



# St Margaret's Church

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

## In Contact

31st October 2021

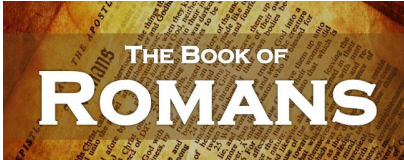
*If you are visiting St Margaret's for the first time we hope you will enjoy worshipping with us today.*

*For more information please visit our website: [www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk)*

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

### Romans 3:1-20

### Roamin' in Romans 6: No one is Justified



'Roamin' through Romans' sounds like a pleasant church picnic, but I suspect for many of us it has been hard work. It's like being caught in a tsunami of difficult and complex theology. This is sermon number six and we are only starting chapter three! But to help us in this raging torrent there is a

lifeline of hope like a floating tree branch, something for us all to hang on to. It's in chapter 1v16: 'The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith...' so as we look at this week's Bible passage, hold tight!

There are three main things in this passage for us to focus on:

The first is the truth that the trappings of Christianity, like baptism and being brought up as a Christian (and like circumcision and the law for the Jews) are not enough to save us. They are definite advantages (v1-2, ch9 v 4-5), but in themselves they have no power to save us. Paul argues that for both Jews and Christians it is what is happening on the inside that really matters (Ch 2 v 29). If we are not Christians on the inside, then we are not Christians.

The second is the false idea that our faithlessness and sin are somehow in proportion to God's faithfulness and grace. We think that that our faithlessness will reduce God's faithfulness to us. Or that God's faithfulness to us depends on our faithfulness to him (v3). This would mean that when we have more faith, God is faithful and when we have no faith God is less faithful. Paul's answer is, 'By no means!' God is always faithful no matter what: *'If we are faithless, he remains faithful - for He cannot deny himself'*

(2 Timothy 2: 13).

Likewise, Paul points to the argument that our sin is in proportion to God's justice and grace (v5,7). This argument suggests that the greater the sin then the greater the amount of power, love and forgiveness is required to cover that sin. So, tiny sins only need a tiny amount of love and forgiveness, and great big sins require much greater amounts love and forgiveness. But sin is sin, and God's love and grace are the same whatever the sin (v 9). Any sin, big or small, is like an open wound, and the only cure for our sin is Jesus.

The third idea is that we are all responsible for sin in the world. Verses 10 to 18 give us a very depressing picture of the extent of sin. It's a bit like climate change: we all see it, we may our bit to counteract it on an individual level, but we are all part of it, and we are all responsible. But the good news is coming! Next week we'll be looking ahead to the solution to all this: the immense gift of God's grace in sending Jesus to our rescue.



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Peter Miller

## Bible Verse for 2021:

I am about to do something new; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 19

### This week:

**10.30am:** Peter Miller will be preaching on Romans 3: 1-20 '**No one is Justified.**'

**3.30–5.00pm:** Family Special **Light Spectacular.**

### Next Week:

**10.30am:** Pearl Hardy continues our sermon series 'Roamin' in Romans and will be preaching on Romans 3: 21-31 '**Righteousness through Faith**'

### **Anonymous Income Surveys**

These are used by the Diocese to assess what each church can pay as their parish share. It is important that as many people as possible fill one of these in and place in the box at the back of church. If you cannot get to church but wish to participate, please Contact Mark Stansfield. The form only requires one tick.

### Advent Windows:

You may have noticed some windows filled with Halloween displays. Let's use our windows as Christmas approaches to flood Burnage with hope and light in Jesus?

### Looking ahead:

### Prayer Ministry:

On Sunday Nov 7th we will be restarting Prayer Ministry for any who would like prayer. As a temporary measure we will meet in the Errwood room in the Parish Centre after the service. Pearl

### Memorial Service:

On Sunday 7th November we will be having our memorial service at 3.30pm. Forms for church people to enter names are at the back of church or ask Peter at admin.

### Remembrance Service:

This year's Remembrance Service will be on Sunday 14th November. We will be gathering at 10.20am to lay a poppy wreath at the Lych Gate, one of our war memorials

### October 31st to November 6th Pray for:

- ♦ People living in Moorton Avenue, Moorton Park & Oakleigh Avenue.
- ♦ The annual Memorial Service next Sunday (7th) to be helpful to those coming.
- ♦ Continued safety & enjoyment for all who come to Tuesday Group.
- ♦ Helpful studies from the book of Romans with sermons and in homegroups.
- ♦ Imaginative preparation for Advent and Christmas events.
- ♦ Vaccines for everyone worldwide promoted by TearFund with People's Vaccine Alliance.



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

You can find donation points at:  
Burnage Tesco, Burnage Library (when open) and Asda Reddish  
(and at the centres when open)