



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

21st June 2026



The Father's View

Luke 15. 11 - 32

The parable of the prodigal son is one of Jesus' best known stories. But does it have the right title? Should it not be: "The parable of the lost son"? This would fit better with the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin that come before it in Luke 15. Or better still, are not both sons lost?

The older son, who represents the Pharisees who think they are doing everything right, is also lost. The younger son represents the ordinary people of the day who wander away and try and fill their lives with worthless things. So perhaps "The parable of the 2 Lost sons" is a better title? Or maybe it should have another title?

Let us take the father's view. The youngest son comes to him and says: "I want it all and I want it now!" The normal ways to get an inheritance is for the person to die so the youngest son is basically saying "Drop dead dad" [You don't see this on Father's Day cards!]. The father would have had to mortgage his property which is a fairly simple legal process but spiritually it is seen as shameful. The father bore the shame and provided his son with his half of the inheritance. The father loves the son so much as to give him his freedom to discover life for himself.

The son leaves, but what does the father do? He keeps on loving the wayward son and he waits. He waits for news of his son. He waits with an eye on the horizon. Could this be my son returning? No. A pilgrim heading to Jerusalem. This one? No. Just a man heading to market. Until one day many days, weeks, months later- a sorry figure appears on the horizon. The waiting father sees something that is familiar and he does something a respected elder never did- he runs! He runs to his smelly son in filthy rags and he throws his arms around him.

We may be used to seeing dad's running. Personally I have been so touched seeing David Stancombe and Sergio Aguiar, the fathers of two of the victims of the Southport murders, Elsie and Alice, running side by side the whole 4 hours plus of the London Marathon. But in the times of Jesus, respected elders never ran. If a comparison would help, there are only 2 clips on YouTube showing Queen Elisabeth II running: to watch a horse race; and after toddler Prince William. Important people don't run! The listeners of Jesus would have been shocked that the father runs in this story- but run he does and he ignores the attempts at contrition and hugs his returned son. Then he restores him with new clothes, shoes and ring. This love keeps on giving. Even when the older son refuses to come into the party for his wasteling brother, the father still shows, compassion, understanding and love to his other son. And this is how God, our Father, treats us. His love is running after us.

So when we come to this parable, we should really call it "The parable of the waiting father" or to add some shock value: "The parable of the running father."



Rev Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2026: Isaiah 43.19, Philipians 3.14

I am about to do a new thing... Press on towards the goal!

This week- Sunday 21st June 2026:

Father's Day Celebration at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking on the theme: **'Running Father'** from Luke 15.11-32.

No Wednesday prayer meeting this week

Next Week 28th June 2026:

Morning Worship at 10.30am: Roger Dixon will be speaking.

CW Communion at 3pm.

June 21st – 27th – Please Pray for:

- People living on Kingsway east side (from Barcroft Road to Mauldeth Road).
- Rector and wardens meeting on Monday.
- Frail & infirm members of Creative Prayer on Tuesday to be able to get there.
- Planning for an end of term treat for Youth Club members,
- The Shed working group and the possibility of the first workshop.
- Preparations for the Holiday Club for youth and a convenient date for helpers.
- Matt meeting Becks (Foodbank manager) on Monday for supervision.
- Christians in Iran caught in the crossfires of war and persecution.
- A successful and helpful Alpha Course in HMP M/c.

Looking Ahead:

Behold the Man: A free performance offering different perspectives on the life of Jesus. Saturday, **4th July**, 7pm at Levenshulme Baptist Church, M19 3NS. For more details, please see Frances Tweedy.

Burnage Parade 5th July. Parade starts at 11.30am so we will start our worship that Sunday at **10am**. Any creative people who wants to work on banners or symbols, please see Matt.

Vigil for Sheila Brown: in Church 7pm-8pm on Tuesday **7th July**.

Celebration and thanksgiving for Sheila Brown in Church, Wednesday 8th July at 12.15pm.

Holiday Special: 27th - 29th July. Any offers of homemade cakes or biscuits would be appreciated for the Holiday Special. Please let Susan Whittaker know if you could make some cakes or biscuits.

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.

'Roberta is thanking God that a problem with her heart, which was diagnosed 7 years ago, is healed after much prayer. She was told this by Dr in May this year'.

'Joan Roberts thanks God that her niece Marion, has come through a heart operation successfully. She asked for prayer for this and has prayed herself.'

Welcome Team- if you can help, see Wardens or Matt. We also need help with new people joining the Easy Worship rota.

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



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

SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on the following - Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Cordial, Biscuits, Shampoo, UHT Milk, Shaving foam .