



When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' John, 20.19.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' John, 20.26.

During Easter, we heard of the importance of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Two passages in John's Gospel have attracted my attention (20.19 and 20.26), one of which I saw quoted on the noticeboard at All Saints Church, Clive whilst walking Grinshill. These verses, describing when Jesus appeared to the disciples and doubting Thomas regardless of the doors being shut, struck me as particularly relevant given the closure of churches and other religious buildings during the past year, together with the restrictions placed on in-person worship.

For me the key point about these passages is not about the shutting of doors, as it may seem at first sight, but rather that the risen Jesus stood among the disciples. Similarly during the challenges of the last year, Jesus has stood with us spiritually, allowing people to worship in new and innovative ways from their own homes — echoing how the early disciples met.

He has also supported those in need due to a loss of employment or social isolation, assisted doctors and nurses treating those with coronavirus and scientists developing vaccines, and comforted the bereaved. As restrictions are eased, the doors of churches reopen and we emerge to an uncertain post-pandemic world, we must speak of God's goodness and the hope that Jesus's life, death and resurrection offers. It might be some time yet before the doors of the church are fully open and we can greet each other with a handshake as a sign of peace, but we can still share the important message which Jesus offered his disciples in these passages: 'Peace be with you'.

James Bowen

Market Drayton Foodbank 'Five a Day Appeal'

Recent funding for the past 6 months enabled us to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for our clients, as a substitute for our usual tinned produce. This funding has now finished, but we feel it is important to continue to give out fresh fruit and vegetables, in addition to the tinned produce.

We're therefore launching our 'Five a Day Appeal', asking the community if they will 'Sponsor a Spud' and be 'Fruit and Veg Champions' by regularly giving each week/month towards the purchase of fresh produce for food bank families.

If you are able to help, please see our website at <https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> for ways to donate. Standing order/gift aid forms are available to download and can also be collected from the Foodbank or posted to you upon request. Please reference your donation with 'FAD Appeal'. Thank you.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our APCM will be held on **Monday 24th May at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church**. All necessary COVID precautions will be taken; however, like last year, we will probably be Zooming the meeting as well.

The usual revision of the **Electoral Roll** will be taking place and you will need to be on the Electoral Roll if you wish to vote at the APCM. If you are not sure if you are on the current Electoral Roll, then you can check the copy on the notice board at the back of church, or you can contact the Church Office. Nomination forms for joining the Electoral Roll will also be in church and on the church website. Copies can also be obtained from our Electoral Roll Officer, Ray Thomas (rdthomas67@hotmail.co.uk).

There will be 6 vacancies for PCC. Please talk to Catherine for more information about what is involved. Nomination forms will be available in church and on our website .

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 Communion Service in church

Sunday 10.30am ZOOM (Breaking Bread)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings: Acts 8. 26-end; John 15.1-8

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Zoom link: <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

Ascension Day Service

Our Deanery Ascension Day service will be on **Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm at Hales Church**. The plan is that this will be an outdoor service, which means we could actually sing!!! So bring a deck chair and wear suitable clothing. If you intend to come please let Catherine know, so that we can advise you of any change of plans in the event of bad weather.

Moving Away

I would like to say goodbye to all the wonderful friends I have made through St Mary's Church and Market Drayton Mother's Union. You have all been a fantastic bunch and I will never forget the welcome I received when I first walked in to church. We are moving away (Friday) to live in Craven Arms (still in Shropshire) with Keith's job. Sending my Love. Keep safe and well—Lesley West xx

Prayer



Please pray for Lesley and Keith as they settle into their new home; for those who are grieving, particularly the family and friends of Audrey Humes and for Nita Heath's son Antony and grandson Ben, who are both unwell at the moment.

Market Drayton Churches Together New webmaster needed...

Churches Together are looking for someone to look after its website. The site uses WordPress, which is an easy to use platform. The current webmaster, Randall Hardy, is willing to spend time familiarising his replacement with the user interface if necessary. Could this be an opportunity for you to serve the local Christian community? Time, motivation and not being terrified by computers are all that is required. In the first instance please contact Sue Frankfort on 01630 655158

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required



UHT Milk—No Stock

Long-Life Cartons of Fruit Juice—No Stock

Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake—No Stock

Wet Cat Food No Stock Men's Deodorant—No Stock

Cereals (not oats/porridge) Low Stock

Packets of Flavoured Rice, Pasta and Noodles - Low Stock

Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid - Low Stock

Local Supermarket vouchers-Morrisons/Lidl/Aldi/Asda/Sainsburys

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.

Thank You!

A very big thank you to David Costelloe, who has now completed his handover of his treasurer's role. It's been said before, but we really are grateful for all the work David has done for us. If you need to contact the Finance Team you can still use the address financeteamstmarys@gmail.com or call Justin Frankfort.

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

Phone: 01630 656943

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