



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

30th March 2025

JOHN 3. 1-22

MOTHERS



This year we are looking at both mothers and Baptism on Mothering Sunday. In the past, those employed in the large estates were all given this Sunday off to return to their mother church. Baptism is one of the ways we show we belong to the church. In Baptism, the people of the church promise to nurture the candidate in the Christian faith or, in other words, to be a mother to the one being baptised. So Mothering Sunday has a clear connection with Baptism.

In our passage for this Sunday, John 3. 1-22, there are references to mothers and birth. It involves a night-time conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who sat on the Jewish ruling council. In that society, Nicodemus would be considered to be someone who had really made it. Born a Jew, born again as a Pharisee and then born once more as part of the highest religious authority in Israel, and yet Jesus tells him he needs to be born again. Jesus tells him this rebirth is about being born from above of water and the Spirit (v.5). Here we see references to baptism. Baptism is being born into God's family through water and the Spirit. Water cleanses us and gives life. The Spirit of God, who comes to live in us when we put our faith and trust in Jesus, helps us to be more like Him. The Spirit is like the wind. He cannot be controlled and is free to move as He chooses, but He is always there with us and in us (v.8). We are baptised into the One Spirit through water.

Jesus illustrates to Nicodemus deep spiritual truths culminating with the Old Testament image of Moses holding up a bronze snake wrapped around a stick as a visible sign of God's healing and salvation (v. 14-15). Because of the Israelites' sin, God had sent a plague of snakes amongst them. Those who had been bitten but looked to God for salvation by looking at the bronze snake, would be healed (Numbers 21. 6-9). Interestingly, snakes are a symbol of rebirth because they can shed their skin and become "new".



This provides the context for what is arguably the best known verse in the Bible - v.16. It is such a good summary of the Gospel message. God loves. God sends. God saves. All this happens through His one and only Son Jesus who is the true light of God. He does not judge nor condemn us although, because of our sin, He has every right to so. God loves. God sends. God saves.



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Matt Calladine

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Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say again : Rejoice!

This week- Sunday 30th March 2025 :

Mothers Day with Baptism Celebration at 10.30am.

Clocks: The clocks move forward by one hour this Sunday 30th March at 1am. Kindly remember to adjust your clocks on Saturday night.



Duodecimo Choir Spring Concert: Saturday 5th April, 7.30pm in church.

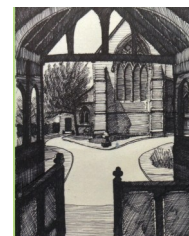
Next Week 6th April 2025:

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am. Ian Thompson will be speaking from Acts 8.26-40 on the theme: **Beyond Boundaries.**

March 30th – 5th April, Please Pray for:

- Year 3 Acacias school coming to Experience Easter on Wednesday.
- People living in Burnside Drive, Astor Road, Glendale Avenue & Hembury Avenue.
- Good outcomes from Mothers' Day & Baptism Celebration service on Sunday 30th.
- Group meeting on Tuesday to plan the next Holiday Special in the summer.
- Year 2 from Acacias coming on Wednesday to church to Experience Easter.
- Steph & Matt at Ladybarn on Wednesday for a session on Christianity and Easter.
- Tim Storr's funeral in church at 1.30pm on Thursday.
- Women's breakfast on Saturday at Open Doors office sharing about women in Asia.
- Resolution of financial crisis in Bolivia which has created difficulties for the Pearts.

Lychgate: Limited print copy of Tom Musgrove's painting of Lychgate and church available at £10 each. All numbered and signed by Tom.



Looking Ahead:

7 at 7- walk the week: From Palm Sunday 13th April to Easter Eve (Saturday 19th) we will be having 30 minute gatherings for prayer and reflection at 7pm to think on each day of Holy Week. It is quite a commitment but those who do 7 in 7 will certainly see the blessing!

Electoral Roll: 2025 is the year for a full revision of the Electoral Roll, so everyone who wishes to be on it must complete an Electoral Roll form. The revision started on 16th March 2025 and will finish on Saturday 12th April 2025. Forms will be available from Susan Stansfield.

Meal with a meaning: In the parish centre on Thursday 17th April at 6.30pm. Bring and share.

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.



Burnage Tesco, Burnage Library
(when open) and Asda Reddish

MOST NEEDED: Please concentrate on Long life milk, Long life fruit juice, Tinned meat, Cooking Oil. Basmati Rice plus some Sugar.