



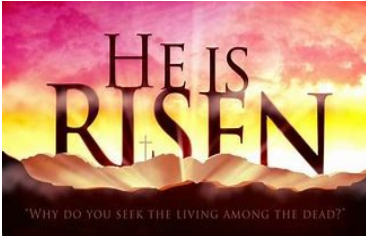
# St Margaret's Church

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

**In Contact Double issue 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**LUKE 24. 1 –12**

## **EASTER SUNDAY– He is not here**



Have you ever arranged to see a friend and they do not show up? These days with mobile phones, it should be less likely, but people have phones on silent, dead batteries, weak signal or just don't pick up. How does it feel? There may be frustration and annoyance. You may worry that something has happened to them. Or you may just be reconciled to the fact that this is who they are. One thing is for

sure, whoever it is, is not here!

Now imagine how the women heading to the tomb early in the morning felt. They went with deep sadness, but resolved to do what they could not do on the Friday before the Sabbath - anoint the body of Jesus properly. Then: shock! The stone was rolled away. They were perplexed. Surely this is the right tomb? Then 2 men in dazzling clothes before them saying: "He is not here." The women think: *"Of course He is. We saw Him die and His body placed in this tomb. This is a graveyard. His body has to be here!"*

*"He has risen". Don't be silly. That does not happen. "Remember his words from Galilee." Which words? He spoke so many. Oh, the ones about being handed over to sinners, being crucified and on the third day rise again. Yes. Twice before we left Galilee, Jesus said this (see Luke 9. 21-22 and 43-45). And today is the third day. Has he really risen? If so, where is He? Not in the graveyard for sure. "Don't look for the living among the dead."*

Knowing the story so well, it's hard for us to imagine what it was like for those who first experienced the resurrection; to begin to realise that "He is not here. He has risen." These women had an appointment with a dead body. They certainly were not expecting a no-show! From our perspective now, "He is not here. He has risen" means for us:

- Death is defeated
- Eternal life is ours
- New life can be experienced right now
- All that was said about what happened through the cross can be trusted. We are forgiven. We are free from guilt and sin. We have an open and restored relationship with God.

When the women returned to the 11 disciples, they did not believe them. We can appreciate why. I imagine "He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" was far from their thoughts and lips, but knowing what we know now, let those Alleluias flow freely today!



Matt Calladine

### **Still to come in HOLY WEEK:**

**Holy Saturday on 19<sup>th</sup> April**, Easter crafts workshop at 10am-12noon.

**7 at 7– Holy Saturday at 7pm:** 30 minutes using symbolic material from the Easter Vigil. We start outside church with a fire. Come dressed appropriately.

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## **Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4***

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

### **This week- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 :**

**Easter Sunday, Family Communion at 10.30am. Matt will be speaking from Luke 24. 1 –12 on the theme: He's not here.**

### **Next Week 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Day of Prayer for Growth**

**Morning Worship with a short Communion at 10.30am.** Peter Miller will be speaking from Luke 24: 13-35

**APCM after the Morning Service around 12 noon.**

**CW Communion at 3pm**

**Prayer Service at 7pm.**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Thornfield Road, Rosevale Avenue, Holcombe Gardens & Oasis Close.
- Joy for all persecuted Christians as they celebrate Christ's resurrection.
- Continuation on Tuesday at Creative Prayer of Celebration of God's goodness.
- Useful period of leave for Matt from Tuesday to Friday.
- Preparations for the APCM next Sunday (27th).
- Barnabus to get more rough sleepers into permanent housing.
- Work of "Message" in Canada, Germany and South Africa.
- TearFund encouraging people to lobby MP's about reduced overseas aid allocation.
- Funeral of Brenda Morris in church at 11.30am Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Westcroft Road, Southbank Road, Southlea Road, Kingsway Crescent & Woodbray Avenue.
- ◆ Good advertising & uptake for Star Wars service next Sunday (4th).
- ◆ God's love to be present at ABC with thanks for new families & links to church.
- ◆ Women abroad who become Christians after marriage facing divorce or loss of their children.
- ◆ All to come to church expecting God to meet with them & speak to them.
- ◆ Good appointment of a new Free Church Chaplain at HMP M/c.
- ◆ Continuing good health and wellbeing for all at the Falconer Home.
- ◆ 55 groups in W Uganda able to access Dignity discipleship materials in Lukhonzoo

### **Looking Ahead:**

**4<sup>th</sup> May** - May the Fourth be with us- Star Wars themed all-aged service at 10.30am

**1<sup>st</sup> June**- Burnage Open Gardens with Bud- we have been asked to do refreshments in the afternoon. See Matt if you can help serving or can bake a cake or biscuits.



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.**