



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

30th November 2025

ADVENT SUNDAY: Jesus will come again in glory



A Happy New Year! No! I am not going early like all those people who have their Christmas decorations up in November. This Sunday marks the start of the Church Year with what should be our season of preparation and penitence leading up to the feast celebrating the birth of Jesus.



Advent Sunday has a special focus on Christ's return. We have saved the section of the Nicene Creed that covers Jesus' second coming for this week: ***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

In our New Church Year, the main Gospel we will focus on will be Matthew's. Jesus talks about His return in chapter 24. On one level, His words predict the destruction of the Jerusalem temple (which happened around 70 A.D.), but they also refer to His return. There will be an unprecedented time of suffering for the entire world (many of our predecessors have experienced terrible suffering and thought this must be the time). Jesus does not tell us when (24.36), but there will be clear signs. When He does come, it will be unmissable - *with power and great glory* (Matthew 24. 30).

When Jesus returns, He comes to judge the world. The prophets foresaw this. In Isaiah 11, the prophet is expecting the Messiah descended from David whose father was Jesse. He is clear that the Messiah is coming to judge. He will judge with righteousness (Isaiah 11. 4 & 5). He will demonstrate God's concern for the poor and meek, and the wicked will be struck down. Some of the Biblical imagery of Jesus as judge makes for uncomfortable reading (which is probably the point!) but He is working to God's agenda and within His character. His judgements will be marked by righteousness and faithfulness to God. He will be the just judge. He will act with full knowledge of us, showing compassion and mercy wherever He can. We could not be in fairer, safer hands.

When Jesus returns, it will mark the fulfilment of His kingdom. And this kingdom will have no end! Those Jesus welcomes will join Him for all eternity. But what does this mean for us now?

We live in the '*inbetween*' times where Jesus has come but will come again and His kingdom is here, but not fully. Matthew 24 is very clear what we should be doing while waiting for Christ's return: *Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming* (v.42). And '*be ready*' (v.44).

How do we do this?

- By living lives worthy of Jesus
- Doing the things Jesus would do and the way He would do them;
- Sharing the Good News about Jesus
- Not getting bogged down in speculation about when His return might be.



Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say again : Rejoice!

This week- Sunday 30th November 2025:

Advent Sunday Healing Service: at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking on the theme: **'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead...'**

Bud winter warmer: 30th November, 3pm-6pm. If you can help make or serve refreshments, see Matt. We will also be putting on a version of Experience Christmas for families and other activities in church. Again, helpers needed for this.

Experience Christmas: Melland school, Tuesday 1.30pm, Acacias Year 3, Wednesday & Thursday at 1.20pm. Helpers needed. Please pray for this.

Christmas Toy Exchange: Saturday **6th December, 10.30am to 12.30pm** at St Mark's Church Levenshulme, M19 3HP. . If you have any old quality toys to donate, please bring them to Church, latest 4th December.

Next Week 7th December 2025:

Holy Communion Service: at 10.30am. Alan Pugmire will be speaking on the theme: **'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come...'**

November 30th– December 6th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Glenhurst Road & Westville Gardens.
- Staff & school children to find visit to Experience Christmas to be helpful.
- Experience Christmas to be a helpful resource for ABC on Friday.
- Preparation for Christmas services, particularly Carol Service.
- Organisation & practises for youth involvement with Carol Service.
- A meaningful Advent as we prepare for Christmas.
- Ongoing work & prioritisation of building projects at Falconer Home.
- International governments to become aware of persecution of Christians in Africa.

Looking Ahead:

Church History Book: If you've not yet bought the latest church history book 'Continuing History 2000-2025' or you're looking for Christmas presents, there are still copies available at £5 each. See Susan Whittaker.

Carol service: 6.30pm, Sunday 21st December.

Prayer meetings at St Margaret's: Monday: 7.00 -7.45pm: on ZOOM / Thursday at 7.30-8.15am in Errwood Room.



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

WINTER SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on Festive Treats, Long life juice, Cordial, Long life milk, Spaghetti hoops, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Sweet Corn/Peas, Tinned cold meat, Jam/Chocolate spread, Tea/Coffee/Hot chocolate, Shampoo, Deodorant, Razors, Nappies, Baby wipes