



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

16th January 2022

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.

Mark 4. 26-34 & Luke 17: 6 Growing with Jesus the storyteller



This is the time of year when seed and plant catalogues start to arrive through the post. I enjoy looking through them for new varieties to try. I work out what I used up last year or will no longer be viable. Then I plan for when and where to sow the seeds (indoor window sills or greenhouse?). All living things grow.

We know very little about Jesus growing up. From Matthew's Gospel, because of the threat from King Herod, we know he and his parents spent time as refugees in Egypt, but later returned to Galilee. Luke 2.40 tells us: *"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him."* All living things grow. The Son of God, in human form, was no exception, although he was filled with wisdom, a word sometimes used to describe the Holy Spirit. It was also clear that he was specially blessed by God as he grew.

Luke 2. 41-52 fast-forwards to a 12 year old Jesus making the annual trip to Jerusalem for Passover with his family. After getting separated from his family when they had started to return to Galilee, he was found in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers (v.46-47). Jesus was no ordinary child, as the favour and wisdom from God were shining out here. But, as with all living things, he grew.

As an adult, Jesus told many stories - parables to illustrate deep spiritual truths. In Mark 4, we have several parables of things growing from seeds. In verses 26-34, it is clear that these refer to the "Kingdom of God". Jesus saw God's kingdom as a living thing. His kingdom of love, justice, mercy and grace is growing.

As a church, St. Margaret's Burnage is small part of the Kingdom of God here on earth. As individuals, we should all be growing in faith. What we do on Sundays and other occasions should be a part of this, but we have a responsibility to grow for ourselves through personal Bible reading and Christian books, sharing with and encouraging others, and through prayer. This Sunday is one of our Days of Prayer for Growth. We know God wants His Kingdom to grow, so we should be praying for it. Join with others this day to pray for growth in numbers and in individual spiritual growth.

All living things grow and our church should be no exception. Let us pray for the God of growth to grow His kingdom amongst us. Amen.



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Rev. Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2022:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2.8

This week:

Family Service at 10.30am:

Our theme is "Growing with Jesus" using Mark 4. 26-34. Our prayer focus will be growth and there will be the opportunity to join in the Methodist Church's "Covenant Prayer".

BCP Communion at 3pm:

A smaller, quieter service, using traditional language and the same passage as in the morning service.

Day of Prayer for Growth:

This week, we want everyone connected with St. Margaret's to spend more time in prayer asking God to grow His church in this place. A resource sheet is available. We set aside 3 days a year to do this and this is our first of 2022.

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:

We will be returning to our sermon series in Romans and Peter Capon will be looking at 'God's promise realised through faith': Romans 4: 13-22

Mission Action Plan:

Following the PCC vision seeking day in October last year, we have identified 4 priority areas and are inviting you to consider joining task groups to take this further.

Do you have a passion for any of the following?

- 1. Children and Family Work**
- 2. Developing Community Presence**
- 3. Pastoral Care**
- 4. Work with the Elderly**

If you would like to take part in one of these groups please contact Matt or one of the wardens (Mark and Jane).

January 16th to 22nd Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Brecon Avenue, Connaught Avenue, Lindsey Road & Brighton Avenue.
- ◆ Good discussions & wise decisions at the PCC on Monday.
- ◆ Matt to find safeguarding training helpful this Tuesday and next Tuesday.
- ◆ Angela to quickly get all information together to complete the church accounts.
- ◆ God to call the right people to begin training in February as IEM mission workers.
- ◆ TearFund working with refugees around the world.
- ◆ All those accessing our online services to find faith in Jesus.



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