



# St Margaret's Church

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

## In Contact

**Know God Better 5 Fellowship Acts 2: 42 + 1 John 1: 1-7 15<sup>th</sup> November**



What do you enjoy doing with other people? In normal times much of our lives are shared with family, friends and other people. We share with them in good times and in bad times, in times of joy and especially in times of sadness. The more time we spend with someone the better we understand them, the better we get to know them and the better we are able to support one another.

Today we are thinking about fellowship or sharing. The word used in the New Testament, *koinonia*, is variously translated as fellowship, sharing, partnership or communion. It is used both about sharing with other Christians and about sharing with God. Fellowship with God, knowing God better, is not something we do in isolation. It is done within the fellowship of the church. This sharing goes right back to the call of the first disciples, they left everything and followed Jesus and were constantly with him, they shared in his ministry, they got to know him and they learned from him. Because they got to know Jesus better they got to know God better through fellowship with Him.

At the start of the church, described in Acts 2:42, they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. There was a sharing and commitment to one another. The sort of fellowship that the apostles had when Jesus was on earth continued into the life of the church. It continues in the church to this day. That fellowship was with one another but it was also with God through the presence of the Holy Spirit making Jesus real. In all we do together as a church we share in God's work and ministry just as that early church did.

In his first letter, John focusses on the need for Christians to love God and one another. Love comes when we share wholeheartedly in fellowship together. John wants more people to hear the word of life so that they might share in this fellowship. It is not just human fellowship, important as that is. It is fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. This is the distinctive element of Christian fellowship that sets it apart from any ordinary human fellowship. Through the Holy Spirit we know God's presence always with us and we share in Him. And in that sharing we get to know God better.

When we use the prayer we call "The Grace" and speak of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit being with us all, we are expressing our sharing together in Christ. We encourage one another in fellowship with God. Fellowship with God and fellowship with one another is right at the heart of knowing God better. In difficult times as well as good times let us go on sharing with one another so that we may know afresh God's love in our hearts and lives and live in fellowship with Him.



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Peter Capon

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## Bible Verse for 2020:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Ephesians 1: 17



Daily Hope is a free phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

### **Lockdown (2<sup>nd</sup> November 6<sup>th</sup> to December)**

The church will only be open for private prayer (2.30pm Sunday afternoon for about 1 hour).

#### **This Week:**

Our online service will include a time of memorial for our loved ones.

Last week we remembered those who had fought and died in conflicts. This week we will read out the names of those whose funeral service was conducted by Matt (or in one case, Alan) in the last 2 years. There is also a sheet accompanying this letter that will help us all to remember our lost loved ones.

Do take time to think of them before the service and what they mean to you.

The theme of our service today is fellowship and Peter Capon will be sharing thoughts on this subject as the last in our short series under "Know God Better".



#### **Looking ahead:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Day of Prayer for Growth. We have one of these 3 times a year.

Prayer resources will be made available.

At next week's service Duke will be preaching on 'CHRIST THE KING.'

**20<sup>th</sup> December:** On-line Carol Service.

#### **November 15th to 21st Please Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Broadhill Road & Mauldeth Road (Kingsway to Burnage Lane).
- ◆ Good discussions & wise decisions at PCC on Monday.
- ◆ Diocesan training course "Stepping Stones for Growth" on Saturday.
- ◆ Steph as she gets to know who people are at St Margaret's.
- ◆ Encouragement in evangelism for those doing "Talking Jesus" course run by Duke.
- ◆ Barnabus providing breakfast 3 days a week for rough sleepers.
- ◆ Advent & Christmas planning with an on-line Carol Service pre-recorded.

#### **Television & Radio this week:**

**BBC 1 - 10.30am: Sunday morning live.** Sean Fletcher and Sally Phillips take a look at the week's talking points and explore the ethical and religious issues of the day.

- **1.15 pm: Songs of Praise.** Aled Jones is back on home turf in north Wales as he takes a journey exploring how his faith has shaped his life and his singing.

**BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am: Sunday Worship.** The Rev Dr Doug Gay, Principal of Trinity College, Glasgow, and Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly, Chaplain to Glasgow University, explore the mixed feelings experienced when faith has to reckon with the complexities of life.

#### **Sunday Evening 8 o'clock:**

At home pray for our church family and join them in breaking of bread.



Help is available if you need it: **Call 0800 234 6123**

**Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm & Saturday: 10am to 2pm**