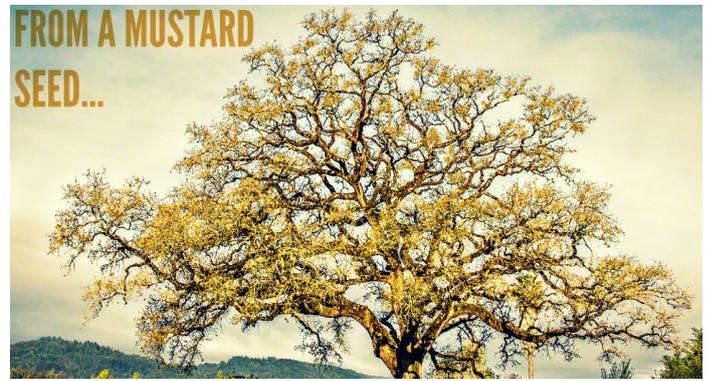


M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed ... though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants (Matthew 13.1-32)

Hello Everyone,

God is and has always been in the business of defying our expectations and so any place or situation where he is in charge will also defy expectations. It shouldn't come as any surprise, then, that when we read God's story we find slaves escaping mighty Pharaohs; penniless widows begetting great kings and small people slaying giants. God's plan of establishing his kingdom wasn't worked out through the power and prestige of great empires, but through one small country and the most unlikely line-up of heroic failures you could think of.

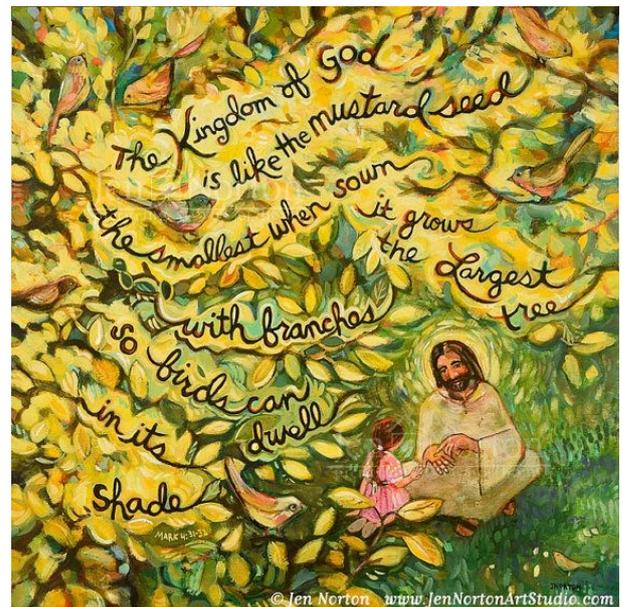
Our expectations of a God who is remote and detached from his creation are shattered when he turns up—*here*—turning his back on power and security to risk everything to save us. And he continues to defy expectations, opening the doors of his kingdom to tax collectors, prostitutes, children and enemy soldiers and then entrusting the work of growing his kingdom to a small bunch of confused, argumentative, fearful men and women.

When it comes to God and his kingdom—any place or situation where he is in charge—you can leave your expectations at the door. From small, humble, inauspicious beginnings God's kingdom has been growing and continues to grow and exert its influence.

It's easy, sometimes, to get discouraged; to think that our efforts to grow God's kingdom aren't flourishing or bearing fruit. But this isn't about *our* efforts. God can take the smallest seeds we offer him and cause them to grow beyond our expectations.

As we seek to build God's kingdom here in Market Drayton, I pray that he would defy all our expectations.

Catherine



Returning to Worship in Church

Please don't forget to let Helen Hughes know at the Church Office if you are planning to come to the new Communion service in church, starting next Sunday **2nd August, 9.00am**. Also, if you would be willing to volunteer as a welcomer, please let Helen know.

St Mary's Values

If you want to catch up on our recent sermon series looking at our church values, all of 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. Hard copies of the sermons will be available to pick up from church until the end of August.

Encouragement

Do let Ian or Catherine know if you have an encouraging testimony to share with our church family. Stories of how God has been at work in our lives are great ways of building one another up in our faith.

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: Genesis 29.15-28 and Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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 any of our services please let Helen Hughes know at the Church Office.

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



'United Breaks Out' is the online version of New Wine's 'United' summer conference. The programme runs from the evening of **Thursday 30th July** to morning of **Monday 3rd August** and includes worship, seminars and live sessions. Check out the website for more information: new-wine.org/breaksout, which also provides a link to the YouTube channels where you can watch live or catch up at any time. There is no need to book; however pre-registration is needed for a few of the seminars.

Prayer Requests



Please pray for the new service beginning in church on the 2nd August; for everyone's safety and understanding as we get used to a different way of doing things.



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Tinned Potatoes	Sponge Puddings/Slab Cakes	
Biscuits	Tinned Spaghetti	Jam
Rice Pudding	Custard	Toilet Rolls
Size 6 Pull-Ups	Hair Conditioner	

For Children's Holiday Lunches

Tinned Chilli Con Carne	Tinned Mince Beef	
Tinned Ravioli /Spaghetti	Tinned Hotdogs	
Tinned Fruit	Biscuits	Cereal Bars

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.

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.