



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

23rd January 2022

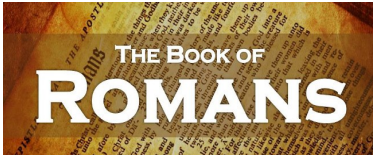
If you are visiting St Margaret's for the first time we hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today.

For more information please visit our website: www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

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

Romans 4.13-22:

God's promise realised through faith.



Do you believe promises that are made to you?

"Sometimes" you might say. It all depends on who makes the promise and whether they can be trusted. We trust those people who we believe will keep their promises.

So what about God? Romans 3 has focussed on the righteousness of God. God is the one who is righteous and because he is righteous he can be trusted. Romans 4 reminds us he made good on his promises to Abraham and assures us he will do the same for all who have faith.

God spoke to Abraham many times over the years. He promised that he would bless Abraham and make a great nation from him and that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. God promised Abraham that he would have a son, Isaac, and Abraham believed God's promise even though humanly it seemed impossible. All through this, as Romans makes clear, despite his struggles, Abraham's faith in God was unwavering. As his life went on his faith and trust in a great God grew stronger. Verse 20 tells us *'No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God'* because he was *'...fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised'*. He trusted in God and God did not let him down. He gave God the glory. He knew that God's promise would not fail. This is the faith of Abraham that was reckoned to him as righteousness.

But what about us? Is our God today big enough, powerful enough, faithful enough to make good on his promises? Verse 23 tells us the words *'it was reckoned to him'* were not just written for Abraham's sake alone but for our sake, for all who read these words and that includes us today. God's promise to us is that he will reckon righteousness to all who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Just as God brought Isaac out of the (almost) dead, he raised Jesus from death. As Jesus was handed over to death for our sins, so he was raised to life for our justification. When we have faith we who were once dead in sin are made alive in Christ as he brings us new life. God's promise to Abraham was to bring life out of death and God's promise to us is to bring life out of death just as in Jesus' resurrection he brought life out of death. Our part is to believe and trust in the promises of God, to have faith in God just as for his part Abraham believed and trusted and had faith in God.

God's promises are being fulfilled and his purposes accomplished in all those who have faith in him. May we be encouraged in our faith by the example not just of Abraham but of countless believing Christians who are made righteous by their faith in God who promise never fails.



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Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

Peter Capon

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:

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.

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:

Matt will be preaching on Romans 5: 1-11 'Justification brings peace and joy'.

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 23rd to 29th **Please Pray for:**

- ♦ People living in Calverley Avenue, Burnage Hall Road & Burnham Drive.
- ♦ God to be at work in those doing Creative Prayer on Tuesday and more people to come.
- ♦ Work of the Pearts & for the Anglican Church in Bolivia as the bishop retires.
- ♦ Beatrice in Nairobi planting Dignity Life Groups in street children's areas.
- ♦ Those moving into Dahlia Court & for opportunities to reach out to them.
- ♦ Deepening of our faith & understanding as we study Romans in sermons & homegroups.
- ♦ Opportunities to involve young people in services, particularly in sung worship.
- ♦ Pray for the PCC meeting on 24th January.



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