



# St Margaret's Church

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

## In Contact

**CELEBRATION:**

**Psalm 126 A Song of Restoration**

**2nd May 2021**



When reading a novel or watching a film or TV drama, we all love a good plot twist or a reversal of fortunes. The main character often goes through very tough times but we are hoping that soon that will all change.

Psalm 126 was one of those sung in preparation for worship as pilgrims ascended toward the temple in Jerusalem (Psalm of Ascents). It begins with a bold "When the Lord restored". It was not "if the Lord restored..." or a "Please restore Lord...". God is a God of restoration. He will restore fortunes which produce laughter, joy and the praise of all the nations. Because they know God has done it in the past, they are filled with hope and faith that God will restore again (v.4).

Central to the Gospel story is a massive reversal. Jesus, who rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey was nailed brutally to a cross 5 days later and died. It was all over. All was lost. But not with the God of restoration! Early the next Sunday morning the tomb where his body had been laid was found empty. Then there were the first reunions with Mary, Peter, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, all those gathered in the upper room, then Thomas a week later and finally a mass gathering at Galilee. Afterwards Jesus is further restored to the right hand of our Father in Heaven.

The last two verses of the Psalm (5&6) look for the hoped restoration in the life of the pilgrims. They long for the reversal when tears will be turned to joy. In fact they long for a harvest of joy. A good harvest is always a cause for celebration in a society that depends on the land, but they are hoping for a huge harvest.

What reversal! What restoration! What a God, who has done great things for us!

We live in the full knowledge of the resurrection- the greatest restoration of all. And the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work amongst us (Ephesians 1. 19-20). We can come to God in faith and ask for his restoration, especially as we prepare to worship.

Do you need restoration (a reversal of fortunes) in your life?  
Ask God in faith.

Or perhaps for someone you know? Ask God in faith.

Spend time praying with this Psalm, rejoicing in God's power to restore especially in the light of the resurrection of Jesus.



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## 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



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.

### **Results of APCM:**

Mark Stansfield and Jane Franklin are re-elected as wardens (this will be Mark's last year). Pearl Hardy, Catherine Iddin and Karen Dring have been elected to PCC.

### **Next Week Sunday 9th May:**

We continue our theme of restoration and we look forward to Duke preaching from Luke's gospel chapter 24: 36-49 'Restored Power.'

### **Pray for your Muslim neighbours during Ramadan 12th April -12th May**

Ramadan is a time of heightened spiritual awareness for Muslims and many spend more time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

### **Day of Prayer 15th May:**

We will be having a day of prayer on Saturday 15th May 10am - 12noon and 2pm - 4 pm via Zoom or you can use the "Church Life Reports" to pray through all the things we do, asking our Father in Heaven to grow his church here.

### **May 2nd to 8th Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Westcroft Rd, Southbank Rd, Southlea Rd, Kingsway Crescent & Woodbray Ave.
- ◆ Wisdom in our voting on Thursday and the right people to be elected.
- ◆ Duke preparing to preach his penultimate sermon here on Sunday (9th).
- ◆ God to give inspiration to Karen & Ruth Massey for ideas for Creative Prayer.
- ◆ Connections from Activity Boxes to be built upon for Sporty Summer Kid's Club.
- ◆ Safe return to gathered worship soon at HMP M/c after over a year of none.
- ◆ "Message" Eden teams to build relationships with local people of all ages.
- ◆ Continued safety and wellbeing of children and staff at the Falconer Home.

### **Television & Radio this Sunday:**

**BBC 1 - 10.45am: Sunday Morning Stories.** Kate Bottley shares inspirational stories rooted in faith, hope and spirituality. How specially trained therapy dogs are helping schoolchildren with their reading, and the UK's first Muslim ballet school, which teaches the importance of looking after yourself.

**BBC 1 - 13.15pm: Songs of Praise.** Claire McCollum marks the Partition of Ireland and formation of Northern Ireland 100 years ago, meeting Christians from across the denominations to discuss the past and their hopes for the future.

**BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am:** A Service led by the members of the Church Leaders' Group, Ireland, marking of the centenary of the partition of the island of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland.

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

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