



• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*
Sunday 31st August 2025
 11th Sunday after Trinity

Hospitality

Have you seen a St George's flag painted on a roundabout? There are images all over the press. St George was born in Cappadocia, modern day Turkey. He became a soldier in the occupying Roman army and is believed to have died in Lydda (modern-day Israel, then the Roman province of Syria Palaestina), martyred for his Christian faith in the 3rd century. English Heritage write about him [here](#), reminding us that he wasn't a knight, never visited England and that we share him as 'patron' with Portugal and Ethiopia, amongst others.

Our readings this Sunday challenge us to think about welcome and hospitality, following in the pattern of Christ, the one who invites us to follow, faithfully... the very same Christ who is also the one who left everything and dwelt among us as a vulnerable child, giving life to us and to others by giving up life itself.

There are practical details to attend to, of course. But if we begin with the practicalities.... like beginning the service with the notices... are we in danger of missing the point? Together we are humankind made in the image of God to love and to be loved: loving God, loving neighbour in worship of God, the creator and sustainer of life in whose footsteps and in whose image we seek to live.

Perhaps I need to put the notices elsewhere on a Sunday morning - get the house in order, so to speak! Prioritising God's call... first, above all things, giving to God all that is worthy. Then it will be worship... our daily worship in giving our whole lives to follow Christ's way that will then inform the practicalities of daily living rather than trying to fit God in around the practicalities of life.

Rev. Sarah, Priest-in-Charge

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 Rise & Shine

11.00 am Parish Communion (L)

3.30 pm Marriage Blessing - Jason & Jamais. All welcome.

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 15.1-11

Luke 18.9-14

11am Parish Communion

Ecclesiasticus 10.12-18

Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

Luke 14.1, 7-14

Church News

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

Grateful Thanks

To Helen Ely and Andrew Beale who give their time and energy voluntarily to the work of the Ipswich Memorial Project, our sincere thanks for their tireless work remembering those who have died in war, those who live with the consequence of war and help us to continue to work in every way for peace. The exhibition has now ended but do read some of the moving comments in the visitors book.

3.30pm Sunday 31st August : All Welcome
Marriage Blessing - Jason and Jamais

Our sincere congratulations to Mr and Mrs Webbsmall-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.

Back to School - Bag Blessings & Pencil Cases

If you're heading back to school this week or next, after the Sunday services Rev Helen will happily say a prayer with you and bless your school bag for the year ahead. Do ask her. We have also received a donation of pencil cases - some are now in the children's area in church for general use, but a few extra 'spares' are in the lost property box in the coffee area at the back of the church. Do please take one if you, or if someone you know, needs a new pencil case.

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 and 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 - 14th September

Ride & Stride, Heritage Open Weekend and Community Open Day

We are grateful to the Inspiring Ipswich Project that has sponsored our Community Open Day event.

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, Rev Sarah or George Woodward can put you in touch with Richard Jackson or Sarah Boggis (Sarah B 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). For more details ask Rev Helen.

Drop in Café from mid morning: chairs and tables outside with coffee/tea and cake on tap 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). Rev Sarah leads a happy open-air sing-a-long of some of your favourite songs and hymns. Theo Geileskey will accompany us on the piano. Come along and bring friends and neighbours.

Harvest Festival Weekend

27th & 28th September 2025

Saturday morning:

9.30am we will be decorating the church for harvest... see Angie's note below.

11am-12.45pm 'Together' meets in the church centre with lunch provided.

Saturday afternoon: George Woodward to be licensed as a Lay Minister (Reader) at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Sunday morning: 8 am BCP service followed by combined **10am** Harvest Festival

Sunday afternoon: Harvest Bring and Share Lunch - Frederike and friends coordinating - look out for a sign up sheet at the back of church soon.

Sunday evening: 6.30 pm Harvest Evensong

All produce and donations will support the FIND Foodbank.

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.

Social Justice Campaign

Christian Aid

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.

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Henley Road, Park Road, Manor Road, Tuddenham Road.

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.

Lucy our Parish Administrator sends her thanks

Thank you everyone for your lovely messages about Gracie. She is doing really well after having to come a little early and is a big fan of a 1am party - Mummy and Daddy no so much!

And a big thank you to Maggie, Annie and Frederike for my meals on wheels/legs. It really does take a village!



August Prayer Diary

September Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week - perhaps you do this already?

As summer starts to draw to a close, some of your old shirts and T shirts may be becoming unwearable. However, don't throw them away! They make excellent cleaning clothes and can then go on earning their keep for a while longer!

Final Call for Men's 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

2nd September

8.50am Holy Communion for St Margaret's CEVAP School staff at the beginning of a new school year.

5th September

8am Morning Prayer

7th September

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine (with Godly Play)

11am Parish Communion

9th September

8am Morning Prayer (in school)

10th September

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12th September

8am Morning Prayer

13th September

3.30pm 'Hymns and Pimms' in the Churchyard

14th September

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion

Forward Dates




Can These Bones Live?

Disability, wilderness, hope and God

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 October 2025
14th annual conference on disability and church

St Martin-in-the-Fields, London and online
BSL • Captions

Details and Registration
<https://CanTheseBonesLive.eventbrite.co.uk>



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](#).

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 2025

4pm Hexachordia Concert

14th February 2026

4pm Trianon 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)