



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:

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

In Contact

Joy in Lockdown

Philippians 2: 1-11: Part of the Team

26th July



Paul begins this chapter by using the formula of what we call 'the grace'. We receive encouragement in Christ, we receive the love of God, and we share in the fellowship and the work of the Holy Spirit (v1).

In verse 3 and 4 of chapter 1 Paul says that he prays for the Philippians individually with joy and in verse 2 of chapter 2 he asks them to make his joy complete. In other words, Paul is asking that they become the answer to his prayers, and as we read on Paul's prayer for them is revealed (verses 2-4).

His prayer is for them to come together like a team.

In a recent interview after the death of Jack Charlton, Mick McCarthy was asked what Jack Charlton did when he became the manager of the Ireland football team, a team that he led to the World Cup for the first time in their history. He answered that Jack Charlton had taken a group of good individual footballers and moulded them into a great team.

Keeping with the football theme, Ronaldo is a great footballer, but who is the best between Ronaldo and David de Gea? They would never try to swap positions because they each regard the other as being better than themselves in the positions they play. Paul says (v4) that each of us should look not to our own interests but to the interests of others. To understand what this means, he points us to Christ. He shows us how Christ, motivated by obedience to God, was able to put the interests of humanity first (v 6-8).

Paul describes the extent of Christ's humility and obedience from the heights of heaven to being born as a weak and helpless baby in a stable. His humility and obedience was a lifelong service to God. He preached about the kingdom of heaven, and brought forgiveness, healing. His final act of obedience and humility brings salvation to the world as he died an unjust death, a cursed death on the cross.

Then in verse 9 we have a 'therefore'. Paul is saying because of all that Christ has done God has highly exalted him and given him the 'name which is above every other name'.

Of all the names there have ever been, including the names for God, there is only one name which brings salvation: the name of Jesus.

And every knee will bow, not in protest or support but in obeisance and humility for all that Jesus has done.

It is from this position, on our knees before Jesus, that we can become the answer to Paul's prayer, to complete his joy by being of one mind and having the mind of Christ, the mind of obedience and service. Working together as part of his team, members of the same body of Christ.

Peter Miller



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 on Thursday 30th July 12.30-1.30pm.

Services in Church: The PCC has adopted a cautious return to Sunday Services.

Everyone, especially people in clinically vulnerable groups, should carefully consider the personal risks of returning to church at this time.

This Sunday (26th July) there will be a 10.30am service followed by Communion alongside our on-line service and 'zoommunion'. Peter Miller will be preaching, there will be no singing and it is essential that face coverings are worn in church.

What is it like returning to Church? - a personal view:

"I went to church last Sunday with mixed feelings, knowing it would be 'different'; it wouldn't be what I hoped for back in March - joyful reunions and voices united singing in praise and thanksgiving. But there was a sense of peace and of calm, a sense of God's presence with no distractions. There was space and time to reflect and pray to our faithful God who has remained the same throughout the last few months, who isn't different.

*This song came to mind, **'To come into the holy place, to gaze into the Father's eyes...'**
It felt like coming home."*

Susan Whittaker.

Zoom Meetings:

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

July 26th to August 1st Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Errwood Road (Shawbrook Road to Crossley Road).
- ◆ Opportunity to use online Keswick Week & New Wine conference Youtube videos.
- ◆ 14 new IEM mission partners preparing to go to their mission stations soon.
- ◆ Duke preparing his "All age" sermon for Sunday's celebration.
- ◆ Getting broadband into church as soon as possible.
- ◆ Barnabus preparing to open The Beacon support centre by appointment only.
- ◆ Good mental health for us missing church and meeting together.

Television & Radio this week:

BBC 1 - 10.00 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 : Rev Kate Bottley visits Crosby Beach to meet Christian artists inspired by Antony Gormley's striking iron statues that have stared out to sea for 15 years.

BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship: Great is thy Faithfulness.

A service preparing for a "Virtually Keswick" Convention. The theme is 'Hope - ' in the midst of a global pandemic, there is hope in Jesus Christ.

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**

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm & Saturday: 10am to 2pm