

M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter

15th May 2020



The God who made the world and everything in it

Hello Everyone,

In no small part, I suppose, we have St Paul to thank for the spread of Christianity into Europe. Maybe we ourselves wouldn't be worshipping Jesus today if it were not for him. Paul's faith was outward-looking; he was constantly looking out beyond the boundaries of his own community and culture to see where the fertile ground was for him to sow the seeds of the gospel.

Paul was an astute, yet prayerful, observer and he used what he saw to build bridges into new mission fields. His experience in Athens is a text-book case. He got to know the city and hung out with the locals. He got to know a bit about how they thought and what were the major influences in their lives and he ends up at the equivalent of the Athenian Debating Society, the Areopagus. There he talks to them about their own beliefs and quotes their own poets to them, whilst at the same time introducing them to the God who is the Lord of heaven and earth.

Being outward-looking is an important value to practice as a Christian community hoping to reach out to those around us with the good news of Christ. I hope it is one that we at St Mary's seek to embrace.

Some of you may recall at last autumn's congregational meeting we began to think about the values that we feel characterise our church family, as well as some characteristics that are more challenging and perhaps need some work. A team of us have been working prayerfully with the feedback from that meeting to identify those values we feel capture who we are as a church and who we want to be; values which will provide a good foundation for the ministries we have, as well as new things God may want us to do.

It might not surprise you that being outward-looking is a one of the important values that has emerged from this process.

Over the next few weeks we'll be updating the PCC and after Pentecost we will begin a sermon series to unpack this and our other St Mary's values. We'll be providing some material for personal and homegroup use to go along with the sermon series, which I would really encourage everyone to use.

I hope I've intrigued you and whetted your appetite and that you're as excited as me to see how God can use our church, as he used Paul, to grow his kingdom.

Catherine

Birthday Thanks

Avril, our church warden, would like to thank everyone for all the good wishes, cards and messages she received for her birthday last Sunday. They were all very warmly received.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Tinned Fruit	Cat and Dog Food
Custard	Rice Pudding
Toothpaste	UHT or Fresh Milk
Cartons of fresh or long-life Fruit Juice	
Sponge Puddings / Slab Cakes	
Biscuits	Laundry Washing Powder/ Liquid
Shampoo	Men's Toiletries for Shaving

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.

Lent Appeal 2020

This year's Lent Appeal raised the following
£251 for Friends of KCMC
£161 for Children of the Dump
£20 for the Bishop's Lent Appeal

Thank you to all those who donated to these good causes.

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, or want to know how you can join in by phone please contact the Church Office.

Sunday Morning 10.30am (Morning Worship)

These services are alternating between a Breaking 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 17.22-31 and John 14.15-21

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 details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINlFPejRLTW5Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 2KrMnH

Zoom Upgrade

Zoom have been upgrading their system in the light of the increased usage, including adding some extra security features. This means that when you log on you may be asked to allow it to install the updated software before it will allow you into a meeting. It might, therefore, be worth giving yourself a bit of extra time when you next intend to join a service to allow for this.

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.

Churches Together Men's Prayer Hour

Men, join us on Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm for an hour of prayer. Please feel free to contact me about topics that we should pray over. Join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the link below. God Bless, Justin Frankfort.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341135635>



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide prayer initiative running for the 10 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. We are encouraged to pray for our communities and in particular to pray for five people we know, that they would come to know the Lord.

Here's how you can join in this year:

Check out the **TKC website** for resources: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

You can join our **Deanery Ascension Day Service** at 9.00am on Thursday 21st May.

You can watch **Daily Reflections** from our local **Market Drayton Churches Together** which will go live each day at 9.00am (including Bishop Sarah on Pentecost Sunday):

The Ascension Day service and Reflections can be found at the following links, where they will remain after going live:

YouTube Channel- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMuYu-V3381Gn9HgE66NYjg>

YouTube Playlist for Thy Kingdom Come- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhsTZcn46JG5PSWLK0vx2RKDx0I_12ORn

You can join **Shropshire Hope** to form a prayer wave across our county as part of a 24/7 Prayer initiative. There will be a particular focus on North Shropshire from 7.00am Sunday 24th May to 7.00am Monday 25th May.

You can sign-up online to book a time slot to pray:

<http://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/9558ec>

Prayer Requests

Please pray for those who have recently lost loved ones. We particularly pray for James Harvey, Helen Hughes and the family and friends of Ronald Sweeting.

Please pray for our wonderful pastoral team and all those who have been keeping in touch by phone and helping others in practical ways during this period of lockdown.