



# 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 9 – Finding joy and peace. Philippians 4: 2-9 13<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### Knowing Jesus... Knowing Joy!

A Study of Philippians

Can we find joy and peace in difficult situations?

Paul wants the Philippian Christians to be able to rejoice in the Lord and have the peace of God in their hearts and minds. In all the turmoil and uncertainty of life today we too need the peace of God in our hearts and minds and we want to rejoice in the Lord.

It is natural to feel stressed in times of trouble and difficulty. Sometimes the situation seems entirely outside our control and in the pandemic, life is a bit like that for many. When circumstances seem overwhelming where do we turn?

Paul says do not worry about anything. Well that's easier said than done. But He also says '*the Lord is near*'. He cares for us and we need to come to him. Paul says '*In everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God*'.

The encouragement here is to bring our particular concerns to lay before God, to bring to him what is particularly bothering us at the moment and in doing so receive peace from Him.

It is being in a close relationship with the Lord and sharing our concerns with him in prayer that enables us to receive that peace of God. It is a peace which surpasses all understanding. It brings us into a relationship with God that is deeper than any human relationship. It is the peace of having God with us whatever the world may throw at us. It is the peace of eternity with God regardless of what happens to us in this life today, tomorrow or any day. Do we know that peace? It comes when we turn to Christ and put our hope and trust in him. It comes when we turn back to him in prayer. It is the peace that guards our hearts and minds whatever the world throws at us.

Our theme has been Joy in Lockdown.

The question throughout Philippians has been: 'where is this joy to be found?' Paul says '*Rejoice in the Lord*.' The fundamental and unchanging basis for Christian joy is the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour and friend, a friendship deeper than any human relationship. Because of that we can be encouraged to, as Paul says, '*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice*'.

The basis of our rejoicing, in whatever circumstances, is our relationship with Jesus who does not change. He is the one who knows our needs, the one who meets our needs, the one who gives us his peace as we look to Him. He is the one to whom we turn again when all else fails and we have nowhere else to turn. Our joy is in knowing Jesus and walking with him and having his peace in our hearts and lives.

That is why we rejoice in the Lord always, and again rejoice.



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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.

**Burnage Library:** Starting 14<sup>th</sup> September, Burnage Library will re-open from 10am to 3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, when the first hour will be for over 60's only.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> September there will be a 10.30am Communion Service in church alongside our on-line Worship. Peter Capon will be preaching.

Last week, two people who returned for the first time posted: *'I went to the service in church today, the first time since lockdown began. I felt totally safe and found the experience to be very moving. It just felt lovely to be back.'* Another said, *'...some of the songs used in the online version were projected (with the singing) and I found that instead of singing I was able to concentrate on the words of the songs. This was very helpful for my worship.'* A lot of thought and effort has been spent in trying to make our worship space 'safe' and we want to support every member of St Margaret's family until we can all safely return.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Please Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Baldwin Road & Chorleywood Avenue. {Off Western Circle}
- ◆ Helpful discussions & decisions at the PCC meeting on Monday.
- ◆ Carl & Lisa marrying at St Margaret's on Saturday.
- ◆ Inventive ways to meet the needs of those effectively shielding at this time.
- ◆ The Pearts in Bolivia where disruptive protests continue about postponed elections.
- ◆ Wisdom over how to restart regular weekly activities for children & adults.
- ◆ Duke to feel refreshed after summer break and ready to start his final year at college. Pray for God's guidance as he begins to look at curacy posts.
- ◆ Spiritual needs of HMP M/c prisoners still not able to worship in chapel.

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

**BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise:** Aled Jones marks 400 years since the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth to change history.

**BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship: 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mayflower.**

Radio 4's Sunday morning service with the Rt Rev Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth.

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

Light a candle and break bread in your own home as St Margaret's family.



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

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