



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

28th April 2024

CROSSING THE JORDAN



As a keen gardener, I love getting plants for free. If I took you on a plant tour of my garden, I would point out the blue spruce growing through the gravel pathway at a cottage we rented in the Highlands. Or the two large japonicas from cuttings off my plant in Moston. There is also a cutting of the bay tree in my mother's garden in Kent and a maple from there that was growing through the cracks in the crazy paving below my mum's maple tree. These plants remind me of places, people and past memories.

The Israelites had forgotten. They had been in the wilderness for over 40 years and all but a few, that had crossed the Red Sea, had died. The people had become dependent on manna (and quail) for their food and had long stopped seeing what a miracle this was. They, a vast group of people, had been in a desert and yet God had provided food and water for all of them. And Moses had been another constant, but now, in sight of the promised land, he had died. A bit like Prince Charles taking over after the Queen, Joshua (one of few remaining who had crossed the Red Sea and who had been Moses' understudy ever since) became the new leader, and his first task was to get this vast crowd with all their animals across the Jordan River. No mean feat!

Joshua organised the people to cross. The fighting men of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had promised to go ahead of the others as they had been allotted the land east of the Jordan by Moses and God. However, it was the priests and Levites who entered the water first, carrying the Ark of the Covenant as the waters dried up before them. In this way, the Presence of God went ahead of them all. The Ark had been taken out of the most holy place in the Tent/Tabernacle and was now visible to all. And there the Ark and the priests stayed until all had crossed. But before they came out, a representative from each of the tribes collected a large boulder from the bottom of the Jordan River. The stones were set up as a memorial to all future generations to show that God keeps his promises, performs miracles and loves His people.

The Israelites, who had not experienced the Red Sea crossing, had to step out in faith into the river. This was into uncertainty and the unknown. Is this your experience at the moment? Are you daunted by what lies ahead? Remember God keeps His promises, even if that takes longer than we would like. He loves you and wants the best for you. And when God has kept His promises, do you need to set something up to help you remember what God has done for you? A stone, picture, Bible verse or even a plant you see everyday? Such visual memorials will speak to us, every time we see them, of the faithful God we serve.



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Bible Verse for 2024: 1 Peter 2:5

“..You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house... acceptable to God” .

This Week– Sunday 28th April 2024:

Morning Worship at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching from Joshua 3 & 4 on the theme: **‘Crossing the Jordan.’**

CW Communion at 3pm.

Focused Prayer gathering at 7pm.

Next Week 5th May 2024:

Holy Communion at 10.30am. Alan Pugmire will be preaching on the theme: **‘King David’** from 1 Samuel 16 & 2 Samuel 5.

Family Picnic: Sunday, 5th May, 12.30pm-3pm in church. Bring your own picnic and perhaps a treat to share with others too. Everyone is welcome.

April 28th to May 4th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Westcroft Road, Southbank Road, Southlea Road, Kingsway Crescent Woodbray Avenue.
- Everyone uniting in prayer this Sunday (28th) as “Prayer for Growth Day”.
- Matt & clergy at the Cathedral on Monday for a training day.
- 20 new IEM mission workers being sent out on Saturday to their mission fields.
- Lunchtime picnic on Sunday 5th to be attractive to families and church members.
- Newly elected members of PCC to settle into their new calling.
- Wisdom for a future course to follow the successful START course.
- Full recovery of priest attacked in church in Australia & attacker to find Christ.

Looking Ahead:

Ascension Day Service: Thursday, 9th May at 8am, with Bacon butties to follow. Any one willing to cook bacon, please speak to Matt.

Prayer Ministry at St Margaret’s: Prayer is usually offered by two people from the Prayer Ministry Team, in the Quiet Space, after, or occasionally during the morning service.

Some people like to talk about their prayer needs to the people praying with them. Those praying will then pray about what has been shared. Others like to share their prayer needs with God silently, in their heads. The people praying with them will bless what God is doing or saying. Occasionally, God may give one of those praying a special word for the person they are praying with.

MOST NEEDED: Long life Orange Juice, Pasta Sauce Jars, Curry Sauce Jars, Tinned Chicken /Ham Tinned, Tuna, Tinned Corned Beef, Tinned Carrots Tinned Sweetcorn, Coffee *Shampoo*****

