

M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter

1st May 2020



*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full (John 10.10)*

Hello Everyone,

I wonder what a full life means to you?

At the moment it feels as if life is very restricted. We can't go to places we usually go to and do the things we usually do. Perhaps we can't be with the people we really want to be with. Maybe you're having days when it feels like the walls are closing in and there's only so much Netflix you can watch. Life feels reduced and constrained and anything but full.

There is research to show that when a community faces a tough time, there is an initial period of heroic effort where everyone pulls together and enthusiastically focusses on what needs to be done. There is also a well-recognised phase, where it becomes harder to sustain that initial level of effort and enthusiasm wanes and energy flags. That's natural and it's OK if you feel a bit like that.

So perhaps, some six weeks into lockdown, now is a good time to remind ourselves that fullness of life is something that Jesus offers us and it's a fullness which has nothing to do with whether we are cooped up indoors or not, or whether we can mix with all our friends and family or not. It's not even about whether we are superhumanly shopping for our neighbours, whilst home-schooling the kids *and* at the same time managing to work from home.

Jesus' fullness of life is about an unshakeable peace, despite the constant barrage of bad news; it's a deep-down, quiet sense of joy, despite the sadness around us; it's about a stronger love in our hearts for one another, even when others are driving us crazy; it's about having a certain hope that all things will work for good through Him.

As we take time to listen for his voice, may He lead us into that place of fullness, even in lockdown.

Catherine

Thanks

Helen & David Smith would like to express their thanks for all the cards, gifts and good wishes they received for their Golden Wedding. They had a really good 'Zoom' meeting with their family in the afternoon.

Good News

Some of us have been praying for John Vincent following his operation and subsequent chemotherapy for stomach cancer. The wonderful news is he has just been given the 'all clear'. There are no further signs of the cancer and he doesn't need to see his consultant for six months.

UCB Daily Notes

The UCB daily Bible reflections are now in a box (plastic with a lid!) just outside the Vicarage front door, if you want to come and help yourself. There are copies of both Word for Today and Word for You, covering May, June and July. If you know of a neighbour who would normally take one of these, perhaps you could pick up a copy for them too. If you would normally take a copy, but can't get out or get someone to pick up a copy for you, then please let our vicar, Catherine McBride, know.



Market Drayton Foodbank would like to thank everyone for their help, support and prayers during this

difficult time. They still need food/ money donations so if you can help please visit their website at <https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am.

Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services please contact the Church Office. It is also possible to join the meetings by phone. If you would like details of how to do this then please contact the Church Office.

Sunday Morning 10.30am

These services are alternating between a Breaking of the Bread service and a Morning Worship service.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

The readings for this Sunday are:

Acts 2.42-end and John 10.1-10

Wednesday Morning Prayer 10.00am—a short informal service lasting about 30 minutes

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm

Please note new Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUzUJjMDRnTGhInIFPejRlTW5Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 2KrMnH



Prayer Requests



Please pray for those who have recently lost loved one. We particularly pray for the families of Bill Hodgett, Norman Manuel and John Simpson Brandon.

Please pray for those researchers working to find a vaccine for COVID-19, that God would bless and speed their efforts in a miraculous way.

Pray for wisdom for our Government as they seek to determine the best timing and process for ending the lockdown.

Online Choir

Graham Kendrick, renowned composer of worship music, has written 'A Little Bit of Love Goes a Long, Long Way', for use by choirs at the 2.6 Challenge event last weekend. The 2.6 Challenge saw events and activities all over the country supporting charities who are missing out on all their usual sources of fundraising.

Elaine Cook challenged one of her online school choirs to create a virtual performance of the song, to raise funds for Hope House hospice, who support terminally ill children and bereaved families. Everyone learned their parts and recorded them at home. Elaine then compiled all the audio tracks and one of the students put together the videos.

The end result can be seen at:

<https://www.facebook.com/songbirdsandswans/videos/1053390768380044/>

Donations for Hope House can be made via:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AdamsOnlineChoir>

All donations made under the 2.6 Challenge will be match funded by the government.

Even if you do not wish to or are unable to donate, please listen and enjoy the song.

Deanery VE Day Service

There will be a Deanery VE Day service at 10.30 on Friday 8th May. This will be live streamed on Facebook and Youtube via the Cheswardine Benefice Website (www.theunitedbenefice.com). The link to the Youtube video channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMuYu-V3381Gn9HgE66NYjg>

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: stmarysmarketdrayton@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.