



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

28th November 2021

If you are visiting St Margaret's for the first time we hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today.

For more information please visit our website: www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

Come and join us for tea or coffee after the service.

ADVENT 1: Darkest before Dawn

Luke 21: 20-28, 34-36



As part of BBC Children in need, there have been many 24hour challenges this year, with Owain drumming and Sophie disco dancing. They were both indoors, but I wonder if one of the hardest times for them to keep going was just before the first light of dawn. I am not sure if it is physically darkest before dawn, but emotionally it can feel like this. And yet, there is hope of the approaching new day.

Have we had the darkest hour with this Covid-19 pandemic? Or are we still in it? It is so hard to keep going when things seem and feel so dark. And yet, there is hope of a better future.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples in front of the great temple in Jerusalem, some were admiring it. Jesus said: 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another.' (Luke 21.6). This horrified the good Jews he was speaking to who were so proud of their place of worship, so they asked "when?". Jesus responds with a catalogue of dark events: wars and insurrections; nation will rise against nation; great earthquakes, famines, plagues, dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. And before any of this, you lot are going to experience some serious persecution. Then in verse 20, he starts to talk of the destruction of Jerusalem itself. And in verse 26 he says: "People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." These are the darkest of times. And yet, there is hope of the approaching new day.

Jesus will return in a cloud (the Biblical symbol of the presence of God) with great power and glory. It will be unmissable and unmistakable. It is the final fulfilment of everything Jesus promised. In many places in the Bible, it is referred to as the "The day of the Lord" or simply as The Day.

So what should we be doing in these darkest of times? We wait well by:

Holding onto hope - stand up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near (v.28). We believe and trust that Jesus will return and all that is wrong in the world and in us will be put right. Our salvation will be complete.

Being on our guard - (v.34) We should be ready so that "The Day" will not catch us unexpectedly. This means right living now: following the example of Jesus and living for Him. I know I have said this before but I say it again: Live each day as if Christ will come tomorrow. One day your will be right. In the meantime, be holy.

Being alert - praying for strength in the darkness (v.36). Prayer is a foundation of faith and core to a good relationship with God. Talk to God as you would a best friend. Keep praying.

It is darkest before dawn. And yet, there is hope in The Day.



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Rev. Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2021:

I am about to do something new; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 19

This week:

We celebrate the first week of Advent. Matt will be preaching from Luke 21: 20-28, and 34-36. Our advent theme is all about the coming of the Light into the darkness and this week's theme will be 'Darkest before the Dawn'.

Prayer Ministry:

If you would like prayer for yourself or others please come to the Errwood room in the Parish Centre after the service.

Next Week

Peter Miller will continue our Advent theme preaching from Isaiah 8: 16 to 9: 6.

ADVENT 2: Twilight of the Prophets

Advent Windows:

Let's use our windows at home, as Christmas approaches, to create a display which floods Burnage with hope and light in Jesus.

Looking ahead:

Outreach Socials:

Levenshulme parish are inviting us to join with them to offer Men's and Women's socials with the intentional desire of inviting those on the edge of church for a food based night out. Proposed evening dates are: **14th December for Men** & **16th December for Women**. Details to follow.

Experience Christmas Helpers needed:

Experience Christmas: Monday 29th at 9.30am, Tuesday 30th at 9.30, 10.45 and 1pm. Wednesday 1st at 10.45 and 1.30pm and Thursday 2nd at 10.45 with Year 1 from Acacias coming for a shorter tour at 1.30pm. If you can help, see Matt or Steph for details.

CMS Manchester prayer meeting on Zoom:

Friday 3rd December 7.30 CMS Manchester prayer meeting on Zoom with Andrew and Lisa Peart.

All welcome. Please email sally_ashcroft@yahoo.co.uk for joining instructions

November 28th to December 4th Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Daneholme Road and Foxwood Gardens.
- ◆ Matt's supervision & support meeting with Foodbank Manager, Heather, on Wed.
- ◆ Worshipful Trefoil Carol service at St Margaret's led by Matt on Saturday 4th.
- ◆ Stimulating ideas in preparation for the Family Special on Sunday 5th afternoon.
- ◆ Wise plans for the Tuesday Group Christmas meal and service on 21st.
- ◆ Ingenuity in the display of lights in our front windows for Advent & Christmas.
- ◆ Rejoice in what God has done through Steph in her first year with us.



UHT Semi Skimmed Milk Tinned Fruit
Tinned Cold Meat UHT Fruit Juice