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Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 1st February

Candlemas



This weekend I shall be enjoying the last of my Christmas tree and eating pancakes. You may think I have forgotten what day it is! Although Shrove Tuesday, pancake day, is not for a few weeks yet and most people's Christmas trees have been long packed away, or composted, I'm celebrating the end of the Christmas season, the celebration of light - God's light - the light of Christ that has dawned, made visible in Christ Jesus at Christmas, made visible again to Anna and Simeon in the temple as we mark Candlemas, when forty days after his birth, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, brought him into that sacred space, as was custom and ritual, to give thanks to God and to begin the earthly journey of a life of faith and hope.

The light of the world.

To light a candle in the darkness is a hopeful act: carrying a flame when the wind is against us. Finding the courage to face what lies ahead with eyes wide open. A kindly light that helps us to find our footing - not the spotlight that exposes and judges.

At our 10 am Family Communion service we will see the light in the sermon-slot. Candles will be lit in the hope that we might see differently. See through God's eyes. See how we can change the world around us and be changed ourselves in the name and for the sake of love.

Across France tomorrow, some will be celebrating La Chandeleur. Look it up. Learn about it. Enjoying crêpes. Celebrating the return of the light as the sun's position changes in the sky.

The Light of the World is always with us that we too might shine as lights in the world. Tomorrow we end our service in church by being sent out as shining lights (and to enjoy pancakes together!)... though Christmas celebrations end, it is just the beginning.... for God is with us. Let there be light. Let us shine.

Vicar Sarah

February's prayer diary is still being prepared and will follow as soon as possible.

January Prayer Diary

Services this Week

Livestreamed services are marked (L). Please use the button below to view services at the times given or to catch up at anytime.

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am (L) Family Communion with light procession and Candlemas Pancakes after the service.

6 pm Prayer & Praise : George Woodward leads a deep dive into the scriptures on the theme of 'Light'

This Week

Tuesday 3rd February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

3.30 pm Christchurch Court Communion

Wednesday 4th February

9 am School Service

12 pm Celtic Communion (said) service in the Chapel (Revd Charlotte Cook visiting)

Thursday 5th February

8 pm Choral Compline (L) - Night Prayers sung by the choir - all welcome to attend the church for this 20 minute service at the end of the day.

Friday 6th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

2.30pm Funeral T/L Joanna Carrick RIP

Saturday 7th February

8.30-10.30am Men's Breakfast

(if you'd like to join the WhatsApp group please speak with George Woodward, Adam Geileskey or Richard Jackson)

We look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's Church.

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for Sunday services. During the week, the children are in school and we cannot use the playground as a car park. Please drive slowly and carefully through the gates. We are grateful for our partnership with the school. The church will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

[Click here for Livestreaming](#)

Lectionary

This Sunday

Malachi 3.1-4 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Luke 2.22-45 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Read in traditional language - King James Version - at the 8am service and from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) at other times.

Church News

TODAY!

Breakfast All Together

As it's a fifth Saturday in the month, a chance for people to get together from 9.30am in the church centre for up to an hour and half to share bacon rolls (vegan and gluten free options available). Do come if you can.

Licensing of Revd Sarah Hall as Curate-In-Charge

Our former Reader/Licensed Lay Minister has sent us an invitation to her licensing service on 23rd February. RSVPs by **TODAY**.

We keep Sarah and Phil in our prayers as they move to Woolpit.

The Benefice of Woolpit & Drinkstone

The Churchwardens of the parishes of St Mary's, Woolpit and All Saints', Drinkstone warmly invite you to

the Licensing of the Reverend Sarah Hall as Curate-in-Charge
by the Rt Revd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
on Monday, 23rd February 2026, at St Mary's, Woolpit at 7.30pm
followed by a wine reception

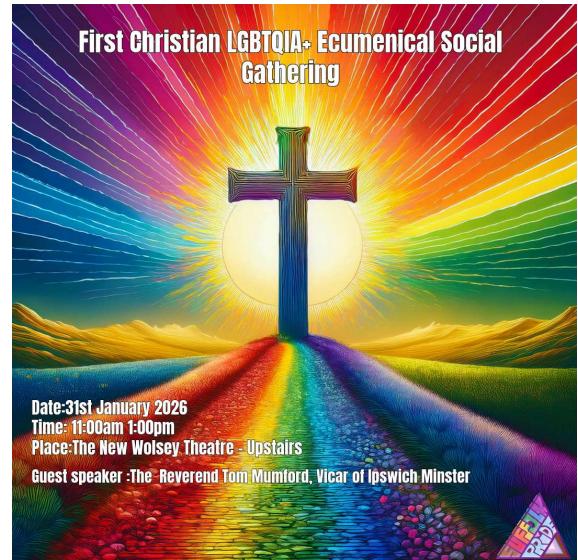
*Clergy/LLM's are invited to robe in the
Village Institute [IP30 9QH] opposite the Village Pump*

*Please RSVP by Friday 30th January 2026
indicating if you are staying for the reception (and if you are robing)
to: rev.sarah.hall@gmail.com*

*Please pray for Sarah and the people of Woolpit & Drinkstone parishes
at the start of this new chapter together*

First LGBTQIA+ Gathering in the upper room at the New Wolsey Theatre

With apologies for short notice - this was shared with us late this week and is taking place this morning 11am-1pm. Revd Tom Mumford from Ipswich Minister is guest speaker. All welcome.



Remembering those who have died

We remember and give thanks for Joanna Carrick who recently died following a short illness. As Co-founder and Creative Director of The Red Rose Chain theatre, many have been the tributes to Jo as people give thanks for her life and work. Jo's husband, David and son, Ted, are in our prayers. The funeral will be here at St Margaret's at 2.30pm on Friday, 6th February 2026.

Churchwarden(s) Vacancies

After four years of dedicated service in the role of lone Churchwarden, Margaret Woodward's time in this role will end at the APCM. Churchwardens serve in one of the most visible and important roles in a church community and we must discern wisely the people who will take on these roles in this season when the church is growing. Please begin to pray and to look for people across this community with practical and people skills whom God may be calling to serve us in this role. **The Vicar's prayer is that at team of 4 people will emerge who can work well together, with a blend of ages and experiences.** Two named wardens and two dedicated helpers. The role of churchwarden is varied - there are some tasks that must be undertaken, however, it can also be

shaped to enable individuals to bring their skills to the role to help St Margaret's continue to flourish and grow. There is some information about [being a churchwarden on the Diocesan Website](#): please speak with Revd Sarah and with Margaret if you are curious.

Concert: 14th February 4pm

Anna Brennan and Alison Thurtle are coordinating this event - do speak to them if you can help to welcome, serve refreshments or put up promotional posters. Thank you.



Concert

Saturday 14th February
4.00 pm

A late afternoon concert of string and choral music performed by members of **Trianon Symphony Orchestra and Choir** with the voices from **Ipswich Choral Society** and the **Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society**.

This concert remembers Trianon's co-founder, Chris Green, promoter of the arts and of Ipswich.

Warm drinks will be available afterwards and there will be retiring collection to support the maintenance and general repairs of the historic Grade 1 listed St Margaret's Church.

Soane Street, next to Christchurch Mansion.
Parking available in St Margaret's VAP School,
Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT



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



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

Growing Deeper

<https://mailchi.mp/a80d3e5de4f9/weekly-notices-and-prayer-diary-12819708?e=a489694140>

5/9

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Harvey Street, Suffolk Road, Norfolk Road and Kiln Close.

Thanksgiving

There is so much to be thankful for this week. A super Together Christingle last Saturday. A new Bishop, Joanne and a new Archbishop, Sarah (both in the picture below). Messy Vintage out in the community. Bishop Godfrey with us last Sunday.

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.

Social Action

Please remember have a box at the back of the church all year round to collect contributions of food and toiletries.



Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

Rather than buying small plastic bottles of products each time you need them, try buying food and cleaning products in bulk to avoid useless plastic wrappings. Nowadays, there are plenty of options to choose from, and many supermarkets and other shops let you fill your own jars/bags. Many towns now have at least one shop dedicated to reducing plastic use where you can bulk buy. Choose metal or glass food containers and storage options instead of plastic ones whenever you can.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 8th February

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Café Church in the church centre

6 pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 10th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11th February

9 am School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel

7pm Prayer Meeting in Church : Justice

Friday 13th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Sunday 15th February

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Family Communion (L)

6 pm Time Out - contemplation and meditation on the theme of transfiguration

Tuesday 17th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing followed by Soup Lunch

7pm Said Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 19th February

3.15-5.00pm Together in the Church Centre

Friday 20th February

8am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 21st February

8.30am Men's Breakfast

Forward Dates

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

Every Wednesday in Lent - Lent Lunches (soup) and reflective conversation following the midday Communion service.

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: 07990 573258

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 or call 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

Frederike Jacob is our assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer

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>