

M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
(2 Corinthians 8.9)*

Hello Everyone,

It's great that we are now gradually able to start using our church building again. From Saturday you will be able to go into church for your own personal prayer on **Wednesday and Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm**. We will need a team of people who are under 70 and not in any of the COVID-vulnerable groups to be part of a welcome team for these sessions. If you can help please let myself or Avril Innocent know (07794 260029).

The past few months have given us much to reflect upon in terms of what it means to be church and the significance - or not—of what goes on in our church buildings. Perhaps more than ever, we have come to appreciate the truth that the church is the people and not simply the building. However, our building, is an important witness to the God we worship.

Back in May, Archdeacon Paul Thomas, wrote about the significance of our church buildings in pastoral letter to clergy. Here are some extracts from his letter, as food for thought...

'Absence', they say, 'makes the heart grow fonder.' I wonder if that has been your experience since we locked the doors of our church buildings and went 'virtual' in our worship and congregational life? Has it led you to reflect on the significance of the building and the part it plays in our identity and outreach in the local community?

Alastair Redfern, until recently Bishop of Derby, suggested that the building might be our most important asset: 'The building is dependable, holy and transcendent of the normal human world in a way which a professionalized clergy and a struggling congregation cannot hope to be... and promotes those occasional moments whereby busy secular people can confront the transcending dependability of God.'

One of the central tenets of Anglican theology is its emphasis on the Incarnation ('The Word became flesh', John 1 v1) and this means that we take seriously the belief that what is material and physical can embody and convey the reality of God; can give expression to the spiritual. ... Stone, wood, marble, glass, metal, architectural space and atmosphere can and do 'speak' of God.

Professor David Martin put it like this: 'Churches are visible signs of continuity, anchors of space and time... They celebrate and commemorate; they are islands of quietness; they are places in which unique gestures occur of blessing, distribution and obeisance; they offer spaces in which to gather, to sing, lay flowers and light candles. They are serious places on serious earth.' (a reference to Philip Larkin's poem 'Church Going')

Richard Holloway echoes this in his musings on the value of church buildings: 'Churches do not speak; they listen. Clergy speak unstoppably. Church buildings that stay open know better. They understand the helplessness and weariness of failure, and have for centuries absorbed them into the mercy of their silence. This is grace – unearned, undeserved, and unconditional acceptance.'

As we look forward to re-opening our churches we give thanks for the building and the people.

Catherine

St Mary's Values

Remember that the sermons on our church values 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.

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 (Morning Prayer)

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 readings this Sunday are: 2 Corinthians 8.1-15 and Matthew 25.31-46

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

Zoom link: [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

Zoom link: <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.

House Move



Justin and Sue Frankfort would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Sue's mum and dad's house move.

John and Ray Reynolds will be moving from Rhoose near Cardiff to Market Drayton on 1st & 2nd July. Your continued prayers for a safe transfer from South Wales to Shropshire over the coming days would be greatly

appreciated. John & Ray are looking forward to becoming full time members of the St Mary's family.

Answered Prayer

Gill Carley would like to thank all those who prayed for her Dad. The scan came back clear and he has been diagnosed with labyrinthitis and is undergoing treatment—Praise God.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Jam Rice Pudding Custard

Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake

Corned beef Washing Up Liquid

We have plenty of

Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Fish & Tea.

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.



Just a few of the incredible volunteers from our Foodbank. Read more about them in the article from Helen McSherry, which accompanied this newsletter.

Prayer Requests



Please pray for the bereaved families and friends of Denis Edwards, Edward Bennett and David Garner-Jones.

Please pray for everyone's continued safety as lockdown restrictions are relaxed.