

28<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Having a great time. Wish you were here!

Words we probably see less often nowadays. Friends on holiday are more likely to send us a WhatsApp message than a holiday postcard. How things change.

Writing postcards always used to be big part of family holidays. There would be the choosing of appropriate cards, perhaps, even, a cheeky one. But on the whole: bright, colourful, perfect weather scenes of beaches, countryside, or famous landmark. Then there was the question; would we be home before our cards arrived? A postcard can only give a small representation of our holiday destination. A beautiful scene reduced onto a piece of card measuring about 4 x 6 inches. How can it ever do it full justice? And what about the sounds of the sea, or the fragrance of exotic foods? All that splendour reduced to a postcard.

There is something postcard-like to our Bible readings this week. Both Paul and John have attempted, in just a few words, to encapsulate the vastness, the awesome, amazing splendour of God. John reports the leftover crumbs from five small rolls and two small fish can fill twelve baskets. How do we get our minds around that? Paul encourages his readers to try and contemplate, *'how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ'*. The capacity of my mind to understand is just postcard-sized compared to the infinite vastness of his love.

This underlies one of our favourite songs at Messy Church: ***'Our God is a Great Big God'***. *'He is higher than a skyscraper, deeper than a submarine, wider than the universe and beyond my wildest dreams'*. We pray that they will catch a glimpse of Jesus' amazing love for them. Probably, we all hold people in our hearts who we long to come to know the love Jesus has for them. We may have been praying for them for a long time. Nothing we do or say seems to work. But hold on to Paul's words, that God, *'is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine'*.

The disciples by the Sea of Galilee, hadn't a clue what to do in what seemed an impossible situation. Instead they had to trust Jesus. All they had to do was let Jesus take control. It was that simple. Can we, dare we, do the same?

*Red*



### Please pray for...

David Leach, David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter and David Smith. Please also pray for those who have been bereaved, particularly the families and friends of Mark Oulsnam

*Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

### Messy Church



Unfortunately, there is no Messy Church in August. We meet again on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

We are still looking for one or two more to join our Messy Church catering team. Please talk to Catherine McBride or David Lake if you can help.

### Summer Barbeque

(Bring & Share)

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August Liz Barnes will be hosting a barbeque at 38 Prospect Road. More details to follow



### Pastoral Group Meeting

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm in the Starmer Room



### Congratulations

Some of you may have heard by now that Laurina Rushworth has recently been recommended for ordination training. We're delighted for her, but sad that it means she will be leaving us once she starts college in September and does her placement at another church. Please pray for Laurina, as she embarks on this next stage of her journey, following God's plans for her – and also for Mike, Molly and Patrick through all the changes and new opportunities coming their way over the next few months.

## Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

### 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

### 10.30am Morning Worship CW +Baptism

Readings: Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6. 56-69

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdzO9>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888



## Iona Communion Service

Today at 6.30pm Reading: Luke 11. 1-13

### Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3Rm OG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZzO9>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

### Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

## Sunday Sermons

Listen back to Sunday sermons over the last few months on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

## Lindsay Bashford UCB2 Interview

The easiest way to get to Lindsay's UCB 2 "This is my story" interview is via Sharp Stream using this link:

[https://timbre-player.sharp-stream.com/embed/feed/4f13965a-a85f-42e7-b363-9b6001e10001?layout=legacy&custom\\_theme=65](https://timbre-player.sharp-stream.com/embed/feed/4f13965a-a85f-42e7-b363-9b6001e10001?layout=legacy&custom_theme=65)

Rather long but it leads to a list of programmes, and you can scroll down to This is my story with Matt Brown on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Click this and it starts at the beginning. However, if you scroll back to the top you will find a slider! Move this along to 2hours 10minutes and that is when the interview starts...It should be at this site for about a month.

## Parish Rooms

Work to replace the heating system in the Parish Rooms has started. Regular users are being accommodated as much as possible and all groups which might be affected have been contacted. There is heating in The Starmer Room but not in the main Hall until completion of the work. We apologise for any inconvenience while the work is ongoing. If you do not have an existing booking, please check with the Church Office before using the Parish Rooms for the time being. Please also avoid parking at the Parish Rooms to allow access for the workmen's vans.

## Churchyard – Safety Fence

If you are aware that the protective fence around the fallen boundary has been damaged or knocked over, please let me know so that I can request that the relevant contractors secure the area. Thank you, Elaine Cook

## Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Jars of cooking / pasta sauces; Tins of Ham

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes; cleaning products, conditioner.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call **01630 654007** (not the one in the church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

## Tunstall Hall Summer Fete

31<sup>st</sup> August 11am-3pm



We hold a regular monthly Communion service for our friends at Tunstall Hall, so it would be great to support their Summer Fete and have a St Mary's presence there. We are planning to have a stall, selling books, puzzles, games to raise funds for Tunstall Hall. Donations of these items gratefully received in the box at the back of church. Please restrict your donations to books, puzzles and games only, please. If you would be able to help man the stall for part of the day, please let Carol Corney know.



THANK YOU to all who made or bought cakes at

the 10.30am Sunday service a few weeks ago. We raised £255 which helped Hope House Children's Hospice raise a total of £17,000 for their Make a Cake Appeal. Excellent result so thank you again.

## Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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