



# St Margaret's Church

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

**In Contact**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## **ADVENT 2 SUNDAY: We look for the resurrection of the dead...**



Someone once noticed that next door to 'Pleck Boxing Club' was 'The Body Repair Shop'! Presumably it was for car bodies rather than human bodies. Not because they have been boxing, but because they are getting older, some people might need a body repair shop (usually provided by NHS!).



### **A new body:**

It is good news for Christians that ultimately we will be provided with a new body. We receive this as the creed puts it at 'the resurrection of the dead'. What will it be like? Contrasts between our present body and new body are described in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44:

... sown as **perishable** raised as **imperishable**

... sown in **dishonour** raised in **glory**

... sown in **weakness** raised in **power**

... sown a **physical** raised a **spiritual**

This is illustrated as we sow a seed which dies and something much more beautiful or fruitful than the individual seed grows. We get a little glimpse of what it might be like from Christ's resurrection body.

### **A new creation:**

That body will live not in the present world but in 'a new heaven and a new earth' (Revelation 21:1). This and chapter 22 mentions some things which will be 'no more' in that new creation. These include the sea (depicting evil – think of the devastation it can cause), death, mourning, pain, curse and night. Some of this is also reflected in Isaiah 65 from verse 17 onwards which also describes what is there including joy, permanence and blessing.

Between our death and the new body and new creation we go to be with Christ. Jesus said so to the thief on the cross and St. Paul longed to be 'with Christ which is far better'. This is difficult to grasp as there is no time in eternity. But even now 'time' can vary. As you look forward to Christmas you may have many things to do and time goes so fast. But as children look forward to Christmas and the prospect of presents on Christmas Day, time goes ever so slowly. But it is the same number of days and hours.

Meanwhile, it is good to find out more about where we will spend eternity with that new body in that new creation. The Bible is where to look. But remember, as a former Australian Archbishop once put it, "Scripture reveals facts we need to know rather than things we may want to know". That is a way **'we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come'**.



## **Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4***

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

### **This week- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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...’**

**Christmas Toy Exchange:** Saturday **6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Next Week 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025:**

**Holy Communion Service: at 10.30am.** Tony Hardy will be speaking on the theme: **‘John the Baptist & the prophets’**

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Overlea Drive, Edgedale Avenue, Northolme Gardens & Southolme Gardens.
- Matt meeting with Becks of Foodbank on Monday for supervision.
- Mission Community Clergy Chapter meeting on Thursday.
- An additional Warden to help Jane as she finishes in April
- Volunteers who help with property maintenance & church fabric.
- Us to seek to follow our motto “Rejoice in the Lord always”.
- Protection, justice & restoration for persecuted church in sub-Saharan Africa.
- TearFund at work in W Africa despite political turmoil there.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Church Family Christmas Card 2025:** If you would like to send Christmas greetings to the church family, please attach your Christmas card to the board at the back of church and make a donation to Open Doors’ ‘Unwrap Hope’ appeal helping children and families persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

**Prayer Ministry at St Margaret's:** God wants us to talk to Him about all our needs : physical or emotional healing, problems we may be having to deal with. He may have spoken to us during a service, or we may long for a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is too small or insignificant for God, who is always waiting to hear from us. Each Sunday there are 2 people from our trained Prayer Ministry Team in the Quiet Space available to pray with anyone during communion, and after every morning service, if you would find that helpful.



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**