

# In Touch

*Building bridges between community and church*

*Summer 2015*

## Summer Message from the Rector



So many things which we handle on a daily basis are *fragile* in nature and we have to make sure we handle them with care so that they don't get damaged. This applies to people as well as to things!

As I write I am in my first week back at work after a prolonged period of recuperation following major surgery to reconstruct my jaw. It has been a time when I have felt particularly fragile and in need of lots of 'TLC' (tender loving care), and I have received this in abundance from my family, friends and fellow Christians in Burnage.

There's a verse from the New Testament part of the Bible that I have reflected on a lot over the past couple of months: "*We have this light (of the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ) shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like **fragile clay pots** containing this great treasure*" (the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 verse 7.)

I owe a great deal to the National Health Service, having had five major surgical procedures since I was first diagnosed with facial cancer 10 years ago. The NHS has literally saved my life! So for me it is a real *treasure* which we should never take lightly nor begrudge paying our taxes for. But I also recognise that it is a very *fragile* institution that needs lots of 'TLC'. Mistakes do happen and not everyone has as good an experience as I've had at its hands.

As humans each one of us is basically a fragile being and we all need lots of TLC at different times of our lives. We are all *vulnerable* to hurt and pain. We get sick and are often damaged by things other people say or do to us. We are also *fallible*: none of us is perfect and we all make mistakes. And we are all *mortal*: none of us lives for ever, and one day all of us will die (whether we like to think about it or not!) The truth is we are like fragile clay pots!

But, as Christians, says Paul, we have *treasure* because God has caused his great light to shine in our hearts as the Spirit of his Son, Jesus, (who is known as the Holy Spirit) comes to live within by faith. This is a treasure we don't want to keep to ourselves as there is plenty to go around! Christ's presence in our lives helps us to cope with the fragility that we all have to contend with in our daily lives.



St Margaret's  
Parish Church  
Burnage



Rev Ian Thompson

If you want to know more about this treasure or share in it for yourself, we'd be happy to tell you more. You'll find us in church every Sunday morning at 10.30, or you can contact us.

[info@stmargaret.co.uk](mailto:info@stmargaret.co.uk)

[www.stmargaret.co.uk](http://www.stmargaret.co.uk)

# Burnage Holiday Special for Older People

*Are you over 55 and fancy a "Holiday at Home" ?*

If yes, then Burnage Holiday Special for Older People is just right for you !

Organised by Christians Together In Burnage (CTIB) it takes place in the Parish Centre of St Margaret's Church from **Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.**

The theme this year is **"Around Britain"** which gives us scope for lots of interesting activities and talks together with food, fun and friendship. (see back cover). Everything is free except for the trip out on Thursday which is arranged for those attending the Holiday Special. All over 55 are welcome –come every day or as often as you can manage. Put the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then.

## 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 3 months

### July 2015

05/07/15	North Ave, West Ave., West Place.
12/07/15	Hydefold Close, Bibby Lane, Church Lane. Dahlia Close
19/07/15	Western Circle,& Baldwin Rd, Chorleywood Ave & Winslow Place
26/07/15	Asquith Rd, Ascot Parade, Epsom Ave & Hatfield Ave

### August 2015

02/08/15	Eastern Circle, Ealing Place, Enfield Ave & Harrow Ave
09/08/15	Watford Rd , Henley Place, Pinner Place & Amersham Place

### August 2015 contd

16/08/15	Avon Rd., Firethorn Ave & Avon Gardens
23/08/15	Crossley Rd (Burnage Lane to Errwood Rd)
30/08/15	Roseleigh Ave, Alexandra Drive

### September 2015

06/9/15	Moorton Ave., Moorton Pk. & Jersey Close.
13/9/15	Whitethorn Close & Blackthorn Ave
20/9/15	Hawthorn Drive, Redthorn Close,
27/9/15	Mauldeth Road (Mauldeth Rd Station to Burnage Lane)& Harwood Rd

## Parish Register

( Mid-March to early June 2015)

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

None

### Funerals

May 8	Lawrence Wright
June 12	Herbert Hamilton Gabbie
June 15	Dorothy Jean McCulley

# St. Margaret's Messy Church

Messy Church is church with a difference. It takes place once a month in St. Margaret's parish centre and church building on Burnage Lane. It is church but probably not as you expect it to be! Each Messy Church has a special theme (e.g. Messy Remembering, Messy Easter, Messy Prayer, Messy Bible Friends) and an overall programme which looks something like this:

**3.30pm**, or as soon as you can arrive, sign in, grab a brew, juice and a biscuit in the parish centre and get stuck into creative activities linked with the theme of the month. At **4.45pm** we move in to church for about 15 minutes for a time of celebration including a story, songs and prayers. Then it 's back into the parish centre to share a free family meal together (eg. jacket potato or sausage and mash or vegetarian option followed by a pudding)

There is no charge for Messy Church just as there is no charge for Sunday church - but if you can make a donation towards the cost of food it would be appreciated.

# Messy Church Facts

- Messy Church hold to these core values; Christ centred, all age, creativity, hospitality and celebration.
- St. Margaret's Messy Church celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2015
- We have covered at least 34 topics – some of them twice!
- We have a team of 25 regular helpers.
- There are now Messy Churches in 15 countries.



# Messy Good News

Come along if you can on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July to explore the Good News. Life is full of news from many different sources. How much of it is good news?

When did you last hear some Good News ?

At Messy Church in July we are going to hear lots about some amazing Good News. We do hope you can come along.

# A Pattern for Life

I write this as we approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Waterloo (June 18<sup>th</sup>. 1815). Now I'm not a pacifist, but whenever I think of human conflict and warfare I get upset, angry or in despair about the evil with which human beings conduct their lives (greed, selfishness, envy, cruelty – the list is endless). Then I turn to the life of St. Francis of Assisi for comfort, to a man who would not let the state of the world get him down, and set about making a difference in his own simple way.

*What has a man living in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to say to us in the 21<sup>st</sup>.century?*

St. Francis lived in a time of great unrest, upheaval, civil war and intolerance, and where there was a vast gulf between rich and poor; the “have’s and the have not’s” of society, just as there is on a global scale today. Francis did not despair about the state of the world, for him every creature, including mankind, was sacred. The world in which he lived was not something evil to be rejected but a sacred ladder by which he could ascend to his Creator. In the western world today, which is just finding a new sense of responsibility about our exploitation of God’s bountiful resources, St. Francis has much to teach us about “reducing our carbon footprint” and living in harmony with all creation.

Pope Francis is quoted as saying (about the choice of his papal name) *“St. Francis brought to Christianity an idea of poverty against the luxury, pride, vanity of the civil and ecclesiastical powers of the time. He changed history.”* The simple rule of the orders of Franciscan Friars and Poor Clare nuns (which Francis founded) is “To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps.”

## Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me sow love;  
Where there is injury pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may seek  
Not so much to be consoled, as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen



*St. Francis of Assisi is a saint beloved by Catholics and Protestants alike, and is the patron saint of animals and ecology.*

Pam Corps, Lay Reader



## Out and about in Burnage on Saturday?



Don't be surprised if you meet two people on Burnage Lane when you are out and about on a Saturday afternoon who ask you if you would like them to pray for you on any matter.

They believe that God loves the people of Burnage and is interested in every part of our lives. They are from St Margaret's church and are wearing a badge which clearly states who they are and they would love the chance to pray for you.

In addition to this, St Margaret's has a rolling programme of praying for the people who live and work in all the streets of Burnage - the names of the streets for the next three months are printed on page two. But for more specific prayers you can request prayer by the two people on Saturdays or by leaving a message anytime on our confidential answerphone on 0161 432 4606.

## adults. babies. children abc



# abc GROUP

## Adults, Babies and Children



St. Margaret's Parish  
Centre on Fridays  
9.45 - 11.30am

abc Toddler Group is part of St. Margaret's Church and reflects our commitment to serving the local community and supporting family life.

### AT ABC WE AIM TO:

offer a safe, happy environment where parents/carers and their children can have lots of fun doing a variety of activities together

provide a place for parents/carers to meet and feel welcomed

## Dignity and St Margaret's

A group of us recently took part in the the Dignity Big Tent Night, and “camped-in” at church! We did this to raise awareness and funds for Dignity, a charity St Margaret's support.



Dignity works in rural areas of Zambia. Dignity is a movement of people who believe that Jesus makes a difference. They believe that knowing Jesus brings hope and leads to freedom from poverty on many levels; financial, spiritual and emotional.

In 2012, Frank and Jo Kimball, members of St Margaret's, went to Mbilimamwenge in Zambia to volunteer with the local Dignity team. Together, they spent 4 days in the village planting the work of Dignity.



Two and a half years later, something amazing is happening. Five groups of Christians are meeting together regularly

and making a difference in their communities.

Stories are emerging of alcoholics who have stopped drinking, elderly people who have been cared for and community projects that have begun to help those in need.

This includes a small farm that the groups are using to grow food to give to those without, a bit like a food bank!



Thanks to the work of Dignity, there are over 200 groups in Zambia like the ones in Mbilimamwenge where Christians are meeting together. As they study the Bible together and come to know more of how much Jesus loves them, they are loving their communities more and more in simple but life changing ways. These groups are bringing people together and seeking to help whoever is in need, pooling skills and resources and making a big impact. As we “Love Burnage” so these people love their communities. This is the love of Jesus being played out in our day to day lives.

If you would like to know more about

Dignity, you can visit their website

[www.dignityonline.org.uk](http://www.dignityonline.org.uk)

or contact their office:

tel: 0161 434 8841 or

[jo@dignityonline.org.uk](mailto:jo@dignityonline.org.uk)

# Kid's Activity Page

Welcome to this summer edition of In Touch. I'm sure many of you will be enjoying a refreshing piece of fruit this Summer. As I write this it has been a glorious hot day and a juicy apple hit the spot for me when I got home.



Recently the church celebrated Pentecost when God sent His Holy Spirit. This page explores those things which we call 'The Gifts of the Spirit'. If you feel you could really do with some more of these 'fruits' then why not try asking God to fill you with his Holy Spirit.?



<http://whatsinthebible.com/activity-library/the-fruit-of-the-spirit-coloring-page/>

## Fruit of the Spirit Anagram

Unscramble the letters to find the words:

aceeipnt

deiknnss

eeeglInsst

fgist

aelnr

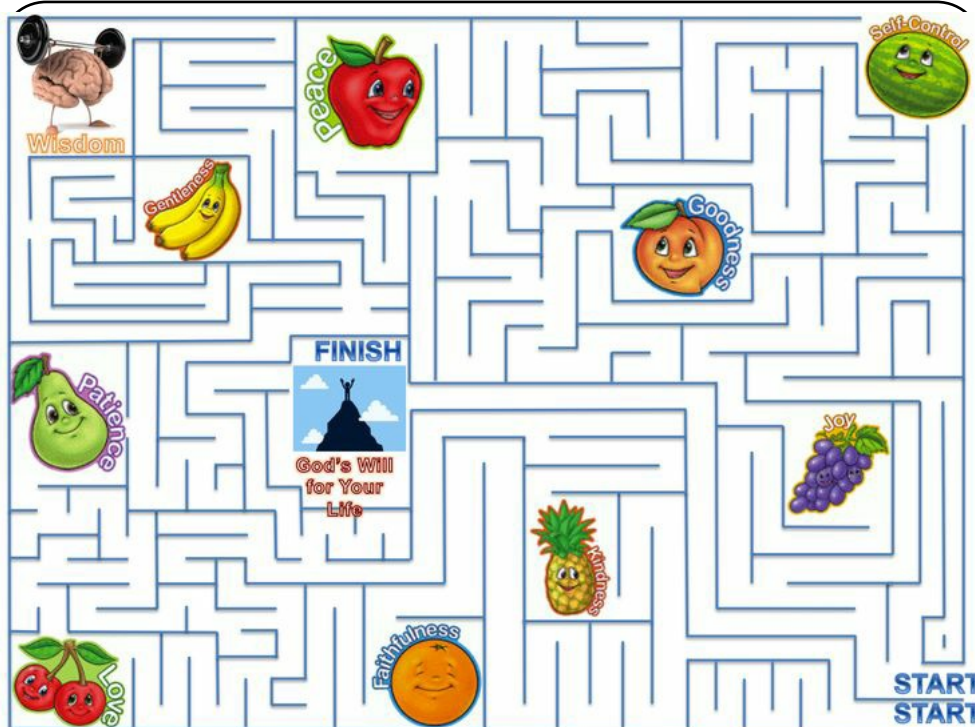
cefnoos

ehnost

horrstttuwy

chirst-eikl

aehhlty



<http://teachingthem.com/tag/patience/>

Have a awesome Summer! If you ever want to discover more about getting these amazing fruits in your life then just come along to St. Margaret's or call Tom our Youth Worker on 07769 644 191.

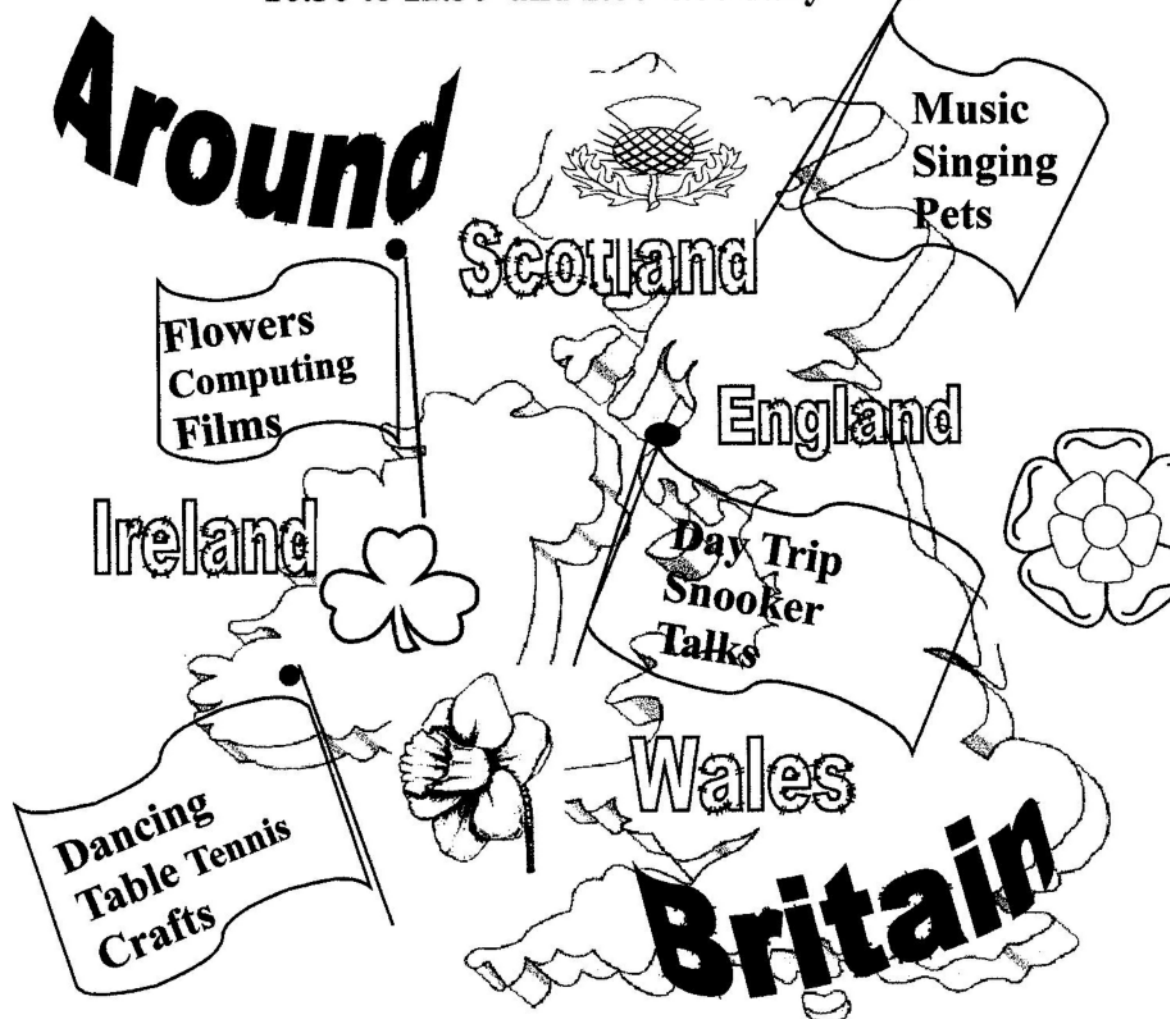


# **Burnage** **Holiday Special** for older people

5 days of Fun, Food and Friendship.

## **July 27th to 31st July 2015**

St Margaret's Parish Centre, Burnage Lane,  
10.30 to 12.30 and 2.00-4.00 daily



All over 55 welcome for whole or part of the day  
Drinks and lunch provided

Further information contact:  
Tel: 0161 431 5172  
0161 432 3799

Organised by  
Christians Together in Burnage