



# St Margaret's Church

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

## In Contact

5th December 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](http://www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk)*

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

### ADVENT 2:

### The Prophetised Dawn

### Isaiah 8: 16 to 9: 6



Last week Matt shared his experience of being in total darkness in a cave in Derbyshire. I think Matt described the experience as being profound.

But what if the lights had not come back on? I suspect that the profound darkness would soon be the cause of distress and maybe panic.

What would you do? Would you dare even to move?

In our reading this morning, the People of Israel were in a dark place.

The ten northern tribes had been taken into captivity and the Assyrians were camped just 8 miles outside of Jerusalem, surrounding the remaining two tribes. They didn't know what to do and many of them even began to turn towards the ghosts of dead family members to seek advice but Isaiah says that this will only lead them deeper into darkness.

Isaiah makes his position very clear v 17 '*I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him*'. Isaiah had two children, two sons who had special names which were prophetic. The first he named Shear-jashub which means 'The remnant shall return.' And the second he named Maher-shalal-hash-baz, meaning "Hurry, O Spoil! He Has Made Haste to the Plunder." One speaks of a remnant, survivors returning. This has been a constant theme for the Jewish nation, a sign of God's faithfulness. The second name speaks of winning a battle: rushing to get the spoils and plunder is what victors do.

Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 9 speaks of the coming light, like the light of dawn and pinpoints exactly where it will start: Galilee, the very place where Jesus began his ministry. Isaiah said that the people would rejoice because the yoke from their backs and the bars from their shoulders and the rod of their oppressors would be removed. And when the light came, it would all happen suddenly like the day of Midian, when Gideon's whittled-down army of three hundred men smashed their covered lamps producing an explosion of light enabling them to rout the Midianites (Judges 7).

And all this was going to happen because of the birth of one child.

The child would have some amazing titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His name is Jesus and all authority rests upon his shoulders. He has authority over all sin and death, over everything that oppresses us and whatever causes the darkness in our lives.

Verse 7 speaks of the everlasting kingdom of God that Jesus preached about; an everlasting kingdom of justice and righteousness.

The great news for us from the prophet Isaiah is that Jesus was coming to explode God's light into the world's darkness, bringing wisdom, power, loving fatherhood, hope and peace.



Parish Office Tel: 0161 432 4606 E-mail: [admin@stmargaretsburnage.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmargaretsburnage.org.uk)

Peter Miller

Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

## 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: Advent 2**

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

ADVENT 2: The Prophesied 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: Advent 3**

Alan Pugmire will be preaching on the theme 'Witness to the light- John the Baptist '

The readings for next week will be from Luke 1. 67-80, and Luke 3. 1-6

### **Advent Windows:**

As Christmas approaches, display a window at home, showing hope and light in Jesus.

### **Looking ahead:**

#### **Duodecimo Concert Saturday 11th December:**

This is a 'pay as you feel' event featuring the Duodecimo Chamber Choir singing traditional carols for all the family, also featuring the Vivaldi Ensemble, a small string company playing seasonal music. Money raised will be donated to Vaccine Aid .org and Papyrus, the UK charity for the prevention of young suicides.

**Ladies' social:** Bring and share a meal together on Thursday 16th December at St Peter's Levenshulme church lounge (see Jane Franklin for details).

**Men's social:** Alternative Christmas meal on the Curry Mile on Tuesday 14th December. Meet up at Birchfields retail car park at 6.45 (see Matt for details).

#### **Covid Safer Service Thursday 23rd December 7300pm:**

We will be having an additional Christmas Service at which everybody will be required to wear masks and to respect the space of other worshippers.

#### **December 5th to 11th Pray for:**

- ♦ People living in Glenhurst Road and Westville Gardens.
- ♦ Duncan & Susan organising the transport of a large batch of foodstuff to go to Norwich to be sent to the Falconer Home.
- ♦ Plans for Christmas services to be a good outreach & also worshipful for Christians.
- ♦ More volunteers to leaflet streets prior to prayer for that street.
- ♦ God to be at work in HMP M/c through chaplains & Christian prisoners.
- ♦ Children around the world facing trauma from persecution because of their faith.
- ♦ More volunteers to help Barnabus with practical & spiritual outreach
- ♦ Experience Christmas: Pray for one extra session postponed because of snow Monday 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am and pray for a lasting impact on pupils and staff .



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