



St Margaret's Church

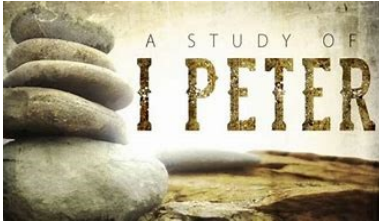
Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

20TH OCTOBER 2024

1 PETER 3. 8-22

SUFFERING FOR DOING RIGHT



Each year Open Doors (an organisation supported by St Margaret's) produces a "World Watch List". It shows a ranking of fifty countries where the persecution of Christians is most extreme. Persecution can lead to being a secret Christian (not even allowed to own a Bible), harassment, abuse or murder. Some Christians have escaped to safer

countries. Open Doors produce a map showing the areas of the world where there are high levels of persecution.



When Peter wrote the letter which includes today's reading, he was writing to persecuted Christians who had been scattered into what we now know as Turkey. Their location can also be shown on a map. They were "suffering for doing right" and he shows ways in which they should live in that situation.

In verse 9 he writes about 'blessing'. "Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but on the contrary repay with a blessing" he continues "that you might inherit a blessing". They are to bless others and they will receive a blessing. The word for 'blessing' in the original New Testament language is the word from which we get our word 'eulogy'. That is a speech or tribute given at a funeral about someone who has died. On those occasions we often learn things about the deceased we didn't know. Usually lots of good things are said about the person. That is an attitude to have to persecutors while they are still alive.

Peter mentions some of those attitudes.

Unity of spirit – with one another to give support. Praying for persecuted Christians is a way of showing unity with them.

Sympathy – the English word which comes from two Greek words meaning "with pathos". This is an attempt to share someone's suffering.

Love – will motivate our attitudes and actions.

Compassion – which is expressed not simply in duty but with our emotions.

Humility – shown by willingness to take a lower role to help someone.

Speech – not speaking evil or deceit.

Seeking peace – with those who oppose Christians.

Sanctifying Christ as Lord – remembering He is in ultimate control.

On what must be a lesser level we may face opposition particularly if under pressure to compromise Christian principles. We can pray that we might demonstrate those attitudes listed. We can show our unity of spirit and love to 365 million Christians world-wide, who like the Christians to whom Peter wrote are also facing persecution by praying for them and so we too "inherit a blessing".



Alan Pugmire

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 20th October 2024:

Family Communion at 10.30am. Alan Pugmire will be preaching from 1 Peter 3. 8-22 on the theme: **‘Suffering for Doing Right’** .

Next Week 27th October 2024:

Morning Worship at 10.30am. Peter Miller will be preaching from 1 Peter 4.1-11 on the theme: **‘Living for God’** .

CW Communion at 3pm.

October 20th to 26th, Please Pray for: .

- People living in Jersey Close, Alexandra Drive & Roseleigh Avenue.
- Matt meeting Area Dean & other Mission Community leaders on Tuesday.
- 150 years task group meeting on Wednesday to progress advertising and the launch.
- Burnage Residents Association meeting on Thursday.
- Those in power around the world to act to help persecuted Christians in Africa.
- Sermon series on 1 Peter to help us to learn more about being a disciple of Jesus.
- Livestock farmers in Ethiopia who have lost cattle due to drought to find new income.
- Matt preaching at St Peter’s next Sunday (27th).

Looking Ahead:

Review of giving to Charities by church: if you are interested in being in a small task group to review this, then please see Angela Stansfield.

Clocks: Please remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour next Saturday 26th, so you don't arrive really early to church!



Light Party: On 31st October, 5-6.30pm for families with under 12s, 7-8.30pm for youth (12+).

Remembrance Sunday: On 10th November, meet at the lychgate at 10.15am.

Annual Memorial Service: 17th November at 3pm.

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.



MOST NEEDED: Please concentrate on Long life milk, Long life fruit juice, Chicken, Corned Beef and Ham plus some Sugar.