

# In Touch

*Building bridges between community and church*

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## Easter Message from the Rector

*Easter 2016*

### Unconditional Love

Easter is early this year, and now just a few weeks away towards the end of March. It's of particular significance for me this year as it will be my last Easter as Rector at St Margaret's. I retire at the end of the month and Easter Day will be my final Sunday in the parish.

I love Easter! There's a real hint of spring in the air. The days are getting longer and warmer, the sun is shining more, and new green shoots are appearing in the ground.

One of the greatest gifts of Easter is to celebrate the love God has shown to each one of us in the Person of Jesus Christ. Perhaps the greatest need of every human being on the planet is to know they are loved and that their lives count for something. At the heart of the Christian gospel is the amazing truth that God loves us – unconditionally.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible, says this: *"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!"* (first letter of John, chapter 3, verse 1.)

The Easter event reveals to us just how much Father God loves us and the extent to which he was prepared to go to demonstrate his love.

It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done. The love of God in Jesus is for you. His death on the cross and resurrection three days later offers forgiveness for the past, new life for the present and hope for the future.

This is what the Easter story – the *real* Easter story – is all about: God's unconditional love for every one of us. Why not come and celebrate Easter\* with us this year and find out more about God's amazing love? I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

\* *Easter Services at St Margaret's*

*Good Friday at 10.30am: Morning Worship – focus on the Cross*

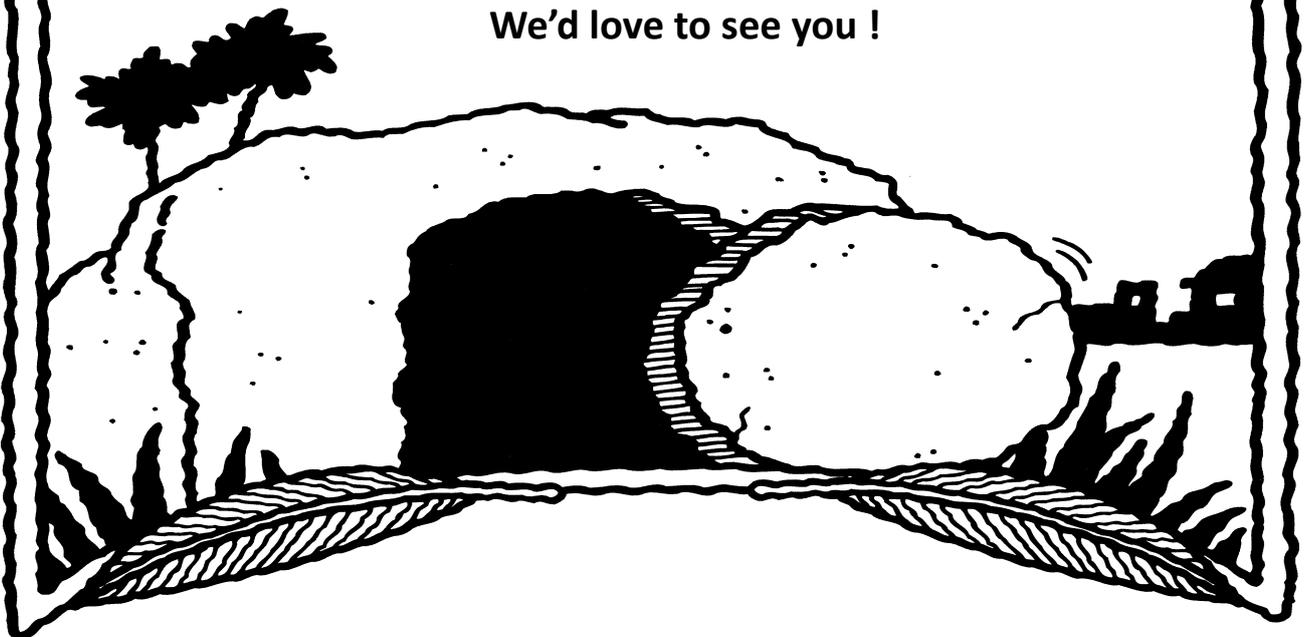
*Easter Sunday at 9.00am & 10.30am: Holy Communion – Celebrate Easter*

# Tuesday Group

We are having a special meal at Tuesday Group on Tuesday, March 22nd at 12:30pm. This is because we are celebrating Easter that week which is the most important festival of the Christian faith as we remember Jesus' death on the cross and His coming to life again 3 days later. Following the meal we shall have a short Easter service in church at 2pm rounded off by hot cross buns and tea/coffee.

Normally each Tuesday a mixed group of people over 60 years meet at St. Margaret's Parish Centre, on Burnage Lane to enjoy coffee/tea and biscuits from 10:00am and at 12:30pm a hot lunch at a cost of £1:50. If you only want to come for coffee or just have lunch, that's fine. All that takes place is friendly and informal and gives a good opportunity to meet up with old friends but also a chance to make new ones! You might like to try your hand at a game of dominoes or other board games or some craft activities if the fancy takes you although most folks like just to chat. At the same time as this group meets a Healthy Living Exercise Group for older people meets at 10:00-11:00 and 11:30-12:30 and so some people have a session there as well as joining in the activities of Tuesday Group. If you are feeling a bit lonely or fancy a change, why not give it a try?

**We'd love to see you !**



## "Nominating"

**Pity the man in failure,  
Love the man who's mad,  
Make music with the man that's happy,  
Marvel at a lonesome child's hand;  
Outstretched in those innocent fingers  
Is a lively benediction's grace,  
Make careful study, make mercy chime,  
Love the tear, dry the face, watch the smile.**

*(Christopher Nolan - 28 August 1980)*



## Love Burnage Family Fun Day!

Yes, Love Burnage Family Fun Day is returning showing God's love for everyone in our community of Burnage.

So..... make a note of the date and make sure you're there:

**Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

*more details soon*

## **An Unexpected Journey (back to Burnage!)**

### **By Rev Ian Thompson**

*Early in the year of 2006 we received a phone call from one of the church leaders at St Margaret's. News of our planned move away from St Andrew's Church, Higher Blackley after 9 years had reached our friends here who were facing the loss of their own minister, and they wanted to know whether I would consider a return to St Margaret's as the new Rector.*

*We had never considered the possibility of such a thing happening, if truth be told. We thought our Burnage days were well and truly behind us, having raised our family here, but it seemed God had other ideas! We promised to pray about it. In the meantime, we were both facing major surgery and everything seemed to be conspiring against a move at the time. Also I wasn't even sure whether the Bishop would sanction it.*

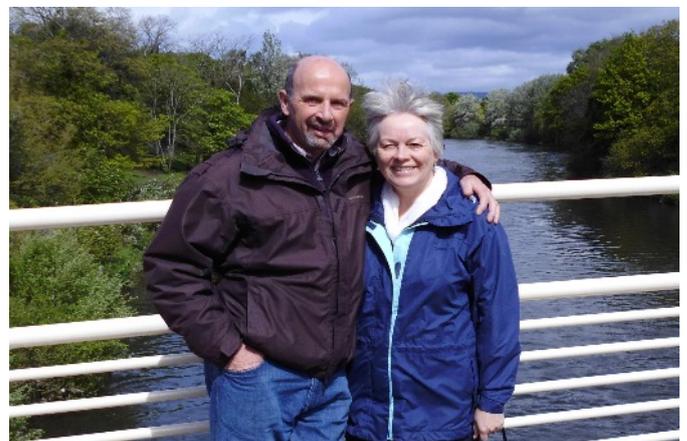
*Well, to cut a longer story short, we did return to Burnage in the summer of 2006 and I was inducted as the new Rector at the beginning of September that same year. God's plans are always the best ones and he is faithful. Over the past 10 years he has guided us, provided for us and sustained us in ministry amongst the lovely people of Burnage. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time back at St Margaret's, renewing old friendships, making new ones too, welcoming new people into the church family, seeing the church family move on and grow and serving the local community in lots of different ways.*

*Our own family has also grown. Our three daughters, each of whom grew up in Burnage, have all married and between them have produced nine gorgeous grandchildren. Our son, the youngest of our offspring, who had just finished at the Acacias when we first moved away, recently got engaged to a lovely Welsh girl and they plan to marry in Cardiff next February.*

*2016 is quite a significant year for us as a family. Not only do Jane and I both reach retirement age (65), but others in the family also reach significant birthdays.*

*Debbie, our eldest will be 40 in the summer; Phil, the youngest, will be 30; and Evie, our eldest grandchild, will be 10. As a family we plan to celebrate together these significant landmarks.*

*This unexpected journey will shortly be drawing to a close as I prepare to retire in just a few weeks' time at the end of March. As mentioned elsewhere in In Touch, my last Sunday in the church as Rector will be Easter Sunday – a fitting occasion on which to finish my ministry. Early in April we will be vacating the Rectory and moving to our new home close to where our youngest daughter, Beth, and her family live in Bury.*



*We will greatly miss everyone at St Margaret's and in the Burnage community, but will keep in touch. We are not a million miles away! And we will continue to pray for you all as we move on. A verse from the Old Testament prophecy of Jeremiah has been meaningful to us over the years. 'This is what the Lord says, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."' (Jeremiah chapter 29, verse 11 – The Message version)*

## Burnage Holiday Special for Older People

**Get the date on your calendar!**

Monday, July 25th to Friday, July 29th is the date set for this year's "**Burnage Holiday Special for Older People**".

It's a "Holiday at Home" for anyone aged 60 years and over. It takes place at St. Margaret's Parish Centre on Burnage Lane and is organized by "Christians Together In Burnage" (CTIB). There will be lots of interesting activities and talks each day from 10:30am to 4:00pm with plenty of time to relax and chat together.

Everything is free except the trip out on the Thursday. We hope you will feel able to come and there will be more details of the event in the next In Touch



**At St Margaret's we pray for the people who live and work in the streets of Burnage.**

Here's a list of streets for the next 4 months

### Week beginning: March 2016

06/03/16 Heathwood Rd & Angleside Ave  
 13/03/16 Daneholme Rd., Glenhurst Rd , & Foxwood Gdns  
 20/03/16 Overlea Drive  
 27/03/16 Westville Gdns & Edgedale Ave

### April 2016

03/04/16 Southholme Gdns & Northholme Gdns  
 17/04/16 Holmdale Gdns, Lansdale Gdns & Eastville Gdns  
 24/04/16 Carrgreen Close, Moorcroft Drive, Moorcroft Walk & Brookway Close

### May 2016

01/05/16 Burnage Lane (Green End Roundabout to Shawbrook Rd)  
 08/05/16 Dernford Ave, Fair Oak Rd  
 15/05/16 Pearn Ave, Pearn Rd, Green End Rd  
 22/05/16 Broadlea Road (Green End Rd. to Rosevale Ave) & Rosevale Ave  
 29/05/16

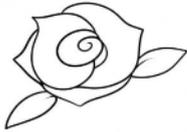
### June 2016

05/06/16 Thornfield Road, Sunnylea Ave, Briarlea Gdns & Holcombe Gdns  
 12/06/16 Broadlea Road (Rosevale Ave to Broadhill Rd)  
 19/06/16 Hovington Gdns, Woodlea Ave, Shawlea Ave & Brookdene Rd  
 26/06/16 Broadhill Road



Don't forget to buy **Real Easter eggs** – now stocked by the majority of the major supermarkets. These tell the real story of Easter, and the message of love to all people, and are part of the Fairtrade movement (which gives farmers a proper price for the cocoa they produce, and helps to set up small businesses and co-operatives in developing countries).

There is a Traidcraft stall at St. Margaret's church on the first Sunday of the month (10.30 – 12.30), and on the third Tuesday of the month (10am – 12.30)



## Red Rose v White Rose



***“There is an old Christian tradition that god sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow. No one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love. These are entrusted only to me.”***

***(John Powell, “Through the Seasons of the Heart”, quoted by Tom Wright in “Lent for Everyone, Year C”***

**Our daughter and her family live in Sheffield, and our son has similarly defected into Yorkshire with his family. I say defected because the old Lancashire/Yorkshire rivalry is still alive and well in both counties. It started me thinking about neighbours, and our attitude to them – and I mean attitudes on an international as well as a local scale. It seems that we human beings save our worst rivalries for those closest to us, rivalries that can result in conflict and extreme cruelty (at its worst, civil war).**

**And we don’t have to look very far. Protestant and Catholic in Northern Ireland for instance, the present war in the Middle East between Shia and Sunni Muslims (and also involving other religious minorities), Christian and Muslim neighbours in Bosnia not so very long ago - to give just a very few examples. This brings the words of John Powell into focus (see above). If we all, individually, give our gift of love to the people next door, it could be the start of a truly Happy Easter, whatever religion we follow, wherever we live.**

**God bless you this Easter,**

*Pam Corps*

*Lay Reader, St. Margaret’s Church, Burnage Lane.*

**P.S. And if you are wondering, I gave both my children red roses, as soon as they had acquired children and a mortgage, just to remind them about their roots in the “red rose county” of Lancashire.**

## Playground

Oh God, I’m not anxious to snuff it,  
But when the grim reaper reaps me,  
I’ll try to rely on Zion,  
All I know how I want it to be.  
As soon as you greet me in heaven,  
And ask what I’d like, I shall say,  
“I just want a chance for my spirits to dance, I  
want to be able to play”

Tell the angels to build a soft playground,  
Designed and equipped just for me,  
With a vertical slide that’s abnormally wide,  
And oceans of green PVC.  
There’ll be re-inforced netting to climb on,  
And rubberised floors that will bend,  
And no-one can die, so I needn’t be shy,  
If I’m tempted to land on a friend.  
I’ll go mad in the soft, squishy mangle,

And barmy with balls in the swamp,  
Coloured and spherical – I’ll be hysterical,  
I’ll have a heavenly romp.  
There’ll be cushions and punch bags and tyres,  
In purple and yellow and red,  
And a mushy thing that will suddenly sing,  
When I kick it or sit on its head.

There’ll be fountains of squash and Ribena,  
To feed my continual thirst,  
And non of that stuff about “You’ve had  
enough”,  
Surely heavenly bladders won’t burst.  
I might be too tall for the entrance,  
But, Lord, throw the rules in the bin,  
If I am too large, tell the angel in charge,  
To let me bow down and come in.

# Messy Church Update

Greetings Burnage from the Messy Church Team at St Margaret's Church. We are writing to invite you to come along to our Messy Church meetings every second Monday of the month.

## Messy Church Meeting Changes

Those of you who have been coming along will know that we occasionally had some Sunday meetings when we joined with others who worship at St Margaret's. As a team we now want to make it super easy and establish more rhythm to the year. We have currently decided to have no more Sunday meetings and we are not having a Messy Good Friday this year.



**Messy Church now meets during term time on every second Monday of the month at 3.30pm- 5.30pm.**

**We meet next on 14th March for our Easter Special.** We will explore the Easter Story and celebrate all this means to us. April 11th is in the holidays, so we miss April, then we meet on May 9th, June 13th and July 11th. This 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday pattern continues through the year in term time.

## So what is Messy Church?

Messy Church is part of St Margaret's Church. There are many ways to explore and encounter God. It could be termed a Fresh Expression of church. Each month we explore bible stories, Christian themes like 'love' and pray in a variety of creative ways. These can be; crafty, reflective, engaging, sticky, noisy, technological... The word Messy can put some people off. It is actually really ordered, with a variety of activities for all-ages, helping us all to develop our understanding and love of God. After time together in the parish centre doing these faith based activities we go into the main church and have a celebration service together. During this we sing songs, hear a story, and pray. Once again these are all done in super creative ways and last about 20 minutes. Each month this is a special time with a tangible sense of the vibrant life God offers us all. We finish Messy Church by having a free delicious meal together.

## Why not give it a try?

We are all spiritual people and exploring faith is really important. This is a wonderful way to grow in your faith and have a great time as part of a supportive and loving community right here in Burnage. Whole families can enjoy Messy Church together and we are richer for this all-age interaction. So put 14th March and the other dates above in your diary and the team look forward to welcoming you. It is all free but we do give you the opportunity to make a donation.

## Parish Register

Late November to end of Feb 2016

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

None

### Funerals

Dec 17

James Corrigan

Dec 22

Alice Bowers

Jan 12

Edna Harrison

# Kid's Activity Page



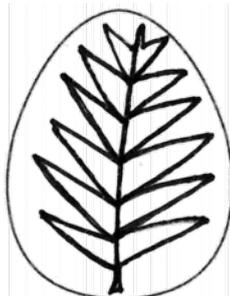
Welcome to this Easter edition of In-Touch. Easter is an important festival in the Christian calendar. Jesus' death upon the cross is central to the Christian faith. His death could seem very sad and we explore these emotions during Easter, especially on Good Friday when we remember Jesus' death. However the grave could not hold Him and we have hope and life because He rose again and lives! Easter is a joyful



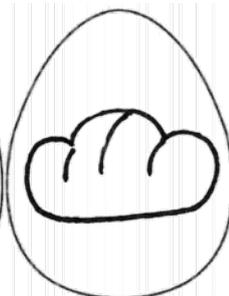
## Easter Egg Challenge



This Easter I challenge you to eat 12 chocolate eggs, maybe just small ones, as 12 big ones would be very greedy. Each time you eat one think of one of the 12 eggs below, each containing a different part of the real story of Easter. Colour in each egg as you complete this challenge.



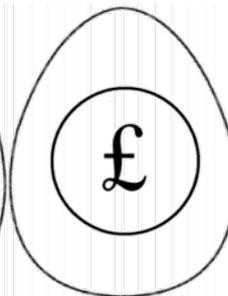
Matthew 21:8



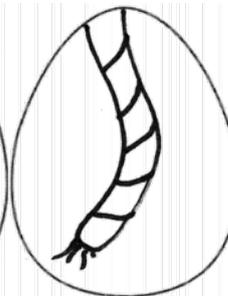
Matthew 26:26



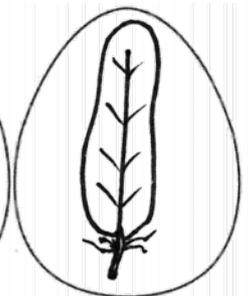
Mark 14:32



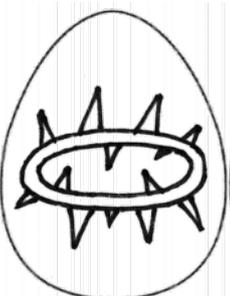
Matthew 26:14-15



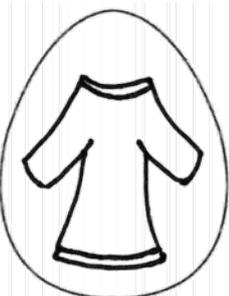
Matthew 27:2



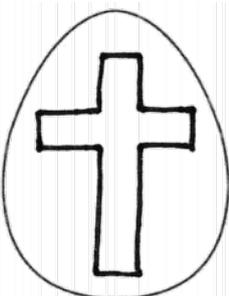
Matthew 26:34



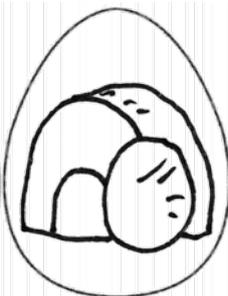
John 19:2



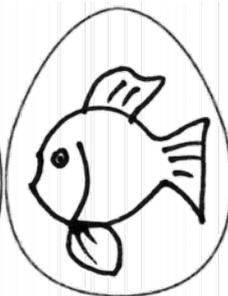
Matthew 27:28



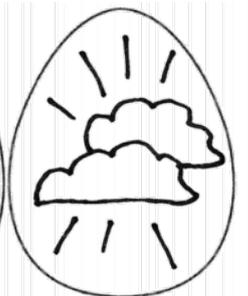
John 19:17-18



Matthew 28:5-6



Luke 24:41-43



Acts 1:11

1. Palm Branch - for when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, welcomed as a king.
2. Bread - Last Supper Jesus broke bread with his disciples/friends.
3. Praying Hands - Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane where He was arrested.
4. Coin - Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins.
5. Rope - Jesus was bound up and led away by soldiers
6. Feather - Peter denied Jesus 3 times and the cockerel crowed just like Jesus said it would happen.
7. Thorns - They placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head
8. Purple Robe - Jesus had his robe taken from Him and the soldiers gambled for it.
9. Cross - Jesus died on a cross for our sins. That is how much God loves you and me!
10. Tomb - Jesus was placed in a tomb and rose on the third day.
11. Fish - Jesus ate fish with the disciples.
12. Clouds - Jesus went up to Heaven.



 Happy Easter 

 **Youtube Easter Story Hunt**

Enjoy the Easter Story by entering this code into Youtube: **cZ4gQniUV08**  
Discover a great Kids Club God's Story cartoon. Well worth a visit!



Come and  
join us for



St. Margaret's Church  
Parish Centre  
Burnage Lane

# Messy CHURCH

MONDAYS

LOVE BURNAGE



March 14th | 3.30-5.30pm  
May 9th | 3.30-5.30pm  
June 13th | 3.30-5.30pm  
July 11th | 3.30-5.30pm

GAMES, CRAFTS, CELEBRATION  
AND A LIGHT MEAL

Messy Church is FREE and everyone is WELCOME

MORE CELEBRATION at St Margaret's  
Come along to our Celebration Services  
Short, fun and interactive - ideal for all-ages

Every 1st Sunday of the month at 10.30am