



St Margaret's Church

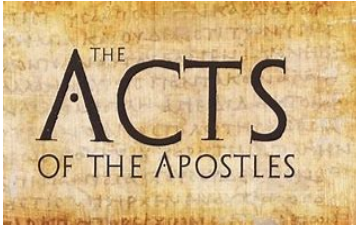
Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

20th July 2025

Acts 28. 16-31

CONTINUING ACTS



Today we conclude our series looking at the Acts of Apostles. 16 sermons have been preached in this series. Our focus has been around growth.

The church grew because the followers of Jesus devoted themselves to prayer and they were open to receive the gift of the Spirit.

When the Spirit came upon them in Acts 2, they came out of hiding, rushed into the streets and proclaimed Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We looked at the different sermons preached by the apostles and what was common or core to these messages - most notably the death and resurrection of Jesus. We read of the followers praying for boldness to proclaim Jesus when opposition and later persecution came their way. We learnt of the generosity that was central to the life of the early church. We saw how, through prayer, 7 deacons were chosen when a dispute broke out in the early church over widows from outside Israel who were being overlooked as food was shared among believers. We studied all the healing stories done in the name of Jesus in Acts and saw both Peter and Paul being credited with praying to see the dead raised. And all the time the Gospel message was being preached. Firstly to the Jews, but then, partly through persecution forcing the disciples away from Jerusalem and partly through revelation as Peter was shown that 'all people are clean' (Acts 10 v 15), to the Gentiles (non-Jews). Barriers were broken down and boundaries were crossed as the Gospel spread. The early church was growing as it was constantly looking to Jesus and moving outwards.

In all this, we saw the words of Jesus being fulfilled. Jesus said in Acts 1.8: *"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Today we come to the end of Acts. Paul arrives in the heart of the known world - Rome itself. As a result of God's crazy plans, he arrived under guard appealing to Caesar as a Roman citizen and under house arrest. Yet he was given freedom for 2 years to welcome all who came to him. He welcomes first the Jews of Rome who were curious about this 'sect' (28.22). As might be expected, he gets a mixed response, which prompts him to quote the prophet Isaiah to them.

And that is where it ends, with Paul *'proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance'* (v.31). However the reality is that Acts does not end. The same Spirit continues to work through the church and the church continues to grow to the ends of the earth.

What has struck you most from our study of Acts? What are you applying to your life? How are you proclaiming Jesus with boldness and without hindrance?

Acts continues in and through us...



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

Matt Calladine

Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

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

This week- Sunday 20th July 2025 :

Family Communion at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking from Acts 28. 17-31 on the theme: 'Continuing Acts.'

Next Week 27th July 2025:

Over the summer holidays, we will be celebrating Creation. Tony starts this off by looking at Stars.

CW Communion at 3pm.

Holiday Special: for the over 55's is to take place from **Monday, July 28th to Wednesday, July 30th.** "A holiday at Home" with lots of interesting activities, refreshments and lunch provided, all free of charge. Pray for a good time of fun, food and friendship.

July 20th – July 26th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Barnfield Road, Oakland Avenue, Carrgreen Close & Errwood Road (*Shawbrook Road to Crossley Road*).
- Homegroup leaders as they meet on Monday to review and plan for the future.
- Creative Prayer on Tuesday as they continue the theme of celebration.
- The Mission Community Clergy meeting for prayer & support on Thursday.
- The Burnage Residents group meeting on Thursday.
- Strength, peace and the release of imprisoned Christians in Iran.

Looking Ahead:

Alpha Course: starting 8th September. Sign up list in church for those wishing to attend. If you are interested in being part of the team delivering this (serving at meals, cooking meals, leading a small group) please speak to Matt.

Summer Church BBQ: this is our next 150th Event but it is weather dependent. One Sunday after church in August, we will ask people to bring and share BBQ food. BBQ's will be fired up and food cooked. As the weather is so unreliable in the UK, we will announce nearer the time when this will be (Probably through Facebook). We would hope to enjoy our outdoor space with some fun and games after eating. Suitable for all the family and great to invite others to come and join us.

Announcement: Due to health reasons, Heather Green has stepped down from being the Burnage Foodbank Project Manager. We are thankful for all she has done and wish her well in any future endeavours.

This Time Tomorrow: you may have heard others being interviewed in church and asked about what they are doing this time tomorrow and how we can pray for you. Would you be interested in being interviewed? If so, see Helen Hardy or Matt.

Prayer meetings at St Margaret's: Monday: 7.00 -7.45pm: on ZOOM / Thursday at 7.30-8.15am in Errwood Room.



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

URGENTLY NEEDED: Please concentrate on Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Sweet Corn/Peas, Tinned Carrots/Potatoes, Tinned Corned beef/ham, Long life Fruit juice/ Long life Semi milk, Tea/ Coffee, Tinned Fruit/ Custard, Jam/Peanut butter, Shampoo.