

M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of

Hello Everyone,

Last week we published the first half of a reflection from James Bowen, a member of our church family, on Psalm 91. Here is Part 2, where James thinks about God's protection and reassurance in times of crisis and loss.

Reflections on Psalm 91

Invoking the metaphor of a bird being snared by a fowler (a trap), verse 3 refers to how the Lord 'shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers.' Again these are reassuring words stressing the faithfulness of the Lord, as a shield for those who trust in him and the subsequent reference to 'the deadly pestilence' offers a parallel to events like Covid-19. This verse and those that follow reaffirm God's love for humanity and protection (verse 4) and the need for Christians to abide in him – in that he will shelter us from evil. He will provide protection at all times with the reference to 'terror by night', alluding to the pestilence which 'stalks in darkness' (verses 5-6).

Later verses 9, 10 and 11 state: 'Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold, There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent. For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.' Again this reflects the point that those who trust in the Lord receive his protection and similarly later verses, for instance, the metaphor of the lion and the adder (verse 13) further illustrates this point. Finally, I think verse 15 offers a clear message: that those who believe in the Christian faith should engage in prayer during such periods of pestilence (as well as times of trouble more generally). Crucially the verse is in my opinion the most important, reinforcing the point that God is not only expecting to be called upon, but will answer such calls. It presents God as one that hears and answers prayers and that his children will forever be granted eternal life in heaven.

From a personal perspective since Christmas and the New Year we have been adapting to a supposed new normal which anyone who has lost a loved one can appreciate is difficult. Whilst the present situation has meant we have had more time to think, it has highlighted the inspiring roles Mum played not least practically. Nevertheless the present situation has brought us closer together. Times of adversity, whether that be a close family bereavement, social crisis, war or indeed the pandemic that we are all currently experiencing, leave people bewildered and often searching for answers to questions. Faith, trust in God and the religious teachings in the Bible like Psalm 91 which emphasise his protection, reassurance and answering of prayers offers a way of exploring these.

St Mary's Values

Last Sunday we began a sermon series looking at the values we are seeking to cultivate in our church family, which will help to give us a good foundation for being the kind of church God wants us to be, doing the things God wants us to do.

If you want to spend some time looking at these values in more depth, then we have produced some study material you can use. You can find this on our website. The sermons can be found on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RShnzNqIS-bTomDxAxqJA> Feel free to share this link with any family or friends who might be interested in seeing what St Mary's are doing.

Our homegroups are also using this material for their discussions; however, if you are not in a homegroup and would like the opportunity to discuss these ideas with others then please let Catherine McBride know.



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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

The main reading for this Sunday is: Matthew 5.13-16

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

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINiFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINiFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINiFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

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

Men's Prayer Hour

Men, you are invited to join a men's prayer hour on Wednesday 8th July at 7.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81718528931>

Meeting ID: 817 1852 8931

One tap mobile

+442030512874,,81718528931# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,81718528931# United Kingdom

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: 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.

Did You Know.....?



If you hover your cursor over any of the links in this newsletter (blue underlined text) and at the same time hold down the [Ctrl] key on your keyboard, your cursor will turn into a little pointing hand. Then, if you click your mouse it will take you automatically to that link. No need for typing in the whole of the link, no need to cut and paste. Simple!

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 date: Thursday 25th June 1.00pm

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

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required

Jam Rice Pudding
Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake
Custard Corned beef
Shampoo Men's Toiletries

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.



Re-opening our Church for Private Prayer

We hope to soon be able to reopen the church for people to come and use it for private prayer. We need volunteers, who are under 70 and aren't amongst those who should be 'shielding', who can help to man the church when it is open. If you can help, please contact Avril Innocent 07794 260029.

Prayer Requests



Please pray for Gill Carley's dad, Bob, and Jenny Wade who have both recently had brain scans and Jill Hurst, recovering from a fall.