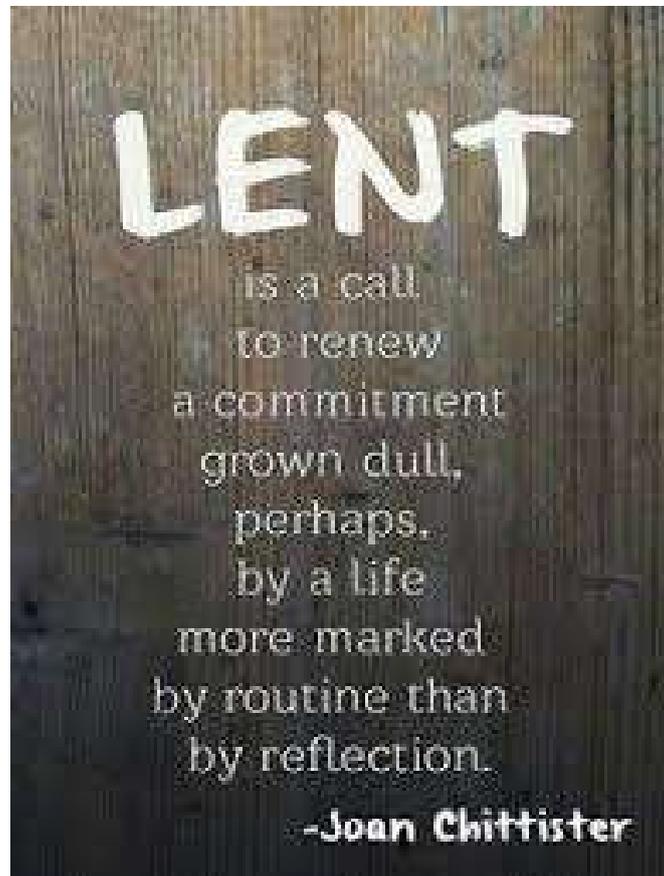




Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 22nd February

Lent I



“ My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word.”

Words from Psalm 119.25.

I wonder how this season of Lent began for you? Perhaps you were marked with a cross of ashes. Perhaps pancakes were enjoyed. Perhaps nothing has changed.

So many of us are busy, attending to life. For some, that's the simplest of routines: finding somewhere dry to sleep. Working out where the next meal is coming from. Caring for a loved one. Catching up with the next box set. Applying for (yet another) job. Enjoying and/or enduring the

pattern of our children's lives. Of our parents' lives. Of the neighbours we (try to) love. Living from one appointment to the next. The same is true of church life. Another Sunday comes... and goes. We're in church. We've missed church. We've got jobs to do for church. We should be doing jobs for church.

All of this is dust and yet what we do, or do not do, becomes our focus, rather than who we are doing it with and what we are doing it for.

A period of time in the wilderness strips us from the trappings of life, helping us to see through the dust and to cling, not to what we do, but to the One who invites us to live life: to know the journey to resurrection - life lived differently. To see the dust differently and to live and share life differently as a result.

40 days is not so long really. Why not give us something that is stopping you from experiencing the freedom of this wilderness season? Complaining? Blaming? Speaking more highly of yourself than you ought? Talking unkindly about yourself. Or about others. No more sighing at your duties. Walking with someone else in their duty for a season - what might you learn? What might you discover you love?

May this Lenten season be a blessing to you as we see stripped away all that is not well in our lives and in God's Church.

Rev Sarah

February Prayer Diary

March 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 22nd February

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Morning Worship

we cannot livestream this service as no one is available to operate the livestream this morning.

6 pm Choral Evensong (L)

This Week

Tuesday 24th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 25th February

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel followed by Lent Lunch (soup) in the Church Centre

7 pm Zoom Lent Group - [to receive the zoom link, register here](#)

Thursday 26th February

8 pm Zoom Compline (if you do not already have them, [click here to receive zoom links](#))

Friday 27th February

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

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

Parking is available in St Margaret's School car park for Weekend services and on Ash Wednesday. 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

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Matthew 4.1-11 ([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

Thanks

Last Saturday's **concert** raised just under £1,000 for church funds. We are sincerely grateful to Jon Green, members Trianon and friends who joined them to celebrate the life of founder, Chris Green. Thanks too, to everyone from St Margaret's who were involved in making the event run smoothly on the day. What a team!

The **Messy Vintage** team continue to do amazing work in our community, regularly visiting Park Manor and Norwood Care Homes. Thank you Maggie, Annie, Frederike, Hazel and Pat, who joins them.

Livestream Operators - do an amazing job. Last week there were people who couldn't be in church who were able to join online - emails were received, thankful that they were included. The livestream team needs more people willing to learn how to serve the church in this way. There is a **livestream training** session planned on the morning of **Saturday, 7th March** (10am-12pm) if you would like to find out more please email av.stmagsips@gmail.com or speak to anyone of the current team: Ed, Stuart, Charles, Andy or Richard.

Churchwarden(s) Vacancies

Family Morning - Hurrah!

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 would like to explore this.

Lent 2026

Lent Groups

Wednesday lunchtimes: 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th soup and conversation in the church centre following 12pm Holy Communion in Church.

Wednesday evenings by zoom: 25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March at 7pm. You do not need to commit to the whole course and no advance preparation is required so come to all or some of the sessions as you can. If children's bedtimes are challenging - join whatever time you can and leave as you need to. We'll be following a course on the theme of prayer, examining the lives of 5 Old Testament figures who prayed and how that relates to Jesus' prayer life and what that might mean for our prayers. [To register and receive the zoom links, please click here.](#)

Other Lent resources

The Church of England has a range of other resources available that you may like to make use of during Lent, including books and daily reflections through the EveryDay Faith app. [You can find out more here.](#)

Thanks to Carol, Rev Helen, Margaret, Mel and Stuart, 48 people joined in a very happy morning last Friday, enjoying crafts, Lent Bags, games and snacks in the church centre at half term. 39 of them stayed for lunch, prepared by the Emmaus community and served up (and washed up) by the church team.

This is joyful outreach funded by grant monies awarded to us by the Suffolk Community Foundation.

Speak to Rev Helen if you'd like to be involved.



Lent Lunches after Wednesday Holy Communion, 12.30-1.30pm

18th & 25th February,
4th, 11th, & 25th March

Gladwyn Room, Church Centre

A thought for the day accompanies a simple bowl of soup and conversation starters.

All are welcome to gather around the table.

"Food for body and soul"

If you know in advance that you will be attending, for catering purposes please email pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com.

The soup served will be gluten-free and vegan. If you have other dietary requirements, please let us know.



events.stmagsips@gmail.com
www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk
welcoming people of all faiths and none



Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for The Avenue, Elsmere Road and Woodstone Avenue.

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

Plastic pollution and climate change are **two sides of the same coin**: plastic production, as it is created from fossil fuels, contributes greatly to the climate crisis. Reduce the use of disposable plastic cups, plates, cutlery and bottles. For example, bring your own reusable bottle to work and a reusable coffee cup for your morning take-away.

Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.

Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours

Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 1st March

- 8 am BCP Holy Communion
- 10 am Family Communion (L)
- 6 pm Prayer and Praise

Every day this week (Monday-Friday) at 8.30am 'Together We Pray' daily morning prayer across Suffolk broadcast the Bishops' Facebook page will be led by St Margaret's Church. On Tuesday and Friday this will be live from the church at 8.30am. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to join online, or catch up later in the day.

Tuesday 3rd March

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer in Church (NOTICE CHANGE OF TIME)

Wednesday 4th March

- 9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service
- 12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing (children and families welcome) followed by Soup Lunch

Thursday 5th March

- 8 pm Choral Compline (L)

Friday 6th March

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer in Church (NOTICE CHANGE OF TIME)

Saturday 7th March

- 8.30 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday 8th March

- 8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Café Church (in the Church Centre)

6 pm Choral Communion (L)

Tuesday 10th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11th March

9 am St Margaret's CEVAP School Service

12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel with Ashing (children and families welcome) followed by Soup Lunch

No 7pm prayer meeting in church this month - meeting online by Zoom for Lent Group

Friday 6th March

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

Saturday 14th March

10 am Together Extra in the Church Centre

Save the Dates

Sunday, 29th March Palm Sunday

10am Service will begin outdoors with a Palm Procession into Church as we mark Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

Sunday, 26th April

10am Morning Worship with Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Saturday 6th June

10am - 4pm Creative Retreat Day in Church including a light lunch.

Saturday 18th July

Day Trip / Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds with friends from All Hallows Church to include a special service in the Cathedral led by the All Hallows and St Margaret's community, the opportunity to explore Bury St Edmunds for fun, picnics and/or reflective retreat time and the chance to finish the day attending Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

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>