



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

14th December 2025

ADVENT 3 SUNDAY: John the Baptist

Matthew 11.2-11

“the blind recover their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life”, Matt 11.4 .



What would the papers make of wholesale, widespread miraculous healing through prayer, the dead being raised to life, and all this seemingly centered on one person? And this from Jesus; “tell John - The poor are hearing the good news.” The promised Kingdom of God is breaking through and, evidenced now in almost daily miracles. The Kingdom of God is the royal influence of God, the

sovereign rule of God on earth, and it is a good thing. Jesus’ message was ‘the in-breaking Kingdom of God is available now through me.’ This was the headline to beat all others. So the reporters were to take all this back to John who, by the way, was in prison for being outspoken about king’s behaviour. John was the herald of this new era, the Kingdom of God. As Christians we have a similar calling to John.

1 To report on what has happened

To tell God’s story, and to tell our own personal story. What has God done in the world, what is he still doing? What has he done for you? This is our job – to tell the story afresh for this generation. Evangelism is really just storytelling – telling God’s story, telling your story.

2 It is our calling to herald a different future.

The Kingdom of God is the best future for all people, all nations. It is a restoration of all things, back to being the best. It is what the Christian church is meant to point towards – the church is called to be living evidence of this new order. This is our mission.

Mission is ushering in the Kingdom of God. Building community, being active in politics, developing church community as the beautiful thing it is designed to be in this world.

3 To live the Kingdom of God out in the present.

There was an urgency about John’s ministry. And Jesus thought very highly of John – “*never has there appeared on earth a mother’s son greater than John the Baptist*”, “*and yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John.*”

We are greater even than John. We are adopted children of God. We are ambassadors We are royal priests . We are called not only to announce the Kingdom of God but with Christ to bring it on in everything we do.

This is why we pray “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, **now** as it is in heaven”



Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say again : Rejoice!

This week- Sunday 14th December 2025:

Advent 3: Morning Worship at 10.30am. Tony Hardy will be speaking on the theme: '**John the Baptist**'.

BCP Communion at 3pm

Next Week 21st December 2025:

Advent 4: Holy Communion Service at 10.30am. Peter Miller will be speaking on the theme: '**Mary and Joseph**'

Carol service at 6.30pm. Mince pies needed. Please bring.

24th December: Mayhem in the manger at 3pm

Quiet Carols and Communion at 7pm.

25th December: Family Communion service at 10.30am

December 14th – 20th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Lansdale Gardens, Holmdale Gardens & Eastville Gardens.
- Matt on Monday at AGM & Trust members meeting at Burnage Academy.
- Enjoyable Tuesday Group lunch and Carol Service on Tuesday.
- Carol services on Wednesday at Hodgson Court (2.30) & Dahlia House (6pm).
- Acacias School Christingle services at school (9.30am) & at church (10.30am).
- Us to continue to "Rejoice in the Lord always" as our 2025 verse for the year..
- Youth involved in Carol Service to feel confident and well prepared.
- Message of Joy in Jesus to be heard at Carol Service next Sunday (21st).
- Open Doors "Unwrap Hope" appeal to help persecuted Christian children.

Looking Ahead:

Church History Book: If you've not yet bought the latest church history book 'Continuing History 2000-2025' or you're looking for Christmas presents, there are still copies available at £5 each. See Susan Whittaker.

Church Family Christmas Card 2025: If you would like to send Christmas greetings to the church family, please attach your Christmas card to the board at the back of church and make a donation to Open Doors' 'Unwrap Hope' appeal helping children and families persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

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.



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

WINTER SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on Festive Treats, Long life juice, Cordial, Long life milk, Spaghetti hoops, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Sweet Corn/Peas, Tinned cold meat, Jam/Chocolate spread, Tea/Coffee/Hot chocolate, Shampoo, Deodorant, Razors, Nappies,