



*Weekly news, readings and prayers*

Sunday 4th May 2025  
Easter 3

**‘The Conversion of St Paul’ a poem by John Betjeman**

Now is the time when we recall  
 The sharp Conversion of Saint Paul  
 Converted! Turned the wrong way round –  
 A man who seemed till then quite sound,  
 Keen on religion – very keen –  
 No one, it seems, had ever been  
 So keen on persecuting those  
 Who said that Christ was God and chose  
 To die for this absurd belief  
 As Christ had died beside the thief.  
 Then in a sudden blinding light  
 Paul knew that Christ was God alright –  
 And very promptly lost his sight.

Poor Paul! They led him by the hand  
 He who had been so high and grand  
 A helpless blunderer, fasting, waiting,  
 Three days inside himself debating  
 In physical blindness: "As it's true  
 That Christ is God and died for you,  
 Remember all the things he did  
 To keep His gospel message hid.  
 Remember how you helped them even  
 To throw the stones that murdered Stephen.  
 And do you think that you are strong  
 Enough to own that you were wrong?"

They must have been an awful time,  
 Those three long days repenting crime  
 Till Ananias came and Paul  
 Received his sight, and more than all  
 His former strength, and was baptised.  
 Saint Paul is often criticised  
 By modern people who're annoyed  
 At his conversion, saying Freud  
 Explains it all. But they omit  
 The really vital point of it,  
 Which isn't how it was achieved  
 But what it was that Paul believed.  
 He knew as certainly as we  
 Know you are you and I am me  
 That Christ was all He claimed to be.

What is conversion? Turning round  
 From chaos to a love profound.  
 And chaos too is an abyss  
 In which the only life is this.  
 Such a belief is quite alright  
 If you are like Mrs Knight  
 And think morality will do  
 For all the ills we're subject to.  
 But raise your eyes and see with Paul  
 An explanation of it all.  
 Injustice, cancer's cruel pain,  
 All suffering that seems in vain,  
 The vastness of the universe,  
 Creatures like centipedes and worse –  
 All part of an enormous plan  
 Which mortal eyes can never scan  
 And out of it came God to man.  
 Jesus is God and came to show  
 The world we live in here below  
 Is just an antechamber where  
 We for His Father's house prepare.

What is conversion? Not at all

What is Conversion? Not at all  
 For me the experience of St Paul,  
 No blinding light, a fitful glow  
 Is all the light of faith I know  
 Which sometimes goes completely out  
 And leaves me plunging into doubt  
 Until I will myself to go  
 And worship in God's house below —  
 My parish church — and even there  
 I find distractions everywhere.

What is Conversion? Turning round  
 To gaze upon a love profound.  
 For some of us see Jesus plain  
 And never once look back again,  
 And some of us have seen and known  
 And turned and gone away alone,  
 But most of us turn slow to see  
 The figure hanging on a tree  
 And stumble on and blindly grope  
 Upheld by intermittent hope.  
 God grant before we die we all  
 May see the light as did St Paul.

## 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 **9.30am** Rise and Shine **11.00am** 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 from 10am to 4pm.

Lectionary

**This week 8am BCP Holy Communion** [1 Peter 2.19-end](#) [John 10.11-16](#) **11am Morning Worship**  
[Acts 9.1-6](#) [John 1.1-19](#)

### Church News

#### **CANCELLED - Hexachordia 3rd May 7pm,**

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances outside of our control the Hexachordia performance has been cancelled tonight. We are hoping to arrange another date in the not too distance future so keep an eye out.

#### **VE Day Celebrations**

Thursday 8 May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe at the end of the Second World War and civic events will take place in Ipswich to commemorate and celebrate this occasion.

A service will be held at the Cenotaph in Christchurch Park at 11am, led by the Royal British Legion. The Mayor of Ipswich and the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk will both be attending, together with local councillors, and members of the public are welcome to attend to pay their respects.

Ipswich Borough Council invites residents and visitors to gather in Ipswich town centre at 7.30pm for celebrations taking place on the Cornhill. The Council has arranged musical entertainment from 1940s singer Stacy 'Kitty' Collins and from the Wattisham Military Wives Choir. A bar will be provided on site offering soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and snacks. Union Jack bunting will run from the Town Hall balcony to posts on the Cornhill to add to the setting and atmosphere.

### **Electoral Roll**

Many thanks to those who have filled out our electoral form online already. We still have a number of you who were on the electoral roll last year who have yet to fill in the form. Please click the button below for the form. There are also some paper copies at the back of the Church. Ideally we would like the forms to be filled in electronically, if you need any help please call in to the office anytime during office hours

### **before 9th May**

, listed at the bottom of the newsletter, and our administrator Lucy will be happy to help you fill it in.

Any questions to Lucy Collins, Electoral Roll Officer at

verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

*Rev Sarah has a list of names to check-in with at church this week and next week... so don't leave without completing your form!*

### **Kagera**

If you completed the Kagera Lent Challenge or would like to make a donation to the Kagera Link Diocese funds, the details can be found [here](#).

**Electoral Roll Form**

### Growing Deeper

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for The Albany and Cemetery Lane.

We give thanks and pray for community connections:

- For our Communion Service at Park Manor
- For Messy Vintage activities at Norwood
- For our Communion Service this coming week at Christchurch Court

**May Prayer Diary**

### Growing Greener

### **Eco Tip of the week**

This Sunday is International Dawn Chorus Day and there is an app available called Merlin Bird ID. This app is free and listens out for birds it can hear singing, then shows you what you can hear. Why not download it yourself and appreciate the beautiful birdsong in your garden. If you want to listen to the dawn chorus on Sunday, try to be in a suitable place from around 5am... Rev Sarah will forgive you for yawning during the services!

**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

**This Week** **Tuesday 6th May** 8am Morning Prayer 3.30pm Christchurch Court Communion

**Friday 9th May** 8am Morning Prayer **Sunday 11th May** 8am BCP 9.30pm Rise and Shine

11.00am Parish Communion **Upcoming Wednesday 14th May**

2.30pm Cornerstones Friendship Group. This month the group will be doing some preparation work for Café Church. (Church Centre)

**Thursday 15th May**

3.30pm Together. New way of gathering to learn about God, especially for children and families.

**Friday 16th May**

7.30pm St Margaret's Friends': all welcome as we learn about the medieval carvings with David Evans. Refreshments and nibbles, all welcome. Please bring binoculars with you to see the carvings up close and in detail.

**Sunday 25th May** *Note change of service time*

**10.00am Combined Service and Annual Parish Church Meeting**

Rev Sarah is praying for God's calling to people to actively serve the St Margaret's Community as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and as this church's Charity Trustees.

## Offerory

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:**

Email: revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com

Address: The Vicarage, 32 Constable Road, IP4 2UW

**The Revd Sarah Geileskey** Telephone: 07841 687879**Sarah's rest days are usually****Thursday each week and the second Friday of each month** **Ordinand Helen Prior-Townsend** Email:helenptstmags@gmail.com Telephone: 07540 394179 **Helen is a Curate, working full time. Her rest days are usually Monday each week and every fourth Tuesday of each month.****Churchwardens** Email: churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com **Office** Email: verger.stmagsips@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Number: 07733 609661 and leave a message.

**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](mailto:atpastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com) for more information or contact Maggie Conder at [atpastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:atpastoralteam.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)Lucy Collins - Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. Email [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com)

More information on how you can report any safeguarding concerns is available from The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

[here](#)

Items for next week's sheet to the Verger Administrator ([verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:verger.stmagsips@gmail.com)), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please send an email or complete the form on the website.