



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

8th February 2026

2 Peter 1. 16 -21

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17. 1-9



On Saturday October 27th, 2007, as part of our Holy Land Tour, we went to Mount Tabor near Nazareth. This is the site where tour guides take their groups to think about the Transfiguration of Jesus (see Matthew 17: 1-9). As we stood next to the Church building, on the summit, I spoke to our group. In the Tour Diary, I later wrote up, I summarised what I said as follows:

"I said that people often forget about Jesus' Transfiguration and rarely grasp its significance. We read Matthew 17:1-9 and I then shared some thoughts, by asking and answering certain questions.

WHEN did the event happen? Six days after the events at Caesarea Philippi (see Matthew 16) with the disciples still very uneasy about going to Jerusalem. To understand the event, this context is important.

WHERE did it happen? Mount Hermon, a high mountain on the Lebanese border or Mount Tabor. Mount Hermon is nearer Caesarea Philippi, and much more likely, which probably means that Jesus was transfigured in the snow! Tourists could not climb Mount Hermon, however, and Mount Tabor is a wonderful opportunity to reflect spiritually, as pilgrims.

WHO was with Jesus? His inner circle of disciples, Peter, James and John, plus Moses and Elijah representing "The Law and the Prophets".

WHY? The disciples were there as witnesses. Moses and Elijah stress the continuity from the Old Testament/ the continuation of God's plan.

WHAT happened? There was the revelation of God's glory in Jesus. Peter wanted to erect tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah and the voice of God is then heard.

WHY did these things happen? The revelation of glory was affirmation of Jesus as Messiah, and encouragement, at a time when the disciples were doubting. Peter wanted to "bottle up" a wonderful experience for the select few. That was not possible. Jesus, and they had to move on. The words of God were similar to those spoken at Jesus' Baptism. There they set a divine seal on his forthcoming ministry. Now, they set a divine seal on the forthcoming events, in Jerusalem. Jesus must go there, and the disciples must stop doubting."

On Sunday February 8th, I may be able to show you some maps and/or photos and I may add a few more details. I hope it will be clear why Peter, James and John were transformed by what they experienced (see 2 Peter 1: 16-21). I hope we can also reflect on what this event should mean to us, and how we should respond.



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 8th February 2026:

Morning Worship Service: at 10.30am. Roger Dixon will be speaking on the theme: 'The Transfiguration'.

BCP Communion at 3pm

Next Week 15th February 2026:

Morning Worship with Baptism Service: at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking from 2 Corinthians 3. 17-18 on the theme: 'Shining the Light.'

Ash Wednesday: 18th February at 7.30pm. Mission Community Communion at St. Elisabeth's Reddish. If you want a daytime service, go to St Paul's Heaton Moor for 9.45am for an informal Cafe style communion with ashes.

Pancakes quiz night: 21st February at 6pm.

February 8th – 14th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Kenwood Avenue, Avonlea Drive & Bournelea Avenue.
- Helpful Reflection Service after Tuesday Group lunch.
- Holiday Special team as they start planning on Tuesday for the summer event.
- Baptism of Rosie Roberts next Sunday (15th).
- Strength & protection for displaced Christians in Benue State, Nigeria.
- God to give Prayer Ministry team Words of Knowledge to encourage folk who come.
- Barnabus to be able to get more people into permanent accommodation.

Looking Ahead:

Bible Readers and Prayer Leaders: As we are mostly having 2 readings each week, it would be lovely to have them read by other voices. Would you be interested in joining the rota? See Matt or message Fiyn. Also, we could do with more people to join the rota to lead our prayers on Sundays? Is this you? Would you value some training before? See Matt.

LENT COURSE: Practicing the Way- with videos and discussion groups. We will be exploring how we can create a lifelong foundation for following Jesus. 7pm-8.30pm in church on Tuesdays, from 24th February to 31st March.

... Practicing
... the Way

CONFIRMATION: 1st June at 7pm here. If you are interested in being confirmed please see Matt.



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

WINTER SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on Pasta Sauce, Curry Sauce, Tinned peas/ Sweet corn/ Carrots, Snacks (Crisps, Chocolates etc), Hot chocolate, Long life juice.