



# St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:

Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit  
And Serve the World

## In Contact

**Joy in lockdown 10 – Contentment**

**Philippians 4: 10-23 20<sup>th</sup> Sept**



In this final section of Philippians, Paul encourages us to develop a spirit of contentment in all circumstances. Being discontent is one of the basic problems in our lives right from the creation story of Adam and Eve. They had everything they could possibly need, but Satan sowed a seed of discontent, tempting them to want more.

Thomas Watson said *“Satan loves to fish in the troubled waters of discontented hearts”*. This is so true. Paul tells us that true contentment is not determined by our circumstances. The world makes us think that contentment is determined by our possessions; having lots of money, or a nice house, or a good job and marriage. Although these may be good and even desirable, for Paul, true contentment is knowing who we are in Christ. If anyone had reasons to be discontent it was Paul. He was rejected, imprisoned, persecuted, beaten, stoned, insulted, shipwrecked, suffered snakebite and the list goes on. Yet, whilst in prison awaiting his execution, he had the joy to express his contentment *“...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have” (v11)*.

Our faith in God is not determined by our external circumstances. The song writer says, *“We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the rock which cannot move; grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love”*.

Paul understands that contentment in the sufficiency of Christ and His resurrection power is Paul's strength. And whatever his own situation may be, the joy of knowing the power of the resurrected Christ enables him 'to do all things' in and through Christ and for Christ (Phil. 4:13).

Verses 14-20 show the provision of Jesus enabling us to be generous with our giving. Paul acknowledges the generosity of the Philippians who supported the ministry God was doing through Paul. He expresses gratitude for their gifts/help but more importantly, God rewards them: *“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account” (v17)*. Paul tells us that whenever we give our finances and services to the work of God, He doesn't see our gifts but rather they become *“...a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God,” (v18)* and *'ascend as a memorial before God'* (Acts 10:4).

The children & family worker in this church was made possible by your generosity (your money, intellect and prayers). Who knows what this ministry will become? But one thing is sure the credit (blessings) will be deposited to your account. AMEN.

And *“God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”* and the glory will be given to our God and Father.

Three things for us all to remember;

Our contentment is not determined by our circumstances (Phil. 4:11).

Our contentment is determined by our identity in Christ (Phil. 4:13).

Our contentment is determined by provisions of God (Phil. 4:18).



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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.

**Open for Prayer:** The church will be open for prayer on Thursdays 12.30pm–1.30pm.

### **Services in Church:**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement we are glad to be able to hold services in church. This Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September there will be a 10.30am Morning Service in church alongside our on-line Worship. Duke will be preaching on 'living in contentment during lockdown'.

### **Homework Preparation:**

Matt will be doing a summary of Philippians on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> and has asked that we read the whole letter before then. You may enjoy having it read to you. Try "The Bible Channel" app on your phone's app store. It is a free download with pictures and a clear reading of the Bible.

### **Cake Sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**

Sheila Brown and Wayne Palmer will be selling home-baked cakes outside Sheila's home on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September between 2 and 4pm in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like cakes delivered to your door please contact Kate Palmer on 07901 335 939. Social distancing rules will be maintained.

### **Children & Families Worker:**

Great news and answer to prayer! Steph has found lodgings on Grangethorpe Drive.

**Zoom Meetings:** Join online zoom, contact Matt for details.

### **September 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Please Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Epsom Avenue, Hatfield Avenue & Winslow Place.
- ◆ Steph, our new Children & Families Worker, as she finishes at half term at her school.
- ◆ Regular users of the Parish Centre to be able to return safely soon.
- ◆ Jeremy Law heading up Greater Manchester Mental Health Chaplaincy team.
- ◆ Karl Harrison, new head teacher of Burnage Academy for Boys.
- ◆ Encouragement & strength for Christians facing extreme opposition in Sudan.
- ◆ Development of a team who can live-stream church services.
- ◆ Barnabus as it helps the homeless move forward & find accommodation.

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

#### **BBC 1 10.30am Sunday Morning Live:**

**1.15pm Songs of Praise:** The Rev. Kate Bottley marks Harvest in Saddleworth, and Katie Piper meets a Christian minister helping Welsh farmers through times of crisis.

**BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship:** In a world where many are fearful, Father Brian D'Arcy asks where we can put our trust.

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

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**