



# St Margaret's Church

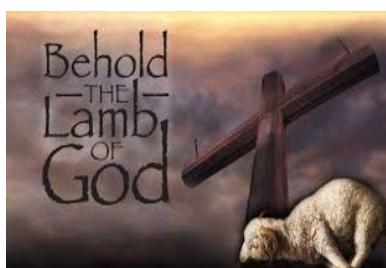
Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

John 1. 29-42

## Jesus revealed as the Lamb of God



Names are chosen for us, usually by parents. Sometimes we get nicknames. Some of us may choose to use a middle name as the one by which we want to be known. Often we abbreviate our names. Whatever we do with it, our name is important.

In the church calendar, the season of Epiphany (which means 'revelation') invites us to look at how Jesus is revealed, and often this involves a name. At Christmas, the child we worship is named Jesus ('Saviour') but is also referred to as Emmanuel ('God with us'). At His baptism, God calls Jesus His 'beloved Son'. Today it is the turn of John the Baptist to give Jesus a title: 'The Lamb of God'.

This title is hugely significant. When we think of lambs, we may imagine newly born ones leaping and frolicking around under the watchful eyes of their mothers. Some of us may be thinking of a lovely accompaniment to our mint sauce or Biryani. But Jewish people of the time of Jesus were more likely to have gone in their minds to lambs sacrificed in worship of God at the temple. It is clear that this is in John's thoughts as he says: "*Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" He sees Jesus coming towards him and makes this declaration.

Seeing Jesus as the sacrificial lamb has informed much of our theology of the cross. Lambs were used in sin offering for individuals, but John foresees Jesus doing this for the whole world. The book of Revelation often refers to the Lamb on the throne as a way of talking about Jesus: the Lamb who won the victory over sin and death. This imagery is picked up in many of our worship songs. But Jesus being the Lamb of God is not the main thrust of John 1. 29-42. This passage is more about how people respond to this title.

We have Andrew and another unnamed disciple of John the Baptist, hearing him declare Jesus as the Lamb of God and being fascinated enough by this to follow Jesus and ask Him where he was staying. They spent time with Jesus and were so impacted by this that Andrew rushed to find his brother Simon saying: "*We have found the Messiah*". Simon was in turn so fascinated that he went with Andrew and met Jesus for himself who renamed him 'Peter'.

What do we know about Jesus? What has been revealed to us about Him? Do we find it so exciting and fascinating that we want to tell others about it? Being the Lamb of God may not grab us in quite the same way. However, knowing our sins are forgiven or Jesus is God with us or that He is the Messiah (anointed by God to open the way for us all to enter freely into a relationship with the Living God), should encourage us all to go to our friends and family and share the revelations we have had of who Jesus is.



**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.**'

**Next Week 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026:**

**Family Communion Service: at 10.30am.** Peter Miller will be speaking from Isaiah 9: 1-4, Psalm 27: 1, 4-9.

**CW Communion at 3pm**

**Prayer for Growth at 7pm.**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Calverley Avenue, Burnage Hall Road & Burnham Drive.
- Positive discussion and wise decisions at the PCC on Monday.
- Young people in W London to be affected by "No more knives" tour starting Tuesday.
- Day of Prayer for growth next Sunday (25th).
- Matt doing Collective Worship every other Tuesday at St Thomas CE Primary
- Matt at Mission Community meeting on Wednesday for support & prayer.
- Finalising of the accounts by Angela ready for new Independent Examiner (Lauren).
- Positive impact on MPs who attended Open Doors World Watch List launch last week.

**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.



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 Baby wipes.**