



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

14th August 2022

Psalm 8:

The Wonders of the Universe



I grew up with Star Trek and then Star Wars. The possibilities of travelling among the stars, seeking out strange, new civilizations, in a galaxy far, far away have always been a part of my world. Thanks to Patrick Moore's "Sky at Night" and Professor Brian Cox, the popularity and interest in stars, galaxies, supernova, red giants, and the wonders of the universe has grown. Now we have the James Webb space telescope to increase our understanding and knowledge further. But go back nearly 3000 years and try to imagine what our ancestors of those times made of the night sky.

We know they saw shapes and patterns and had named some of the constellations. We know that they had long given up trying to count how many stars there are. They would have been aware of the moon cycles much more than we are today because a full moon enabled easier travel at night. They probably did not know that the moon was merely a reflector of the sun's light as also was the Morning Star (which we know as the planet Venus). With little light pollution and fewer clouds than we have in Britain, we can imagine someone lying on their backs in the warmth of the Israeli night and looking up. Just pause and picture this or recall a time when you have done just this.

Now read Psalm 8. Read it gain a bit slower. I am sure the author of this Psalm had spent many a night on his back looking up at the sky and getting lost in wonder. God has set his glory in the heavens. It is the work of his fingers - imagine God setting each star in its place. No wonder the psalmist begins and ends with declaring: '...how majestic is your name in all the earth!'

From verse 4, there is a shift from the wonders of the universe to what does this say about me? He comes back down to earth with a bump. We humans are nothing, just more space dust, and yet God is mindful of us and cares for us. We can see the author's wonder increase at this but it does not end there. God has given us status, below the angels yet above the animals. We are crowned with glory and honour. Stop right now and thank God for our privileged position in His wonderful universe.

Now with this position comes responsibility. We have been made rulers over the works of God's hands. We are to do all we can to look after this precious world and yet we know as humans we have failed terribly in this. Our technological advances have started to super heat this planet causing rapid climate change.

We have polluted, poisoned, exploited and potentially over populated areas. Ask our Lord for forgiveness and resolve to do more, whatever little changes we can, to rule over this earth in a more responsible way.

Finally, return to praise and wonder at the universe and the God who made it all, and even more, out of love, sent his Son to us as Saviour. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



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

The services during August will not be live streamed.

This Week Sunday 14th August:

Summer Service 10.30am:

We will be looking at Psalm 8: **'The wonders of the universe'**.

Bring your own Picnic & DIY BBQ

After today's service we will be having a picnic / B-B-Q. Bring along your own picnic or something to throw on to the Barbie.

Holy Communion 3.00pm: Book of Common Prayer. This is a more reflective style of service without songs or hymns.

Next Week Sunday 21st August :

This week in our mad science service we are looking at: **'The colours of the rainbow'** and **John 9. 1-34 & 8.12**

August 14th to 20th Pray for:

- ♦ People living in Ranford Road, Milwain Road & Hilbre Road.
- ♦ Safe activities for children during the summer holidays.
- ♦ Formation of a catering and support team for the September Alpha Course.
- ♦ More time to pray during the quieter summer holidays.
- ♦ Any Boaz clients still at risk of being deported to Rwanda.

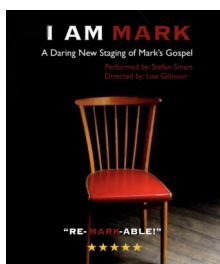
Looking Ahead:

Alpha September 2022

The Alpha Course starts on Monday 12th September. This is a new Alpha Course, so even if you have done Alpha before this is a great opportunity to come and invite some friends and share some food together and learn more about our faith. Sign up sheets for those coming and those helping are now at the back of church.

Sunday 2nd October: Our Harvest Festival Celebration.

Saturday 15th October: I Am Mark



This is a word for word dramatization of the gospel of Mark performed by Gospel actor and storyteller Stefan Smart.

Put this date in your diary.

More details to follow.



Veg or Sunflower Oil UHT Fruit Juice/Milk/ Sugar
Tinned fruit/ham/custard/ tomatoes/corned beef