

# M St MARY'S CHURCH Newsletter



*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! (Matthew 21.9)*

## Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you well and that cabin-fever hasn't set in too badly just yet. A big thank you to all those of our St Mary's family who are giving some of their time to phone someone to find out how they are doing and to have a catch-up. These social contacts are so important.

Last Sunday it was so nice to see some familiar faces as some of us managed to 'Zoom' for the first time! We were able to share some worship together in a simple Agape meal, where we broke bread together. We will try something again this Sunday, so if you would like to be part of that then contact the church office, so that we can e-mail the log-in details to you.

Last Sunday marked the beginning of Passiontide. Now is the time when we really focus on Jesus' last few days and the events leading up to his crucifixion. And this coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we recall how Jesus enters Jerusalem to the adulation of the cheering crowds, with their cries of 'Hosanna!'

Often used as an exclamation of praise, 'Hosanna' literally means 'Save!' I wonder, though, as the crowds were praising the one they hoped would bring a new kind of power and leadership to Israel, did they realise they were also crying out for salvation to one who really had come to save them?

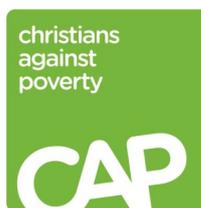
There may be many at the moment who are looking to Jesus for comfort and peace, healing and hope at the moment and that is wonderful. I pray they will also come to see that he is also the one who can truly save them.

God bless and stay safe,

*Catherine*



## A Good News Story



At the moment our various CAP services (Money Course, Life Skills, Fresh Start and Job Club) are unable to take place and our debt advice coaches are not able to meet clients face to face. This is obviously very

challenging and, of course, the financial difficulties of many people are only to get worse if they are not able to work. The 'lockdown' has also meant that a number of applications for grants to support our CAP activities, which we were in the process of exploring or had in the pipeline, are also on hold at the moment.

However, God is good (all the time!) and we have had a very generous donation from an anonymous donor, to whom we are so grateful. This will very significantly change the nature of the finances for CAPMD in 2020 and we are all delighted by this very generous action.

## Gentlemen, this one's for you.....

There will be a Market Drayton Churches Together Men's Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday 8th April at 7.30 pm.

To get on the e-mail list for instructions on how to join the meeting, please get in touch with the Church Office.

## Get Creative for Palm Sunday

Here's an idea as to how we can publically acknowledge this important day in the Church calendar, when most of us are stuck indoors. This comes from the Facebook page of The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit:

*'What if everyone on the morning of Sunday 5th April puts a 'branch' on the door of their house, to celebrate Palm Sunday. It could be any green branch you can get. Despite the social distancing we can be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.*

*Want to join?*

*We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the body of Christ. '*

Have a look at these ideas ➡

You might also like to try making your own palm cross—here's a video to show you how:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcmeCOF-b4k>

## Suggested Daily Readings for Holy Week

Mon 6th April: John 12.1-11

Tues 7th April: John 12.20-36

Wed 8th April: John 13.21-32

Thur 9th April: John 13.1-17, 31b-35 (Maundy Thursday)

Fri 10th April: John 18.1-19.end (Good Friday)

Sat 11th April: Matthew 25.57-end or John 19.38-end

Easter Day: Matthew 28.1-10

The Archbishop of Canterbury will publish a reflection each day during Holy week on Facebook ([archbishopofcanterbury](https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org)) and on his website ([archbishopofcanterbury.org](https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org))



## Nationally Broadcast Services

**Palm Sunday Holy Communion:** 9.00am, broadcast on the Church of England's Facebook page and website, with the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker.

**Easter Day Holy Communion:** 9.00am, on the Church of England's Facebook page and website, with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Broadcast of BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am.



## Prayer Requests



Please pray for all those who have had to cancel weddings and baptisms, that God would be with them in their sadness and disappointment and the stress of having to remake plans.

Please pray for those working at our local Medical Centre under very stressful and challenging circumstances.

A number of our church family are facing medical treatment or tests at the moment and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmd@btinternet.com)

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar

**E-mail:** [vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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