



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

28th June 2026

Romans 6. 12 - 23

Rewards & Responses

Matthew 10. 40 - 42



Today's Reading, with only three verses, is one of the shortest we will have. It is so short that I am going to include it, here, in full. I hope this will be helpful.

40 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even

a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'

In my Bible, this passage is headed "Rewards" but I want to use, as my heading, "Rewards and Responses". I hope you will see why, later, because I feel this is very important.

Why not pause for a moment, and consider times when you've not deserved what happened, or when you did? I will quote a couple of personal examples on Sunday.

Our passage from Matthew has Jesus encouraging others to welcome people, and to give "even a cup of cold water" to those in need.

Do we do these things so we receive rewards? The passage does mention "rewards" a few times and it might seem that way. I would say that we "welcome" or "give" as a response to what God has already done for us. We have already received far more than we have ever "deserved"!

The last verse of our other reading, Romans 6:23 is a well-known verse but, whereas people often quote the first half of the verse, they often neglect the rest of it. The whole verse reads like this:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". A wage is pay you deserve for work done. A gift is not deserved, but the result of love. What do I deserve? I am so relieved that I don't get what I actually deserve. I am so grateful for all the undeserved gifts, and blessings, that I receive from our loving God.

I have been at St. Margaret's since my retirement in August 2021 and I have been preaching every couple of months since October 2022. You will know that I have often referred to the last verse of "When I survey the wondrous cross" and I am going to finish by repeating those words.

After three or four verses reflecting on what Jesus went through, for us, on the cross, the final verse is about our response: **"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."**

After all that we have already received, any further "rewards" are an undeserved bonus. Rather than seeking "rewards" let us seek to respond and to show God's love in word and deed.



Roger Dixon

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 28th June 2026:

Morning Worship at 10.30am: Roger Dixon will be speaking on the theme- '**Rewards and Responses.**'

CW Communion at 3pm.

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.

Next Week 5th July 2026:

Holy Communion Service at 10am: Tony Hardy will be speaking.

Burnage Parade: 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.

June 28th – July 4th – Please Pray for:

- People living in Hodgson Court & Burnage Lane (Mauldeth Road to Slade Lane).
- Careful listening & wise decisions at PCC on Monday.
- Matt at St Thomas's CE Primary assemblies on Tuesday on Fruit of the Spirit.
- Preparations, participation & witness in Big Burnage Parade next Sunday (5th).
- Establishing good links with those whose children are leaving ABC in summer.
- 23 new IEM missionaries having started their training course in May.
- Protection for Christians in Syria against would-be suicide bombers.

Looking Ahead:

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.

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.

The Falconer Home - Simon Samutala: It is with much sadness that we share the news that Simon has gone to be with the Lord after battling through some severe medical problems in recent weeks. He died in Lusaka hospital in the early hours of Tuesday 23 June 2026. Please pray for everyone at and connected to The Falconer Home who will be affected by this news but give thanks to God for Simon and his faithful service over many, many years.



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 .