



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

18th October 2026

Psalm 65. 5-13

A Harvest of Hope



As every farmer knows when they plant seeds, they can work hard and do everything right and yet the weather cannot be predicted. This year for me, it has been great for tomatoes which have loved the heat but onions, garlic and potatoes have all been poor. Because I do not depend on what I grow to survive, it does not matter so much. But for many farmers in this country and elsewhere, it has been a tough year so far. And who knows what next year will bring? For those who struggled this year, we can hope it will be better.

In many ways, every harvest is a harvest of hope. Psalm 126, 5&6 says: *May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.* This clearly was a prayer of hope for a good harvest, especially for a community that depended so much on the land for food. But there is also a spiritual sense to 'harvest of hope'.

In Galatians 6, Paul takes the image of harvest to challenge us. He tells us that we: *reap whatever we sow.* My mother has 5 grandchildren. She doted on the first one. He stayed over more than any of them. He was given better presents. Now in her old age, he is the only one who visits and shows interest and care in her. But if she had treated them all equally, it would be very different. You reap whatever you sow.

Paul talks about selfish sowing - doing things in our strength and doing things so we alone might benefit. He then contrasts this in Galatians 6.8-10 with sowing to the Spirit in order to reap eternal life. In a way this is another metaphor for the one Jesus used about building up treasures on earth compared to building those in heaven (see Matthew 6. 19-21). Paul then gives us specific things that we can sow in the Spirit: doing right, not giving up and working for the good of others, *especially for those of the family of faith.*

So what can we sow today to bring a harvest of hope? Are we doing something we know is not right? Let us ask God to help us do the right thing. Are we tempted to give up? Let us ask God to give us strength to keep going. What good could we do for others today or this week? Ask God to show us how we can do something good for someone - even something small like a phone call or a visit. These small things can make such a difference and reap so much good!

So may our harvest of hope be a blessing to others and give glory to God.
Amen.



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Rev Matt Calladine

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Bible Verse for 2026: Isaiah 43.19, Philippians 3.14

I am about to do a new thing... Press on towards the goal!

This week- Sunday 18th October 2026:

Harvest celebration Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking.

Food items to Burnage Foodbank. Monetary donations to the Nepal fund at Tearfund. Catherine Iddin is co-ordinating decoration of church. Please see her if you can help.

BCP Communion at 3pm With Harvest extras.

Harvest social- Saturday 17th October, 6.30-8.30pm. Quiz, dancing and fun.

Next Week 25th October 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Peter Capon will be speaking on the theme 'Ruth and Naomi'

CW Communion at 3pm.

October 18th – 24th October - Please Pray for:

- People living in Jersey Close, Alexandra Drive & Roseleigh Avenue.
- Matt doing Collective Worship at St Thomas's infants & Juniors.
- Creative Prayer on Tuesday planning on "Praying for the poor".
- TearFund workers in Afghanistan helping after 3 major earthquakes last year.
- Motto "Press on towards the goal" – courage to forward kingdom of God here.
- More people to use Prayer Ministry facility after Sunday morning services.
- Peace & stability to be restored in Burkina Faso & for protection of Christians.
- For a good response in connection with the Children Youth and family worker pledges.

Looking Ahead:

1st November 3pm Annual Memorial Service– to remember our loved ones. Slips for remembering names in Church.

21st November: 10am Work party to clean church &, if weather ok, the churchyard for winter.

Answers to prayer: We want to celebrate what God is doing amongst us, however smaller a thing it seems. Please send to revmattburnage@gmail.com or M19stmargarets@gmail.com.

Have you seen something in the building that needs fixing?: Andrew Foulkes is the first point of contact for issues with the buildings, so if you notice a light bulb that needs replacing or a door that's sticking tell him, or call on 07846 089035, email at andrewfoulkes39@gmail.com or in the parish centre there is a little book hanging on the wall near the First Aid box/Defibrillator.

This Time Tomorrow: Are you interested in being interviewed? If so, See Helen Hardy or Matt.

Nativity costumes: Matt wants to do a pop up nativity in December. If you have any suitable clothing or props, please see Matt.

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