



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

8TH DECEMBER 2024

LUKE 2. 8-18

ADVENT 2 - The Shepherds ADORE



This week's Bible passage is a very famous one.

It is, after all, the only passage in the Bible that mentions the shepherds hearing the angels' message and then going to see the new-born Jesus in Bethlehem. There is no equivalent passage in the other gospels. That almost certainly means that we will hear this passage, again, during our Carol Service and other Christmas services. Many carols mention the shepherds, many Christmas cards feature them, but there's only one

Bible passage.

Today, as part of our Advent series, we have the theme 'The Shepherds ADORE', and I want to ask the following questions:

- 1. What led the shepherds to adore Jesus?**
- 2. Do the same things lead us to adore Jesus today?**
- 3. Are there lessons here, for next year's Anniversary programme when we long for others to come and adore Jesus?**

What led the shepherds to adore Jesus?:

Firstly, they HEARD THE MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS (verses 10-14). That message, here, comes from angels. The word "*angel*" means messenger and in the Christmas story, angels bring important messages to Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds. Without the message here, there would have been no adoration.

Secondly, the message led the shepherds to FOCUS ON WHO JESUS IS. Verse 11 has the angel's message, "*Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*" This baby is their Saviour, although they wouldn't yet know how. He is their Christ (or Messiah), the one mentioned in the Old Testament, and for whom the Jews had been waiting for centuries. He is also their Lord. Wow! No wonder they adored him.

Thirdly, the angels tell them how, and where, to find Jesus (verse 12). THEY GO TO SEE JESUS THEMSELVES (verses 15-18). Seeing him leads to yet more adoration, and they, also, pass on to others the angels' message.

Do the same things lead us to adore Jesus today?:

Surely, the answer is yes. We need to hear the message about Jesus. This could be directly from the scriptures, or via a Christian messenger. We need to focus on who Jesus is, and we can know more about Jesus as our Saviour. He died for us, that we might be saved.

Finally, we can come to meet Jesus. It may not be a physical 'seeing' with our eyes, but we can come to meet him personally.

On a pulpit I once saw the words, "*Sir, we would like to see Jesus*" (*John 12:21*). Nowadays, we also have female preachers, but whoever preaches, let's remember that people want, and need, to see Jesus.

Are there lessons here, for next year's Anniversary programme when we long for others to come and adore Jesus?:

Again, the answer is yes. We need to proclaim the message about Jesus, who he is, what he has done for us, and how people can meet him. We could even take them to meet him, and then adore him together.



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 8th December 2024:

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am. Roger Dixon will be preaching from Luke 2. 8-18 on the theme: **The Shepherds ADORE.**

3pm BCP Communion

Vivaldi Ensemble Concert: Sunday 8th December, 6-7.30pm at St Marks Church, Levenshulme. Mozart and Mince Pies, all free!

Family Carols- 14th December, 3pm. We have a theme of stars and are asking for those who bake to make some star biscuits. See Matt if you can help.

Next Week 15th December 2024:

Family Communion Service at 10.30am. Peter Miller will be preaching from Hebrews 1.1-14. on the theme: **The Angels ADORE.**

Tuesday group Carols- 17th Dec, at about 1.45pm.

Carols at Dahlia– 18th December 6.30pm. Singers needed. Sign up in Church.

December 8th to 14th, Please Pray for: .

- People living in Overlea Drive, Edgedale Avenue, Northolme Gardens & Southolme Gardens.
- Matt doing first Peer Review for a clergy person's ministerial review on Monday.
- Antipoverty meeting on Wednesday with Matt attending.
- Matt & Jane meeting Foodbank Project Manager on Wed to support her performance.
- Good turnout & meaningful time at Family Carol Service on Saturday.
- Secret believers in North Korea to be able to meet without discovery.
- Advent sermons around word “Adore” to deepen our adoration of Jesus.
- Successful & rapid completion of the irrigation project at Falconer Home.

Looking Ahead:

Christmas Eve: 24th, Family Special at **3pm**, Carols and Quiet Communion at **7pm**.

Christmas Day: 25th, Family Communion: at **10.30am**

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 Reddis

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