

In Touch

Building bridges between community and church

From the Rector's desk

September 2015

Welcome to this latest edition of *In Touch*, the parish newsletter from St Margaret's Church. The summer is over for another year, the children are back at school and the holidays (if you managed one!) a bit of a distant memory.

We hosted a brilliant Holiday Special for Older People – organised by Christians Together in Burnage – the last week of July, with 60 plus seniors attending each day. The highlight of the week for many was the day coach trip to Southport including a lovely lunch at a very nice hotel.

What's happening at St Margaret's this autumn? Read on to find out.

Weekend 25th- 27th September



This weekend has been set aside as a special weekend of prayer for our nation and local community. Lots of churches across the nation will be participating, including us at St Margaret's. If you want to know more get in touch.

Sunday, 4th October at 10.30am



Come and join in our *Messy Harvest* celebration with something for the whole family. Messy craft in the Parish Centre from 10.30, with simultaneous service in church and final coming together for closing worship.

Sunday, 18th October at 6.30pm



Come and hear Christie Spurling, CEO of N-GAGE, talk about their plans for the former BMAG building on Burnage Lane and work with young people in the community.

Sunday, 8th November at 10.30am



70 years on since the surrender of Japan and end of the Second World War, this will be another 'special' Remembrance Sunday. Join us if you can as we remember the sacrifice of 'the few' for the freedom of us all.

Sunday, 15th November at 3.30pm



Opportunity at a special service to remember and give thanks for loved ones lost in the recent or more distant past. Come, light a candle in memory and hear the name of your loved one read out.

Between now and Christmas at St Margaret's, our theme will be '*A Church which pleases Jesus*'. Paul the Apostle, in the New Testament book of Colossians, says this: "As God's chosen ones . . . clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience . . . Above all, *clothe yourselves with love*. (Colossians 3 vs. 12-14) Not a bad recipe for life really!

You're welcome to come along to any of these special occasions, or to join us at our regular 10.30 Sunday morning service.

For further details of any of the above:

0161 432 1844/4606 info@stmargaret.co.uk



**St Margaret's
Parish Church
Burnage**



Rev Ian Thompson

If you want to know more about this treasure or share in it for yourself, we'd be happy to tell you more. You'll find us in church every Sunday morning at 10.30, or you can contact us.

info@stmargaret.co.uk

www.stmargaret.co.uk

Tuesday Group

As its name suggests this group for people over 55 years meets **every Tuesday at St. Margaret's Parish Centre, Burnage Lane serving coffee/tea and biscuits from 10:00am and at 12:30pm a hot lunch at a cost of £1.50.**

On Tuesday, September 29th there will be a special harvest lunch followed by a short service in church and on Tuesday, December 15th we will have a Christmas dinner and a short Carol service in church for those who wish to attend. All that takes place at the group is very informal with a good chance to make new friends and meet old ones!

You might like to try your hand at a game of dominoes or other board games or some craft activities if the fancy takes you. From time to time we arrange the opportunity to go out and about on other days such as a visit for a Toby meal or a day trip out.

At the same time as this group meets a Healthy Living Exercise Group for older people meets at 10:00-11:00 and 11:30- 12:30 and so some people have a session there as well as joining in the activities of Tuesday Group.

If you are feeling a bit lonely or fancy a change why not give it a try?

**At St Margaret's we pray for the people
who live and work in the streets of Burnage.**

October

Here's a list of streets for the next 3 months

Week beginning	
04/10/15	Avonlea Dr, Brookthorpe Ave, Bournelea Ave
11/10/15	Hembury Ave, Glendale Ave, St Margaret's Ave & Kenwood Ave
18/10/15	Burnage Lane (Mauldeth Rd to Granethorpe Rd.) & Oakleigh Ave
25/10/15	Burnage Ave, Tirza Ave & Brookfield Ct.,

November

01/11/15	Burnage Lane (Granethorpe Rd to Milwain Rd),
08/11/15	Milwain Rd & Hilbre Rd.
15/11/15	Kempton Rd, Ranford Rd & Crompton Rd

December

22/11/15	Errwood Rd (from Avon Rd to Shawbrook Rd.) & Guernsey Close
29/11/15	Errwood Rd (from Shawbrook Rd, to Ranford Rd) Arbor Ave, Arbor Drive & May Drive
06/12/15	Shawbrook Rd. & Westdale Gdns
13/12/15	Westdean Cres., Alston Gdns, & Ashburn Ave
20/12/15	Green End Roundabout to Mauldeth Rd Woodside Ave, Elmhurst Drive & St. Helier Square
27/12/15	Moorcroft Drive, & Moorcroft Walk & Brookway Close

**Out and about in Burnage on
Saturday 17th October ?**

If you are around in Burnage on that afternoon you may come across two members of St Margaret's church asking you if they could pray with you on any matter. They will be wearing a badge which clearly states who they are and they would love the chance to pray for you. We have done this several times recently and have had opportunity to meet and pray with quite a few people as they have been out and about. We are doing this because as a church we believe that God is good, that He loves each and everyone of us and is interested in all the big and little things of our lives.



Burnage Holiday Special for Older People

This annual event was held at the end of July with the theme “Around Britain” which produced lots of interesting activities throughout the week and was deemed a great success by the 70 or more who attended.



We explored various aspects of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and each day our lunch was geared to one of these countries which kept the kitchen team on their toes and the tasty food was much appreciated by us all.



There were plenty of craft activities helped by a donation from Southway Housing, as well as snooker, table tennis, curling, quizzes, films, computing, digital photography and some live music at the end of each day.



There was also a good amount of time just to sit and relax and of course to do plenty of chatting! It really did feel like a “holiday at home”. We even managed a coach trip to Southport and were able to enjoy a good hotel lunch, sunshine and beautiful scenery. We rounded the week off with a street party and a “sing along with Alfie”! And to cap it all the whole event but for the day trip was free! All in all an amazing week which lived up to its aim of fun, food and friendship. ***Why not consider joining us for a similar event at the end of July next year!***



PROJECT

One of the overseas missionary agencies that St.Margaret's support is The Falconer Home, based in Kabulamema, Zambia. This is a children's orphanage that has been running since 1947 and, as you can imagine, facilities are always in need of renovation and development. As a result The Falconer Trust, which administers the affairs of the Home, is launching a new project with the aim of renovating a large dormitory at the Falconer Home, in order to accommodate 24 boys. The dormitory is currently in very poor condition, and is not fit for use. The project would involve the following work:

- Replacing the roof and roof trusses (this part of the task has already been funded)
- Install electric lighting
- Install wash basins and showers
- Fit doors and glaze windows
- Create a second entrance
- Clean and paint
- Equip with bunk beds, lockers and furniture

Please Help!

The Home and Trust continue to need funds for this vital work and are looking to raise **£30,000** (above and beyond our regular support) in order to complete the project. Perhaps you or the organisations you support could help. Contributions can be made via the Falconer Home website ([www.http://thefalconertrust.org/index.html](http://thefalconertrust.org/index.html)) where you will find more information about the Home and this particular project. All contributions, large or small, will make a big difference.



**The Falconer Children's Home
and Orphanage, Kabulamema, Zambia**

Charity Fundraising Event

Saturday 10th October 2015 - 7:00pm

**St. Kentigern's Social Club
36 Wilbraham Road
Fallowfield
M14 7DW**

**Tickets cost £7.00 each
or £60 for a table of 10**

Join us for an evening of entertainment and help support an award-winning local charity. Manchester Care & Repair works to improve the homes and lives of older people across Manchester



GraceNotes IN CONCERT

- * Featuring an eclectic mix of contemporary, traditional and popular music to suit all tastes
-
- * Charity Raffle to be held on the night

For further information or to purchase tickets please call
0161 872 5500 or e-mail amottram@careandrepair-manchester.org.uk
www.careandrepair-manchester.org.uk

Parish Register Mid June to early September

Baptisms

June 21 Daisy Grace Newiss

Weddings

None in this period

Funerals

None in this period

Compassion Fatigue ?

Every time I pick up a newspaper these days or switch on the TV, I am confronted by pictures of refugees from the wars zones in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. This tide of human misery leaves me with conflicting emotions. **As a mother**, I am especially affected by the plight of young children, and empathise strongly with those parents in desperate need. **As a citizen** of this country, I feel quite overwhelmed by the scale of the problem – and helpless in the face of such mounting numbers of migrants. Selfishly, I don't want their plight to affect my own, or my children's, standard of living. Then I feel so angry about those war lords who cause the problem in the first place, and the traffickers who profit from other people's despair and misery.

Migrants, refugees – words which neatly obscure the fact that we are dealing with real people, people in desperate need, fleeing in terror from persecution, torture, and the real fear of being killed or injured.

It brings me up short with the question "**why does God allow this?**", and there are no easy or trite answers. The Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) records over and over again the suffering and bewilderment of God's people. The Christian "New" Testament begins with the massacre of young children as a cruel despot tries to destroy the Christ Child, who, he fears, will grow up to threaten his power and privileged lifestyle. So **Jesus himself became a refugee**, fleeing from a ruthless tyrant, and the words of Jesus from the cross "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" echo throughout both books of the Bible. So the Bible never suggests that life in this world is easy, or without problems which challenge us all.

As a Christian, I believe that God brought this world into being, and He sustains it from moment to moment. I believe that God did not create anyone as a warmonger or murderer, but He did give us free will. Freedom to do good or evil, and what happens when people misuse that freedom is spelt out clearly in the very first book of the Bible as we read that Cain killed his own brother Abel.

I can offer no reasons or solutions, but heartfelt prayer for wise decisions from the politicians, compassion for those people caught up in wars not of their own making, and generosity of hearts, minds (and pockets) to help those genuinely seeking refuge.

Pam Corps, Lay Reader, St. Margaret's Church

Psalm 27 (verse 1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

New Revised Standard Version of the Bible



Messy Harvest



St. Margaret's Church
Burnage

**Sunday October 4th
10.30am**

Craft, games and activities followed by
a Harvest Celebration in church.



Everyone is welcome!



Boys Club

For School Years 2-6



Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm

St Margaret's Parish Centre

Fantastic Fun for You and Your Friends

**↗ Football ↗ Pool ↗ Table Tennis ↗
Games ↗ Construction ↗ Stories**

50p entry drinks and a biscuit provided

For more information contact Tom on 07769 644 191

Just Boys?

Our Boys Club here At St. Margaret's has been running for many years now. Over the years the girls in our community have been really well provided for with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides that meet here on a Wednesday at the Parish centre. As we seek to serve our local community we felt a place for boys to come and meet and have fun together was important. A dedicated team of fully DBS checked volunteers run the club with the support of Tom our Youth and Children's Worker.

Boys Club is aimed at the primary age range between Year 2 And Year 6. This mix of ages works really well with great relationships establishing between the younger and older kids. They all look out for one another and enjoy playing together. Each week we have loads of fun playing football, dodge-ball, cricket, pool and table tennis to name just a few. We play lots of other games and have lots of challenges to keep everybody interested. Each term we also go on a trip. Bowling is one of our favourites.



Each week we share a story from the bible. This autumn we are working our way through the Friends and Heroes DVD's. Friends and Heroes is an animated children's adventure based in ancient Egypt, Israel and Rome. The story follows two young friends, Macky and Portia, as they fight for justice against the Roman Empire. Each episode consists of two

Bible Stories in which children can learn about characters from the Old and New Testament. Whatever their faith or background, like our heroes, children will be empowered and inspired by what they see and hear.



You are very welcome to come along and give Boys Club a try. Your first week is always free, but then it just 50p a week. We welcome new members as long as you are in school Years 2-6.