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Weekly news, readings and prayers

Sunday 23rd November Christ the King

(Sunday next before Advent)



Through the Lens of the Cross

Someone close to me collected a new pair of glasses from the optician this week. When asked at the fitting, 'how are they?', they replied, 'clean!'.

How we see things often depends not only on the sight that we have inherited, but also on when and how we look at things. The time of day and the light matters too. Our mood. Our perspective. Our bias. Our age. This is also true of the insight of faith. What might we learn of God when we are willing to change our perspective? Most of the time we engage with the story of the Cross at Easter. Yet this week's readings help us to explore the cross of Christ the King outside of the Easter season. On the last Sunday of the church year. The Sunday when the collect prayer 'stirs us up'.

This week the <u>Center for Action and Contemplation</u> shared the article below about the ways in which we see things. I found the article both interesting and challenging. I commend it to you.

Revd Sarah

Biases at Work Within All of Us

(published by The Center for Action and Contemplation)

Brian McLaren has identified sixteen biases that prevent us from seeing things in their complexity and with greater clarity:

People can't see what they can't see. Their biases get in the way, surrounding them like a high wall, trapping them in ignorance, deception, and illusion. No amount of reasoning and argument will get through to them, unless we first learn how to break down the walls of bias. So what are the specific kinds of bias we need to address, in others, yes, but also in ourselves?...

Confirmation Bias: We judge new ideas based on the ease with which they fit in with and confirm the only standard we have: old ideas, old information, and trusted authorities. As a result, our framing story, belief system, or paradigm excludes whatever doesn't fit.

Complexity Bias: Our brains prefer a simple falsehood to a complex truth.

Community Bias: It's almost impossible to see what our community doesn't, can't, or won't see.

Complementarity Bias: If you are hostile to my ideas, I'll be hostile to yours. If you are curious and respectful toward my ideas, I am more likely to respond in kind.

Competency Bias: We don't know how much (or little) we know because we don't know how much (or little) others know. In other words, incompetent people assume that most other people are about as incompetent as they are. As a result, they underestimate their own incompetence and consider themselves at least of average competence.

Consciousness Bias: Some things simply can't be seen from where I am right now. But if I keep growing, maturing, and developing, someday I will be able to see what is now inaccessible to me.

Comfort or Complacency Bias: I prefer not to have my comfort disturbed.

Conservative/Liberal Bias: I lean toward nurturing fairness and kindness, or towards strictly enforcing purity, loyalty, liberty, and authority, as an expression of my political identity.

Confidence Bias: I am attracted to confidence, even if it is false. I often prefer the bold lie to the hesitant truth.

Catastrophe Bias: I remember dramatic catastrophes but don't notice gradual decline (or improvement).

Contact Bias: When I don't have intense and sustained personal contact with "the other," my prejudices and false assumptions go unchallenged.

Cash Bias: It's hard for me to see something when my way of making a living requires me not to see it.

Conspiracy Bias: Under stress or shame, our brains are attracted to stories that relieve us, exonerate us, or portray us as innocent victims of malicious conspirators.

Constancy/Baseline Bias: Early in life, our brains set a baseline of normalcy based on what we constantly experience day to day. What our brains determine as normal or constant becomes acceptable to us. Later in our life, our baselines may be reset when a new normal becomes our constant experience. [This is the flipside of Catastrophe Bias.]

Certainty/Closure Bias: Our brains find it difficult to rest when we feel uncertainty, so we would often rather reach for premature closure on an unwarranted certainty than live with appropriate uncertainty. We may even prefer a pessimistic certainty to a potentially optimistic uncertainty.

Cleverness Bias: Our brains are vigilant to protect us against deceptions, and this vigilance against deception can make us so habitually skeptical that we become cynical, rejecting all good

or encouraging information as naïve. In protecting ourselves from danger, we can unintentionally insulate ourselves from positive possibilities.

November Prayer Diary

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 with Baptism

11.00 am Morning Worship

6.30pm Choral Evensong

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 will be open daily for private prayer, reflection and visiting from 10am to 3pm.

Lectionary

This Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

<u>Jeremiah 23.5-8</u> <u>John 6.5-14</u>

11am Morning Worship

Jeremiah 23.1-6 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43

6.30pm Evensong

1 Samuel 8.4-20

John 18.33-37

Church News

Click here to jump to information about the Refreshing Worship changes to services and services times taking place from January 2026.

Scroll down too for information about Advent and Christmas.

Church Christmas Leaflet Folding - 10am This Morning!

Parking available from 9.45am. Come and prepare for Christmas by folding all of the newsletters to be dropped through letter boxes this week. Pick up a bundle to deliver! We need to cover all 3,500 homes in the parish by next Sunday! A chance to get your steps in an offer a prayer for neighbours as you drop leaflets through letterboxes.

From 'Priest-in-Charge' to Vicar: 10am Advent Sunday 30th November Please save the date and come to this service as a celebration of the life of St Margaret's Church as we begin a new church year and a new season. It would be such a joy to see EVERYONE together

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.



Saturday 29th November at 11am until 12.45pm

In the Church Centre on Bolton Lane

All are welcome

to this relaxed community for all ages. Join us for storytelling from the Bible, activities, songs, prayer, a short communion and a meal together

Welcoming people of all faiths and none





Advent Breakfast - Saturday 13th December at 9.00am

To book your tickets <u>click here</u>, scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: <u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u> phone or text 07833 609661.

Advent Zoom Group - Gospel of Luke - Tuesdays 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec. at 7.00pm To book your tickets <u>click here</u>, scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: <u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u> phone or text 07833 609661.

Hexachordia Concert - Sunday 7th December at 4.00pm

To book your tickets <u>click here</u>, scan the QR code or contact the church office by email: office.stmagsips@gmail.com phone or text 07833 609661. You can also turn up on the door... though for catering purposes (cake!) it's helpful if you book ahead. Thank you.







Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both

Season 2025/2026

- Dec 4th Has the Church of England passed its 'use by' date?

 Father John Thackray
- Dec 11th Seasonal Music

 The Belstead Singers; conductor Jenny Jones
- Dec 18th Food, Singing and Readings to celebrate Advent and Christmas
- Jan 8th Hearing dogs for Deaf People

 Malcolm Taylor and guest, with dog





Member of the St Margaret's congregation, Victoria Wyatt, is involved in this event and invites you to join in, as you can.

Refreshing Worship: 2026 Service Patterns

Following reflection and discussion at PCC Meetings in February, June and September 2025 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been considering changes to the worshipping pattern at St Margaret's Church. The PCC spent October 2025 listening to the church and wider community before meeting on 4th November 2025 to finally discern a new pattern of worship to be introduced from January 2026.

Six (6) opportunities for conversation and listening took place in person, with more than twenty (20) emails received and numerous informal conversations. Helpful feedback was received from over 35 individuals, some representing households and families, thus increasing the numbers of people who actively joined in the conversation. Revd Sarah also attended both choir and bell ringing practices. The feedback across the board was thoughtful and varied, though understandably sometimes contradictory. At all times the conversation was carefully considered, often with regard for the needs of others. The listening has informed adjustments to the PCCs original proposals.

During their deliberations the PCC recognised that a refreshed pattern of worship will not meet every individual's preference and that it will take time for the changes to settle in. Members of the PCC remarked on the willingness to welcome change, particularly the number of individuals who recognised the sacrificial need to make space for others and to find ways of worshipping together more often. It is hoped that the refreshed worshipping

patterns will allow those worshipping at St Margaret's now, and those who will join in the coming weeks and years, to grow younger, to grow in spiritual depth and to grow in number. We continue to keep all of this in our prayers.

Revd Sarah

Priest-in-Charge & Chair of PCC 8th November 2025

Printed copies of this will be available in church from Sunday 9th November, with accompanying notes. Sunday services will take place at 8am, 10am and 6pm. Midweek Worship will include a weekly 12pm service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays. Children & families are welcome to all services — those marked * are usually particularly well received. For people who prefer a quieter, less noisy environment — the services marked + are usually well received.

Sunday Morning Worship

	1" Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday			
	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month			
8 am	Holy Communion + according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). A service in traditional language with readings from The Authorised							
(services 35	Version (King James Version) of the Bible in accordance with the Church of England's published version of the 3-year Revised Common							
minutes)	Lectionary							
10 am	Family Communion *	Café Church *	Family Communion *	Sunday Worship *	Parish Praise *			
(services no	livestreamed	In church centre	livestreamed	9 8 8 8	Livestreamed			
longer than	A service of Holy	Breakfast is served	A service of Holy	Beginning by sharing	A morning service with			
1 hour)	Communion with 'Junior	from 10am. Gathering	Communion with 'Junior	God's peace with one	gathering prayers and			
	Church' returning from the	around tables with	Church' returning from	another, we sing, hear	confession, 2 readings, a			
	church centre to receive	singing, prayers,	the church centre to	readings and tell the	talk and prayers of			
	Communion and to share	activities to explore	receive Communion and	stories of faithful living.	intercession. This service			
	learning.	faith and going deeper	to share learning.	With a deeply reflective	will either include Holy			
		faith-conversations.	CARS-OSTATION CONTROL	story followed by prayers	Communion or a			
	The choir sing an introit,	Closing prayer and	The choir sing an introit,	of intercession, the	Baptism.			
	the Eucharistic prayer	song.	the Eucharistic prayer	service concludes with a				
	responses and lead an	W. 1000	responses and lead an	blessing.	There will be a focus on			
	alternating choir/	Occasional informal	alternating choir/		singing during this			
	congregational-led Gloria.	Communion.	congregational-led	Refreshments follow	service, and a short talk.			
	Opening and closing	With appropriate	Gloria. Opening and	during which time	Refreshments follow after			
	hymns are accessible to the	With appropriate	closing hymns are	ministers will be available	the service.			
	whole church family. There	seating and picnic blankets, where possible Café Church will take place in the	accessible to the whole church family. There are 2 readings with a gradual hymn.	for individual prayer and a discussion group open to all will explore the service themes more	the service.			
	are 2 readings with a							
	gradual hymn.							
	Prayers of healing /	churchyard in summer		fully.				
	anointing with oil during	months.	Refreshments follow after	353				
	distribution of Communion.		the service.					
	Refreshments follow after							
	the service.							

Sunday Evening Worship

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5th Sunday
	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month	of the month
брт	Prayer & Praise * A service with contemporary worship songs, the possibility of extended prayers and an exploration of scripture and faith through a talk, an interview or a visiting speaker. This informal service will last 45 minutes.	Choral Communion + livestreamed A service of Holy Communion with 'Junior Church in a bag' for young people in the pew. This service will last just over an hour. The choir sing an introit and the Kyries/Gloria (in season). There are 3 readings with a sung psalm before the Gospel reading.	Time Out + A 45-minute service of prayer, meditation and contemplation in the Celtic, Taizé or similar style with occasional informal Communion.	Choral Evensong + livestreamed A 40-minute service of sung Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). With hymns, psalms, readings and a short sermon, this choral service is an opportunity to prayerfully and meditatively reflect at the end of the day.	

Weekday Worship

Monday	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5		
Quiet day			100				
Tuesday							
8am (30 mins)	Moming Prayer + D	aily Prayer according to th	ne pattern of Common Worshi	p: a said service with pray	ers, psalms and readings.		
3.30pm	[Holy Communion at Christchurch Court]						
Wednesday							
9am	[School Service during term time]						
12pm (35 mins)	Holy Communion + A weekly spoken service using the 'red' Common Worship Communion books (in nave or chapel). Includes a 'thought for the day'. On the first Wednesday of the month, prayers for healing and wholeness will be included, along with the offer of priestly anointing with oil. As this community grows, there will be opportunities for people to join in readings and leading prayers.						
7pm (up to 45 mins)		Prayer Gathering + A chance to explore prayer and to pray.					
Thursday							
3.15/3.30 after school (approx. 90 minutes)			Together * Church Centre Songs and prayers, Godly Play, activities and a shared warm meal.				
8pm (20 minutes)	Compline + livestreamed Night prayers sung by the choir.			Compline + zoom An online service of night prayer.			
Friday							
8am (30 mins)	Moming Prayer + D	aily Prayer according to th	ne pattern of Common Worshi	p: a said service with pray	ers, psalms and readings.		
Saturday				10 10			
8.30am (90 minutes)	Men's Breakfast Food and fellowship followed by worship		Men's Breakfast Food and fellowship followed by worship				

Notes on the outcomes of Listening Conversations

- 1. Times of services will be simple and consistent, in a reliable pattern. Services on Sunday will take place weekly at 8am, 10am and 6pm throughout the year. The 10am services that include Holy Communion will usually last no longer than 1 hour, others will last 45 minutes. Services of 30 minutes will take place at 12pm on Wednesdays every week. Other services will be monthly, where possible beginning 'on the hour'.
- 2. Services will usually follow the Church of England's Common Worship 3-year cycle of lectionary of readings based on the Revised Common Lectionary. At the 8am service the readings will be read in traditional language from the Authorised King James Version, with the corresponding appointed collect prayer for the day also in traditional language (the same collect in traditional language will be sung at Evensong). At other services, the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) will usually be read. On occasion, an alternative translation may be used instead (e.g. International Children's Bible, The Message or similar).
- 3. Four Sunday mornings throughout the year (usually on either the 4th or 5th Sundays of the month) will be appointed as dates for baptisms during 10am Sunday Worship. In future, where there is a clear missional need, stand-alone baptism services may also be arranged by agreement with clergy.
- 4. A few years ago, the PCC explored the possibility of 'Admitting Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation', concluding then it was not a necessary step. The PCC will review this decision.
- 5. A team of carefully discerned and trained people will be needed to ensure continued provision of prayers 'for healing and wholeness'/prayer ministry during services. This will take time to grow and so the ministry will begin with licensed ministers only.
- 6. Bells will continue to ring before services on Sunday mornings, except for the 2nd Sunday of the month (Café Church), when worship will usually be in the Church Centre.
- 7. Preaching at Sunday Morning Services will offer a mix of traditional sermons, interviews or reflective storytelling. Sunday Evening Services in the choral tradition will include a '5-10 minute' sermon.
- 8. Music

- a. The choir & organ will lead the music provision weekly at at least one of Sunday Worship services. In addition, midweek Choral Compline will return (a short, 20-minute service of night prayer) will be sung once a month.
- b. Further conversations have yet to take place with members of the band and music group in the coming weeks to work out who can be available when, before finalising the provision of live music for other services.
- c. Some services will include videos and/or recorded music.
- 9. Children & Families
- a. Children and families who have joined St Margaret's Church over the last couple of years spoke candidly of the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere they value at St Margaret's Church. Particularly, they were clear that the inter-generational worshipping experience benefits both children and adults alike as we learn from one another and grow with one another, not only on Sundays, but also in continued prayer, reflection and conversation during the week.
- b. Further conversations will be taking place to refresh 'Junior Church', including choosing a new name for this aspect of the refreshed worshipping pattern.
- 10. Livestreaming
- a. Following the conversations about 'Junior Church', further conversations may need to take place about which elements of livestreamed services will include images, and which parts of the service will show an 'alternative' camera shot (as is currently the case to preserve privacy when receiving Holy Communion).
- b. The volunteer team remains very small. Further volunteers are welcome to learn. Where volunteers are available, we will endeavour to stream at least one service every Sunday, either morning or evening.

Growing Deeper

Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for North Close, Borrowdale Avenue, South Close, Tuddenham Road + Code Lane.

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

Do not forget to pray for those in authority and lend your voice to the working out of justice and peace by supporting and challenging our politicians. You can follow what is on the agenda each day for both Houses of Parliament: www.whatson.parliament.uk or you can find out more about www.christiansinparliament.org.uk

Growing Greener

Green Tip of the week

In a shower what you wash with is a matter of personal preference. Environmentally bars of soap in cardboard boxes are probably the best, but if you like shower gel then do find a refill shop which sells a shower gel you like. That way you can enjoy your shower without feeling guilty about the plastic bottle which contains your shower gel! Shampoo and conditioner bars are also a good idea and avoid the use of plastic. However, if you don't get on with these, then do use a refill shop for your shampoo and conditioner.

We thank Revd Richard Stainer for the weekly tips.

Loving God - Care for Creation - Love Our Global Neighbours

Services Calendar

23rd November

8am BCP Communion
9.30am Rise & Shine - with Baptism (no Holy Communion)
11am Morning Worship
6.30pm Choral Evensong

25th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church

26th November

9am St Margaret's VAP School Service

28th November

8am Morning Prayer in Church

29th November

11am-12.45pm Together for Advent - in the Church Centre

30th November

8am BCP Communion
10am Family Communion with the licensing of Revd Sarah as 'The Vicar'
6.30pm Advent Carol Service

7th December

8am BCP Communion 9.30am Rise & Shine 11am Parish Communion

9th December

8am Morning Prayer in Church

10th December

7pm Northgate School Carol Service

12th December

8am Morning Prayer in School

Forward Dates

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 <u>Parish Giving Scheme</u>, 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 <u>Parish Giving Scheme</u>.
- **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, <u>John Grierson</u>.
- 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, <u>John Grierson</u> or the Vicar, <u>Sarah</u>.

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: <u>helenptstmags@gmail.com</u>

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

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 <u>here</u> for more information or contact Maggie Conder at <u>pastoralteam.stmagsips@gmail.com</u>.

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. hen 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 <u>here</u>

Newsletter Contents

Please send any items for next week's newsletter to the Church Office (<u>office.stmagsips@gmail.com</u>), ideally by email, by **Thursday lunchtime please**. If you would like to receive this mailing each week please <u>complete this form https://stmargaretsips.churchsuite.com/connect/mydetails/submit</u>