



• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*  
**Sunday 28th September 2025**  
**Harvest Festival**



*Fruitful reflection at Norwood Care Home Messy Vintage Church this week.*

One of Henry Purcell's best-known compositions is a choral piece that earned the nickname The Bell Anthem because its introduction sounds like pealing bells. The words to it are taken from the letter St Paul wrote from prison to the persecuted first century church in the Roman colony of Philippi which we will hear read at our 10.00 Harvest Festival service on Sunday.

"Rejoice in the Lord always" Paul tells his readers down the centuries but how can we do that today after watching the news on TV or if we're struggling with health, financial or relationship problems? The answer lies in Paul's words that follow this exhortation; he says: "the Lord is near; in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God".

Yesterday's prayer in our monthly church Prayer Diary comprised these wise words from Christian writer, C.S.Lewis: "God cannot give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing. Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace within difficulties".

The Philippians bible reading we will hear read at our Harvest Festival on Sunday ends with 8 short words: "the God of peace will be with you" which enable us to "rejoice in the Lord always". May you discover this truth afresh in this season of mellow fruitfulness.

George Woodward

## 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

**10.00 am** Harvest Festival (L)

**6.30 pm** Harvest Evensong

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

[www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com) is accessible again to European users.

### 8am BCP Holy Communion & 10am Harvest Communion

*At the early service we will be enjoying the readings for Harvest from the Common Worship lectionary, read in traditional language.*

Philippians 4.4-9 ([King James Version](#)) ([New Revised Standard Version](#))

John 6.25-35 ([King James Version](#)) ([New Revised Standard Version](#))

### 6.30pm Harvest Evensong

[Psalm 126](#)

[2 Corinthians 9.6-11](#)

## Church News

### Harvest Festival Weekend

*We are supporting the FIND Foodbank: donations of non-perishable food and toiletries will be very gratefully received. If you prefer to make a cash donation, you can do so [directly here](#). Alternatively, clearly label a cash/cheque donation and place it in the offertory or make a donation with your card and [email our treasurer John](#), to let him know the time and amount you have donated.*

## **The Church Gives**

*Each year, as a church, we make donations to local and international organisations carrying out God's mission in various ways. We have £1,500 to allocate between these three causes:*

- [Mission Direct](#) : congregation member Geoff Spiller accompanies people giving practical support to improve local facilities in Zambia
- [Growing Hope](#) : one of our neighbours, Holy Trinity Church in Ipswich, is looking to work with Growing Hope to set up a space for children with additional needs and their families. They are looking for prayerful and financial support with a view to starting in 2026.
- [Christian Mission Society](#) : we have long been supporting a couple working in an environment that requires their names not to be shared or published on social media or through newsletters like this. We can, however, quietly continue to support them prayerfully and financially.

**Look out for the token jars in church over the weekend... we'll allocate the spread of funds across the proportion of tokens placed in each jar by the end of this week.**

## **Today**

### **8.30 am**

Men's Breakfast: 8.30am bacon rolls and coffee... 9.30am worship and prayer

### **9.30 am**

Decorate the church for harvest... Suffolk Chamber Choir will also be rehearsing in church from 11am to 4pm!

### **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.

### **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](#).

## Tomorrow

### 8.00 am

BCP Harvest Communion

### 10.00 am

Family Communion - traditional hymns, music group, junior church, George's first service as a Minister Licensed by the Bishop and junior church fun.

**You are welcome to drop your bring and share food for lunch in the church centre before the service begins.**

Following the service as we get ready for lunch, refreshments in church (with fizz to celebrate George's licensing), an update on Adam's August trip to the link diocese of Kagera in Tanzania and outdoor activities for children and families with Rev Sarah.

### 6.30 pm

Harvest Evensong - the perfect way to prayerfully rest in God's presence at the end of a full weekend of celebration. We welcome The Very Revd Keith Jones as our preacher and enjoy the sound of harvest hymns and anthems. All welcome.





# 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](http://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

This week many aid and humanitarian organisations, including Christian Aid, gathered 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](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

There are red prayer ribbons near the prayer tree in church if you wish to join in prayerfully.

*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.

## 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](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)

## Audio-Visual Operators

### Important! No one has yet volunteered...

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](mailto: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!*

### Deanery Synod Meeting

Please pray for George, Maggie and Frederike as they attend deanery synod this week.

## 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 Westerfield Road, Valley Road, Cranfield Court and John Belstead Lodge.

### 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 George Woodward and others to be commissioned into new ministries this weekend. The Harvest is ripe and the workers are few. For all who are willing to undertake the training, formation and prayerful and often challenging need to grow in self-awareness in order to serve God, neighbour and church. For the Messy Vintage team. For all involved in our Harvest Celebrations - for those who will receive what we have the privilege, power and responsibility to give.

September Prayer Diary

October Prayer Diary

## Growing Greener

### Green Tip of the week

As nights draw in and temperatures drop, this may be a good time to be thinking about how you might heat your home in the future. Gas and oil are increasingly unsatisfactory options as both emit greenhouse gases. Wood burning stoves, while carbon neutral in one respect, may involve a lot of carbon in transporting the logs to your home. They also pollute the air with particulates that are not good for your health.

Heat pumps may be an answer (air or ground sourced). They are not a cheap option, but the long winter months may be a good time to investigate this method of heating.

*We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.*

*Revd Sarah adds:*

Perhaps like me, you do not live in a house that you own and as such, have no control over the type of boiler - if its effective and efficient... or indeed, if it's even working. However, we can control the thermostat... and the way in which we use heating. There is no draught excluder behind my letterbox - I must fix that this year as I'm sure there's a lot of heat loss through it. And in the gap under the backdoor through which I can see daylight and a broken draught excluder. Ask me (and Adam!) in a couple of weeks if we've done anything about it!

**Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours**

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## Services Calendar

### 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

### 29th September

9am St Margaret's Primary School Harvest Festival for staff and pupils

### 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

### 7th October

8.00am Morning Prayer in school

### 8th October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

### 10th October

8am Morning Prayer

### 12th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am 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](https://CanTheseBonesLive.eventbrite.co.uk).

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)

15th October at 7pm: [Theology, Churches & the mainstreaming of the far right.](#)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com)**Office**Email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) for all correspondence. The [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)