



# St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

2 Corinthians 3. 17-18



## Washed to Shine

Do you remember your baptism? I don't. There is a certificate, a few black and white photos and the infamous cinefilm. This does not show any of the service but features my elder brother being taken outside to have a pee against the church as it had no inside toilets. It then pans around the guests leaving church all in their finest, most of whom I have absolutely no idea who they were.

Some people may have been old enough when they were baptised that they could remember it and how meaningful it was. At the age of 17, when I made a decision for myself to follow Jesus, I asked my vicar if I could be baptised as an adult as a public declaration of my new found faith. He refused as I was 'done' as a baby and I grudgingly accepted Confirmation as an alternative.

When we were going through the Nicene Creed, we did not have time to fit in: 'We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.' It was this statement and Bible teaching (e.g. Ephesians 4.5: 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism') that makes clear there is only ONE baptism. This baptism is to proclaim that through Jesus, we have been forgiven.

Baptism is an outward sign of what God is doing on the inside.

Water is a symbol for life and cleansing. As in Romans 6. 3-4, there is a sense that, in going down into the water, we identify with Christ's death so as to receive new life in Him. Water may go on the outside of the body, but our unseen God cleanses us as our sins are forgiven and makes us new in Jesus. We are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5.17). Like dirty, well-used coins cleaned in vinegar, God's washing of us causes us to shine like new. And like those clean coins, we reflect the light of Jesus. He is the source of light. It is His light and glory that shines to others through us. By reflecting the light of Jesus something profound happens to us in turn. We are slowly, '*from one degree of glory to another*', being transformed to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3. 17-18).

Baptism is also about belonging. Baptism shows publicly that we are part of Christ's body, the church, and we belong to Him. It is often referred to as a 'Christening'. This English word is derived from the Greek for 'into Christ' or coming into God's family. Through baptism, we come into Christ and belong to Him.

As we think of baptism washing us to make us shine, maybe we should look over those baptismal promises made for us or by ourselves and ask Jesus to cleanse us more so that we can become more and more like Him.

Do you turn away from sin?

Do you reject evil?

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Do you trust in Him as Lord?



**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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026:**

**Morning Worship with Baptism Service: at 10.30am.** Matt will be speaking from 2 Corinthians 3. 17-18 on the theme: '**Shining the Light.**'

**Ash Wednesday:** 18th February at 7.30pm. Mission Community Communion at St. Elisabeth's Reddish. If you want a daytime service, go to St Paul's Heaton Moor for 9.45am for an informal Cafe style communion with ashes.

**Pancakes quiz night:** 21st February at 6pm.

## **Next Week 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026:**

**Lent 1 Service: at 10.30am.** Peter Miller will be speaking from Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7, Psalm 32 , Romans 5: 12-19 and Matthew 4: 1-11.

**LENT COURSE:** Practicing the Way- with videos and discussion groups. We will be exploring how we can create a lifelong foundation for following Jesus. 7pm-8.30pm in church on Tuesdays, from 24th February to 31st March.

... : Practicing  
... : the Way

**JUST VOTE-** With the Bye Election coming on 26th February I urge us all, who live in the constituency, to **get out and vote.** Some may wish to use their vote as a protest against what they see as the poor performance of our current government. There is a new Party that plays on our built-in fear of those who are different to us and uses "national pride" as thin veneer for what is basically racism. Some Parties also peddle lies and half-truths. Get yourself informed as possible and use your vote wisely.

## **February 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Paignton Avenue & Devon Avenue.
- Safety for pupils and rest for staff during half term holiday.
- Matt meeting Foodbank Project Manager on Wed for support & supervision.
- Ash Wednesday Mission Community Communion service at St Elisabeth's Reddish.
- Good turnout & conversations at Pancake Quiz night on Saturday.
- Youth to come & join in Pancake Quiz and other families we know.
- Open Doors in N Korea helping believers & refugees escape the country.
- 40 people to offer themselves in February for training as IEM missionaries.

## **Looking Ahead:**

**Bible Readers and Prayer Leaders:** As we are mostly having 2 readings each week, it would be lovely to have them read by other voices. Would you be interested in joining the rota? See Matt or message Fiyin. Also, we could do with more people to join the rota to lead our prayers on Sundays? Is this you? Would you value some training before? See Matt.

**CONFIRMATION:** 1st June at 7pm here. If you are interested in being confirmed please see Matt.



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

**WINTER SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on Pasta Sauce, Curry Sauce, Tinned peas/ Sweet corn/ Carrots, Snacks (Crisps, Chocolates etc), Hot chocolate, Long life juice.**