



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

1st March 2026

Genesis 12. 1 - 4a



Comings & Goings

Football supporters on their way to a match are usually quite enthusiastic. As they walk to the ground they show their optimism that their team will win. They might even sing or chant their song. It is all part of going to the match.



Psalm 121

As people in Old Testament days went to worship God they too would prepare. Psalm 121 is one of 15 Psalms (Psalms 120 to 134). called 'A Song of Ascents'. These would be sung on their journey to worship in Jerusalem. It might be a special festival, or it might have been as they returned from years of exile in Babylon. Do we have the same enthusiasm, preparation and anticipation as we come to worship God each Sunday? Some words from Psalm 121 can help us.

Hills

Why does the Psalmist mention hills in verse 1? They could be places of refuge or menace. It was often on a hill that God showed himself to people in a special way. It happened to Moses in the Old Testament and to three disciples at the transfiguration in the New Testament. But hills could also mean facing robbers as it did on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem in the story of the Good Samaritan. Help doesn't come from the hills. That is the setting of the Psalm. The writer asks the question "From where will my help come?" and gives a better answer.

Keeper

'He who keeps you will not slumber' (verse 3).

'He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep' (verse 4).

'The LORD is your keeper' (verse 5).

'The LORD will keep you from all evil.... He will keep your life' (verse 7).

'The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in' (verse 8).

Dangers mentioned include the sun and moon. Other false religions of the day may have had a 'sun god' or a 'moon god'. The LORD who protects His own people is greater than them. He is the one who made heaven and earth. He is also the one who protects by day and night. If you are awake at 3 am and unable to sleep it is worth remembering the LORD is also awake and you can talk to Him!

Going

His protection does not mean He isolates us from everyday life. We have our everyday comings and goings. These may take us to work, the shops, leisure activities, to visit a friend, to church or on holiday. Even those otherwise housebound sometimes find they have to go to medical appointments. Remember as we cross our doorsteps for our comings and goings, that 'The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore'. Knowing that can help us respond, as an old hymn says, with:

'Praise in the common things of life
Its goings out and in'.



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 1st March 2026:

Holy Communion Service: at 10.30am. Alan Pugmire will be speaking from Genesis 12: 1-4a, Psalm 121 on the theme: '**Comings and Goings**'.

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. NOT too late to join.



Next Week 8th March 2026:

Healing Service: at 10.30am. Tony Hardy will be speaking from Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5: 1-11, John 4: 5-42.

BCP Communion at 3pm

March 1st – 7th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Kingsway west side (Mauldeth Road to Westcroft Road).
- Matt taking Collective Worship at St Thomas CE School on alternate Tuesdays.
- Matt doing Mission Community Leaders' training on Thursday.
- PCC taking more time to look at the Mission Action Plan on Saturday.
- People moved to ask for fresh touch of Holy Spirit at Healing Service next Sunday.
- The small secret gatherings of courageous Christians in North Korea.
- TearFund in S Sudan bringing hope & transformation to communities.
- Good attendance & helpful discussion at Youth Alpha events.

Looking Ahead:

Experience Easter: This will be set up from 23rd March. We have booked in so far Acacias Year 2 for 1.45pm on 30th March and 1.45pm on 1st April. If you can help deliver this resource, then please speak to Matt or Steph.

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

Open doors: Ruth Miller has some copies of the new Open Doors' World Watch List 2026, listing the top 50 countries where Christians suffer persecution for their faith in Jesus. Please see Ruth if you would like a copy and use it to pray.

Bible Readers and Prayer Leaders: If you can help here, please see Matt.



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

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