoming around 250 people through the church doors during last weekend's activities.

- 83 Heritage Open Weekend visitors, 31 more than last year.
- 14 children built bug hotels with their accompanying adults as we became the place where Revd Dr Karen Smith's story of Abbey and Eddie at Buggingham Palace reached the 2,000th child as part of her eco-work with children and their families.
- 38 people sang hymns and drank pims
- 50 bacon rolls were consumed
- £200+ of gratitude giving in response to cake, welcome, hospitality and heritage booklets
- £ hundreds raised for the Suffolk Historic Churches' Trust - we'll know more once sponsorship is gathered in: thanks to Sue for cycling and Sarah for welcoming.
- countless yards of bunting were made and displayed

After 8 years coordinating the Heritage Open Weekend, organising volunteer welcomers and being a local point of contact for the umbrella organisation in Ipswich, John Grierson is looking out for someone else to coordinate next year's event. Do have a word with him if you would enjoy taking this on.

New phone number for Rev Helen

Please update your contacts lists: Rev Helen's new number for calls, texts or WhatsApps is 07541 707543

Parish Giving Scheme

A heartfelt thank you from me to all of you who give regularly to St Margaret's Church. Every little regular gift really does make such a difference to all that we are able to do. If you give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, you will recently have received email correspondence updating you on some planned changes to the scheme, during which their website will not be accessible from 13th - 30th October 2025. If you have any concerns or questions, do contact 07541 707543 or email info@parishgiving.org.uk

Together Community

Rev Helen is still looking for a couple of volunteers to help at the Together Community in September and October. The dates and times are:

- Saturday 27th September between 10.30am and 1pm (Harvest)
- Thursday 17th October between 3pm and 5.30pm

Help is needed either helping to heat and serve food (which is prepared beforehand) and wash up in the kitchen or be on hand to welcome people in the hall and provide friendship and chat during the sessions. Now the new school year has started we are hoping that more parents/carers and children will be able to join us. To run this community safely we do need at least one person in the kitchen and 1 in the hall at all times and ask that people have completed the Church of England's Basic Safeguarding training which can be done online in about an hour via the link below [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal](#). If you have any questions please do speak to her.

Audio-Visual Operators

We are looking for additional people to join our small band of audio-visual operators. This worthwhile and vital role could either be manning the sound desk or operating the livestreaming equipment (or both). Full training will be given - it really is easier than it looks! If you are interested, please speak to or email stuart.quinton@ntlworld.com. Thank you.
Rev Sarah adds: recently a few people have connected via the livestream for the first time and have remarked to me just how helpful it is for them not only to worship, but also how the sense of connection has been an important part of feeling better. Sometimes we don't always see the impact of God working through the ways in which we serve. Can you serve quietly in this way? Why not give it a go!

PCC Meeting Update

The PCC met on Tuesday evening (16th September). The meeting began with looking back at where we had noticed God at work in the community since we last met: pastoral care and the open weekend were particularly noted. The agenda included time for further thoughtful reflection that recognised our worship at St Margaret's is largely limited to a Sunday morning, giving thought to the service patterns including the possibility of restoring weekday services. Amongst other items, updates on the work of our Eco Church group, Property Group (as they consider the urgent work identified in the Church Quinquennial Inspection and the recent condition survey of the church centre) and Church Centre Committee were heard (including the need to recruit a cleaner/caretaker having carried a vacancy for quite some time now. A good decision was made to simplify and secure the administration of the church accounts, moving to an online bespoke church accounting package rather than relying on spreadsheets. The minutes will be available once they have been approved at the next meeting of the PCC which is due to take place on Tuesday, 4th November 2025.

Harvest Festival Weekend

27th & 28th September 2025

We will be supporting the FIND Foodbank: donations of non-perishable food a toiletries will be very gratefully received.

Saturday morning:

9.30 am we will be decorating the church for harvest...

A note from Angie Cable:

HARVEST FESTIVAL CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating our Church for Harvest Festival on Saturday 27th September from 9.30 am. The Church car park will be open for our use.

*Please just turn up with flowers/plants/vegetables etc and you will be given a space to decorate.
We look forward to seeing some new friends as well as our regular decorators.
All arrangements will then need to be cleared on or before 11th October.
Thank you all for continued support.*

11am-12.45 pm A special, weekend opportunity to worship 'Together', meeting in the church centre with lunch provided. The '**Together**' worshipping community usually meet after school on the third Thursday of the month - so this is an opportunity for those who have not yet experienced '**Together**' to join in. If you would like to know more, speak with Revd Helen for details.

Saturday afternoon:

3.30 pm George Woodward to be licensed as a Lay Minister (Reader) at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. You are welcome to attend the service, or join the Cathedral's livestream.

On the Sunday - whilst we won't have photos of the antarctic to enjoy, we will have an update on activities in our link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania as we get ready to share lunch together.



Harvest Celebration

Sunday 28th September 2025

10am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Family Communion with Junior Church.

11.15am The Wonder of Creation

*Congregation members share experiences of God's good earth in words & pictures: including the Antarctic & Tanzania.
In church with activities for children & young people.*

12.30pm Bring & Share Lunch

In the Church Centre, Bolton Lane: to book places for you & your guests & to arrange your contribution, speak to Frederike Jacob in church or text on 07805 192855.

6.30pm Choral Evensong

*With traditional hymns and anthems,
a reflective service at the end of a blessed day.*



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



St. Margaret's Church
I P S W I C H

Social Justice Campaigns

Christian Aid - Restore

If you would like to lend your voice to Christian Aid's 'Restore' Campaign which explores the way in which the pursuit of climate justice tackles poverty, you can find out more on their website by clicking [here](#). Information is available about writing to your MP or signing the Christian Aid petition.

Christian Aid - Red Line for Gaza

On 24 and 25 September, Christian Aid will be outside the Welsh and UK parliaments with people of different faith traditions to join in prayer and draw a red line for Gaza, standing in solidarity with those in need of immediate humanitarian aid, requesting direct action be taken by the UK government. You can learn more and join in at www.christianaid.org.uk

A prayer written by The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world:

In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.

By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

UoS Freshers' Fair

Please pray for all young people returning to university - the comings and goings at St Margaret's Church as some leave and others return or arrive. Revds Sarah and Helen are looking forward to the University of Suffolk freshers' fayre on the afternoon of 30th September when we will be glad to meet new students and let them know how to connect with church in Ipswich.

Thursday Forum

at Christ Church
Tacket Street (next to Cox Lane car park)

Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm
A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both



Season 2025/2026

- Sep 25th **The Eyes of the Few**
Graham Murchie, Trustee, Bawdsey Radar Trust
- Oct 2nd **Ipswich Minster**
Rev Tom Mumford, Vicar
- Oct 16th **Ipswich Central and All About Ipswich**
Melanie Willis, Communications Manager
- Oct 23rd **SIFRE (Suffolk Interfaith Resource)**
Cynthia Capey
- Oct 30th **Two Months in Thailand: a Grandparent's Journey**
Elene Marsden

www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk
Twitter at @ThursdayForum and Facebook: Thursdayforumipswich

Did you Know?

Medieval Carvings

If you haven't already seen it, there is an exhibition of images of the main subject of each of the medieval carvings above the clerestory windows on the display boards under the tower. A copy of the display can also be found on the church website:

<https://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Spandrel-Pics-For-Website.pdf>

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Charles Street, St George Street and The High Street.

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.

Gratitude

For all who willingly shape their lives in service to God through volunteering in God's church. For new friends in the Together community. For the recent choir outing to Thorpeness. Mel writes: "In time-honoured tradition, the Church Choir made their annual September outing to Thorpeness. We enjoyed a picnic, ball games and kite-flying on the beach, followed by rowing on the Meare and tea, cakes and ice-cream in the Tearoom afterwards. We had a wonderful afternoon and were blessed with lovely sunshine!"





September Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

Keep your fridge at 5C or less (most are kept at about 7C, which means food will go off sooner) and ensure there is a 10cm gap behind your fridge to let heat flow away easily. Make sure the seal is strong – if it can't hold a piece of paper when shut, it could be letting in warm air, making it work harder.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God • Care for Creation • Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

21st September

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Café Church in the Church Centre

11am Parish Communion

23rd September

There will be no Morning Prayer in school today

24th September

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

26th September

8am Morning Prayer

27th September

11am-12.45pm Together for Harvest - service followed by lunch. All in the church centre.

3.30pm George Woodward licensed as Reader at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. All welcome to attend or join via livestream on the [Cathedral you tube](#) page

28th September - Harvest Festival

8am BCP Communion

10.00am Harvest Communion : One service - all together

6.30pm Harvest Evensong

30th September

8am Morning Prayer (in school)

1st October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

3rd October

8am Morning Prayer

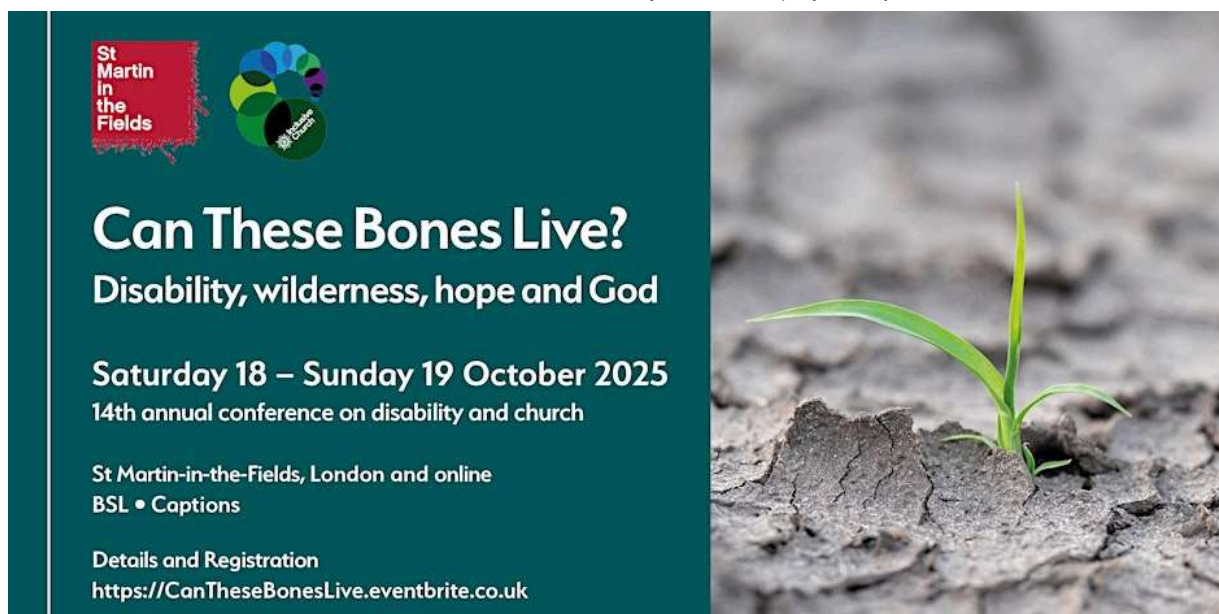
5th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11.00am Parish Communion

Forward Dates



Exploring experience of wilderness & how hope grows.

With talks, workshops, groups, art, theology, liturgy. Hybrid event - on site & online. You do not have to travel to London! You can join online.

Entry by donation. Details [here](#).

Charles and Belinda have invited members of the church electoral roll to join them in their home for all or part of this event: 42 Tuddenham Road from 11 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday 18.10.25 and 2.30 pm to 4:30 pm on Sunday 19.10.25. Charles 214116 (home), 078 5477 6870 (mobile).

Saturday 18 October

11.00 Welcome & introductions

11.15 Storyteller #1

11.25 Keynote speaker

11.55 Q&A

12.15 Breakout groups

13.00 Lunch break

14.00 Storyteller #2

14.15 Workshops

15.25 Tea break

16.00 Liturgy

16.25 Thanks & end

Sunday 19 October

14.30 - 16.30 - Film screening: Defiant Lives A special screening of this award-winning documentary which tells the story of the disability rights movement in the UK, US and Australia. Followed by panel discussion. Onsite and online, with options for captions and audio description. If you just want to watch this film you can do so anytime for free at the link

[Home | Defiant Lives](#)

8th November

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 2025

4pm Hexachordia Concert

14th February 2026

Trianon Concert (evening)

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.

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)