



St Margaret's Church

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

In Contact

18th May 2025

I CORINTHIANS 11. 23-26

CELEBRATING COMMUNION



What does Communion mean to you? Is it an essential part of your Christian worship? Do you miss it when you do not have it? Has it become so familiar to you that it is no longer special?

Communion literally means “together as one” and shares its roots with the word “community”. We use different names to describe it: breaking bread, the Lord’s Supper (a continuation of the Last Supper), Mass (actually a nickname drawn from the last words of the Roman Catholic Communion service in Latin)

or the Eucharist (Greek word for “Thanksgiving”). All these different names add something to our understanding. At Communion, we come together as one with those who are gathered in church, recognise that we are one with the world-wide church and one with God. We break bread as Jesus did at the Last Supper and share the bread and wine to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave his body and blood for us on the cross. So of course, this should lead to thanksgiving.

Communion began as an oral tradition, initially shared in homes, with its clear central symbolic elements of bread and wine. The first words written down about Communion are not in the Gospels but are in 1 Corinthians 11. 17-34 as Paul gives instructions to a new church as to how Communion should be conducted. He reminds them of what he has received (v23-25). It is not a meal to feast on, but symbolic food to share. It is about unity and fairness. They are to wait for one another and to examine themselves before taking it (v.28). This is why Confession is a part of the service as we get right with God. The Peace is getting right with one another. But maybe before we come to church or receive Communion, we all need to stop, examine ourselves, get right with others and God? This is a good spiritual discipline on any Sunday before coming to church, but perhaps even more so when it comes to Communion.

There have been shifts in Church of England practise of Communion. Many of us would have grown up with Morning Prayer being the main service and Communion a rarer, special service. Then there was a move to have Communion at every main morning service, perhaps to be more like the Roman Catholics, but also to emphasize the central importance of the symbolic meal. With a reduction in ordained priests, there is now a move back to Morning Prayer as the main service. And Covid caused us to think about the practicalities of offering the bread and wine afresh.

There is an expectation that people should be confirmed as Anglicans before receiving Communion. I am of the view that this is the Lord’s table and if people want to come, they should. At the Communion table, we meet with the risen Lord Jesus and feed on him in a deep and profound way *as we proclaim his death until he comes again* (v.26).



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Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

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

This week- Sunday 18th May 2025 :

Family Communion at 10.30am. Matt/ Steph will be speaking from I Corinthians 11. 23-26 on the theme: '**Celebration of Communion**'.

7pm Prayer Gathering to focus on the Church Life Report 2025 in church.

Next Week 25th May 2025:

Morning Worship at 10.30am. Peter Miller will be speaking from Acts 9. 1-19(20-31) on the theme: '**Saul's Conversion.**'

CW Communion at 3pm

Vocation Support Group meeting. Here at St Maragaret's. **Wednesday 21st at 7pm.**

Speaking is Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden, Dean of Emmanuel Theological College. The purpose of the Vocation Support Group is to meet with others in Manchester Diocese who are currently exploring vocation, and to share our experience of the journey

May 18th – 24th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Green End Road & Broadlea Road.
- Good listening and wise decisions at new PCC on Monday.
- Matt & Jane at a formal appraisal meeting with FoodBank Manager on Wednesday.
- Help at ABC to build on the connections made over Easter.
- Growth in the Music Group involving children & young people.
- TearFund & partners helping those in need in Gaza, West Bank & Lebanon.
- God to protect migrant Christians in Libya from militant extremists.

Looking Ahead:

1st June– Burnage Open Gardens with Bud– we have been asked to do refreshments from 1pm-4pm. See Matt if you can help serving for one of the hour long slots or can bake a cake or biscuits. Sign up List in church.

21st June– Victorian Themed Summer Fair 2-4pm. Helpers needed. See Catherine or Angela.

Our Giving to Mission Partners– following a request at last year's APCM, this was reviewed but we failed to communicate back to the whole church. **A** mission partners (getting roughly £1900 each in 2025) was reduced to 4 - CMS, IEM, Tear Fund and The Falconer Trust. The number of **B** mission partners (receiving £1000 each in 2025) remains at 4 - Barnabus, The Message Trust, Burnage Foodbank and Open Doors, We no longer support Dignity or Boaz Trust. The January PCC meeting will review the amounts allocated to A & B in light of the amount available to be allocated based on the previous year's income. This will ensure the levels allocated to A & B mission partners is kept under annual review.



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.