



• *Weekly news, readings and prayers*
Sunday 19th October 2025
 17th Sunday after Trinity

Prayer

This week's gospel reading has a great deal to say about persistence. About not giving up. Persistence in relation to our continuous and unending conversation with God - that is prayer... and in the relentless pursuit of justice through which we will find that peace that the world cannot give.

Poet, Carol Ann Duffy, once wrote:

"Prayer"

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer
 utters itself. So, a woman will lift
 her head from the sieve of her hands and stare
 at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth
 enters our hearts, that small familiar pain;
 then a man will stand stock-still, hearing his youth
 in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade 1 piano scales
 console the lodger looking out across
 a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls
 a child's name as though they named their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer —
 Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.

Duffy writes of a world filled with prayer: voluntary and involuntary, spoken and sung, resounding and silent. Prayers crying out from all of God's creation. Pray for us now...with the echo that follows silently (...and at the hour of our death)... the calling out of a name and the echo of a

loved one that is gone or a time long-since past. The stormy seas. The edge and the end of the world. Finis-terre.

If you have a chance to walk in creation, in the changing seasons of life, listen out for the prayer and join in. Every step you take in earth has been hallowed by God with us, Jesus Christ. Sometimes persistence is revealed just one step at a time. One prayer at a time.

So pray without ceasing that God's justice and peace will reign in our lives, in the life of our church and in all the earth.

Vicar Sarah

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 Church Centre

11.00 am Parish Communion (L) with Baptism

3.00 pm St Mary's Church, Pakenham. We keep Motun in our prayers as we travel west to join in the Ixworth Deanery Confirmation Service with Bishop Graeme Knowles. All are 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

www.BibleGateway.com is accessible again to European users.

8am BCP Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 1.4-8

Matthew 22.34-end

11am Parish Communion2 Timothy 3.14-4.5Luke 18.1-8

Church News

Service Times Consultation

Thank you for continuing to engage with this period of consultation and prayerful reflection regarding the PCCs plan to refresh the worshipping pattern from January 2026. We have received emails and letters, as well as good conversation about the various ways renewal might be possible. If you have not yet seen or received a copy of the proposals, please [email the office](#) or pick up a copy in church. There are lots of opportunities to meet Rev Sarah and perhaps other PCC members to explore the proposals together before the PCC make a final decision in early November.

- o Saturday 25th October 10.30-11.30 am in Church
- o Tuesday 28th October 7.30-8.30 pm in Church Office

Help! All Hallows' Eve. 31st October 2025 - The Vicarage

If you are a small adult and would be willing to dress up as St Margaret with her dragon, we enjoy welcoming people to the vicarage on what is a very busy night of door knocking. We share generous hospitality, welcome people with sweets and make contact with many children and families we might otherwise rarely see. If you would like to be involved with this, speak with Rev Sarah.

Today & Tomorrow - 19th October 2025


St Martin in the Fields



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](#).

Sunday 19 October - the conference programme is 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](#)

Bishop Joanne moving to Ipswich in late October

Bishop Joanne has written about her move to Ipswich and the beginning of her new ministry among us that will be marked in a special service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 2pm on 24th January 2026. You can find an update on the diocesan website www.cofesuffolk.org

As Bishop Joanne and her family move into the parish of St Margaret's, we keep her in our prayers.

Job Vacancies

We are trying again to recruit some administrative support to help with the smooth running of the church whilst Lucy is on maternity leave - closing date for applications is Sunday, 19th October 2025. In addition, with grant funding from Suffolk Community Foundation Rev Helen is hoping to recruit casual Holiday Club Workers to assist with the running of children's activities and events - there is no closing date for these roles. If you are interested in either vacancy, please email hr.stmagsips@gmail.com for more details.

Theology, Churches & the Mainstreaming of the Far Right

At the webinar screened in church on Wednesday evening, Rev Sarah was joined by Charles Croydon, Adam Geileskey, Belinda Gledhill, Tim and Inga Lockington & June and Peter Youngs. With contributions from Professor Robert Beckford, Dr Aaron Winter, Dr Chris Shannahan, Dr Krish Kaddish OBE and Dr Carol Tomlin, we were challenged to think about our response to many points, in particular:

- a 'nostalgia for a Christendom that may never have existed',
- the diminishing of the Christian voice in the public sphere,
- the allure of 'Christian values' used to secure power, and
- the loss of the prophetic voice in the trade off through culture wars.

We were left with many questions, including, how do Christians champion the supremacy of Christ under the banner of love? Do catch up with any of us who attended this event - we'd be glad to chat with you more about the themes that were explored.

reader.stmagsips@gmail.com

As promised, our Licensed Lay Minister has a dedicated email address that you can now reach him on about all things church related. Do update your contacts for George Woodward!

Sunday, 2nd November at 6.30 - 7.15 pm - All Souls' Service

A reflective service with time to remember those we have loved who have died. In previous years this has been a service with Holy Communion and candle lighting. This year, we will again enjoy the opportunity to light candles, and we will hear music and poetry, taking time to reflect and meditate on words of scripture. There will be an opportunity to receive personal prayers with

ministers in the chapel. You are very welcome to invite friends and neighbours and those who have been bereaved recently, or many years ago, and for whom such a service might offer a sense of God's peace.

From 'Priest-in-Charge' to Vicar

The PCC and the Patrons (Simeons Trustees) have agreed with the Bishop and Archdeacon's proposal that the 'suspension' of the Benefice of St Margaret's Ipswich, be lifted. This is church legal terminology which means that I can be permanently licensed as Vicar of St Margaret's Church. This will take place during a single, 10am service on the morning of Advent Sunday (30th November 2025). Archdeacon Sam will be joining us and I hope that we can begin the new Church year with a great celebration and re-commitment to being God's church in this place at this time.

Lost Property

Here is a picture of everything in the box at the back of the church! If it's not claimed by the end of October, we will donate it to a charity shop.



'Petals'

As this year's Baby Loss awareness week closes, Jason Webb-small-Eghan member of our church community has been in touch to say:

On Sunday 17th May 2026 I will be taking part in the Hackney Half Marathon to raise money for families and parents who have and continue to suffer from the life-changing loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby.

This is a cause quite close to me and my family, and I am doing this in memory of Angel Osakioya Webb-Small Iredia, who was born and fell asleep on 29th May 2025.

Petals are a baby loss counselling charity. The specialist counselling service that they provide is life-changing for parents who have suffered the devastating loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby. They know that these tragic experiences not only result in grief but also in trauma. Their wonderful counsellors are there to help our clients navigate their grief and trauma and to guide them to a place of hope and they have continued to support my family through this tough time. Supporting this challenge will help them to deliver more vital counselling sessions to other bereaved parents when they need them. Any support you can give, however small or big, is greatly appreciated. Thank you. Jason.

If you would like to support Jason, pray for him and his family, ask him how his training is going and consider making a donation <https://www.justgiving.com/page/angelhackneyhalf>

The Church Gives - Final Call

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 and now that the tokens in the jars have been counted, we can confirm the amount each will receive:

- Mission Direct : congregation member Geoff Spiller accompanies people giving practical support to improve local facilities in Zambia **£470**
- 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. **£825**
- 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. **£205**

Inspiring Ipswich - video request!

8th November

We will be 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](#). A super lunch is being organised for all who attend and we have been asked to contribute a short film that shares the story of St Margaret's over recent years. We are hoping that as many people as possible will be willing to be included by appearing on this video saying 'I'm here'... or 'we're here'.



Faithful & Fruitful:
A Celebration of Inspiring Ipswich

Saturday 8 November
10am - 3pm
Colchester Road Baptist Church

RSVP
Scan to book
your free tickets:



80 YEARS SINCE VE DAY IPSWICH MEN WHO FOUGHT IN WW2



STORIES OF CAPTURE, ESCAPE, TRAGEDY AND SURVIVAL

WHEN
Saturday 8th November
1.0 pm to 4.0 pm

WHERE
SUFFOLK ARCHIVES
The Hold 131 Fore St, Ipswich IP4 1LN

TICKETS

Tickets cost £8

Book online at:

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on/>



Find out more about
the men who served
and remember those
who died.

Expert talks and guidance
on researching your own
family's military history

Hear heartfelt stories from
descendants of captured
soldiers

The forgotten story of 67th
Medium Regiment R.A.
T.A., made up of Ipswich
men captured at Tobruk in
1942

Ipswich War Memorial
Project and its growing
digital archive

Exhibition of photos,
letters and personal
testimonies

**SUFFOLK
ARCHIVES**
A SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE

As a follow-on from the wonderful exhibition in church, for VE/VJ Day 80th Anniversary by the Ipswich War Memorial Project, there is a further opportunity to find out more about a relative's war-time life at an event being held at The Hold in Ipswich on Saturday 8th November from 1pm to 4pm. Please note that tickets are only required for the Auditorium talks, not for the exhibition itself.

Save the date! Sunday 9th November 12pm

Dear All

We are the very proud First Constable Rainbows, and we want to keep doing something brilliant, but we need your help. Every year this group of incredible children raise money to go together one evening to a local toy shop and select Christmas presents for children who otherwise wouldn't have much at Christmas (to be distributed by FIND). To raise money for this they are holding a remembrance Sunday event and we would greatly appreciate your support.

On Sunday 9th November 2025 (Remembrance Sunday) from 12

Where Garrett Memorial Hall – Bolton Lane Ipswich

You are invited to join us for a warm welcome, a baked potato, hot drink and lots of fun.

Cost Adults – Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Hot Drink and Cake £10 per person

Children – Half Baked Potato, Choice of topping, Cold Drink and Cake £5 Per person

There will also be games, fudge and crafts so please bring some cash.

To book places please E Mails helepeck77@me.com and confirm numbers (or if you have any questions). Please note payment will need to be cash on the day.

We usually cover all our costs so everything raised will go to put smiles on faces at Christmas

Thank you

1st Constable Rainbows

Hexachordia Concert - Sunday 7th December at 4.00pm

To book your tickets [click here](#), scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com phone or text 078733 609661.



Hexachordia

Heigh-ho, the Holly!

Sunday 7th December 4.00 pm

Music, mirth and merriment for the festive season, as this hour-long concert reveals what Christmas and New Year was like for folk at all levels of society in the 16th & 17th centuries. Come along and hear the Medieval and Tudor origins of today's familiar carols played on the gittern, vielle, crumhorn, lute, viol, recorder and bagpipes.

Complimentary drinks & cake served after the concert. Tickets: £8.00 Standard or £5.00 Concessions. To secure your tickets scan the QR code or contact: office.stmagsips@gmail.com or text/phone: 07733 609661






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

Find us on Soane Street near to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking in St Margaret's VAP School, Bolton Lane, Ipswich, IP4 2BT



Growing Deeper

Prayer

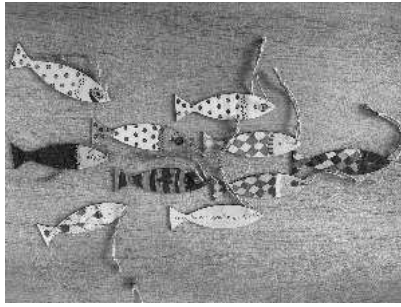
Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Grosvenor Close, Cemetery Lane and Berkeley Close.

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 Messy Vintage at Norwood care home and the Together community that met in the Church Centre after school on Thursday of this week. For the love that was expressed and shared together in those spaces. Lord, we give thanks.



October Prayer Diary

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

Another great way to save money and the planet is to make sure that all your electrical devices are shut down at night. This may mean switching them off at the mains, as many stay on stand-by when you switch the device itself off. Stand-by means they are still using electricity.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

19th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Café Church

11am Parish Communion - during this service we welcome Chloe's family and celebrate her baptism.

3.30pm at Pakenham Church, Motun will be confirmed by Bishop Graeme. All welcome.

21st October

8.00am Morning Prayer in church

22nd October

9am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

24th October

8am Morning Prayer

26th October

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine Communion

11am Morning Worship

6.30pm Choral Evensong

31st October - All Hallows' Eve

8am Morning Prayer

2nd November

8am BCP Communion

9.30am Rise & Shine

11am Parish Communion (All Saints)

6.30pm All Souls Service - Remembering Together

A 45 minute service of poetry, music, meditation and candle-lighting for all who are bereaved or want to remember loved ones. There will be an opportunity for personal prayer and the chance to dwell in words of hope found in the scriptures. All are welcome

Forward Dates

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.

George Woodward - Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

Email: reader.stmagsips@gmail.com

Telephone:

George's quiet days tend to be Wednesdays and Fridays.

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)