



St Margaret's Church

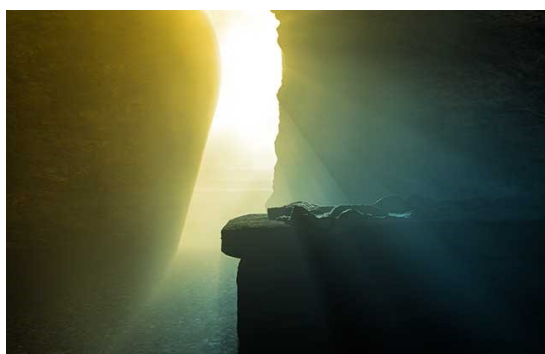
Together we aim to:

Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit
And Serve the World

In Contact

Resurrection Power

19th April 2020



Coronavirus has meant we no longer see television presenters standing in the Houses of Parliament or another famous place. Instead, they sometimes appear to be speaking to us from their spare bedrooms. Behind them are books or photographs. As I enjoy books I sometimes see if I can read the titles to see their tastes in reading! Does seeing them at home mean we know them better?

Rather than presenters they are people with interests, family and a spare bedroom! We may know more about them, but we don't know them better. We need to have a relationship to know them better.

"That you may know Him better" is a phrase in St. Margaret's Bible verse for the year. From Ephesians 1 verse 17 it tells of *"the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father... that you may know Him better"*. Who is this God? He is a God of power.

You can pick out words St. Paul uses to describe the indescribable in verses 19. Words tumble over each other as he writes of *"the immeasurable greatness of his great power... according to the working of his great power"* – or *"mighty strength"* as another version of the Bible puts it.

That power was put to work in a spectacular way on the first Easter Sunday by raising Jesus from the dead. Then beyond the resurrection God seated Jesus at His right hand *"far above all rule and authority and power and dominion... in this age, but also in the age to come"*.

We have seen how the virus which has moved all over the world has power to spread infection and cause so many deaths. But, we need to recognise that Jesus is still Lord. Paul prayed in verse 18 for the Ephesians that they might also know *"the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints"*. The resurrection of Jesus is a reminder to us that we have this inheritance beyond death.

All verses 15 to 20 are Paul's prayer *"that you may know Him better"*. We too can pray that whatever the difficulties in the world, our nation or our personal lives at the present time we might know Him better and especially *"the immeasurable greatness of His power"*.

Alan Pugmire



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Bible Verse for 2020:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Ephesians 1: 17

Next week:

Peter Miller will be sharing the Resurrection Hope, from 1 Thessalonians 4: 14-18

Burnage Foodbank:

Please keep items coming as their need has greatly increased. Deliver to the Rectory. Ring the door bell and leave it on the step.

The Food Bank is short of tinned carrots, tinned fruit, tinned fish, tinned potatoes, tinned peas, jars of pasta sauce, sugar, Long Life fruit juice, custard, rice puddings.

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Afghanistan

Afghan Christians are either converts from Islam or the children of converts.; they face Severe penalties if their faith becomes known. In 2006, Abdul Rahman, a Christian convert, Was charged with apostasy and sentenced to death. Following an international outcry the Afghan authorities declared him mentally unfit. According to sharia this meant that he could not be held responsible for apostasy.

Many persecuted Christians live out their lives and their faith in the permanent lock-down situation that we in the West are now having to taste for the first time due to the Coronavirus. We can still step outside and declare our faith openly where they cannot.

Pray that God will shield Afghanistan's believers and that they will have access to and be encouraged by Christian radio and the blossoming internet services and ministry that is happening because of our isolation

April 19th to 25th: Please Please Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Thornfield Road, Rosevale Avenue & Holcombe Gardens.
- ◆ People to maintain contact with those who are vulnerable or self-isolating.
- ◆ Support for those who are lonely and unable to use modern technology.
- ◆ TearFund ask for demonstrations in Lebanon to remain peaceful & fruitful.
- ◆ Thoughtful support for those who would normally attended a church group.
- ◆ Those you know who are ill at home or in hospital.
- ◆ Progress in appointing a new contractor for the building next to church.
- ◆ Sufficient NHS staff and facilities to cope with the COVID-19.

Television and Radio

BBC 1 Sunday 10am: Morning Worship from St. David's Cathedral

Songs of Praise at 1.15pm: from Strawberry Fields in Liverpool

BBC Radio 4— 8.10am: Sunday Worship- the disciples in lockdown.

On Free View – Channel 725:

Premier Christian Radio- Big Sunday Worship from 10am (also on DAB Radio)

Channel 65 – TBNUK: Sunday worship at 11.30pm

Sunday Evening at 8 o'clock: Worship at the Same Time

A time for prayer and the breaking of bread together.



Help is available if you need it: **Call 0800 234 6123**



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