



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

20th September 2026

Deuteronomy 6. 1-9



When the children Ask

Who helped you grow in your faith? If you became a Christian as a child or teenager, who shared the stories of Jesus with you? Who prayed for you and listened to you, who helped you understand who God is?

Research suggests that around 80% of Christians begin following Jesus before the age of 18, with many making that decision between the ages of 4 and 14. Childhood and adolescence are some of the most significant years for faith development. That means children and young people are

not the future church. They are the church now.

In Joshua 4, after God brings the Israelites safely across the River Jordan, He tells them to build a memorial of stones. Why? So that future generations will ask questions. "When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them..." God expected children to be present. He expected them to be curious. He expected them to ask questions. Most importantly, He expected the community to be ready to answer. Remembering God's faithfulness was everyone's responsibility.

The same idea appears in Deuteronomy 6: "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Faith was never intended to be passed on only through Sunday groups. God intended faith to be shared through everyday relationships. Through conversations and stories.

One of the greatest privileges of my role has been spending time with our children and young people. Over the years I have learnt that they need adults who know their names, pray for them, encourage them and share stories of God's faithfulness. But I have learnt something else too...

We need them. We need their questions, their honesty, their joy. We need them worshipping with us. We need the way they notice things we have stopped noticing. We need the way they help us rediscover wonder.

As I prepare to move on, this is the thing I most want to leave with our church family: Please don't think caring for children and young people belongs only to a paid 'professional'. It belongs to all of us.

Every conversation matters.

Every welcome matters.

Every prayer matters.

Every name remembered matters.

Every story shared matters.

So when future generations of children ask, "What do these stones mean?" My prayer is that they will find a church ready to answer. A church that knows them, loves them, welcomes them, learns from them, worships alongside them, and helps them discover the God who loves them.

Because when the children ask, we all have a story to tell.



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 20th September 2026:

Farewell & All together celebration Service at 10.30am: Steph O'Hanlon will be speaking on the theme: **'When Children Ask'**.

Bring & share lunch: after our morning worship to celebrate Steph.

Exhibition: On Saturday 19th (10am-4pm) and Sunday 20th September (1-5pm), Church will be open for the Heritage Open Days exhibition: 'Please invite friends and neighbours and sign up to help serve teas and coffees if free.'

Next Week 27th September 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Roger Dixon will be speaking from Exodus 15 and Numbers 12 on the theme: **'Miriam'**.

CW Communion at 3pm.

September 20th – 26th – Please Pray for:

- People living in Epsom Avenue, Hatfield Avenue & Winslow Place.
- Excitement at Creative Prayer group meeting again on Tuesday with theme "Others".
- Steph as she meets potential new volunteers & current leaders in her new job.
- Matt doing a Ministerial Development Review of a prison chaplain.
- New people to feel welcome as they come and join ABC.
- Foodbank team – Becks (manager), Helen (project worker) & Alicia (Fundraiser).
- 2026 Motto "Press on towards the goal" – courage to forward the Kingdom of God here.
- Clarks and his team as they take over the running of the Falconer Home.
- Preparations & arrangements for Harvest service in October.

Looking Ahead:

Prayer for Growth meeting postponed till 4th October: Without the Heritage Open Day & Steph's leaving, we can focus more fully on praying for growth in the morning service, during the day as individuals & gather at 7pm in the evening hopefully fairly fresh and ready to pray.

Bible Course 2: Tuesday 6th October, 7pm. Open to everyone even if you missed the first one!

Harvest– 18th October. Food items to Burnage Foodbank. Monetary donations to the Nepal fund at Tearfund.

Answers to prayer: We want to celebrate what God is doing amongst us, however smaller a thing it seems. Please send to revmattburnage@gmail.com or M19stmargarets@gmail.com.

Have you seen something in the building that needs fixing?: Andrew Foulkes is the first point of contact for issues with the buildings, so if you notice a light bulb that needs replacing or a door that's sticking tell him, or call on 07846 089035, email at andrewfoulkes39@gmail.com or in the parish centre there is a little book hanging on the wall near the First Aid box/Defibrillator. Thanks

This Time Tomorrow: Would you be interested in being interviewed? If so, see Helen Hardy or Matt.

Nativity costumes: Matt wants to do a pop up nativity in December. If you have any suitable clothing or props, please see Matt.