



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

27th September 2026

Exodus 2. 1-10



Miriam

Numbers 12. 1-16

Here's a basic question with which to begin. Who was Miriam?
Answer: Miriam was Moses' sister.

When I was asked to preach about Miriam, I could only think of one passage about her, our first passage on Sunday 27th, Exodus 2:1-10. This is the passage where baby Moses is hidden amongst the reeds by the riverside after Pharaoh decides to have Israelite baby boys killed. His sister positions herself where she can keep an eye on him (Exodus 2:4) but wait, the sister is not named! Could this be a different sister?

My Bible Dictionary has guided me to Numbers 26:59 where we read that "The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed ...and she bore to Amram: Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam." It sounds like Aaron and Moses only had the one sister, so it almost certainly was Miriam keeping an eye on baby Moses in Exodus 2.

More anon, but Miriam emerges from this passage in a positive way.

My Bible Dictionary then guided me to two other passages where Miriam is mentioned by name. I must have read these passages before but I'd completely forgotten them.

The first is a short passage in Exodus 15:20-21. The Israelites have miraculously crossed the Red Sea on the way from Egypt to the "Promised Land". The pursuing Egyptians are then drowned behind the Israelites. Firstly, Moses sings a much longer song of praise to God in verses 1-19. "Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them, "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." I will not say very much about this passage on Sunday, but I will say more about Numbers 12:1-16.

In my Bible this passage is headed "Aaron and Miriam jealous of Moses". Sibling rivalry can lead to jealousy. This passage describes Moses as "very humble" but God is clearly unhappy with Aaron and Miriam's behaviour. We can look at this, in more detail, on Sunday.

Whether we concentrate on families, friendships or churches, we are all different, with different gifts, and God has different plans for all of us. Can we accept these truths and avoid jealousy.

Aaron and Miriam do not emerge from this passage in a positive way.

How are we doing? After my sermon, we will have an opportunity to respond with confession. Maybe there are other ways we can respond. I finish by repeating that we are all different, with different gifts, and God has different plans for all of us. Thank God for that!



Roger Dixon

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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 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.

Next Week 4th October 2026: Day of prayer for Growth

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking from Joshua 2. 1-21 and Hebrews 11. 30-31 on the theme: 'Rahab'.

Prayer for growth prayer gathering at 7pm.

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

September 27th – 3rd October - Please Pray for:

- People living in Avon Road, Firethorn Avenue & Avon Gardens.
- Those who came to Heritage event to be drawn to love of Christ.
- Possible discussions on Monday about possible merger of local Foodbanks.
- New Alpha Course starting on Wednesday in a wing of HMP Mcr.
- Matt meeting on Thursday with St Bernard's priests & Cornerstone URC reps.
- Youth Club continuing without Steph and for new leaders near their age.
- New Trustees & Treasurer to be found urgently for Friends of IEM group.
- Those in governments receiving Arise Africa petition to respond.
- Helpful Day of Prayer for Growth next Sunday (4th).

Looking Ahead:

11th October– the future with Children Youth and Families.

Harvest– 17th October Harvest Social 6.30-8.30pm. Quiz, dancing and fun.

18th October. Food items to Burnage Foodbank. Monetary donations to the Nepal fund at Tearfund. Catherine Iddin is co-ordinating decoration of church. Please see her if you can help.

21st November: 10am **Work party** to clean church and, if weather ok, the churchyard for winter.

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.