



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

8th March 2026

Romans 5.1-11



You shall be free Indeed

John 8. 31- 38

Christians are we are free people and God makes good, out of bad.

Freedom from death: *Romans 6. Vs 23. 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in^[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.'*
Romans 5 Vs 9. 'Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!'

Here then is the first freedom we enjoy. Death is no longer 'the inevitable' – we are free from it.

Freedom from sin: We have just seen that sin has consequences.

But God offers freedom. This is about lifestyle as a Christian. Jesus came to us in love and we often think of it a rescue mission. Jesus saves. We are able to stand before God, spotless and sinless through Jesus Christ. Not only free but righteousness. Positively in the right.

Free to fail: Failure is a common human experience. Moral or spiritual failure, seems hard to cope with. But "We are free to fail". And it is important that we are! Being free to chose to do the wrong thing, means also that we are free to chose to do the right thing.

Think - Was Jesus not able to sin, or was he able not to sin? Was Jesus free to fail?

Free to suffer and to grow: *Vs 3 'rejoice in our sufferings.'* Similarly, God doesn't protect us from suffering and difficulty, but does provide with this experience, the opportunity to find something positive. Why doesn't God protect us - wrap us up in cotton wool? God would have to be consistent and step in wherever and whenever anything was about to go wrong in anybody's life. And in fact, the Christian must expect suffering as part of lifestyle. "All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" Phil 3:10

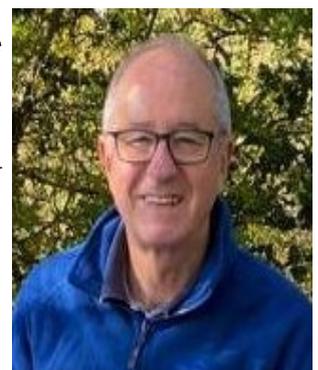
Free to suffer and freed to grow: *Vs 3 "Not only so, but we ^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope."* God is creative, and a person who's life is given to God has the creator within, the creative Holy Spirit who can make something good, beautiful and fruitful, even beautiful out of suffering.

Freed to serve: Thinking of our salvation as being 'rescued from' may be where we begin.

This may have been the start of our Christian life, but it is meant to be only the beginning of real freedom. He gives us freedom to enjoy it, to use it, to explore it – no longer constrained by fear, pain, what people think of us.

There is nothing in our lives that needs to slow us down, or bear upon us – no clouds over us, nothing in the way of our ministries, there is nothing that needs to sap our confidence, or energy, we are free! Freed to serve.

John 8.36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."



Tony Hardy

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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!

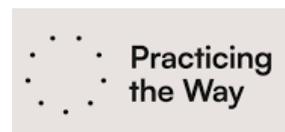
This week- Sunday 8th March 2026:

Healing Service: at 10.30am. Tony Hardy will be speaking from Romans 5: 1-11, John 8: 31-38 on the theme: **'You shall be free Indeed.'**

BCP Communion at 3pm

Church Working Party: Saturday, 14 March 09.30am-12.30pm. If you can help to spring clean church or the grounds for a couple of hours on Saturday morning, please see Jane Franklin. If you are not able to come on Saturday, there will be another on **Friday 13th March, 1.30pm-4pm.**

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. NOT too late to join.



Next Week 15th March 2026:

Mothers' Day Service: at 10.30am. We will be celebrating Mothers and those who are mothers to us.

March 8th – 14th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Brookthorpe Avenue, St Margaret's Avenue & Dahlia Close.
- Good attendance at Reflection Service after Tuesday Group meal.
- Helpful meeting of Matt & Steph with RE Coordinator at Acacias school on Tues.
- Matt chairing Burnage Foodbank Trustees meeting on Wednesday.
- Success for new Foodbank fund raiser, Alicia, securing funds for Foodbank.
- Christians & protection from Al-Shabaab extremists in Somalia.
- Community outreach around Lisa Peart's English classes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Looking Ahead:

Experience Easter: This will be set up from 23rd March. We have booked in so far Acacias Year 2 for 1.45pm on 30th March and 1.45pm on 1st April. If you can help deliver this resource, then please speak to Matt or Steph.

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

Open doors: Ruth Miller has some copies of the new Open Doors' World Watch List 2026, listing the top 50 countries where Christians suffer persecution for their faith in Jesus. Please see Ruth if you would like a copy and use it to pray.

Bible Readers and Prayer Leaders: If you can help here, please see Matt.



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

SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on the following - Tinned Peas/ Sweet corn/Carrots, Tinned Potatoes, UHT Milk, Spaghetti hoops, Pasta sauce .