



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

22nd February 2026

Genesis 2. 15-17, 3.1-7

Temptation & Testing

Matthew 4. 1-11

Temptation



The conversation in Genesis between Satan and Eve in the garden of Eden always reminds me of the old Mackeson slogan: *'It looks good, it tastes good, and by golly it does you good!'* But someone suffering from alcoholism might disagree. It might look good and taste good, but it would do them no good at all!

It's easy to read this account of how Satan tricks Eve with his lies about God and forget that it is really about obedience or disobedience to God. All Satan's deception results in a single question: God asks the man, *"Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"* Adam and Eve have been tempted to eat the fruit: exactly what God told them not to do.

In our reading from Matthew 4, Satan comes to Jesus using the same tricks he used on Eve and Adam in the garden.

After 40 days in the desert, Jesus is famished and Satan says to Him: *"If you are the Son of God, change these stones into bread."* A simple test of Jesus' powers. Why not change stones into bread when He is so hungry? But Jesus replies using Scripture: *"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (see Deuteronomy 8: 1-3).

Jesus' obedience to God was being tested through hunger, but, unlike Eve, He isn't fooled: His reply states that He will rely on God for His every need.

Next Satan suggests that Jesus might prove His sonship by throwing Himself off the pinnacle of the temple, because the Psalms said that if He did angels would catch Him, preventing Him from harm. But Jesus again uses Scripture: *"Again it is written, Do not put the Lord your God to the test"* (Deuteronomy 6: 16). Jesus was not going to do any acts of bravado to prove who He was; He was determined only to do His Father's will.

Finally, Satan offers Jesus all the nations of the world if He would bow down and worship him. He could fulfil His entire mission without going to the cross. Jesus' reply is downright angry: *"Away with you, Satan! for it is written, Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him"* (see Deuteronomy 6: 13-15). Jesus was going to resist the temptation to do things Satan's way.

What does this mean for us?

Remember that Satan works through deception, lies and doubt; he can even twist Scripture against us to make us doubt God's will for us and can tempt us to an easier way.

1 Peter 5: 8 says: 'Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour'. We can obey what we know to be true and encourage others to do the same. We can read our Bibles and pray for guidance. And we can be assured that the Lord has promised to always be with us, even in our darkest times.



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 22nd February 2026:

Lent 1 Morning Worship Service: at 10.30am. Peter Miller will be speaking from Genesis 2:15-17; 3: 1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5: 12-19 and Matthew 4: 1-11.

3pm Common Worship Communion

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.

... Practicing
... the Way

JUST VOTE- With the Bye Election coming on **26th February** I urge us all, who live in the constituency, to **get out and vote**. Some may wish to use their vote as a protest against what they see as the poor performance of our current government. There is a new Party that plays on our built-in fear of those who are different to us and uses "national pride" as thin veneer for what is basically racism. Some Parties also peddle lies and half-truths. Get yourself informed as much as possible and use your vote wisely.

Next Week 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**'.

February 22nd – 28th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Kingsway east side (Burnham Drive to Barcicroft Road).
- Creative Prayer group to find Tuesday session "Rest in our bodies" helpful.
- Matt to have spiritual refreshment at New Wine Leaders conference this week.
- Fresh wave of Spirit in Wales as Message Wales at Cymru Prayer Event on Sat.
- New Independent Examiner, Lauren, as she checks our church accounts.
- Lent Course "Practicing the Way" to be helpful for our following of Jesus.
- God to change the hearts of leader Kim Jong-Un and his family in North Korea.

Looking Ahead:

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.

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

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

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.



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.