



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

7th August 2022

Luke 15. 11-32 Mad Science - Robots...a matter of Choice.



Robots are getting more and more 'intelligent'. They can cook, clean, build cars and even perform surgeries. Some robots look like humans; they are able to speak and move like us and in certain jobs they are faster and more efficient. But no matter how intelligent robots become they will never be human. In the film Bicentennial man, Andrew, a robot designed to be a servant explores what it is to be human. Andrew says 'to be human is to be free to choose'.

The word 'robot' comes from the Czech word 'robota' which means forced labour. Robots are only able to do what they are programmed to do. Whereas humans are able to make their own choices.

Today's Bible reading starts with a son's selfish and rebellious choice to ask for his inheritance before his father dies. This request was as terrible and shocking as saying to his father 'I wish you were dead' But even so the father does not force his son to stay; he allows him to leave with his inheritance.

I wonder what the father thought and felt about his son while he was away. Maybe he felt anger, 'How dare he insult me like that! If he wants to go and blow all the money and end up in a gutter somewhere then let him! It serves him right!' It would be understandable if the father was angry.

But the father in Jesus' story was full of love for his son. The good father is heartbroken at the thought of his son coming to harm and the thought of him being away from himself. The fact that the father saw him coming back from a long way off shows us the father was looking out for him. Perhaps he waited day after day searching the horizon, desperate for his son to return home.

A robot son would have been much easier; completely obedient, never making any requests of his own, always doing exactly what the father asked. Bringing up a robot child would have been an altogether easier and less heart-breaking experience than bringing up a wayward son.

But it wouldn't have been a true relationship. Without the ability to choose there is no space for love.

When God made us He could have made us like robots unable to disobey Him and to go our own way. He could have ordered us to love and praise Him. But God knew that even though it would hurt us and hurt Him terribly He had to give us the choice to love or to hate, to obey or disobey, to have the choice to leave Him if we wanted to or to stay close to him.

Our wrong choices hurt ourselves, others and God. They separate us from God but they can never separate us from his love. God is always watching and waiting for us to choose to come home; to come back to Him. He offers us unending forgiveness and He will never give up on us His children. He is calling us today to make the choice to love and follow Him. We all have a choice, what will you choose?



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 7th August:

Summer Service 10.30am: Today in our **Mad Science** Summer Services Steph will be looking at Luke 15: 11-32 '**Robots...a Matter of Choice.**'

Next Week Sunday 14th August :

Summer Service 10.30am:

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

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

August 7th to 13th Please Pray for:

- ◆ People living in Crompton Road & Kempton Road.
- ◆ Holy Spirit to be at work at IEM's National Prayer Conference Friday to Sunday.
- ◆ Families finding school holidays demanding at home with their children.
- ◆ Right people to be invited to the September Alpha Course.
- ◆ For the our friends, the Braddock family and for all who mourn the recent passing of Don Monks.

The Funeral of Don Monks:

This will take place at St Margaret's church 12.00noon on Friday 12th August.

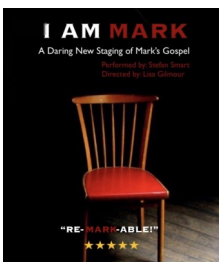
Looking Ahead:

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**