

13th December 2020



My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

'Joy to the World' is one of my favourite Christmas carols and that little word 'joy' gets bandied around a lot at this time of year. Lots of Christmas cards, even those without a hint of the Nativity to be seen, bear inscriptions wishing the recipients 'Joy this Christmas Season'. Maybe for many people 'joy' is a word simply synonymous with fun, jollity and high spirits (mine's a G&T thanks!); but for Christians it's a word that transcends passing feelings of pleasure – in fact, it has almost nothing to do with feelings at all and very little to do with our circumstances. Instead, our 'joy' is a response, not to something happening to us, but to someone living with us. When Mary bursts into joyful song it's because her spirit has found joy in knowing God, her Saviour. She's joyful because she knows God is 'mindful' of her: he sees her and knows exactly what life is like for her. She's joyful because, despite what she may be facing now, she knows what mighty deeds he has done in the past and believes in the great things he has promised to do. She's joyful because she knows that justice and mercy belong to him and he will lift up the humble and fill the hungry. None of this is to say that we don't find great joy in life and everything it has to offer us, but our joy isn't dependent on those things. Finding our joy in God, our Saviour, means that we carry the fact of his love, his peace, his hope within us all the time, regardless of how we're feeling. Christmas jollity is great, but fleeting and snuffed out as easily as the candles on the Advent Wreath. Helen Keller describe joy as a 'holy fire' and that means its inextinguishable.

Catherine

Prayer Requests



Please pray for Joy Goldby, now in hospice; Iris Thomas recovering from her hip operation; Chris Ashley now at home recovering from a recent bout of illness and Barry Salter still in hospital.

Carols on the Doorstep

Join your neighbours and BBC Radio Shropshire's 'Carols on the Doorstep' on Wednesday 16th December at 6pm (or on Christmas Eve at the same time). More details at <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/> where you can also download a carol sheet. Alternatively, join us on the 16th December at the Queen Street Car Park to tune in and sing along in your cars. Arrive from 5.45pm. Come in your 'bubbles', bring your own carol sheets and wear something warm as we'll want you to turn your car engines off! Why not decorate your cars to really get into the festive spirit and print off one of the posters attached with the newsletter to remind people that Jesus is the reason for the season.



Christmas Plans

Here are our plans for services over the Christmas period:

Christingle: Videos will be posted on our Facebook page each day between **21st and 23rd December**, where people can hear the message of Christmas and follow some simple crafts to do at home, including making their own Christingle. Packs for these can be picked up from St Mary's on **Tuesday 22nd December 2-4pm—order by 16th December** on Facebook or by e-mail from the Church Office. A short service will be held in the churchyard on **Christmas Eve at 4.30pm**—bring your Christingle! *If you can help with stewarding at this service, please let Catherine know.*

Late Night Communion Christmas Eve: This will be pre-recorded and available to watch on Facebook and YouTube at 11.00pm. Link to follow.

Christmas Day Communion 9.00am: This will take place in church. *Please let the church office know if you are expecting to attend.*

Christmas Day Zoom Service 10.30am: We want to gauge the interest for this service, so *please let the church office know if you would expect to join this service.*

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 9.00am Holy Communion in Church

Alternating between BCP and CW

Sunday 10.30am (Morning Worship) ZOOM

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:

Psalm 98; Luke 1.39-55

Wednesday Morning Prayer 10.00am

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWVpWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWVpWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWVpWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

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: 3164610

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

Gifts for Christmas

Gifts for the Women's Refuge and the Sanctus Refugee Centre can then be brought to St Mary's **12 noon-1pm**

Saturday 12th December. Donations of toys, books, games, puzzles for children; toiletries and chocolates for the mums and hats, scarves and gloves for both would be so welcome. Sanctus are requesting boxes of biscuits, chocolate selection boxes, shower gels and shampoos.



New Church Postbox



We now have a new box for receiving mail at church. This is situated on the wall, just inside the main gate, on the right hand side as you come in. You can use it to drop off documents for the Church Office, the Churchwardens or Finance Team.

New Contact Details for Finance Team

The Finance team now have their own e-mail address. Please use this to send any queries regarding church-related finances, expenses claims or invoices etc.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Eggs	Sponge Puddings/Slab Cakes		
Tinned Ham & Chicken	Cartons of long-life fruit juice		
Tins of Sardines/Mackerel	Tinned Spaghetti		
Toilet Rolls	Rice Pudding	Custard	Biscuits
Cat/Dog Food-wet	Cleaning Products		
Washing Powder/Tabs/Detergent			
Local Supermarket Vouchers—Morrisons / Lidl / Aldi			

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.

Don't forget to head to our Facebook page...



To see the daily Advent posts and Sunday videos from Market Drayton Churches Together, as well as information on forthcoming Christmas events for St Mary's.

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: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com *(please note change)*

Phone: 01630 656943

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