



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

11th January 2026

Acts 10. 34-43

Matthew 3. 13-17



Baptism of Jesus

A very satisfying symmetry in Matthew 11

Jesus endorsed John's ministry – saying “Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist;” v. 11

John endorsed Jesus' ministry “ v. 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.”

And so began the most important and significant period of activity by one single person, ever – the earthly ministry of Jesus

Christ. The prophets they reflected a message, for example Isaiah 42.1 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.” Jesus would come to reflect God's hope for the world.

The Baptism of Jesus Matthew 3

1. Jesus, going public v. 5 -6 Jesus' baptism, was not private. God had a plan, and it had to be visible, a heavenly plan reflected on earth.

2. Jesus standing with sinners v.13. It showed Jesus identifying with John's message. Jesus didn't need to repent, but he was wanting to stand with the repentant.

3. Jesus showing humility v.14 Jesus, the servant king. His voluntary humiliation was a very public submission to God and was powerful.

4. Jesus making it real v.15. Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Fulfil = Bring to reality, accomplish, make real.

Righteousness = doing what God requires.

Our role is a bit like that of the prophets – we reflect the light. Acts 10.36 “You know the message God sent to the people of Israel”. Acts 10.39 “We are witnesses of everything he did.” Jesus is the light of the world. As Christians we are constantly under his light - We absorb this light and we reflect it. Acts 10.42 “He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify.” We reflect 'all that God requires'

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. This is a very satisfying symmetry.

Questions to ask yourself or discuss in groups;

1. Are you a fan of symmetry – or do you prefer untidiness?
2. Why was it SO important that Jesus was baptised? Was it more than publicity for Jesus? Matthew 3.15
3. How could Jesus, bring 'justice to the nations'? What would that look like? Isaiah 42.1
4. Matthew 3.13 – Standing with Sinners. Is church attendance bad for evangelism and should we be spending more time with sinners– like Jesus?
5. How can we show humility as Christians when we are certain of our salvation. Can certainty and humility exist together? V.14
6. In what ways can we be witnesses of everything he did Acts 10.38 when we live 2000 after the events?
7. Do you find it easily to 'reflect' the light of the world? How could we help each other do this?



Bible Verse for 2026: *Isaiah 43.19, Philippians 3.14*

I am about to do a new thing... Press on towards the goal!

This week- Sunday 11th January 2026:

Morning Worship: at 10.30am on Sunday 11th January 2026. Theme is Baptism of Jesus.

BCP Communion at 3pm, 11th January.

Next Week 18th January 2026:

Family Communion Service: at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking from John 1. 29-42 on the theme: '**Seeing the Lamb of God.**'

January 11th – 17th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Brecon Avenue, Connaught Avenue, Lindsey Road & Brighton Avenue.
- More people coming to ABC to feel welcomed and cared for.
- Ruth, Debbie & Helen as they plan for Creative Prayer on 27th.
- Many MPs to attend launch of the World Watch List on Wednesday.
- TearFund in Gaza & Middle East to be able to reach those in need quickly.
- Andy Roberts, the new CEO, as he now leads the Church Missionary Society.
- Indian Government to allow money to be sent to IEM from the UK.

Looking Ahead:

Prayer Ministry at St Margaret's: God wants us to talk to Him about all our needs : physical or emotional healing, problems we may be having to deal with. He may have spoken to us during a service, or we may long for a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is too small or insignificant for God, who is always waiting to hear from us. Each Sunday there are 2 people from our trained Prayer Ministry Team in the Quiet Space available to pray with anyone during communion, and after every morning service, if you would find that helpful.

Ash Wednesday: 18th February at 7.30pm. Mission Community Communion at St. Elisabeth's Reddish

Pancakes quiz night: 21st February at 6pm.

Day of prayer for Growth: 25th January at 7pm.