

# M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter

5th June 2020



*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13.14)*

## **Hello Everyone,**

This time last year I asked the question, 'How do you find it easiest to relate to God?'

'Do you find it easiest to think of him as Father? For you, is he the Creator and sustainer of all life; is he the ruler of the heavens; is he the one who is your rock, your security; your stronghold; your shelter?

Or is it the Son, Jesus, you gravitate towards: your friend, brother, Redeemer, Saviour; your example and role model?

Or perhaps for you the idea of God as Holy Spirit is the most natural: God's dynamic, gift-giving, enabling and indwelling presence.

We probably all find we favour one of these more than the others, maybe without even knowing it and perhaps for very understandable reasons. But we can see how favouring one understanding of God over the others can give us a very unbalanced theology of the God we worship.

He *is* the God of creation, but he is also the God of our salvation and the God of our ongoing sanctification; he *is* the ruler of the heavens, but he is also the incarnate God *and* the indwelling God.

Jesus *is* indeed our brother and friend, but he is also Lord and all things were created through him and for him and because all the fulness of God dwelt in him, he was able to reconcile us to himself through the cross.

The Holy Spirit *is* the indwelling presence of God, but he is also God who brooded over the unformed earth in the beginning; he is God who conceived the Son in Mary's womb and led the Son in his earthly ministry. He is the Spirit of God *and* the Spirit of Christ and by the Spirit both the Father and Son make their home with us.

Understanding that we worship a God who is one God in three persons gives us a balanced understanding of who he is and also who we are.

To understand that we are made in the image of 'One God in Community' is to understand that we are invited into that relationship of love that exists between Father, Son and Spirit and to understand that we are made for relationship and community with one another.'

A year on and it is that final thought that has been playing on my mind.

Perhaps, as we've all suffered the effects of isolation to some extent, we appreciate more just how much the Son sacrificed, when he chose to leave that intimate community with his Father and the Spirit to be here with us. Worshiping the Triune God means we know we have a God who understands what the ache of separation feels like.

Understanding that we reflect our Creator's image, in that we too are made for community and relationship, also underlines how important it is to do all we can to maintain our sense of connectedness. So thank you, again, to all those of you who are visiting (at a distance!), phoning, sending notes and cards and generally helping others. Those contacts are so important and I know that I, for one, am so grateful to know that people are thinking of me.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Catherine*

## **Prayer Requests**



Please pray for Fiona Pluse, whose father died recently, and for all those who have recently been bereaved, including the families and friends of William Harvey, Ronald Sweeting, Edna Allman and Yvonne Sutcliffe.

## 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.

### Sunday Morning 10.30am (Breaking Bread)

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

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

The readings for this Sunday are: 2 Corinthians 13.11-end; Matthew 28.16-20

**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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZWJjMDRnTGhInIFPejRlTW5XZDz09>

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 2KrMnH

If you would be willing to read or do the intercessions for our compline services do let Ian Macfarlane know.

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240  
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

## Woodcroft

Many thanks to those who have donated toiletries for the residents at Woodcroft. If you would still like to donate something you can leave items at the Vicarage.

Please leave items in the plastic box by the Vicarage front door.



## St Mary's Values

Next Sunday we start a sermon series exploring the values that we want to cultivate within St Mary's. These values form the important foundation for who we want to be as a church and all the things we might want to do. There will be some Bible study material to accompany the sermon series, which can be used in our homegroups and for private study. If you are not already in one of our homegroups, but would like to join a new discussion group for the duration of the series, as we explore these values and what they mean for St Mary's, then please let Catherine McBride know.

## Raising Awareness about Modern Slavery



If anyone is interested in learning more about modern slavery then please click on the link below to book on to one of the Awareness Raising courses, via Zoom.

Available dates are :

Thursday 11th June 7.00pm

Monday 15th June 7.00pm

Thursday 25th June 1.00pm

<https://modern-slavery-awareness.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required

Corned beef	Jam	Rice Pudding
Tinned Fruit	Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake	
Custard	Sugar	Washing-up Liquid
Fabric Conditioner (small)	Shampoo	
Men's Toiletries	Wet Dog & Cat Food	

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.

## White Goods Available

Jill Alexander has a Bush washing machine, 8kg capacity, 2 1/2 years old and a Bebo slimline dishwasher available free to anyone interested. Must be able to collect. Please contact Jill on 07846 551036.



## 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](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Vicar:** Catherine McBride

**E-mail:** vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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