



# St Margaret's Church

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

**In Contact**

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Deuteronomy 6. 4 - 9**

## **NICENE CREED**



We believe science has all the answers. We believe in aliens from other planets. We believe in ourselves and our ability to solve all our own problems. People believe in all sorts of things, but what do Christians believe?

In our church worship we use Creeds (from the Latin 'Credo' which means 'I believe') and affirmations of faith. The Creeds are historic formularies (a collection of agreed words). They were formed by great church councils which took place from the first century onwards. For example, the Apostles' Creed evolved from early second century baptismal confessions. The church was battling many different heresies; some denying the divinity of Jesus, some about how our bodies do not matter, only our spirits, and many around the Trinity: how can One God be three persons?

So the great church councils met to argue (and sometimes physically fights broke out) through these issues and come up with set words to clarify what Christians believe. One of these councils met in Nicaea (now Iznik in Turkey) in 325 A.D. From this meeting, the Nicene Creed was formulated (although it was revised several times until it was fixed in 381 A.D.). This means that, in the year we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this Creed is 1700 years old. So we thought it would be good to look at the Nicene Creed up to near Christmas and at what it teaches us.

Our first lesson is that this Creed does not begin "I believe". It is our belief as a Church: shared, preserved and cherished. When one of us is wrestling with doubts or is going through a tough time, the Church (God's children) still believes.

Then it goes on to state categorically that there is ONE God. The early church developed in a time when surrounding cultures had many gods. This One God is revealed to us as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, we hold in tension, celebrate and worship the mystery that is the Trinity.

Having One God reminds us that there are no others. He is the only One. His name is holy. We should worship no other gods. In our world today, where we do not experience people actively worshipping idols, it is easy to think that this is not a problem for us. But an idol is anything that distracts us from worshipping the One True God. It could be money, fame, family, self-reliance, a hobby, food, a football team, or anything that can become more important to us than the One God.

Next in the Nicene Creed, we are taken to the One God being our Father and Almighty. This shows us relationship and power, intimacy and awe, belonging and security. We wonder at how the God of all might can also be our "Daddy". This should lead to praise and worship.

So as we embark on this journey through the Nicene Creed, let us grow in our understanding of the One God in whom we believe, and let us examine ourselves to see if anything has become an 'idol' to us, preventing us from worshipping God alone.



## Bible Verse for 2025: *Philippians 4.4*

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

### **This week- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 :**

**Holy Communion at 10.30am.** Matt will be speaking from Deuteronomy 6.4-9 & Psalm 103.8-17 on the theme: **'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty.'**

**Alpha Course:** starting **8<sup>th</sup> September**. Sign up list in church for those wishing to attend. If you are interested in being part of the team delivering this (serving at meals, cooking meals, leading a small group) please speak to Matt.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Reflection: 1.30pm, around our sense of smell.**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>: 1.30pm, Funeral of Evelyn Grayshon in church.**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>: Barney and Karen Madden come to church to renew their vows at 4.30pm.**

### **Next Week 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025:**

**Morning Worship at 10.30am.** Peter Miller will be speaking on the theme: **'Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'**

**BCP Communion at 3pm**

### **September 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:**

- People living in Western Circle & Ascot Parade.
- Good relationships, searching questions & hearts ready to receive at Alpha Course.
- Helpful discussion on Tuesday as the team review the Holiday Special event in July.
- Tuesday afternoon Reflections service on our sense of smell.
- Members of the Youth Club to join the Youth Alpha course.
- Funeral of Evelyn Grayshon in church on Thursday.
- Government in North Korea to release Christians imprisoned for their faith.
- Schools working well after the restart and for those in new schools or college.
- Barney & Karen Madden renewing their vows on Saturday in church.
- St John's Heaton Mersey celebrating 175 years this weekend (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>).
- Wise decisions at Friends of IEM Trustees meeting on Sat with Pearl & Chris.

### **Looking Ahead:**

**This Time Tomorrow:** you may have heard others being interviewed in church and asked about what they are doing this time tomorrow and how we can pray for you. Would you be interested in being interviewed? If so, see Helen Hardy or Matt.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September:** Please pray for Megan Stansfield as she marries Sam Michell here.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Remembering our Pets– a service in church at 3pm for those who have lost pets as part of our 150th events.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October:** a harvest social 6.30pm-9pm.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October–** our Harvest Celebration with donations to Burnage Foodbank.

*Prayer meetings at St Margaret's: Monday: 7.00 -7.45pm: on ZOOM / Thursday at 7.30-8.15am in Errwood Room.*



Burnage Tesco, Burnage Library  
(when open) and Asda Reddish

**URGENTLY NEEDED: Please concentrate on Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Sweet Corn/Peas, Tinned Carrots/Potatoes, Tinned Corned beef/ham, Long life Fruit juice/ Long life Semi milk, Tea/ Coffee, Tinned Fruit/ Custard, Jam/Peanut butter, Shampoo.**