



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:

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

In Contact

Faithful God

Isaiah 54: 4-10

5th July



Mountains are marvellous. Some of us want to admire their soaring majesty from the bottom. Others will want to climb to the top either to say we have done it or just because it is there. Still others will want it to be covered in deep snow and throw themselves off it at speed with two pieces of plastic strapped to their feet.

Psalms 121 (v.1&2) begins with the invitation to lift our eyes up to the mountains (translated as "hills" in some versions). Then the question is asked: *"Where does our help come from?"* Perhaps the author is thinking of a great army coming over the mountains to relieve a besieged city. Or just of the permanency of mountains or the beauty of their Creator reflected in them. The author of the Message translation adds the word "No" to the start of verse 2. Help does NOT come from the mountains but from the Maker of Heaven and Earth. The one who made the mountains. God is more constant, steadfast and dependable than the mountains.

Isaiah 54.10 says: *"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but [God's] steadfast love shall not depart from you,"* Wow! What a promise to hold onto at times like this. The Covid-19 pandemic has rocked all our human structures.

The vulnerabilities of our financial system have once more been exposed. Mistakes have been made in how to contain and respond to this virus by governments. Loved ones have been taken too soon from us. And many of us have seen our worlds shrink to our homes and, if we have one, our gardens. We miss our family, seeing and touching others, and we miss being able to worship God in church. Things may never be the same again but there is one we can rely on to be more constant than the mountains.

In all this change and uncertainty, God is faithful. Since the days of Noah, God has promised not to wipe us out. He is not going to stop hard times but our faithful God will be with us through them. Just like a winter coat cannot change the weather, but changes how we feel about and cope with it, God is with us. He has made a *covenant of peace with us that shall not be removed* (as is promised in the second part of Isaiah 54.10). He has compassion on us. He loves us.

As lockdown is eased, it is clear that this is not over. Having just about adapted to how things have been the last 3 months, we now move into the next normal. Let us hold onto our faithful God who never changes. May He bring us His peace and strength for whatever lies ahead. May He be more reliable than the mountains themselves for our hope is in our faithful God.

Rev. Matt Calladine



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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



Daily Hope is a free phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

Open for Private Prayer Thursday 9th July:

The church will be open from 12.30pm to 1.30pm (distancing & hygiene measures will apply).

Services in church:

As we go to print, still no guidance is available from the Church of England, so we will be remaining closed for Sunday Worship until further notice.

Zoom Meetings:

Join online zoom meetings on your landline or mobile phone, contact Matt for details.

Children and Family Worker:

Our advertisement went live this week and we have already had one completed application. Please pray that we get a good selection of applications by our closing date of 17th July. Interviews will be the first week of August.

Mission Representatives:

The PCC are looking for two people to act as mission representatives for: The Boaz Trust and The Message Trust. Please contact Matt for more details.

July 5th to 11th Pray for:

- ♦ People living in Hodgson Court & Burnage Lane (Mauldeth Road to Slade Lane).
- ♦ A helpful & inspiring sermon series "Philippians – Joy in Lockdown".
- ♦ Inspiration for Karen & Ruth for new ideas for Creative Prayer.
- ♦ Mental health of all of us as we are constricted out of our previous activities.
- ♦ "Message" Enterprise Centre supporting those at risk of reoffending.
- ♦ Extra money from government for schools to be allocated and used wisely.
- ♦ God's grace for Duke in his studies & to know God more and more.
- ♦ Good response to the advert for the Children & Families Worker.
- ♦ The Peart family in Bolivia as the pandemic continues in South America.

Television & Radio this week:

BBC 1 - 10.45 am Sunday Morning Live: Sean Fletcher and Sally Phillips take a look at the week's talking points and explore the ethical and religious issues of the day.

1.15pm Songs of Praise : Katherine Jenkins is in London to mark the birthday of the NHS and Florence Nightingale's bicentenary, and the Archbishop of Canterbury pays tribute to all carers on the frontline.

BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship, Speaking into Troubled Times: The Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly, and composer Bob Chilcott explore the power of music to speak into troubled times.

Sunday Evening 8 o'clock: Light a candle and break bread when others from our St. Margaret's family are doing the same.



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



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