



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

4th October 2026

Joshua 2. 1-21

Women in the Bible 4: Hebrews 11. 30-31

Rahab



The Jewish law is clear: *"When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you are entering to possess .. then you must utterly destroy them... What is more, **you shall not intermarry with them.** You shall not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your son."* (See Deuteronomy 7.1-4). No exceptions are offered, so how come in the genealogy of Jesus (and King David: see Matthew 1.5) we have Rahab, a Canaanite woman, listed as the wife of Salmon and mother of Boaz? Scholars, both Jewish and

Christian, agree that this is the same Rahab written about in Joshua 2. We need to look at her and her story to see what made this clear violation of the Law possible.

Moses is dead and Joshua is preparing the Israelites to cross the river Jordan into what they see as the land promised to them by God. The only problem is that there were already people living there. To find out how many and their strength, he sends out 2 spies who cross the Jordan to the fortified city of Jericho. The authorities learn that there are spies in their midst so they search for them. These spies have been taken in by Rahab who is referred to as a "prostitute" but the word could be "innkeeper". Rahab took a huge risk hiding these spies and lying to her own people. What do we learn about Rahab?

Rahab was well informed. Perhaps because of the type of house she ran, she knew that the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea when the Israelites came out of Egypt (which would have been 40 years in the past) and more recently, that they had utterly destroyed two kings of the Amorites Sihon and Og, on the other side of the river Jordan,

Rahab put her faith in God. In verse 11, we read her saying: *The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below.* Because of her faith in the Lord, she trusted the spies that they would *deal kindly and faithfully with [her and her family] when the Lord gives us the land.'* (v.13)

Rahab was rescued- The spies tell her to put the crimson cord in her window, which she did. So she and all in her house were spared when Jericho was destroyed (Joshua 6. 22-25). Being foreigners, they were put outside the camp- but obviously came to be more accepted- so accepted that she married a Jew- Salmon and became an ancestor of Jesus.

For us, Rahab, as an outsider, challenges us. Would we take such risks because of our faith in God? Do we need to be better informed of the things God has done and is doing in our lives and those around us? How has God rescued us? From who or what do we still need to be rescued?

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin. Colossians 1. 13-14



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 4th October 2026:

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking from Joshua 2. 1-21 and Hebrews 11. 30-31 on the theme: **'Rahab'**.

Prayer for growth prayer gathering at 7pm.

Bible Course 2: Tuesday 6th October, 7pm. Open to everyone even if you missed the first one!

Next Week 11th October 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Peter Miller will be speaking from Judges 4. 1-24 and Hebrews 11. 32 on : **'Deborah'**. Presentation about future with Children Youth and Families.

BCP Communion at 3pm.

October 4th – 10th October - Please Pray for:

- People living in May Drive, Arbor Drive & Arbor Avenue.
- Matt supervising Becks (Foodbank) on Monday.
- Matt at St Thomas's church on Tuesday doing Harvest services for Junior & Infants.
- Helpful Bible Course on Tues for Homegroup members and others from church.
- Good relations with children & Carers at ABC.
- URGENTLY need more people to help with Sunday provision for children.
- Boldness to share Jesus at new Message Clothing Store in Sheffield.
- Alicia, Foodbank part-time fundraiser, building on £20,000 grant.
- Local officials who persecute Christians in Sudan to meet Jesus.
- Presentation about Children/Youth Family & Community Worker next Sunday (11th).

Looking Ahead:

Harvest– 17th October Harvest Social 6.30-8.30pm. Quiz, dancing and fun. **Harvest Worship** 18th October. 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.

1st November 3pm Annual Memorial Service– to remember our loved ones.

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.

The Falconer Home Visit: Please pray for Duncan & Susan Stansfield as they visit The Falconer Home, 12th to 20th October taking the hygiene bags members of the congregation generously donated. Please pray for safe travel, good health and a productive visit.



SHOPPING LIST: Please concentrate on the following - Lunch box snacks, Tinned veg, Shampoo, UHT Milk, Long-life juice, Tinned Ham/Pork, Cereal, Biscuits.