



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

9th June 2024

2 Kings 25: 1-21

The Old Testament

THE FALL OF THE SOUTH

In my garden I have three dwarf apple trees which each grow a different variety of eating apple. But I could have grown just one apple tree with different apples growing on it. This is done by grafting branches of different types of apples to the same tree.

St Paul tells us that Christians have been grafted on to the children of Israel as the people of God (*Romans 10*).

This year we have been looking back to our roots in the Old Testament (OT) to see how God dealt with the people of Israel and to see if and how their story ties in with ours.

Like the northern tribes, as we heard last week, the southern tribes were also taken into exile and Jerusalem was destroyed.

Imagine sitting in the rubble of Jerusalem after the Babylonians had left. Everything destroyed, nothing left of any worth, no hope for the future.

There is a recurring theme in the OT which shows that God wanted to bless His chosen people and that He wanted them to be obedient to Him.

Deuteronomy 28: 'If you will listen to all that I command you, walk in my ways, and do what is right in my sight by keeping my statutes and my commandments that I give you today...All these blessings will come upon you...'

There is a condition to this deal and Deuteronomy 28 begins by telling us of all the blessings that obedience to God would bring to the people of Israel, but the second half informs us of the consequences they would face if they rejected Him.

God's plan for His people was always one born out of love, out of a desire to have a people for Himself, a people that would love and follow Him and that He would lavish His love on. God loved them so much that after 80 years of exile He arranged for His people to return to Jerusalem, a new shoot through which we can trace the genealogy of Jesus.

Looking at this passage we may be tempted to think that we, like them, are somehow at fault for the bad things that happen to us and around us.

But WE live under a new covenant, a new deal, because of Jesus.

Jesus, God Himself, came and took our punishment on Himself when He died and rose again for us, to enable us to become God's people, to enable us to be grafted onto the tree of the people of God.

There is only one condition to be satisfied; that is that we are in Christ.

Romans 8:1 says: 'There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.'

And when we do mess up, we can come to Jesus confident of forgiveness and being put right with God, giving us the freedom to do what pleases Him.



Peter Miller

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 9th June 2024:

Morning Worship at 10.30am: Peter Miller will be preaching from 2 Kings 25: 1-21 on the theme: **‘The fall of the South’**.

Communion at 3pm.

Next Week 16th June 2024:

Family Worship at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching on the theme: **‘Fathers’**.

June 9th to 15th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Westdean Crescent, Alston Gardens & Ashburn Avenue.
- Helpful Foodbank Trustees meeting on Wednesday.
- Mission Community Clergy meeting on Thursday for prayer and support.
- Preparation to make Fathers’ Day service on Sunday relevant and worshipful.
- Thanks for positive meeting of Matt & wardens with Area Dean and Lay Chair.
- God to change the hearts of Hindu extremists opposing Christians in India.
- Matt & Steph visiting Primary schools to discuss how our church can help/serve.
- Mission Coordinators & Field Workers being trained by IEM in Outreach Training Institute.

Looking Ahead:

New Homes: Consultation on Proposed New Homes at the former Burnage Cricket Club, Mauldeth Road Burnage. Residents can view the proposals and give feedback up to 22 June 2024 using this link:

<http://www.views.co.uk/projects/former-burnage-cricket-club>

Focused Prayer gathering: On Sunday 23rd June, at 7pm, to pray for the missions and organisations we support.

Preparing for 2025: Would you like to be part of the organising task group for events throughout our 150th anniversary year? 3 PCC members have offered to join and we want to throw this wider. So see Matt if you are interested.

Prayer meetings at St Margaret’s: Monday: 7.00—7.45pm: **On ZOOM** / Wednesday: 12.00-12.45pm : **On ZOOM**

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*****

