



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

11th October 2026

Judges 4. 1-24

Deborah



Deborah was a judge, but she was not like Judge Judy who you may have seen on TV. The judges in the Old Testament were leaders raised by God to deliver Israel from oppression; they were military leaders, clan chieftains, and spiritual guides who led Israel during times of crisis.

14 judges spanned the 300 years leading to Israel's first king. Some are well known to us like Gideon or Samson, but perhaps less well known is Deborah, the only female judge of Israel. Deborah was a prophetess and the people used to come to her for help and

advice at what became known as the Palm of Deborah just north of Jerusalem.

Northern Israel had been captured and subjugated for twenty years by king Jabin and his military commander Sisera who commanded 900 Chariots. Deborah had a vision and called for Barak who was a military leader to come to see her. She explained that God wanted Him to raise an army and take position on Mount Tabor and that God would draw out Sisera's chariots to the river Kishon where they would be given into the hands of Barak and his army. Barak felt it might be better if Deborah accompanied him to raise this army. She went with him but advised him that this action would not lead to his glory and that Sisera would be dealt with by a woman.

Everything went to plan; they raised an army of ten thousand warriors and took position on Mount Tabor. Then Deborah told Barak to stand and attack and the whole army ran down the mountain towards the enemy chariots and then God intervened.

God sent a mighty rainstorm which flooded the Kishon river and the chariots were caught in the flood and boggy ground unable to manoeuvre. Sisera fled from his chariot on foot, he came to a Kenite campsite where he thought he would be safe. He was given a warm milky drink by Jael the wife of Heber and when he was asleep Jael drove a tent peg through his temple with a mallet and he died.

What can we learn from this rather gruesome story?

Perhaps one thing is that God promises to go before us in our battles, whether in our individual battles in life, or in our vision for our church in the future. When we entrust ourselves to Him, He is faithful, He will direct and He will act.

Our part is to be willing for God to use us. Deborah was a woman of vision, Barak was a man of leadership, and the army were men of action, all were needed to fulfil God's plan.

We are all different from one another, like musicians in an orchestra with different instruments and different sounds playing different notes but through God's leading and intervention music can be created far beyond any individual sound.

God wants to use all of us and He will go before us to fulfil His plans.



Peter Miller

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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 October 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Peter Miller will be speaking from Judges 4. 1-24 and Hebrews 11. 32 on : 'Deborah'. **'Presentation about future with Children Youth and Families.'**
BCP Communion at 3pm postponed till 18th.

Harvest social- Saturday 17th October, 6.30-8.30pm. Quiz, dancing and fun.

Next Week 18th October 2026:

Harvest celebration Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking.

Food items to Burnage Foodbank. Monetary donations to the Nepal fund at Tearfund. Catherine Iddin is co-ordinating decoration of church. Please see her if you can help.

BCP Communion at 3pm.

October 11th – 17th October - Please Pray for:

- People living in Crossley Road, Hawthorn Drive, Redthorn Avenue, Whitethorn Avenue & Blackthorn Avenue.
- Matt at Continuing Ministerial Development Day on Monday at Cathedral.
- Useful visit of Duncan & Susan Stansfield to Falconer Home from Monday until 20th.
- Helpful Harvest Service after the Tuesday Group meal.
- Our reps at Deanery Synod on Tuesday at St John's Heaton Mersey.
- Motto "I am about to do new things" – pray for eyes to see what that is.
- Mission Community Clergy meeting to pray & share on Thursday.
- Christians in DRC who are experiencing attacks on their faith.
- Meaningful Harvest service next Sunday (18th).

Looking Ahead:

The Falconer Home Visit: Please pray for Duncan & Susan Stansfield as they visit The Falconer Home, **12th to 20th October** taking the hygiene bags members of the congregation generously donated. Please pray for safe travel, good health and a productive visit.

1st November 3pm Annual Memorial Service– to remember our loved ones.

21st November: 10am Work party to clean church & if weather ok, the churchyard for winter.

Answers to prayer: We want to celebrate what God is doing amongst us, however smaller a thing it seems. Please send to revmattburnage@gmail.com or M19stmargarets@gmail.com.

Have you seen something in the building that needs fixing?: Andrew Foulkes is the first point of contact for issues with the buildings, so if you notice a light bulb that needs replacing or a door that's sticking tell him, or call on 07846 089035, email at andrewfoulkes39@gmail.com or in the parish centre there is a little book hanging on the wall near the First Aid box/Defibrillator.

This Time Tomorrow: Are you interested in being interviewed? If so, See Helen Hardy or Matt.

Nativity costumes: Matt wants to do a pop up nativity in December. If you have any suitable clothing or props, please see Matt.