



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

10th NOVEMBER 2024

MICAH 4: 1-5

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



JOHN 14: 24-27

Beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks is an image that has gone beyond the Bible. It recognises a longing for an end to armed conflict. Micah was writing in the eighth century before Jesus when he had witnessed the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians and now they were threatening the southern kingdom of Judah.

His prophecy is about a day when the nations flock to Jerusalem seeking the God of Jacob. The LORD's judgements will bring lasting peace with transformed implements of war and everyone sitting under their own vine or fig tree. Fear will be gone and people will know peace.

And here we are nearly 3000 years later with wars raging all over the world: Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen & Ethiopia with civil wars, Nigeria and Burkina Faso with terrorist insurgencies, Mexico with a drugs war, and the biggest current war is in the Ukraine with, ironically, that around Israel and Palestine in second place. How ordinary people from these countries must be longing for the days to come when their wars cease and they can sit once more under their own fig tree without fear!

Remembrance Sunday gives us a moment to pause, to look at the horrors and loss of war, to think of those who gave their lives in pursuit of peace but also to pray that the day of peace will come to our world. We know that greed, selfishness, fear and evil are often fuelling these armed conflicts and that the days to come are ultimately only going to be fully realised when Jesus returns to judge the world. So where does that leave us now?

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his death and the conflict ahead, he promised to send the Holy Spirit and leave them **His peace**. (John 14. 26-27). This peace is a gift which cannot be earned or bought. Unlike things of this world, it comes without any conditions or strings attached. The peace of Jesus is a gift of grace.

And His peace is so much more than an end to armed conflict. It goes beyond our understanding and experience. It is more than a moment of stillness in a day or the most restful holiday. It is a deep inner contentment that we are known and loved by God. This gives meaning and purpose to our lives and should fill us with compassion for *those suffering around us*.

So when we pray for peace, let us ask the Prince of Peace for his peace to flood our world, for wars and suffering to cease, for the nations to come to worship God and the Day of Jesus to come.



Rev. Matt Calladine

Bible Verse for 2024: 1 Peter 2:5

“..You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house... acceptable to God” .

This Week– Sunday 10th November 2024:

Remembrance Sunday Worship Service from 10.15am at the lychgate and then **10.30am in church.** Matt will be preaching from Micah 4. 1-5 & John 14. 25-27.

BCP Communion at 3pm.

Next Week 17th November 2024:

Family Communion at 10.30am . Pearl Hardy will be preaching from 1 Peter 5.1-14 on the theme: **Humble Living.**

Annual Memorial Service at 3pm. Slips of paper are available at the back of church for you to put the names of those you wish to remember on.

November 10th to 16th, Please Pray for: .

- People living in Harwood Road (mosque) & Mauldeth Road (West of Kingsway).
- Over 200 Year 7 pupils coming on Monday to church for Remembrance experience.
- Careful listening and wise decisions at PCC on Monday.
- November reflection around Remembering after Tuesday Group lunch.
- Foodbank Trustees meeting on Wednesday.
- Annual Memorial service next Sunday (17th) will be helpful & healing for all.
- IEM Church Family Retreat on Saturday/Sunday (16-17th) at Mumbai.
- Primary School RE coordinators to take up offers from Matt & Steph.
- Christians in Nigeria displaced from home and in overcrowded & unsafe camps.

Looking Ahead:

MISSION GIVING REVIEW : The small group reviewing our current missionary giving are inviting comments from members of our congregation to inform recommendations to PCC. The current system is: 6 A charities (Tear Fund, The Message, IEM, Falconer Trust, CMS, Open Doors) who get a fixed £1300 per year and 4 B charities (Dignity, Burnage Foodbank, Barnabus, Boaz) who get £600 per year. PCC allocate 10% of non earmarked income to missionary giving and the amount that this exceeds the £10,200 allocated to A & B units is available for PCC to allocate as it sees fit. Any amount not allocated at year end is split between the 6 A units. Group meeting on **13th November** and would appreciate comments from any member of the congregation either by email to Angela.stansfield8@sky.com or in writing to Angela Stansfield before this.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER MEETING (PACT) Monday 6pm 18th November 2024 at Burnage Community Centre Meet your local officers and raise concerns about crime and antisocial behaviour in your area.

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

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