



# St Margaret's Church

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

## In Contact

19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Acts 2: 1-21

### PENTECOST-MORE?



We went round to some friends for tea; they had made a Jamie Oliver *Lemony Curdy Pudding*. It was delicious. In fact so delicious, I would happily have had more. But alas, there was none to be had. When we make this pudding, we always double the recipe!

We all know that sense of wanting more, especially when it is something that tastes good, or something we enjoy. When it comes to faith, do we get that same sense of wanting more?

When Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit just before his Ascension, He said: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."* The Spirit of God gives us power to be witnesses for Jesus. He will give us the words we need when talking to others about Jesus and He will also give us the courage to do so. When the Spirit fills us, we get more - more power to talk to others about Jesus.

St. Paul gives us 3 lists of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. 4-11, 28, Ephesians 4. 11-12 and Romans 12. 6-8. These gifts are given by God to build up the church. Paul uses an image of a body having different parts, but all working together. Through the Spirit, God gives gifts to all His people so we can do our part to build the church. Some of these gifts are very practical like generosity or administration. Some seem strange like the gift of tongues (the ability to speak in languages we have not learnt). Others seem wonderful like healing and wisdom. But God gives them to the church. Do you know what your gifts are? Are you using them for God? When the Spirit fills us, we get more - more gifts to build up the church.

In Galatians 5. 22-23, Paul gives us a list of the fruit of the Spirit as: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. This list is a great summary of the nature and character of Jesus. However, it should be seen growing in us. How can we have more love? How can we be kinder? How can we have more self-control? We ask the Holy Spirit to grow God's fruit in us. When the Spirit fills us, we get more - more fruit to help us be more like Jesus.

We are to go on being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5.18). How do we do this? We ask God for more - more of the Spirit in us. Or we can ask someone to pray for us that we would be filled with more of God's Spirit. *If we want more, we will get more because Jesus himself said in Luke 11. 13: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much **more** will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* Let's ask for more and see ourselves and His church grow.



## **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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024:**

**Special service with prayer at 10.30am.** Matt will be preaching on the theme: **‘Pentecost’**. Please wear fire colours for Pentecost or bring a scarf in red/orange/yellow.

### **Next Week 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024:**

**Morning Worship at 10.30am.** Roger Dixon will be preaching on the theme: **‘Trinity’**.

**CW Communion at 3pm.**

**Focused prayer gathering to pray through the Church life reports at 7pm.**

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Green End Road & Broadlea Road.
- The start of a new team-based way of looking after our buildings.
- Flexibility in our worship to allow God to minister to us.
- The starting of a Pastoral Care Team & getting people with the right gifts.
- Long-lasting change in the lives of people helped by Barnabus.
- Duncan & Susan Stansfield as they take up roles as Trustees within The Falconer Trust
- Work of Open Doors throughout the world.

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Greater Manchester Prayer:** On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, at Audacious Church, Trinity Way, Manchester, M3 7B.

**Prayer for Exams:** Please remember to pray for those doing exams, from University to Year 6 SATS.

**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\*\*\***

