



**St Margaret's Church
Associate Minister**

ROLE DESCRIPTION

To arrange an informal conversation please contact Revd Sarah Geileskey (revsarahgeileskey@gmail.com) or Archdeacon Rhiannon King (archdeacon.rhiannon@cofesuffolk.org)

Position title:	Associate Minister for Mission with Children, Families and Young People
Working to:	Priest in Charge, Revd Sarah Geileskey
Accountable to:	Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Margaret's, Ipswich
Term:	Full-time stipendiary (incumbent-level): 3-year fixed term post (sponsorship funding involved). Expenses paid in full.
Places of work	St Margaret's Church Centre and Church, Ipswich
Stipend and Housing:	Full-time stipend (incumbent-level) as agreed by St Edmundsbury & Ipswich DBF and supported by Inspiring Ipswich project (inspiringipswich.org) with rented 3-4 bedroom house in or near the parish.
Safeguarding	This position is subject to the parish Safeguarding Policy and enhanced DBS checks
Purpose of role:	Through mature, gifted and dedicated ministry across the parish, strategically reaching out to the many children, families and young people connected with St Margaret's Church: developing worshipping and learning opportunities to explore and to grow in faith and to encounter Christ in community and in social action.

Overview

We are a warm and welcoming community, enjoying a variety of services and patterns of worship as we seek to draw closer to God and in so doing love and serve our neighbours as ourselves. We value our diversity and embrace our church music which combines both traditional and more contemporary forms of worship: from Café Church to Choral Evensong and almost everything in between. We worship in a beautiful Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date from the 12th Century, standing at the edge of the town centre of Suffolk's County-town, Ipswich and next to the town's impressive Christchurch Park. We are also fortunate to have a linked primary school and a Church Centre and newly-created church-office located just across the road from the church. You can read more about us on our website www.stmargaretsipswich.org.uk.

Over the last decade or so, under the episcopal oversight of The Right Reverend Martin Seeley, Lord Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and The Right Reverend Mike Harrison, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, this Diocese has undergone a period of transformation (www.cofesuffolk.org). With their commitment to sustaining clergy numbers and two significant Strategic Development Fund Projects (Lightwave ministry across rural parishes and Inspiring Ipswich), the Diocese will mark the retirement of Bishop Martin at Candlemas 2025 and see the translation of Bishop Mike to become Bishop of Exeter in September 2024. The vacancy-in-see committee is already meeting in the hope of a new appointment in 2025. It is an exciting time to move to this rural Diocese, with all the benefits of big skies, vast open spaces and a beautiful coastline yet with the city of London just over an hour away from Ipswich by train.

St Margaret's Church is extremely well-placed to work with children, families and young people. A well-attended community toddler group is hosted by church volunteers and runs during term-time. We have amazing links with our incredible Church of England VA Primary School and the headteacher, Revd Jo Gunn. We have a small handful of pre-teens and teenagers currently involved in church: through the choir and music group. Guiding and Scouting groups come to church from time to time, including for sleep-overs and a few older teens and students have found their way here over the last year or so. The Priest-in-Charge has secured funding from Suffolk Community Foundation to run holiday clubs (including the provision of meals) though our capacity is slowing the pace of development.

We need you to move this area of work forward! Someone to coordinate all of this. Someone who will dedicate themselves to the ministry of being with others. Attending the toddler group, building relationships and developing Starting Rite courses or Diddy Disciples worshipping opportunities. Someone who will commit to being with young people: regularly offering a welcoming space and activities to join in with. Someone who will dedicate themselves to an after-school club and develop school holiday activities. Someone who appreciates the missional value of the occasional offices. Someone who will work with the Priest-in-Charge in building a pathway for discipleship and growth in faith through all the different aspects of church life: fellowship and friendship, community events, social action, mission and worship – everything from café church to choral evensong.

You will have the heart and gifting to make connections between community and church: telling the gospel story in ways that will surprise and delight those who do not yet see how God is already present and at work in their lives. Whilst your focus will be on these areas of the church's mission, you will enjoy sharing in church leadership, worship and pastoral care whilst having the responsibility and agency to pursue these growth areas, making a significant impact on our church and community whilst developing your own ministry and calling.

Your experience at St Margaret's will become a resource to the deanery and wider diocese, as well as to the Inspiring Ipswich project as we offer to others opportunities to learn and grow in their mission and ministry.

Key responsibilities and objectives

- Share in the leadership of this parish, trusting God that lives will be transformed as we live and love in God's name.
- Set a high standard in personal contact, maintaining appropriate boundaries and following a healthy pattern of life that allows you (and your household) to flourish in ministry.
- Take responsibility for developing mission to the children, families and young people of this parish.
- Oversee the delivery and growth of activities supporting the integration of children and young people (and their households) into the life of the church.
- Establish a new worshipping community (or more than one) that leads to at least 30 new disciples [as part of the Inspiring Ipswich goal to reach 1,500 new disciples over 7 years across the town].
- Identify and release the energy and gifts of those in this growing community to develop their own sense of calling and ministry: growing the church and seeing the community further transformed into the likeness of Christ and God's kingdom.
- Support the development, preparation, planning and delivery of the patterns of worship across the broad range of worshipping traditions at St Margaret's.
- Support the delivery of pastoral ministry within the church and community.
- Share in the governance of the church as a member of the PCC.
- Engage positively with the Diocesan 'Growing in God' strategy, and the Inspiring Ipswich Vision and Strategy.
- Actively participate in deanery life, through the shaping of the deanery plans, attending Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
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Qualifications

An ordained priest within the Church of England	✓	Completed IME 2
Degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission (or other academic qualification plus experience)		✓ Postgrad in Mission or Theology
Additional qualifications in leadership, management, theology or pastoral skills		✓

Experience

Successfully leading missional activities	✓	
Launching and leading small discipleship groups	✓	Familiar with 'Being With' material.
Identifying, recruiting, and mentoring volunteers	✓	Team leaders
Leading in a church with similar values of ministry and mission to ours	✓	
Leading specific ministries in a church, managing a team, programme and budget	✓	Children, Families and Young People
Leading and preaching across a wide range of worshipping traditions in the Church of England	✓	
Proven ability in modelling excellent leadership and behaviours in relation to safeguarding in developing an outstanding culture of safeguarding.	✓	
Working with, recruiting and managing volunteers	✓	
Leading other staff, sharing vision, setting strategy, teaching and developing a team		✓
Managing staff, setting objectives, personal development goals, monitoring performance		✓

Skills

Exceptional people skills, proven ability to build relationships with all kinds of people	✓	
A broad range of skills and experience in working with children, families and young people.	✓	

An evangelist who is able to surprise and delight those who do not yet see how God is already present and at work in their lives	✓	
Proven ability to provide pastoral support that deepens faith.	✓	
Ability to develop and communicate vision to others	✓	
Ability to think strategically and lead change	✓	
Team leader, able to draw in wide variety of people and see them flourish	✓	
Self-starter with the ability to get things done	✓	
Ability to work joyfully under authority, to lead effectively 'from the second chair'	✓	

Qualities

Instinctively collaborative, kind and generous	✓	
Self-aware with good emotional intelligence	✓	
Desire to learn and grow even in areas of strength	✓	