



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:

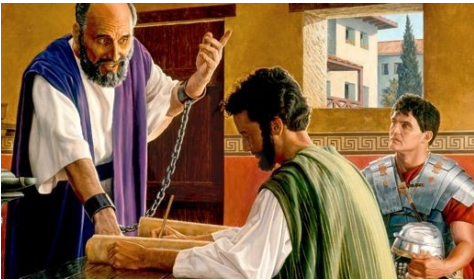
Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit
And Serve the World

In Contact

Rejoicing in Lockdown

Philippians 1:1-11

28th June



Living in a society where you do not 'fit in' can be challenging for most people and when that happens, the person could be seen as being arrogant or ignorant. Others may describe him or her as 'not one of us' and the person may risk being rejected, disliked and persecuted. Paul and the early Christians fall into this category when they claim Jesus as Lord, and not Caesar.

Like the people of Philippi, we too have our own Caesars in our lives.

There are things we value so dearly and sometimes they take hold of us to the point of becoming 'gods'. We sometimes worship these things unintentionally (success, money, power, etc), relegating Christ Jesus to the bottom of our priority list. Jesus becomes less important because some say, 'He doesn't pay the house bills' but *"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father... (James 1:17)"*.

From his prison cell, Paul joyfully wrote this wonderful salutation *"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 2)* to encourage a community which rejected Caesar as lord and were being persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Paul reminded them that they were always in his prayers. How do we maintain contact and share the joy of the Gospel with one another in our current state of 'imprisonment' during our crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions? We thank God for the intelligence of technology that enables us to reach out to friends and family to offer support and to pray together. As Paul reminds us, we have a shared suffering which has created a bond between us. We are all in it together.

We as church family feel as though we have been imprisoned because we are isolating and shielding ourselves from one another due to Covid 19. We are unable to congregate for worship, fellowship and prayer meetings. But Paul, writing from his prison cell, encourages us not to lose hope despite these challenges of lockdown restrictions, because our God who began a good work in us (a good work of providing a children and families' worker, a good work of praying together, a good work of fellowship and witnessing to others) will carry it on to completion. Paul encourages the marginalised to be bold and not be ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Paul encourages us to hold fast to our confession of hope because we "share in God's grace with him." What a beautiful way to encourage someone: *"you have a share in God's grace" (verse 7)*.

Finally, Paul prayed that we would grow in knowledge and love of God as we reach out with love to those who persecute us. A ministry of love and service to our community that brings praises and glory to God - as Jesus said: *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" Matthew 5 v 16*. Amen.



Duke O'Baku-Torto

Parish Office Tel: 0161 432 4606 E-mail: admin@stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

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:

The church will be open for private prayer for 1 hour on the following dates:

Thursday 2nd July 12.30pm to 1.30pm and Thursday 9th July 12.30pm to 1.30pm

There will be no guided prayers or sheets to work from - this is just an opportunity for people to come into church for private prayer (measures for social distancing will apply).

Church Services from 5th July You will have probably heard that we *can* hold services again from this date. All the guidance is not yet available but one thing is for sure, it will not be a normal Sunday service. We will know more by next week but will only open if it is safe to do so.

Zoom Meetings:

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

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.

June 28th to July 4th Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Barnfield Road, Oakland Avenue & Carrgreen Close.
- ◆ Helpful Zoom supervision of Duke by Matt on Wednesday.
- ◆ Wisdom for arrangements for safest way to reopen church.
- ◆ Mental well-being of our church children, young people & older people.
- ◆ Parents & children still home educating to cope and benefit.
- ◆ Duke's mum suffering from anxiety & severe pain in her back & shoulders.
- ◆ Wisdom for Barnabus deciding when & how to reopen the Beacon Dropin.
- ◆ More people to develop video editing skills for online services.

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.

11.45 am Morning Service: Kate Bottley meets artists of different faiths who are finding common ground and a former Buddhist monk who now shares his mindfulness techniques with millions.

1.15pm Songs of Praise : Claire McCollum is on the north coast of her home of Northern Ireland looking back on memorable faith stories from across the region.

BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship : Looking to the future hopefully, with John Bell of the Iona Community.

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**

Fuel Bills * Online help * Food * Medicines * Company