

London Fashion Week has come and gone, and the 'circus' is in Paris this week. So quickly, it seems, fashions come and go, continuously changing. I think I've given up even trying. However, it is stating the obvious really that we live with constant change.

We've turned the calendar page to March, and signs are all around us that we are moving from winter to spring. In the Church this week, the season also changes, to Lent, on Ash Wednesday.

As Lent begins, we see that the Church is not immune to change. Over the years there have been many changes in the way we worship. In recent years there has been a revival of the ritual of *ashing* on Ash Wednesday, but probably without the sackcloth.

At the time of the Reformation, and with the arrival of the First Prayer Book of Edward VI, a new liturgy was introduced for '*The Firste Daie of Lente*' (even spelling changes), and is still in the Book of Common Prayer: A Communion. Not an easy read. Personally, I don't see it making much of a comeback in today's Church. The archaic language is strange, and the content seems harsh, with its opening focus on God's wrath against sin, and the curses. Yet, if you manage to read beyond the first sections you will find that the mood of the liturgy changes. For it moves on to God's mercy, compassion, forgiveness, comfort, grace, and blessing. Psalm 51, which lies at the heart of the liturgy, is still a feature of many Ash Wednesday services in our age.

In a world of change what is unchanging? Despite changing liturgy fashions and styles there is an enduring facet of Lent: of repentance, of turning away from sin, towards God. Not a simple saying sorry, but wholehearted change of mind, of heart, of life. As we start Lent, I pray that we will remember that it is for our sin that we have Good Friday. It's serious!

So, perhaps you'd like to try and read A Communion for yourself. You can easily find it online if you do not have a prayer book. It may not be in vogue, but it contains unchanging truth. But if you do decide to read it, read ALL of it. I'd love to know what you think.

Rod



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Nita's grandson, Ben, and Elaine Cook's mother, Jose Wright. Please pray for the recently bereaved, including Michael Revell following the death of his brother and Laurina Rushworth following the death of her father – Jeff's service will be here at St Mary's at 11.00am on Monday 24th March.

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

Archbishop of Canterbury

What are your hopes for the ministry of the next Archbishop of Canterbury? What gifts, qualities, skills and experience do you believe the next Archbishop of Canterbury should have? Do you have any names that you wish the Crown Nominations Commission, nominating the next Archbishop of Canterbury, to consider? Submit your comments **by 31 March**, online at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/ABC106Consult> or by post to: Canon Stephen Knott, Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU.

Confirmation Service

Four members of St Mary's were among those confirmed by Bishop Michael last Sunday at Christ



Church Little Drayton. It was a lovely time of celebration for those being baptised and

confirmed. Members of churches throughout Hodnet Deanery met together to support the candidates and the service was followed by a wonderful meal of fellowship. We thank God for all those confirmed and their commitment to Him, and pray that their knowledge and love of Him will grow as they continue their Christian lives.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: **2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

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

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion with Ashes

Wednesday 5th March 6.30pm



Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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



We're using the Church of England's Living Hope material as a basis for our Lent sermons and group studies. This year we are running a daytime and an

evening Lent Course, running on **Wednesdays at 10.30am (in church) or 7.30pm (at the Vicarage) starting on the 12th March, through until the 16th April.** Sign up sheets are at the back of church.

Unfortunately, since places are limited, it's not really possible to sign up existing homegroups en masse. Also please only sign up if you are fairly confident you can attend all of the sessions. If you have ordered copies of the Living Hope daily reflections **please collect these from Catherine by Ash Wednesday**, they are £2.00 each.

Moving House...again!

As Axel and Fiona return from Germany Helen Hughes will need to move house again, but finding a home to rent in Market Drayton is proving to be very difficult. Please pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen and if you know of possible 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.



@6

9th March at Market Drayton Methodist Church

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Tinned Carrots; ; Tinned Fruit; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice.

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

MARKET DRAYTON FOODBANK IS SEEKING A NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES. COULD THIS BE YOU?

The Board of Trustees are looking for a new Chair to continue to take the important work of the Foodbank forward. If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, please contact our current Chair of Trustees (Revd Catherine McBride chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk 01630 656943) for more information, a role description and application form.

How can you help? There are lots of opportunities to join our great teams at St Mary's, including: welcoming, the audio/ visual desk, refreshments, 'Brass Band', open church, Messy Church, reading, leading intercessions and prayer ministry. Please pray about how God might be calling you to join us. Contact Helen in the church office to volunteer. Elaine would particularly love to hear from singers and musicians, whatever instrument you play, but especially pianists!!

Messy Church



Tuesday 4th March 3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms

Staying in Touch

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

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

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E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

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