



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

12th April 2026

Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

FAITH & DOUBTS

John 20. 19-31



Question: Is doubt the opposite of faith?

Matthew 28. 17 says: *'When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him; but some doubted.'* One commentator says these doubters were not questioning that this really was Jesus in front of them in Galilee, but they doubted whether it was appropriate to be worshipping him. As good Jews they knew the first commandment that there was only One God, and Deuteronomy 6.13 quoted by Jesus at his temptations says: *'Worship the LORD your God and serve him only.* But whether they had doubts about whether to worship Jesus or whether this really was Jesus, they had doubts.

From our gospel reading for today (John 20. 19-31) we focus on the disciple Thomas, who has had a bad press as the 'Doubter'. I prefer to call him the 'honest questioner'. He was full of questions: How can this be? We all saw Jesus dead. Isn't this wishful thinking or mass hallucination? Did you see a ghost? What did Jesus say about this? Is there anything in Scripture about this sort of Resurrection?

Like many of us, he wanted proof. He needed to see and touch because this was too good to be true. A week later, Thomas was given that opportunity when Jesus once more appeared to them. I don't think Thomas was told off for his 'doubts', but more encouraged to grow in faith and let his valid questioning develop into deeper faith. And Thomas does just this as he declares: *"My Lord and My God!"* Jesus responds with: *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."* (John 20.29)

We all can learn from asking questions and having doubts. God does not want blind faith. He wants us to love Him with all that we are, and that includes our minds. Homegroups are a great way and a safe way of voicing our questions. We can hear how others respond and look to Scripture.

Sometimes things are not as black and white as we might think. This is true for the resurrection. Some Christians today hold that Jesus was raised spiritually only. I would say that they are wrong, that Jesus was raised in a physical form, the same but somehow different. He ate but he also disappeared suddenly or appeared in locked rooms. His body bore the scars of the cross without the infection and rawness. I believe Jesus was raised to life as a physical body, but I am always willing to hear what someone else thinks and to keep asking questions so that my faith grows.

Having doubts is **NOT** the opposite of faith. It is how our faith grows. So let us keep those questions coming and may our faith be ever stronger.



Parish Office Tel: 0161 432 4606 E-mail: M19stmargarets@gmail.com

Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

Rev. Matt Calladine

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 12th April 2026:

Morning Worship Service: at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking on the theme: 'Faith and doubts' thinking of Thomas' in John 20. 19-31

BCP Communion at 3pm. Using extra bits for Easter.

Electoral Roll: Last day this Sunday 12th April. If you are not on it and wish to be included please speak to Susan Stansfield.

Next Week 19th April 2026:

10.30am Holy Communion: Peter Miller will be speaking about the two disciples who met a comforting stranger on the road to Emmaus- Luke 24. 13-35 & 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11

March 12th - 11th April, Please Pray for:

- People living in Ferndale Gardens & Brookdene Road.
- People who have started to attend ABC to continue coming.
- The Holy Spirit to be at work through members of Prayer Ministry Team.
- Deanery Gathering on Thursday to be told about Diocesan vision plans.
- Future for Iran which brings true freedom to its people and for healing.
- Renovation of the Girls' dormitory at Falconer Home to be completed quickly.
- Thanks for new opportunities to reduce Foodbank storage costs.
- Provision of 34 new motorbikes for IEM workers.

Looking Ahead:

APCM: This year's APCM is on Sunday 26th April after the morning service. Hard copies of the paperwork are at the back of church for those who have not received it via email. There are four vacancies for PCC members, one vacancy for Deanery Synod and two vacancies for church wardens. Many thanks to Jane Franklin for her work as warden over the last 6 years and to PCC members Peter Miller, Ruth Miller & Tom Musgrove, whose terms of office end at the APCM. Please note Jane can not stand for re-election as warden as she has served for 6 consecutive years. Nominations close on Sunday 19th April.

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. A church member shares: *"God is with me every day helping me tell others about the power of prayer whilst looking after me and my family. Over the past few months I have been able to pass on my experiences of prayer to friends and acquaintances who have asked me questions. It was a good feeling to spread the word a little and interesting for me to be asked specific questions."*

CONFIRMATION: 1st June 7pm here. If you are interested in being confirmed please see Matt. There are 3 preparation sessions. Initially I am thinking of 6.30- 7.45 pm on Monday 11th, 18th and 25th but these may go to Sunday night if everyone can make them.



Burnage Tesco, Burnage Library
(when open) and Asda Reddish

SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on the following - Tinned Peas/ Sweet corn/Carrots, Tinned Potatoes, UHT Milk, Spaghetti hoops, Pasta sauce .