



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

5th July 2026

Romans 7.15-25a

Struggles & Solutions:

Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

WHAT TO DO?



In Romans 7: 15-25a, Paul writes about his struggle with sin and the law. The law was the burdensome set of rules-to-be-kept for Jewish people. Paul was a pharisee and must have had to wrestle with being a recent Christian convert and having been a champion of religious rule-keeping. *"15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to*

do, I agree that the law is good.."

Jesus didn't seem to preach long sermons, and we remember the headings, the soundbites: "Let the children come unto me", "Render unto Caesar", and this from today's reading "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

29 **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 **For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" Matthew 11: 28-30

The yoke is what a rabbi would call his teaching. *"my yoke"*, my teaching is easy and my burden is light. In contrast to the sermonising criticising pharisaic culture, Jesus' teaching is light. Light but not lightweight.

Jesus' teaching, is easy to understand, and briefly stated, but can be hard to do. *"Love your enemies"* Matthew 5.43, *"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."* Matthew 16

So, how shall I live my life? Is it right or wrong to do some particular thing? It is right for Christians to look to Jesus' teaching first and foremost. Jesus gives us the framework for life. Paul and other biblical writers explore details. There are many moral pressures today – from advertisers, friends, your boss, the government, expectations – all pressures upon us to do this or that.

How shall we go about deciding what is right and wrong? Here are two contrasting approaches:

Command Ethics also known as - **Divine Command Theory**, is simply based on the commands of God. In this framework, an action is considered morally right simply because God, commands it, and wrong because it is forbidden. This is certainly simple – if you can look up the commands and that makes the decision easy.

Another approach is **Situation Ethics** which asks; "In this situation, what is the most loving thing to do." Clearly, this has roots in Jesus' appeal to love God and love our neighbour.

There are moral rules in the Bible – lots of them in the OT, there are also principles, mostly found in the NT, and then there is Jesus. And whilst being close to Jesus is not an answer to specific questions about morality and lifestyle, the closer we are to Jesus, the more like him we will become and the more likely we are to decide well.

"I am the way, the truth and the life". John 14.6



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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 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.

Next Week 12th July 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Alan Pugmire will be speaking on the theme: **'God's word'**.

BCP Communion at 3pm

July 5th – 11th – Please Pray for:

- People living in Heathwood Road, Angleside Avenue & Ivylea Road.
- Becks (Manager) & Helen (Project worker) working at the FoodBank.
- Alicia (Part-time Worker) continuing to raise funds for the FoodBank.
- Norma, Free Church Chaplain, starting work at HMP M/c.
- The need for more volunteers to help the work of Barnabus.
- "Arise Africa Campaign" to bring healing to persecuted Christians.
- TearFund working in Gaza & Middle East reaching those in need quickly.
- All youth who attended "No more Knives" and "No more County Lines" lessons.

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. Pearl Hardy says: *"Prayers answered about my cataract operation last Tuesday. I felt very peaceful before & during the procedure and heard God's reassuring voice that His presence surrounded me & he would give the surgeon a steady hand! The op went really well!"*

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: His funeral took place on 1st July and he was laid to rest next to Mama Falconer's memorial house overlooking the Kabompo river. Please pray for all those grieving his loss especially the children living at the Home.



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 .