



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

6th September 2026

Genesis 2. 18-25

The First Lady



Women make up just under 50% of the global population (there are fewer women in the most populous countries of the world - India and China- but more women than men across Europe). It was not until 1994 that the Church of England ordained women as priests and the first female Bishop was consecrated in 2015. Now about one third of the stipendiary priests in the Church of England are women and more women than men are currently in training. The imbalance is shifting but the Bible presents us

with a problem.

None of the books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to female authors, and mainstream Biblical scholarship considers all explicit authors and compilers to be men. Although sparse, women are included in the Bible, beginning, of course, with Eve. This autumn we are going to be focusing on the women in the Bible, starting with Eve.

What do we know about Eve?

Formed from the rib: According to Genesis 2, God created Eve because it is "not good for the man to be alone." She is created from a rib (or side) of Adam. This is often viewed symbolically to signify equality—she was not made from his head to rule over him, nor from his foot to be trampled upon, but from his side to be a companion and equal.

The name 'Eve': Adam names her *Chawwah* (translated as Eve), which sounds similar to the Hebrew word for 'living' or 'mother of all living', because she would become the mother of all human beings. Move over Melania! Eve is the original and greatest **First Lady**! However, one of her 'firsts' was not one of which to be proud!

The first sinner: When tempted by the serpent to eat forbidden fruit, Adam is with her. It is true her free will, curiosity and desire for wisdom and knowledge meant she was the first to eat, but equally Adam made a choice to eat the fruit too, especially seeing that Eve did not drop dead as soon as she took a bite! For Eve, the consequences of this action included increased pain in childbearing and a disrupted relationship dynamic with her husband ("he shall rule over you" Genesis 3.16).

Historically, traditional theology (influenced by New Testament writings like 1 Timothy 2. 8-15) heavily blamed Eve as the primary source of the human 'Fall' and sin. However, modern Biblical scholarship and feminist theology offer an alternative understanding. They point out that Adam was standing right there with Eve, and that the story is written mainly to explain the origins of human mortality, moral conscience, and the struggles of being an agriculturally centred society.

Adam was very quick to shift the blame to Eve, and Eve to the serpent. When we are next caught doing wrong or sinning, let us ask God for the strength and humility to accept responsibility for our own actions.



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 6th September 2026:

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking about Eve as part of our new sermon series on '**The Women of Old Testament**'.

BCP Communion at 3pm: Please note this is a week early because of the exhibition.

8th September 7pm in church. NEW! Using videos and discussion groups, we shall be following the **Bible Course** from UK Bible Society. Open to everyone. All in homegroups especially encouraged to come. In future, these will be on the first Tuesday of the month.

Next Week 13th September 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking about Hagar and Sarah from Genesis 21. 8-21

September 6th – 12th – Please Pray for:

- People living in Western Circle & Ascot Parade. #
- Good listening & wise decisions at PCC on Monday – future employment.
- Helpful Reflection service after Tuesday Group meal.
- Enjoyable first of new all together Bible Course on Tuesday in church.
- National Day of Prayer for Schools on Wednesday & for Message schools work.
- Sufficient helpers for Heritage displays in church on next two weekends.
- More people to use Prayer Ministry facility after Sunday morning services.
- Chaplaincy team at HMP Mcr to be properly resourced with staff & materials.
- Peart family touring UK as a family.

Looking Ahead:

Exhibition: On Saturdays 12th and 19th September (10am-4pm) and Sundays 13th and 20th September (1-5pm), Church will be open for the Heritage Open Days exhibition: 'Please invite friends and neighbours and sign up to help for a couple of hours to help serve teas and coffees if you are free.

Steph's Last Sunday 20th September– we will have a bring and share lunch after our morning worship. Please sign up saying what you are going to bring.

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. Thanks

This Time Tomorrow: Would you be interested in being interviewed? If so, see Helen Hardy or Matt.

Marjorie Edward's Email Address : Please note Marjorie Edward's new email address is 39marjorieedwards@gmail.com. Please update your contacts accordingly.