

M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (Ephesians 6.10)

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our first newsletter, which we will try to produce each week, during times when we're unable to hold services and meet together in our usual way.

We know that in the current circumstances many will be feeling isolated and anxious. Ian and myself, as well as Carol Corney and her pastoral team are ringing around to make contact with as many of you as we can. We're gradually working our way through our lists,, so if we haven't made contact with you yet, then bear with us! As we chat to people we are finding out how people are coping generally and what local support they have. If anyone needs any specific help we are making a note of this and Carol is pairing people up with those who can offer practical help within the confines of the restrictions we face. We're also creating a list of those able to offer help, as well as those who are willing to be 'phone friends' and simply keep in touch with others on a regular basis for a chat.

In the meantime, if you are in need of help, please do let us know right away by calling or e-mailing the Church Office (details below). Messages are being picked up.

We have also produced some prayer and worship materials you can use at home and we will be exploring ways of gathering on-line to worship together. For those not on-line, perhaps you could phone a friend and use these materials together over the phone. Also for those not on-line, we hope to produce some CDs with prayers you can use each day. Again, do bear with us as we get these materials out to those who need them.

These might be difficult times; but we have a great God, who is with us wherever we are. He sees us and hears our prayers and he is faithful.

God bless and stay safe,

Catherine



News from the Foodbank

Thank you so much to those who have still been trying to get things for the Foodbank, even when shopping has been a challenge. It is really appreciated and much needed. Do keep checking the Foodbank website to see what is most urgently needed.

The local supermarkets are being really helpful and the Rotary Club are helping with pick-ups. Some local businesses which have had to close have also donated unused food. Joules Brewery are helping deliver packages to Foodbank clients and the Town Council are also helping. In particular, the Foodbank Volunteers have been amazing. Those who are still able are coming to the Parish Rooms to process and package food and other urgently needed supplies, while Helen McSherry continues to organise things from isolation at home.

Thank you to all those involved in keeping the Foodbank up and running during this difficult time.

Something to make you smile....

It was a quiet Monday morning in September 2053, when John awoke with a need to go to the bathroom. To John this wasn't just any ordinary day! This was the day he would open the last package of toilet paper his parents bought in the year 2020.

On-line and Broadcast Prayer and Worship Resources

Looking for ideas and ways of praying and worshipping at home? Here are some useful links:

Prayer resources from the Church of England:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Information on radio stations and on churches that are streaming services:
<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information/online-worship-and-resources/>

Check out what the BBC are offering over Easter:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/easter>

Particularly:

Good Friday Meditation BBC Radio 4, 3.00-3.30pm
Baptist minister the Revd Richard Littledale presents a personal reflection for Good Friday and considers why Christians see beauty and love in an instrument of torture central to their faith - the cross.

Good Friday BBC Radio 2 8.00-10.00pm At the Foot of the Cross: The Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir and Euphony Voices offer an assortment of spiritual and traditional music, with a dramatic retelling of the Crucifixion and the events leading up to it, written and narrated by author Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Presented by Dan Walker

Easter Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4, 8.10-9.00am
In a specially-compiled studio service, pre-recorded close to transmission, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads a meditation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Also times to be confirmed...

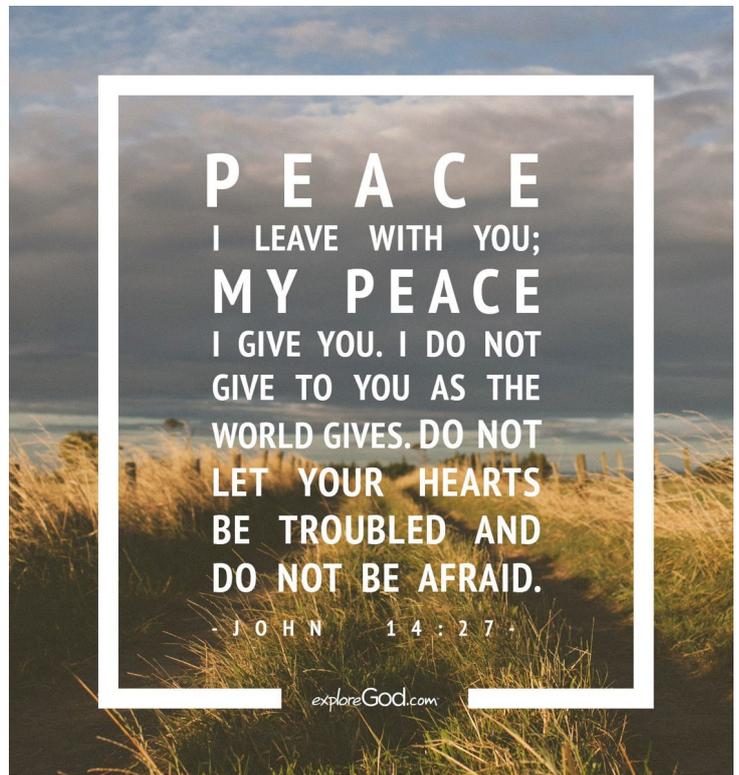
Easter from Kings BBC 2

Easter Sunday Worship from Bangor Cathedral BBC 1

Prayer Requests



Is there anything or anyone that you would like us all to be praying for? Let us know. You needn't give us any details if you don't wish to; it could be as simple as someone's name.



Good News Stories

It would be great to be able to spread some joy during this difficult time. If you have a good news story to share, maybe something God has been doing in your life, or something you have been learning over the past few days that has really encouraged you, then please share it with us. Let the Church Office know and we'll include it here.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar

E-mail: vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.