



# St Margaret's Church

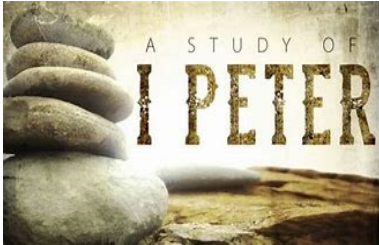
Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

## In Contact

22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

**1 PETER 2. 1-10**

### LIVING STONES



I am not a geologist but I like stones. I love it when you can find flat stones by water to skim across the sea or a lake surface. I have picked up stones from different places to remind me of being there. Some Cumbrian green slate or a bit of solidified volcanic lava from Mount Etna can be found in my garden. They carry memories and they are going to last.

No wonder in the Bible, people are often setting up stones as ways of remembering what God has done. In our look through the Old Testament, we saw the Israelites picking up 12 stones from the bottom of the river Jordan as they crossed it. And of course stone, because it is hard and long lasting, was used to build Solomon's temple.

Now Peter, whose name means "rock", treats us to 6 uses of the word "stone" in just 5 verses and throws in a "rock" for good measure. He quotes from Isaiah 28.16 and 8.14 and uses Psalm 118.22 (this psalm is often read on Palm Sunday with its predictions of the Messiah's triumphal entry). To a Hebrew reader there is also a word play going on as the word for son (ben) is very similar to the word for stone (eben).

In chapter 1, Peter shows Jesus as our living hope and encourages us to respond to this with holy living, which would mean ridding ourselves of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind (2. 1). But he wants us to go deeper and get the nourishment we need (pure spiritual milk) which is found in Jesus, God's Son, who is our living stone. He is the rejected stone which has become the cornerstone - the one to which all the others are aligned. Not everyone will be able to accept the Son/stone and will stumble and fall because of Him (v.8).

The most significant building for Jews at that time was the temple in Jerusalem - a rebuild on a less grand scale from Solomon's temple but still impressive. But its stones, as predicted by Jesus (Mark 13.2), were pulled apart by the Romans in A.D. 70. Peter tells us that the Son, the living stone, is building us into a spiritual house/ temple. This one cannot be destroyed. The church, as living stones, will last forever. Buildings may go, but the people who make up the church will go to be with Jesus. We have become Israel in fulfilment of the prophecy: "I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God' (Hosea 2.23)". So all of those phrases usually assigned to Israel are applied to us as the living stones - chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession (2.9).

As living stones, strong and supporting one another, Peter wants us to know the profound truth that we are now God's people tasked with declaring the praises of our God to our nation and generation.



Matt Calladine

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024:**

**Morning Worship at 10.30am.** Matt will be preaching from 1 Peter 2. 1-10 on the theme: ‘ **Living Stones** ’.

**CW Communion at 2pm.**

**Shobana & Nelson, mission workers in I.E.M:** will be joining us & sharing something of their work in India on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September. After the service, there will be a Church Lunch.

### **Next Week 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**

**Morning Worship with Prayer for Healing at 10.30am.** Roger Dixon will be preaching from 1 Peter 2. 11-25 on the theme: ‘**Living as God’s Servants**’.

### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, Please Pray for:** .

- People living in Epsom Avenue, Hatfield Avenue & Winslow Place.
- Prayer Ministry team meeting on Monday to review and plan for the future.
- A helpful Creative Prayer event on Tuesday.
- Wisdom at Friends of IEM Trustees meeting on Saturday (including Pearl & Chris).
- All who come to church to expect God to meet with them and speak to them.
- Foodbank facing funding issues as running costs far exceed income.
- Wisdom for commissioning the first work from the architect’s report.
- Christian women in Pakistan forced to work in poor conditions in factories.
- Bolivian church leaders Bishop Walter Toro & Pastor Franklin in Santa Cruz.

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Harvest Hot Pot Supper: On Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm** in the Parish Centre. Volunteers to make hot pots- list in church. Everyone else, bring sweets & puds.

**Harvest: On October 6<sup>th</sup>,** with physical donations to Burnage Foodbank and monetary gifts in special envelopes also to them.

**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.

*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](http://www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk)*

*Come and join us for tea or coffee after the service.*



**MOST NEEDED: In August, please concentrate on Tinned Chicken, Corned Beef and Ham plus some Sugar.**