



*Weekly news, readings and prayers*

## **Sunday 25th January**

### **The Conversion of Paul**

### **3rd Sunday of Epiphany**



This Sunday we welcome Bishop Godfrey of the Diocese of Lweru, Tanzania to worship with us. Lweru Diocese is in the north west of Tanzania, part of the political district of Kagera which borders Rwanda and Uganda, its eastern boundary being the shores of Lake Victoria. Our Diocese too has a watery shoreline - important to us, just as the waters of Lake Victoria are significant to the people of Lweru.

In this Epiphany season, as we celebrate God made visible among us in Jesus Christ, we remember the waters of birth and new life, the waters of baptism, the water turned into new wine. All of these a revelation to us - and part of our journey of faith. Baptism. Holy Communion.

This Sunday morning we will hear in our reading from Acts of Paul's journey to faith, and Peter's words in Matthew's Gospel, 'we have left everything and followed you'.

I wonder what these words mean in a Tanzanian context? I wonder what you have left behind to follow Jesus? I wonder how Saul's experience on the Damascus Road challenges you and gives you hope today?

Vicar Sarah

**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 25th January

8 am BCP Holy Communion  
 10 am (L) Sunday Worship  
 6 pm Choral Evensong (L)

## This week

### Tuesday 27th January : Holocaust Memorial Day

8 am Morning Prayer in Church

### Wednesday 28th January

9 am School Service  
 12 pm Holy Communion in the Chapel

### Friday 30th January

8am Morning Prayer in Church

### Saturday 31st January

9.30am "Breakfast for All" in the Church Centre. [Click here](#) to confirm your dietary requirements.  
 All welcome - £ a donation.

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

Acts 9.1-22 ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))  
 Matthew 19.27-end ([KJV](#)) ([NRSVUE](#))

Evensong  
[Isaiah 56.1-8](#)  
[Colossians 1.24-2.7](#)

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! Together - Christingle

we are running a special Together Christingle gathering in the Church Centre from 10 - 11:30 am. We will be finding out more about Christingles, making them, and having a pastry and fruit brunch with each other - all welcome! Rev Helen

## RSPB Birdwatch - Ends today!

There's still time to join in. For details [click here](#). If you do join in, text Charles Croydon on his church Eco mobile no. 07777 929122 or email [ecochurch.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurch.stmagsips@gmail.com) with the total number of birds you see within the hour, and a prize book will be given to the person seeing most birds.

## Last Call for Christmas Cards - recycling

There is a box at the back of the church to gather them all up to gift to All Hallows Church who will re-use them in the making of Christmas Cards for next year, which they sell to raise funds. Those that All Hallows cannot use will be recycled.

## 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 30th January.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
indicating if you are staying for the reception (and if you are robing)  
to: [rev.sarah.hall@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sarah.hall@gmail.com)*

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

## Lost Property

The following items will be in the lost property box near the kitchen until the end of January after which they will be rehomed or recycled. The umbrellas are a green child's one, a red/black one, automatic dark blue one.



## PCC Meeting

The PCC met on Wednesday - minutes will be available once they have been prepared and approved at the next meeting.

## 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 a team of 4 people will emerge. 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.

## Remembering those who have died

We remember and give thanks for Jo 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.

# Crown Him 2026

Gathering Christians of all ages to start the year with praise, celebrating God's work and inspired to enter into all that He has for this town.

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January

- Where: St Francis' Church, Hawthorn Drive, IP2 0QQ
- When:
  - 6.30pm – to learn about local Christian organisations
  - 7.30pm – for celebration, envisioning and responding



## **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](http://www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk)  
welcoming people of all faiths and none

 **St. Margaret's Church**  
IPSWICH

## Growing Deeper

### Prayer

Praying for our community: residents, visitors, businesses passers-by this week as we pray for Christchurch Street, Christchurch Court and Cobbold Mews, Withpoll Street and Cobbold Street.

### Thanksgiving

We are grateful this week for our links with the community. For the people attending the Together community this morning, for the continued work of Messy Vintage and for a new lunch club for worship leaders beginning at St Margaret's Primary school this week.

*'Nugget' the chicken joining in with a recent Messy Vintage gathering at Park Manor.*



## 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

Spring is not that far off. Think about planting a tree or two, either at home or in your churchyard or community space. This is a good time to plant trees and bushes. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. What is more it will provide a mini-ecosystem for all sorts of wildlife in the years to come.

Not all of us have the space to plant a tree. But we can admire and care for the trees in our midst. How often do you walk past a tree without noticing its beauty and construction. a home for creatures, a cleanser of the air we breathe, creation that shows us of the need for rest, and pruning. Times to flourish and times to retreat. Perhaps next time you walk past a tree, you will give thanks.

*Revd Richard Stainer's weekly tips return soon.*

**Loving God · Care for Creation · Love Our Global Neighbours**

## Forthcoming Services

### 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

**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

**Saturday 7th February**

8.30-10.30am Men's Breakfast

**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

**Friday 13th February**

8am Morning Prayer in Church

**Forward Dates**

**Wednesday 28th January 2026**

The Confirmation of Election of The Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury is taking place at St Paul's Cathedral today. Revd Sarah will be attending.

**Wednesday 18th February 2026**

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchwardens.stmagsips@gmail.com)

### Office

Email: [office.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office.stmagsips@gmail.com) for all correspondence. The [verger.stmagsips@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>