

16th January 2022

Dementia
friendly church

If anyone is in Christ they are a

new creation

2 Corinthians 5.17



Transformation

'Transformation' and 'Transformed' are words we're going to hear quite a bit about over the coming four Sundays as we continue to expand on the St Mary's Vision and Purpose.

"Transformation' and 'Transformed' are two keywords most associated with Christianity and simply defined mean 'change(d)'. The Christian faith when properly taught and faithfully practised will invariably result in a change in the lives of individuals and entire communities.

So, when we talk about being transformed, we're talking about something very strong. It's not a word to throw around because it means a real change in our nature or character or appearance. It signifies a turning point, something permanent, not temporary. So, what would you identify as the transformational points in your life? What person or situation or event has made a truly significant difference in your life—for the better?

If you think carefully about it, my guess is that the transformational points in your life came as a result of love. Love has the power to transform us.

For example, getting to know Jesus and accepting his gift of salvation certainly transforms our nature, doesn't it? The Bible says that we become new creations in Christ; the new has come, the old has gone. The love of God transforms us like no other love ever could.

Is it any wonder that John 3:16 is one of the favourite verses in the Bible for many people. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." It's because of that incredible love that we can have eternal life.

Knowing I am one whom God and Jesus loves has transformed me, how about you? I can feel quite over-awed knowing how God—the God of the entire universe—loves me and he also loves you. His love is transformational, of that I have no doubt.

Then, when we have received God's unconditional love, we are told throughout Scripture to love as we have been loved by God.

So, what about you? Have you been transformed by the power of the love of Jesus? Have you accepted his free gift of salvation by confessing your sins and believing that he is the Son of God who paid the price for your sin, because he loves you? If not, there is no doubt an empty space inside of you that is love-starved for Jesus, and I would urge you even today to simply confess your sins to him and accept the love he offers.

It is God's love for us that transforms us, and then, it is our privilege and responsibility to share that love with others. Romans 5:5 tells us that God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. When we are born into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, and he simply pours God's love into our hearts.

Then, when we have received God's unconditional love, we are told throughout Scripture to love as we have been loved by God.

Ian

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Unfortunately January's get together has had to be cancelled.



Our next Messy Church...

is on Tuesday 1st February 3.30pm—5.15pm in the Parish Rooms. Lots of fun crafts games, stories and songs (and food!) for children and their families..

Please pray for...



This week we especially pray for Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan who is going through a major cancer operation this weekend. We also remember Jean Arbon, Sarah Creasey, John Panter, Barry Salter and David Jones.

Regular Services

Sunday 16th January 9.00am BCP Communion Service

Sunday 16th January 10.30am Holy Communion

Readings: Romans 8. 1-17 John 16. 5-15

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

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 10.00am Holy Communion (CHURCH)

You can also join our Zoom services on your landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Living in Love and Faith

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is the Church of England process seeking to explore Christian teaching and learning about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It is intended that the process will contribute to the Bishops' discernment of a way forward in relation to questions relating to these issues. A number of resources have been produced, including a book, a series of films and podcasts and a 5-session course. For more information on these resources please see <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-faith/living-in-love-and-faith/>

St Mary's will be holding the following courses:

Tuesday mornings starting at 10.00am in church on 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd Feb and 1st Mar

Wednesday afternoons starting at 2.00pm in church on 26th Jan and 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd Feb

Thursday evenings at 8.00pm via Zoom on 27th Jan and 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th Feb

There will only be a limited number of places on each course (a maximum of 12 for the daytime courses and 8 for the evening Zoom course), so we would encourage you to sign up as soon as possible by contacting the church office by phone or e-mail and letting us know which course you'd like to attend.

Alternatively, the Cathedral will also be running a Zoom course on Thursday evenings from 7.00-9.00pm on 27th January and 3rd, 10th and 17th February and 3rd March (note not in Half Term). To register interest please email Bishop Jan McFarlane

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required

Coffee; Long-Life Cartons of Juice; UHT Milk—Blue (whole); Tinned Fish (not Tuna); Rice Pudding; Custard; Sponge Puddings / Slab Cakes; Washing-up Liquid; Washing Powder/ Tabs; Dry cat Food

We have plenty of

Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes; Cereal.

If you need to contact the Foodbank please call **01630 654007** (not the number in the current church directory).



Community Coffee Morning

The next Community Coffee Morning will be held next Thursday, **January 20th from 10am-12pm** in the Parish Rooms. Please come along for a chat, cuppa and cake. Why not invite someone along who may enjoy a bit of company after such difficult times. If you could help serve the cakes or the teas and coffees, help with setting up (from 9am) or clearing up, or could sit and chat with someone on their own then do let the church office know. See you on the 20th!



Market Drayton Churches Together

AGM Sunday January 23rd 6.00pm

Due to Covid concerns and to keep everyone safe the AGM will now take place via Zoom. The evening will start with prayer and short talk at 6.00pm, followed by the meeting at 6.45pm. Copies of the agenda are available at the back of church, or via email from Helen in the church office.

Zoom details are as follows:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87958267070?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87958267070?pwd=Myt4WlBvNjh6SjRjd2tkYnR3dDFxZz09)

[pwd=Myt4WlBvNjh6SjRjd2tkYnR3dDFxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87958267070?pwd=Myt4WlBvNjh6SjRjd2tkYnR3dDFxZz09)

Meeting ID: 879 5826 7070 Passcode: 589409

Staying in Touch

The office is now open Mon-Fri 11.00am—1.00pm. Helen will be in the office from 9.00am.

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.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.

Please note the office BT email address no longer works.

Please use stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com