



St Margaret's Church

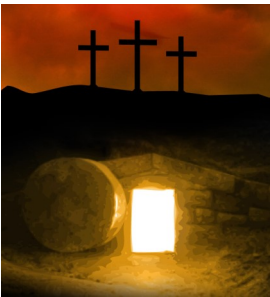
Together we aim to:

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

In Contact

Easter = Joy

Easter Sunday 12th April 2020



I know it is going to be odd not to be in our church for Easter. Back in 1987, I was away from my home church on Easter Sunday so I decided to go to Durham Cathedral for their main service. The Choir sang various anthems and obscure hymns which were not really to my taste. Then the Dean stood up to preach. I could not have been more disappointed. He used as his main text Mark 16: 8a: "They were afraid."

Of course this was the case for the women who came to Jesus's tomb.

Despite what Jesus had told them about being raised from the dead, they did not, could not, believe this could happen. The body gone! A young man dressed in white telling them: "Don't be afraid. Jesus is not dead but raised." No wonder they fled in fear.

Fear is raised in us in our current situation. Routines lost. All having to make adaptations. Restrictions. Rules changing all the time. News reports all about the extremes of medical staff stretched to the limits. Not enough testing or equipment. News of people of all ages dying even without underlying health issues. It is a serious disease and we should all be very careful. What we are not hearing is news of all those who have had it and have recovered. Personally, I have stopped watching the news. It is only feeding my fear. I am not sticking my head in the sand: I am reading BBC news on my phone.

Just as Easter Sunday is not about fear but faith and that faith leading to joy, so I am not wanting to feed my fear but feed my faith. Yes, there was the freshness of feeling and experience that first Easter but we don't live at that time. We live in full knowledge of the risen Lord. We know:

Death does not have the last word.
Sin and death defeated.
Hope and purpose today.

All the claims of the cross are true and trusted.
New life now.

Easter is joy. And joy is more than a feeling. It is a deep knowledge of God, his love for us and the truth we have in Jesus. 'The joy of the Lord is our strength.' Nehemiah 8 v 10.

This Easter, let us not feed fear but feed faith. This leads to the JOY of Easter that those women and other disciples went on to experience for themselves as they met the risen Lord.

He is with us and joy is ours this Easter! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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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

Next week:

Canon Alan Pugmire will be speaking on 'The Resurrection Power': Ephesians 1: 15-22

Burnage Foodbank:

Please keep items coming as their need has greatly increased. Deliver to the Rectory. Ring the door bell and leave it on the step.

The Food Bank is short of tinned carrots, tinned fruit, tinned fish, tinned potatoes, tinned peas, jars of pasta sauce, sugar, Long Life fruit juice, custard, rice puddings.

April 12th to 18th: please pray for:

- ♦ People living in Ferndale Gardens and Brookdene Road.
- ♦ Celebration of the joy of the Easter message.
- ♦ Pray for Christians in Sri Lanka, one year on from the Easter bombings, especially for those still bearing the physical and mental scars.
- ♦ Members of Creative Prayer as they find different ways to pray without meeting.
- ♦ Dignity Life Groups as they support their communities and show the love of Jesus.
- ♦ The new Eden team set up in Farnworth by "The Message" as it shares Jesus.
- ♦ People to keep in touch by phone with those living on their own and lonely.
- ♦ Wisdom for the government managing the COVID-19 crisis.
- ♦ **During April please pray that everyone in Burnage will keep to the government's regulations and stay indoors.**

Worship resources for those who are isolating

Facebook: Stay in touch with each other through these two private groups:

'St Margaret's Burnage Friends': <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2653767068202509>

'St. Margaret's Just Prayer': no comments, just posting prayer requests and answers to prayer: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509960639716304/?ref=bookmarks>

Zoom:

Our regular prayer meetings are now on-line live at 7pm Mondays and 12 noon Wednesdays.

Television:

BBC 1: 11.25am Easter Sunday service from Bangor Cathedral.

Songs of Praise: 1.15pm

Sunday Evening at 8 o'clock: Worship at the Same Time

In the evening, light a candle and pray for the world and the effect that the Coronavirus is having.

Pray also for our church family and join with them in the breaking of bread at the same time of **8 o'clock**.



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



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